

sherd from Westbury, hearth 2 certainly showed heavy sooting internally and was abraded. At Westbury a few buckled sherds were also present, but these are thought to have been distorted during manufacture. It is clear that in all the hearths studied, the sherds came from only a limited number of vessels, perhaps one to four per hearth, and it would seem that the pots had been deliberately broken rather than sherds gathered at random. This practice seems particularly curious at West Cotton, where there was no shortage of small fragments of limestone. While the sherds form only a part of these pitched surfaces, it would appear that for some reason their use was considered necessary or at least desirable.

Further questions regarding the use of the hearths are raised by the fact that at Westbury a considerable amount of fired clay was found on site. Did these structures have covers? However, at West Cotton it would appear that they were all central, open-hearths.

These structures illustrate yet another previously unknown use for broken pottery (Jennings 1990; Moorhouse 1978).

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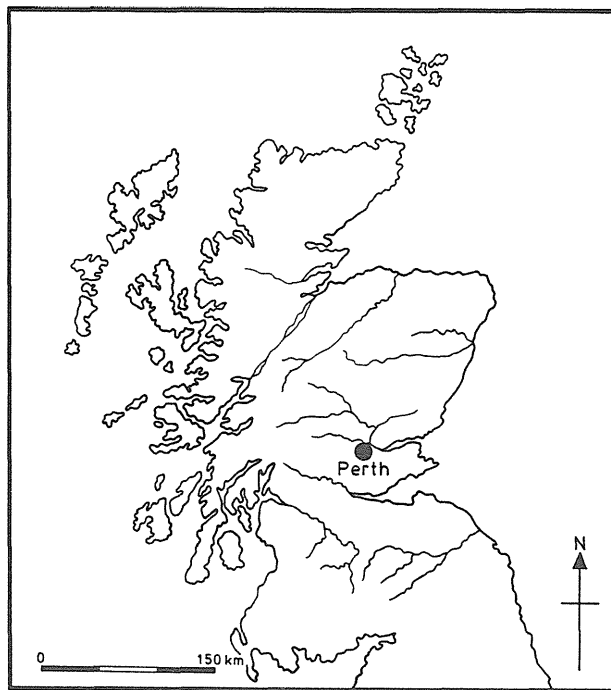
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POTTERY IMPORTED INTO MEDIEVAL PERTH

Over a decade of excavations by the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust Ltd in the medieval burgh of Perth have produced a large quantity of medieval pottery. Despite the fact that only a small percentage of this pottery is from the earliest deposits, it provides a body of data unrivalled by any other Scottish burgh.

The purpose of this report is to present in a summary form a preliminary statement of the quantity of non-local fabric types found in ten excavations carried out between 1979 and 1989 (3601 sherds). This broad approach unavoidably causes some loss of detail but provides a much needed overview of general trends. The pottery fabrics have been divided into those of the earlier and middle to later medieval periods (defined here as pre- and post-AD 1250).

The dates of production of Scarborough ware, and the possibility of recognising a change in this fabric over time, are unresolved issues. In 1982 the Farmers proposed that there were two chronologically distinct wares, Fabric 1, dated to c.AD 1135-1198/1225 and Fabric 2, dated to c.AD 1215/1225-1350 (Farmer and Farmer 1982, 83-4). In Perth, however, both Fabrics 1 and 2 are frequently found together in circumstances which throw doubt on this framework (MacAskill *et al.* 1987, 101; Cheer forthcoming); similar doubts have been raised as a result of work in Hull, Aberdeen and Bergen. For this reason I have not separated Scarborough ware into two fabrics, but have



placed them both in the later medieval period, that is post-AD 1250.

The correct identification of medieval Saintonge ware in Perth is also a problem. Recent work on the pottery from excavations at Castle Park, Dunbar, by the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust has shown that the later Scottish White Gritty ware industry of the Lothian region was capable of producing an evenly glazed, well-sorted, white fabric. It is possible that in the past similar material from Perth may have been wrongly identified as Saintonge ware. For this reason 150 sherds which were identified as being of Saintonge pottery have been listed here as possibly Saintonge ware. These have been placed at the end of the list of positively identified middle to later medieval fabrics.

No conclusions can be made about the importance of individual sources of pottery imported during the early medieval period as the sample is small and came from one excavation (King Edward Street). Further excavation in the earliest part of central Perth will be needed to produce a more meaningful sample.

This assemblage does, however, provide a useful body of data for comparison with the results of future excavations in Perth and elsewhere. It also supplements the list of imported wares in Scotland compiled by Thoms in 1983. When compared with the conclusions presented in Davey and Hodges (1983) and those for Aberdeen (Murray 1982) it can be seen to generally support and

Table 1. The sources used to compile Tables 2 and 3.

The sites in Perth	Source of data
Blackfriars House	Hall and MacAskill, forthcoming
Canal Street II	MacAskill <i>et al.</i> 1987
Canal Street III	Cheer, forthcoming
King Edward Street	Hall and MacAskill, forthcoming
Kirk Close	MacAskill <i>et al.</i> 1987
Kinnoull Street	Hall and MacAskill, forthcoming
Meal Vennel	Cheer, forthcoming
Mill Street	Hall and MacAskill, forthcoming
Scott Street	Cheer, in preparation
South Methven Street	MacAskill <i>et al.</i> 1987

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Table 2. The early medieval non-local wares found in Perth (to c.AD 1250)

Fabric	Sherds	%
London Shelly-Sandy	53	19.6
London-type ware	120	44.4
East Anglia	3	1.1
Stamford	44	16.2
Rhenish Blue-Grey (Paffrath)	7	2.5
Pingsdorf	22	8.1
Andenne	21	7.7
Total	270	

Table 3. Middle to later medieval non-local wares found in Perth (c.AD 1250 to c.AD 1450).

Fabric	Sherds	%
Grimston-type	11	0.3
Scarborough	1516	17.6
Yorkshire/Scarborough	321	10
Fabric X (Verhaeghe 1984)	55	1.7
Aardenburg-type	75	2.3
Low Countries Grey	350	11
Low Countries Red	609	19.1
Beauvais	2	>0.1
North French Grey	2	>0.1
North French White	57	1.7
Rouen	43	1.3
Rhenish Stoneware General	21	0.6
Cologne/Frechen	24	0.7
Frechen	25	0.7
Langerwehe	57	1.7
Siegburg	10	0.3
Andalusian Lustreware	1	>0.1
Valencian Lustreware	6	0.1
Unidentified Mediterranean	1	>0.1
Total	3181	
Possible Saintonge	150	

amplify earlier views on the import of medieval ceramics into eastern Scotland. In the early medieval period the imported wares are dominated by material from southern and eastern

England; the middle and later medieval fabrics come principally from Scarborough and the Low Countries (Verhaeghe 1983). This general picture is similar to that revealed by recent work in southern Norway (L. Blackmore pers. comm.; Reed 1991, 75–8).

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