

## Excavations at Newark Castle, Port Glasgow, 1984 and 1997

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with contributions by G Haggarty & D Gallagher

### ABSTRACT

*This report describes excavations undertaken in 1984 around the perimeter of the barmkin of Newark Castle, built in the late 15th century and radically altered a century later. Service trenches were also opened on the west side of the castle in 1997. The earlier investigation uncovered sections of the barmkin wall on all sides of the castle and evidence of some buildings set against it; the later excavation revealed traces of what was probably a cottage outside the gatehouse. The project was funded by Historic Scotland and its predecessor, Historic Buildings and Monuments.*

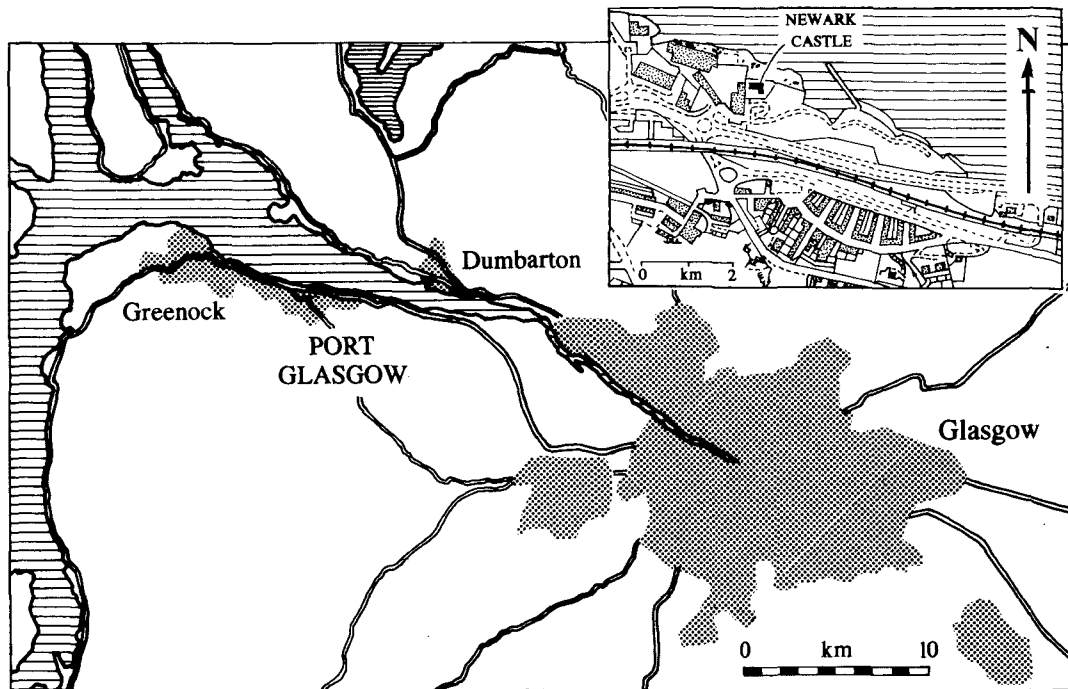
### INTRODUCTION

Newark Castle provides a good example of how a typical late medieval Scottish castle, with its rather inward-looking, defence-minded appearance, could be converted into an elegant Renaissance mansion, characterizing a more settled period when comfort and style were considered more important than the outward display of strength and security.

The castle (NGR: NS 328 745) stands on the south shore of the Firth of Clyde in what is now largely an open situation on the edge of Port Glasgow, in Renfrewshire (illus 1). Until recently, however, it was hemmed in on three sides by shipyards and related works, the source of the town's prosperity for some three centuries. As far as is known, the first castle to occupy the site was built at the behest of George Maxwell. In 1402 his ancestor, Sir Robert Maxwell of Calderwood, in Lanarkshire, had married into the Denniston family, who owned the lands around Newark. Probably dating from the 1480s, the castle's focus was a tower house comprising a vaulted two-level cellar, a hall on the first floor, a private chamber on the second storey; and probably bedrooms within the roof space (although this level was removed during a major programme of alterations in the late 16th century).

The tower, as well as several ancillary buildings, would have been protected by a wall enclosing a courtyard, or barmkin. One of those buildings was probably the gatehouse which lies to the west of the tower although some authorities place that building at a later, unspecified date (MacGibbon & Ross 1887, 425). At ground-floor level, the gatehouse contains a guard room adjacent to a passage, or pend, leading from the castle's main entrance. Above were two storeys of private accommodation.

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ILLUS 1 Location of Newark Castle. (Based on the Ordnance Survey map © Crown copyright)



ILLUS 2 Newark Castle viewed from the south-west. (Historic Scotland © Crown copyright)

The only other extant building thought to date from the 15th century is the small, circular, two-storey tower which stands in what was the north-east corner of the barmkin and which was converted to a dovecot at some stage. Other structures from that period were probably demolished when the castle was comprehensively modernized in the late 16th century. This was the work of Sir Patrick Maxwell whose vision resulted in a fine piece of Renaissance architecture being built on the shores of the Clyde in about 1597, on the evidence of a date-stone over a doorway. His main contribution was a new north range — perhaps on the site of the original great hall — which, together with smaller west and east wings, forms a continuous, U-shaped suite of buildings linking the gatehouse to the tower house.

The doorway from the courtyard into the remodelled castle is in the angle between the north range and the east wing from where a passage leads to a bakehouse in the east wing and a kitchen and stores within vaulted cellars in the ground floor of the north range. Above those cellars is the hall; the second storey comprises a gallery and bed-chambers; and there are more bedrooms within the two storeys above the bakehouse. The upper floors are accessed from a scale-and-platt stair opposite the main doorway. Following the remodelling, the accommodation within the tower house would have been downgraded.

The castle, gardens and orchards were in decline only 70 years after Sir Patrick's plans were realized, when a new port was built at Newark to handle some of Glasgow's transatlantic trade. From that time, the castle grounds began to shrink as the port and its attendant shipyards and other works continued to expand well into the 20th century (Tabraham 1996, 11).

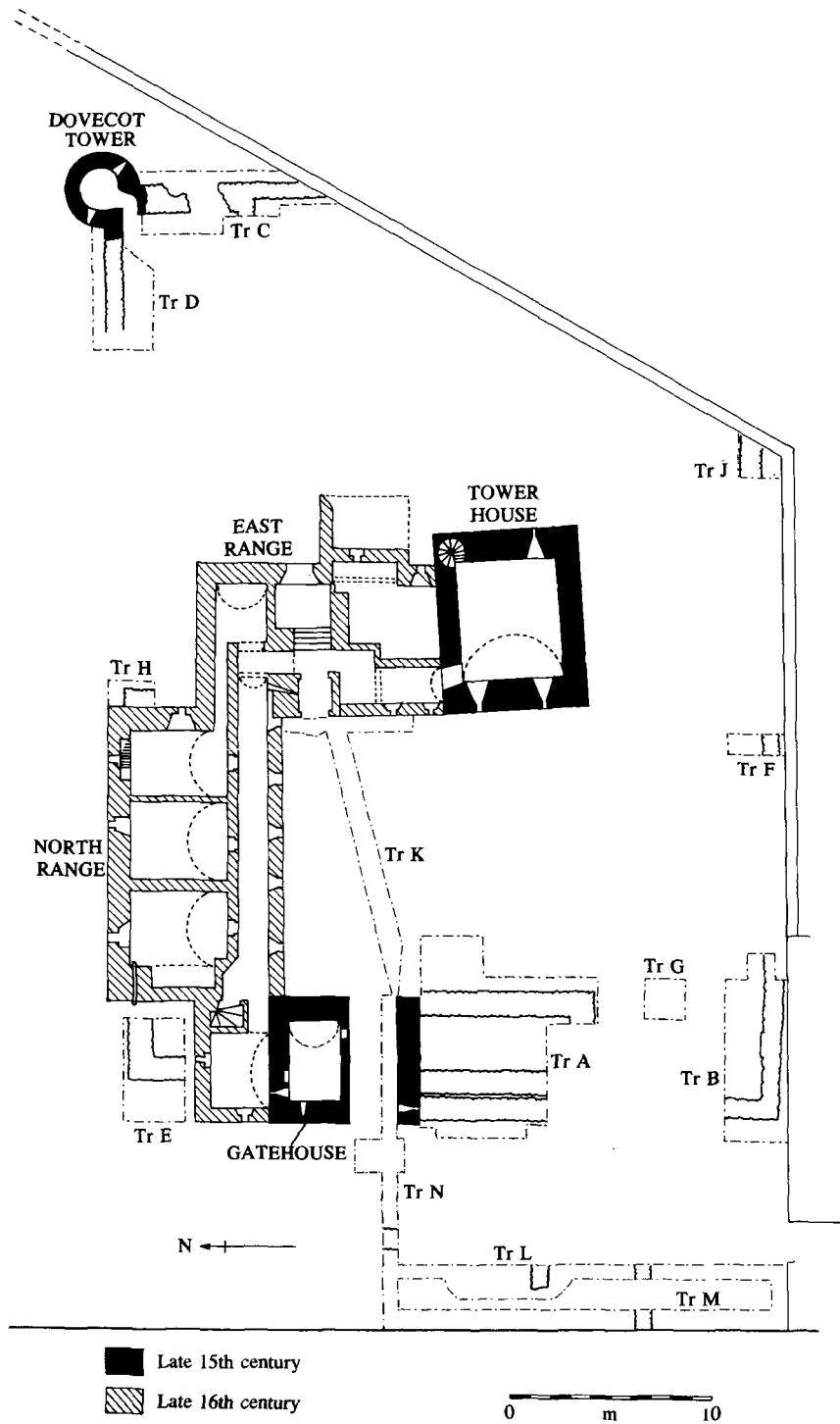
## BACKGROUND TO THE EXCAVATIONS

The redevelopment of the industrial parts of Port Glasgow in the early 1980s included the removal of some of the shipyards which had flanked Newark Castle since the late 17th century, as well as landscaping large areas of adjacent land and realigning the Glasgow/Greenock road which ran very close to the castle. The castle had been in state care since 1909 and — in tune with these recent changes to its environs — its fabric was to be repaired and more of its remains exposed for display. One of the principal aims of this exercise was to trace the course of the barmkin wall, which had been totally demolished to below ground level, and any buildings that may have abutted it.

This wall was thought to run from the north range to the circular dovecot tower in the north-east corner of the enclosure from where remnants could be seen running to the south and west. Trenches were opened along these sectors. There were also traces of a wall that had once abutted the south wall of the gatehouse, suggesting that the boundary had extended southwards from that building; several trenches were excavated to the south of the castle to verify this.

Nine trenches of varying sizes were opened around the perimeter of the castle (illus 3). This work was undertaken on behalf of the then Scottish Development Department (Historic Buildings and Monuments) and directed by John Cannell during March 1984. At the time of that excavation, the castle precinct was defined on its north by a sea wall; on its east and west by 19th-/20th-century stone walls, beyond which were shipyards; and on its south by a disused factory. This arrangement has since been much altered although the castle grounds are of now similar dimensions to those that existed at the time of the excavation.

During the demolition of Lamont's shipyard to the east of the castle in November 1984, an opportunity also arose to trace part of the east barmkin wall whose course ran beyond what was then the guardianship area.



ILLUS 3 Plan of the castle showing locations of excavation trenches

Early in 1997 service trenches (for water, electricity and telephone) were dug on the west side of the castle. To avoid damaging the archaeological strata within the barmkin, the main trench was dug through the gravel path against the wall of Ferguson's shipyard which formed the western boundary of the precinct; thereafter returning eastwards through the pend below the gatehouse as far as the doorway into the east wing of the castle. The route of this trench had to be modified to avoid disturbing features of archaeological interest and, in places, for safety reasons. In order to link this trench with existing services outwith the castle precinct, it was extended southwards as far as the south-east corner of Ferguson's shipyard, a distance of approximately 50 m.

## EXCAVATION RESULTS

The results of the investigations are divided over specific areas of the site: the west barmkin wall and adjacent areas (Trenches A & G); the south barmkin wall and adjacent areas (Trenches B, F & J); the east barmkin wall and adjacent areas (Trench C); the north barmkin wall and adjacent areas (Trenches D & H); the area immediately outwith the north-west angle of the castle (Trench E); a stretch of the east barmkin wall uncovered during the demolition of Lamont's shipyard; and the 1997 service trenches to the west of the castle (Trenches K, L, M & N).

### *West side of the barmkin*

**Trench A (illus 3, 4 & 5)** This, the principal trench in this area, was located against the south wall of the gatehouse and measured 8 m east/west by 6 m north/south, with extensions measuring 3 m (north/south) by 2 m and 2.5 m by 2.5 m from its north-east and south-east corners, respectively.

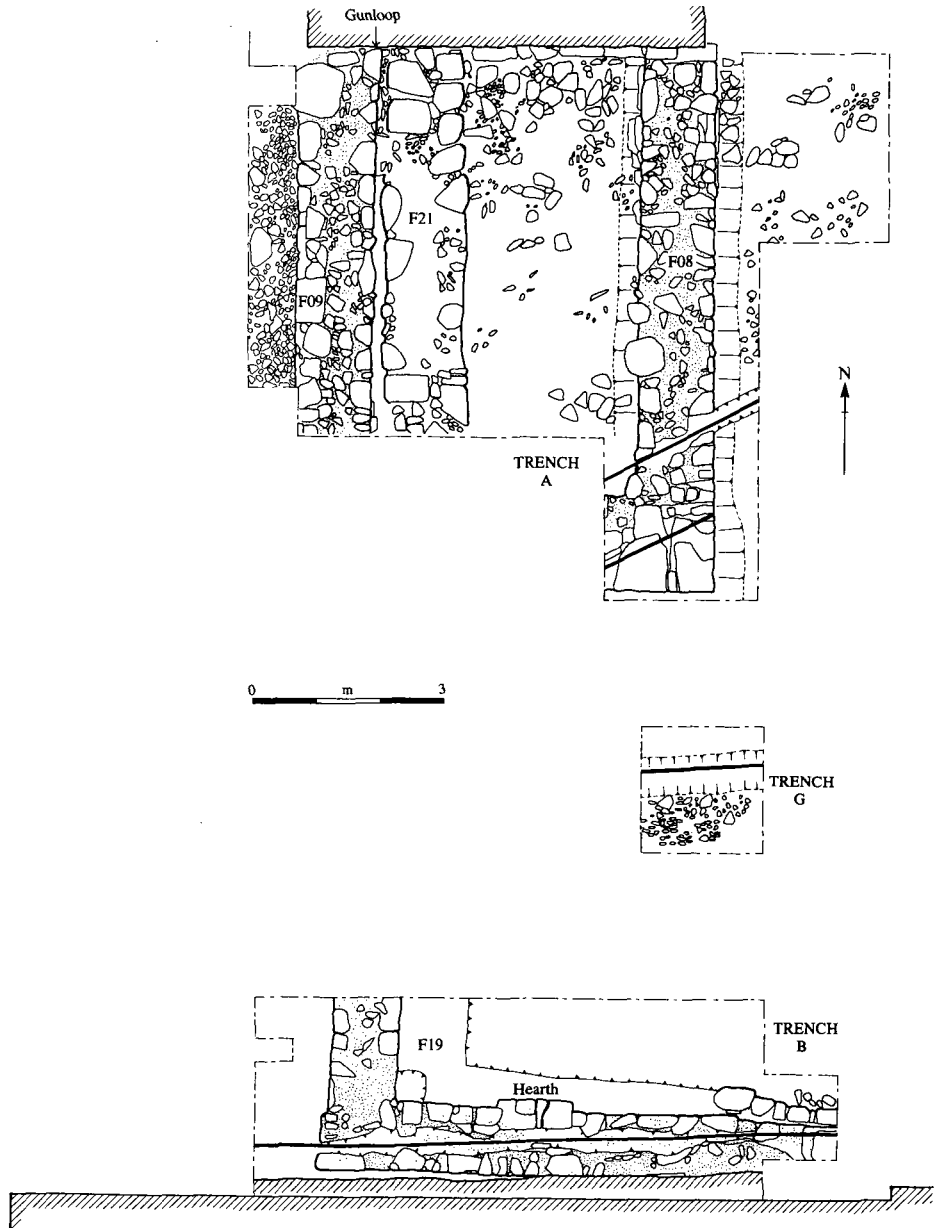
The remains of three walls were uncovered barely below turf level. Abutting the south-west corner of the gatehouse was wall F09 which survived as one to two courses of mortar-bonded rubble masonry, 1.25 m wide at its base but narrowing slightly on its second course where there was a remnant of a chamfered scarcement. A bedding trench 0.5 m wide, infilled with small rubble, was visible to the west of this wall. Abutting the south-east corner of the gatehouse was the single surviving course of wall F08 which was rubble-built, mortar-bonded and 1.10 m wide. Its rubble-filled bedding trench extended 0.50 m beyond the east face of the wall. It returned westwards some 7.0 m south of the gatehouse, probably to link with wall F09 although the excavation area did not extend far enough to confirm this.

Against the inside face of wall F09, and running parallel with it, were the drystone rubble foundations (F21) of a wall, 1.2 m wide, which may have been at least partly demolished before walls F08 and F09 were built. This wall is thought to have been the west barmkin wall and, although its foundations clearly abutted the gatehouse, the masonry above ground level was probably integral with it (see illus 10).

The putative chamber bounded by walls F08 and F09 measured 7.0 m north/south by 4.1 m wide. No trace of a floor surface was evident, only post-abandonment materials which lay directly over the subsoil into which all the exposed walls were cut. It is possible that the clay-rich subsoil had acted as the floor of this room although, if it had, the remnants of wall F21 would also have been visible within it. There was no trace of a threshold in any of the walls although such features would probably have been above the excavated level.

Little of significance was uncovered within the eastward extension of Trench A; only three large, rounded pebbles which may have been the remnants of a cobbled surface, although such evidence must be considered very slight.

**Trench G (illus 3 & 4)** Trench G, measuring 2 m by 2 m, was opened before Trench A was extended in its south-east corner, to determine whether wall F08 extended this far southwards. It was located 2 m from the southward extension of Trench A, midway between it and Trench B (see below). As might be expected, no



ILLUS 4 Trenches A, B and G

trace of wall F08 was found within this trench. Indeed, nothing of archaeological interest, only modern deposits below turf and topsoil, was uncovered in Trench G.

*South side of the barmkin*

**Trench B (illus 3 & 4)** Measuring 8 m east/west by 3 m wide and with a small extension at its east end, Trench B was located against the north wall of the since-demolished factory and 2 m south of Trench G.



ILLUS 5 Trench A viewed from the south. Note the dumb-bell gunloop in the south wall of the gatchouse, sighted along the outside of the barmkin wall but blocked when wall F09 was built to its immediate west

The south and west barmkin walls met 1 m from the west edge of this trench. Both arms of the boundary wall, of which one to two courses of mortar-bonded rubble masonry survived, were approximately 1.0 m wide and were faced with partly dressed blocks of mainly pink sandstone. In recent years a water pipe had been laid along the length of the south barmkin wall, removing some of its masonry in the process.

On the evidence of a fireplace set into the south barmkin wall, there had been a building in this corner of the courtyard, although the building's overall ground plan remains unknown. The sandstone hearth was badly damaged, both by heat and demolition, and evidently had been longer than its surviving 1.15 m. It protruded 0.18 m from the wall and had roll-moulded decoration on its face. There was no trace of a floor surface within the chamber although a substantial deposit of white mortar (F19), which had been cut by a modern intrusion, may have been the bedding for one. However, on the evidence of a few boulders set into this material, this could simply have been construction or destruction debris.

There was no trace of the east wall of the building, indicating either that it had been totally removed or, more likely, that the building was at least 7 m long, east/west.

**Trench F (illus 3)** Measuring 2.7 m north/south by 1 m wide, Trench F was located directly against the then south perimeter wall of the castle and 10 m east of the extension to Trench B. The south barmkin wall was revealed at the south end of the trench although its south face lay below the modern boundary wall which ran eastwards from the factory. The water pipe which had damaged the wall in Trench B extended through Trench F, causing similar destruction there.

**Trench J (illus 3)** Located in the angle between the modern south and south-east walls of the castle compound, Trench J measured 2 m north/south by 2 m east/west. The remains of the south barmkin wall lay below 1.0 m of turf, topsoil and rubble, much of the latter probably derived from the wall's demolition.

It was about 1.0 m wide and extended below the modern boundary wall, on the same alignment as in Trenches B and F. Although it was difficult to be positive in such a small trench, it did appear that the wall had been robbed in two separate stages.

### *East side of the barmkin*

**Trench C (illus 3 & 6)** Initially, Trench C ran 6.5 m southwards from the tower and was 3 m wide along most of its length, narrowing to 2 m for its final 2.5 m. Subsequently, the trench was extended as far as the wall that served as the south-east boundary of the castle precinct in 1984.

It was difficult to interpret the excavation findings in such a narrow area as Trench C, a task compounded by what appeared to be a substantial and relatively recent intrusion which cut across the barmkin wall. This was 1.4 m wide and, where a few courses survived, appeared to be bonded into the north-east corner of a building towards the south end of the trench. The east wall of this structure (effectively a continuation of the barmkin wall) was only 0.8 m wide and built of mortar-bonded rubble; whereas its north wall was a little wider (0.9 m) although less than 1 m of its length was exposed. There was a drain, perhaps the outlet for a latrine, set into the outer face of the building's east wall, at its north end. It was 0.65 m long (east/west), 0.35 m wide and 0.28 m deep; its sides and floor were of dressed sandstone flags.

A few flat, mortared stones in the angle of the two walls of the putative building may have been the remnants of a floor; equally they may have represented a thickening of its east wall.

At some stage, presumably after its demolition, the foundations of the east barmkin wall were disturbed by a complex feature of which no trace survived above ground level. It extended about 2.5 m along the length of the trench, only 1.5 m from the tower, and formed a pit 1 m wide and at least 0.8 m deep, defined on its east and west sides by masonry walls. The east wall, which stepped downwards into the pit, extended beyond the trench edge and was at least 1.3 m wide. The west wall was only 0.56 m wide and included a narrow sandstone-lined gully which led into the pit. There was insufficient time to empty the pit, which was infilled with rubble, pantiles and mortar, or to investigate further any other part of this feature; thus, its date and function remain unknown.

### *North side of the barmkin*

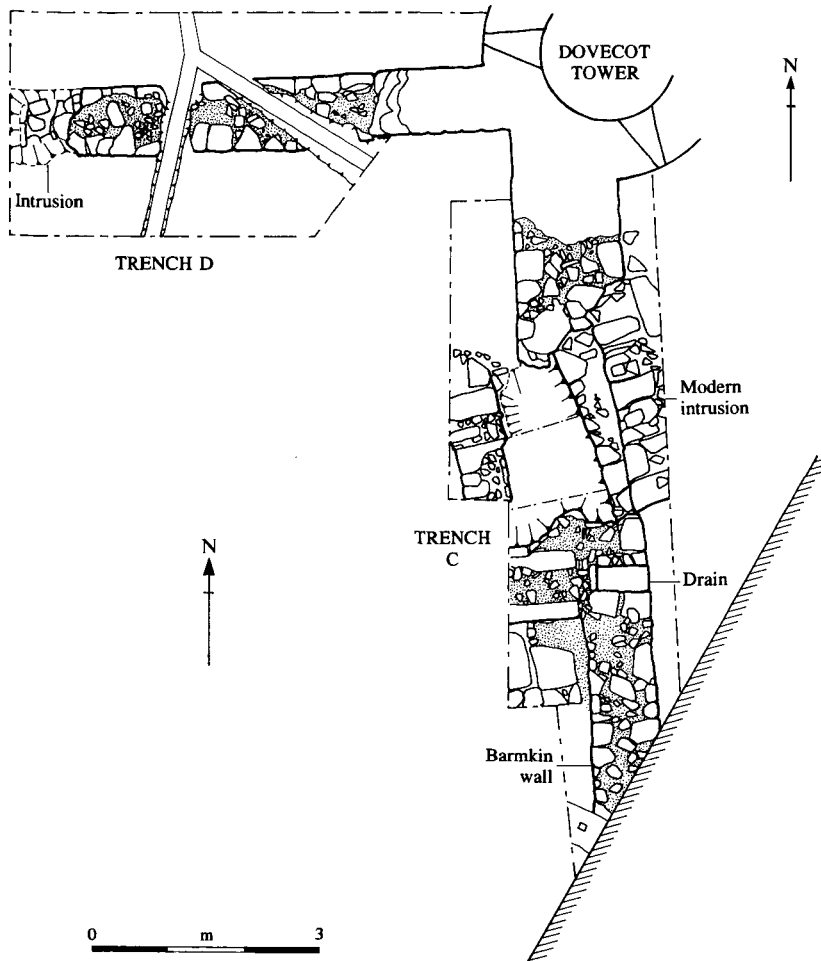
**Trench D (illus 3 & 6)** Trench D extended 6.2 m westwards from the dovecot tower and was 3 m wide. Adjacent to the tower, the north barmkin wall stood almost to its full height, but along most of the length of the trench it had been demolished to below ground level and was overlain by topsoil and recently deposited gravel, blaes, loam and rubble, up to 0.4 m deep. Midway along its exposed length the wall had been cut by two sewer pipes; at the west end of the trench its masonry had been robbed out to at least 1 m below ground level. At that level it was 0.95 m wide and comprised rubble bonded in a hard, white mortar; but it narrowed to 0.85 m above ground where it was faced with coursed, partly dressed masonry.

At the west end of the trench the wall was disturbed by an irregular intrusion, 1 m deep and infilled with pink clay with gravel. The wall was still visible at that depth, indicating that it had probably served as a sea wall on the north side of the barmkin and that the ground to its north was reclaimed land.

There was no opportunity to investigate the area immediately inside the north barmkin wall, although there was nothing to suggest that a building had stood against the wall at this point.

**Trench H (illus 3)** Measuring 2.4 m north/south by 1.2 m wide, Trench H was located against the east wall of the north range, at its north end. Just below turf level were the remnants of a mortar-bonded rubble wall which ran eastwards beyond the trench edge. This putative barmkin wall ran below the east wall of the north range and, it must be presumed, was demolished before the later building was erected. It was difficult to tell just how wide this wall was. The mortared masonry extended 1.4 m from a very clear north face, continuing beyond the south edge of the trench, but it was not clear whether the boundary was particularly wide at this





ILLUS 6 Trenches C and D

point or if some of this stonework represented another wall returning southwards. The situation was complicated further by the sewer pipe which cut across the wall towards the east end of the trench.

#### *North-west corner of the castle*

**Trench E (illus 3)** This, the only trench in this area, was opened in the angle between the north and west ranges of the castle to determine whether the original barmkin wall had continued into this area prior to the construction of these ranges. The trench measured 5 m east/west by 3.0 m north/south and was located 0.7 m and 0.9 m from the north and west ranges respectively.

Both the north and west arms of the barmkin wall were uncovered; each was 1.1 m wide and built of mortar-bonded rubble masonry with dressed faces. Against the inside angle of the two walls were the remains of a hearth, an area of flattish, clay-bonded stones exhibiting clear signs of burning. Although the evidence is not conclusive, this suggests that there may have been a building within this corner of the barmkin. There was no opportunity to investigate further the area within the putative building.

The walls and the putative hearth were overlain by destruction debris which also covered the whole of the excavated area outside the limits of the barmkin. The excavation of a sondage against the outside face of

the west barmkin wall demonstrated that this debris was at least 0.4 m deep. The barmkin wall was not bottomed within this sondage, suggesting that the ground outside it had been deepened or 'made up' at some stage.

### *Lamont's shipyard*

Following the demolition of Lamont's shipyard to the east of the castle, there was a brief opportunity to investigate that area in the hope of uncovering more of the east barmkin wall. Although conditions were far from ideal — the demolition contractors were still working on what was a very wet site — a stretch of wall was uncovered a short distance beyond what was then the eastern limit of the castle. The remains comprised about 4 m of rubble foundations, approximately 1 m wide and aligned north/south. Unfortunately, its exact location is unknown although there seems little doubt that it was part of the barmkin wall.

### *The 1997 excavation*

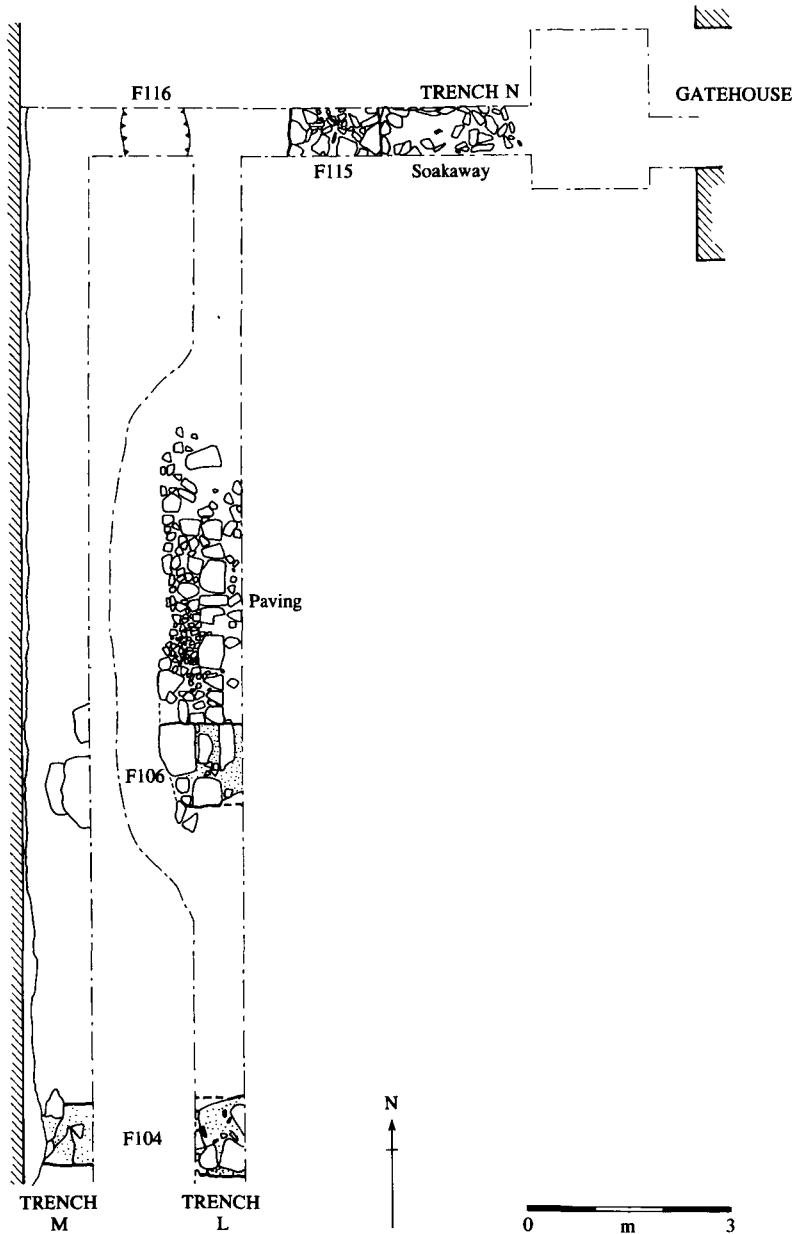
**Trench K (illus 3)** Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered in Trench K, only recent materials lying directly on glacial till at a depth of 0.25–0.4 m.

**Trenches L & M (illus 3 & 7)** Cutting across Trench L were the remnants of two mortar-bonded, rubble walls, surviving to a height of 0.5–0.6 m. The north (F106) and south (F104) walls were 1.2 m and 1.0 m wide, respectively, and stood 4.2 m apart, perhaps being the north and south walls of a demolished building. There was no trace of a floor between these two walls, simply recently deposited rubble and other clearance debris which sat directly on undisturbed glacial till of clay, sand and occasional boulders. Although the foundations of the shipyard wall had truncated wall F104 in Trench M, its masonry was still very much in evidence, whereas it was not clear whether the large boulders uncovered some 4 m further north comprised debris from wall F106 or were simply rubble deposited from elsewhere.

To the immediate north of wall F106 and extending 4 m north of it in Trench L was an area of paving, comprising sandstone flags and some rounded cobbles. The metalling extended 4 m north of the wall at which point it petered out: there was no indication of a wall or kerb defining that side of it. It had been truncated on its west side by what appeared to be a drainage channel (F116), 1 m wide and 1 m deep, which was exposed in Trench N and in a spur trench at the south ends of Trenches L and M. The paving did not extend into Trench M, perhaps for the same reason that wall F106 may have been removed from the vicinity of the shipyard wall. There were no other features of interest within these two trenches, only modern cuts for abandoned services, modern electricity cables and recently deposited rubble and other debris.

**Trench N (illus 3 & 7)** Trench N ran eastwards from the shipyard wall, across the ends of Trenches M and L to the pond below the gatehouse, a length of about 10 m. Running north/south across the trench, 4.1 m from its west end, were the remnants of a rubble-built wall (F115), 1.1 m wide and bonded with soil (rather than mortar or clay). The base of this wall was at its highest on its west side where its single surviving course sat on a platform of redeposited clay (0.3 m thick); this did not extend through to its east face which was three courses high (0.5 m). Extending 2 m eastwards from the wall was what may have been a drain or soakaway, consisting of several courses of rounded boulders between which was fine silt.

**Outside the precinct** Nothing of interest lay within the trench — 50 m long and 0.9 m deep — that ran southwards from the south-west corner of the castle precinct; only landscaping debris (topsoil and rubble) containing artefacts of 19th-century and later dates lying directly on undisturbed glacial till was found.

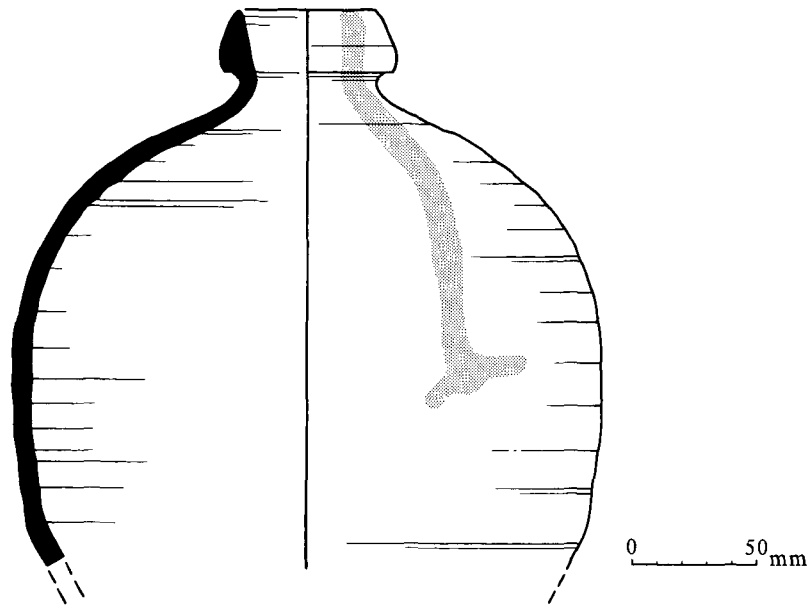


ILLUS 7 Trenches L, M and N

There were no structural remains or any trace of the humic soils that would be associated with the gardens and orchards that would have lain to the south of the castle (see illus 12).

## FINDS

Almost all the finds described below were retrieved from topsoil and other recent deposits during the 1984 excavation. However, although none of these artefacts was recovered from well-sealed,



ILLUS 8 Seville olive jar (scale 1:3)

stratified deposits, a few are sufficiently interesting in their own right to merit description. Very few finds were recovered from the service trenches excavated in 1997, none of them from stratified contexts.

#### POTTERY

##### George Haggarty

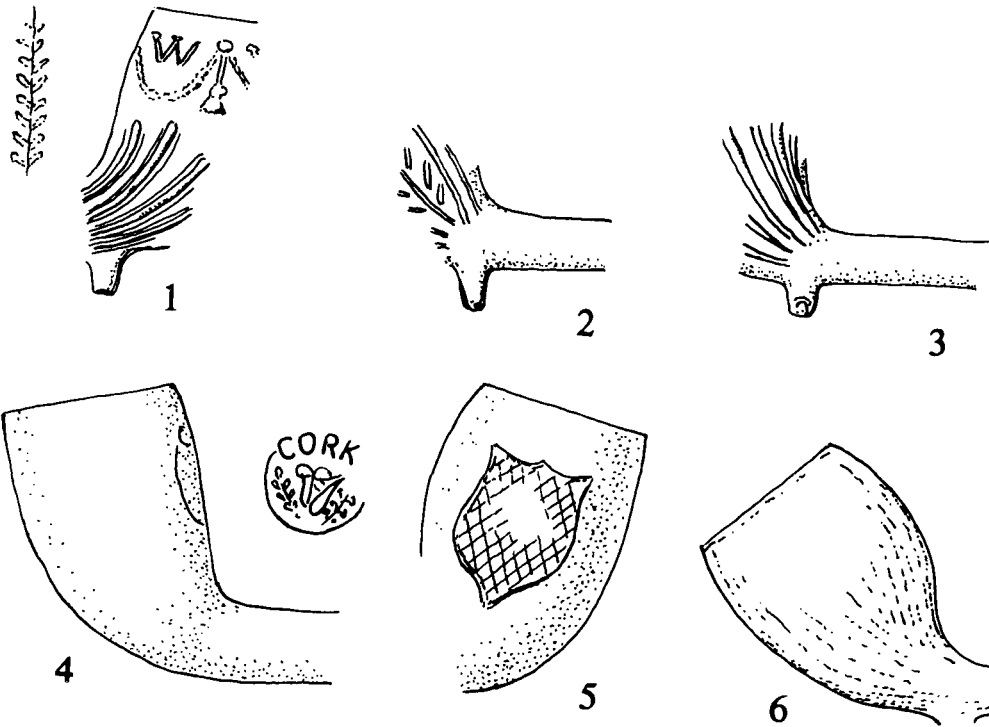
Most of the assemblage comprises 18th- and 19th-century wares which post-date the abandonment of the castle, but there are also a few examples of late medieval and post-medieval wares. As they were all found in residual or disturbed contexts, they contribute little to the interpretation of the site. One vessel, however, is of particular note. This can be identified as an olive jar from Seville (illus 8) and is described below.

Fourteen conjoining sherds are from an olive jar in a pink to pale grey, very sandy fabric, with an off-white to buff slip on the exterior and traces of lead glaze on the interior and over the rim. The source of similar material has been confirmed by thin-sectioning as Seville (Vince 1982, 138–40). Seville olive jars are very difficult to date although they are generally ascribed to the 17th century (Hurst *et al* 1986, 66).

#### CLAY TOBACCO PIPES

##### Dennis Gallagher

Forty-six clay pipe fragments were recovered, all of them post-dating c 1800. There is a distinct difference between early 19th-century forms and later material. The former is typified by thin-walled, spurred bowls, some carrying fluted decorations; examples are nos 1–5. Of these, nos 1 and 2 have fluting combined with foliage. Number 1 is unusual in also having the maker's



ILLUS 9 Clay pipe fragments (scale 1:1)

initials — W W — above hanging swags. Bowls with this form of decoration and with the maker's name below the rim were common in the English Midlands and Lincolnshire in the late 18th and 19th centuries but were also used by London makers such as Swinyard (Walker & Wells 1979). The Newark example may be an early work from the Glasgow factory of William White which operated between 1806 and 1955.

Most of the pipes post-dating the mid- 19th century are of the thick-walled cutty type. Fragments nos 6 and 8 may be from Glasgow pipes designed to appeal to Irish immigrants. Only stem fragment no 10 has a maker's mark, that of William Christie of Glasgow who was active between 1857 and 1962.

### Catalogue

- 1 Rear fragment of thin-walled bowl decorated with flutings and swags and the initials W W in serif lettering. Possibly William White of Glasgow, c 1800–60. (Illus 9.1)
- 2 Lower bowl fragment; thin-walled with foliage between fluting. Early to mid 19th century. (Illus 9.2)
- 3 Lower bowl fragment, thin-walled, with fluting, possible C on the left side of the heel although the poor quality of the moulding makes the marking less certain (it may be a flaw in manufacture rather than a deliberate mark). Early to mid- 19th century. (Illus 9.3)
- 4 Lower bowl fragment with elongated spur. Early to mid- 19th century. (Not illustrated)
- 5 Lower bowl fragment with damaged spur. Early to mid- 19th century. (Not illustrated)
- 6 Thick-walled bowl and stem fragment with a circular stamp with CORK, a harp, leaves and shamrock on the rear; probably a Glasgow product. Post c 1850. (Illus 9.4)

- 7 Thick-walled bowl in pale yellow-white fabric, with a mould-imparted shield on its right side; probably a Glasgow product. Post c 1850. (Illus 9.5)
- 8 Fragment of the rear of a bowl with half a stamp with ..SH [PI]PE in an oval frame, probably denoting 'IRISH PIPE'. Post c 1850. (Not illustrated)
- 9 Stem fragment of a pipe in the form of a tree trunk with lopped branches. Post c 1850. (Not illustrated)
- 10 Stem fragment with ..RIS../.LASGOW in incuse, sans serif lettering, partly obscured by slag; William Christie of Glasgow, active 1857–1962. (Not illustrated)
- 11 Stem fragment marked BURNS CUTTY PIPE on both sides. Post c 1850. (Not illustrated)
- 12 Highly burnished bowl with damaged spur; Dutch, 19th century (cf Duco 1987, 57). (Illus 9.6)

## DISCUSSION

As well as defining the course of the barmkin wall, the 1984 excavation revealed traces of buildings set against the east and west sides of the enclosure and in its south-west corner. It also showed that the north range of Patrick Maxwell's Renaissance mansion had been built over the original barmkin wall, perhaps replacing the putative great hall of the late 15th-century castle.

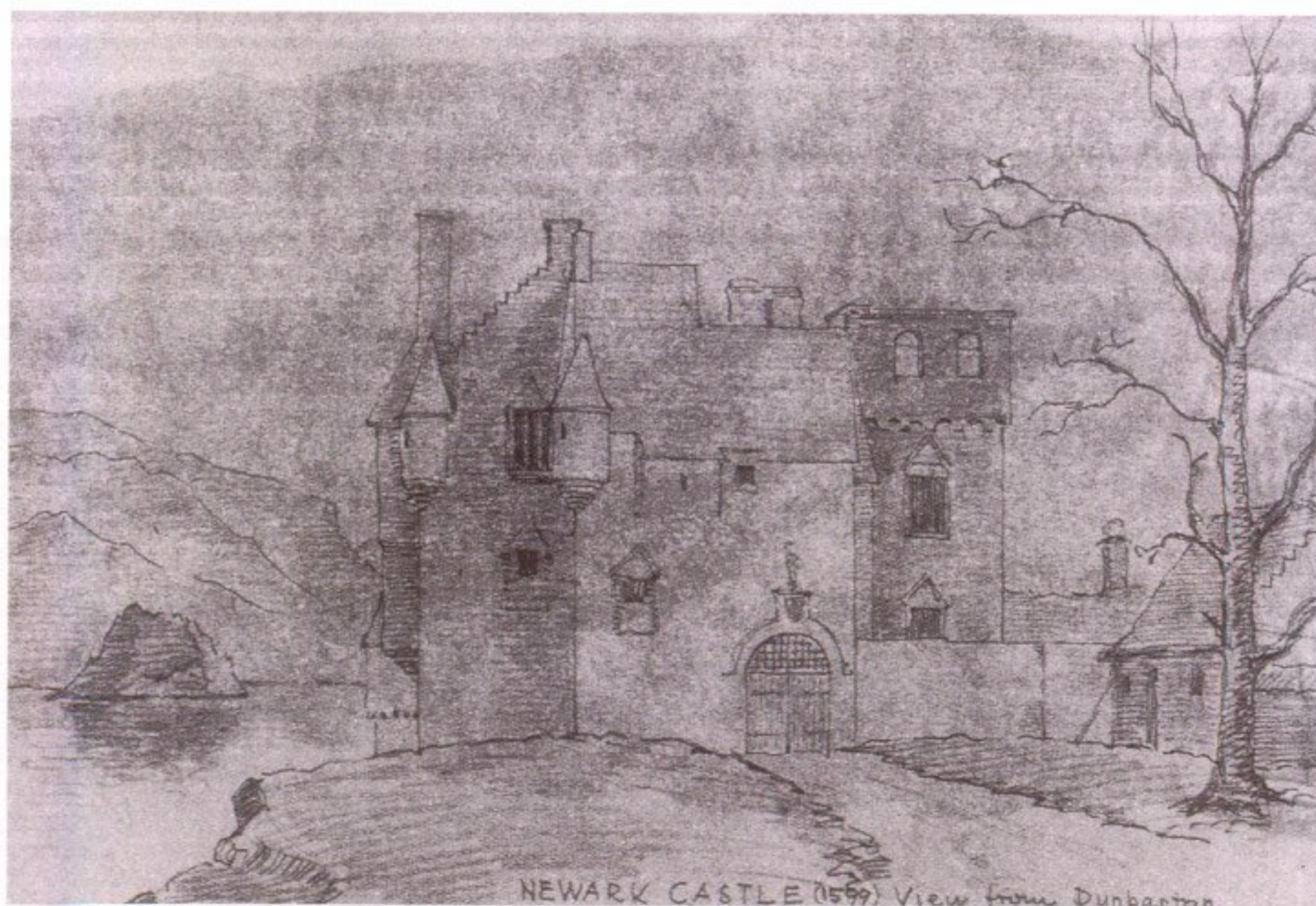
It is difficult to explain why the barmkin wall should vary so much in width (from 0.85 m to 1.4 m), as it does to the immediate west and south of the dovecot tower, when all of the exposed sectors appear to have been contemporary. Elsewhere around the castle, the foundations of the barmkin wall ranged from 1.0 to 1.4 m in width, although such variations may not have been reflected in the wall as it would have stood above ground. It is also unclear why the barmkin wall should deviate as much as it appears to do on the north and south sides of the enclosure.

The barmkin area at Newark is larger than those of most late 15th- and 16th-century castles of similar status and would have provided ample space for buildings such as a great hall, servants' quarters, domestic offices or workshops. Unfortunately, the limited nature of the excavation allowed only a brief glimpse of some ancillary buildings and it was not possible to interpret their functions or to date their construction. The fireplace at the west end of the south barmkin wall may have been within a chamber or office of some sort although its size indicates that this was probably not a kitchen. An undated and unsigned pencil sketch (NMRS D/7433) (illus 11) depicts a single-storey structure with a chimney to the right of the tower. This was perhaps the building shown in a plan of Port Glasgow, drawn by John Ainslie in 1806 (illus 12), as being to the immediate south of the tower, although the open space or *pend* shown between the two buildings by Ainslie does not appear on the sketch. The style of lettering on the sketch suggests that it was drawn quite recently and it may be a copy of an earlier drawing or painting executed when the castle was still occupied.

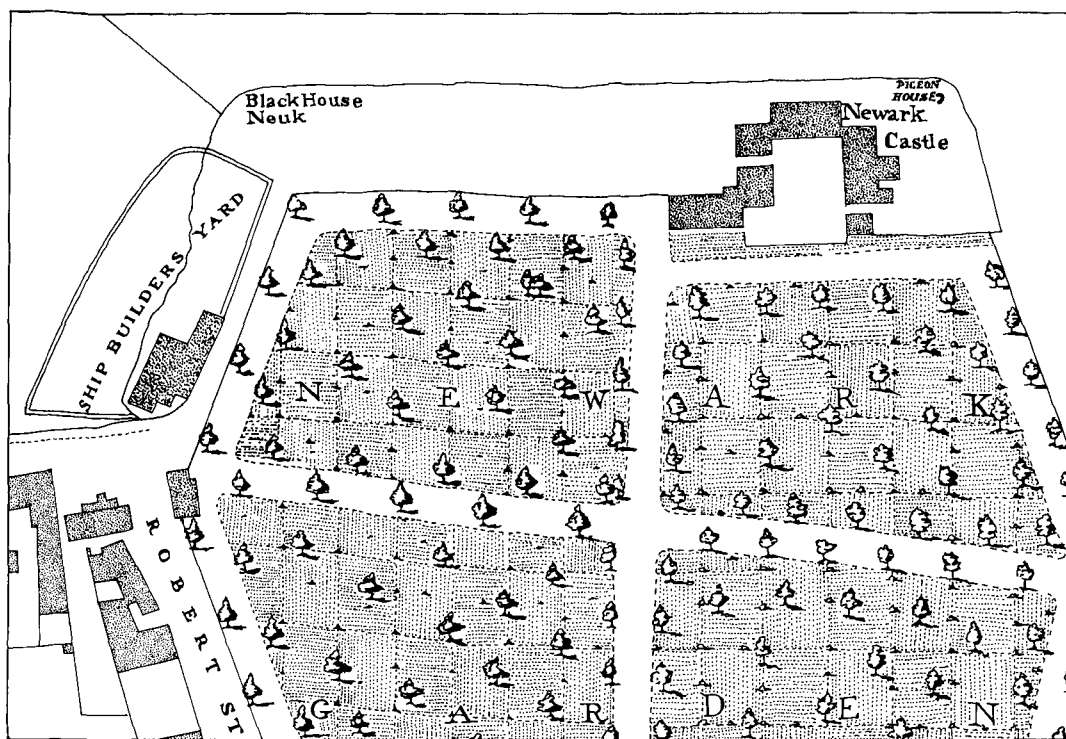
Perhaps the greatest puzzle thrown up by the excavation concerns the relationships between the walls uncovered in Trench A and the gatehouse against which they once stood. Pre-1984 photographs and earlier illustrations, particularly a drawing published in 1852 although perhaps drawn some years previously (Billings 1852, pl 24) (illus 10), show the remnants of the barmkin wall running southwards from the gatehouse along the line of wall F21. Excavation demonstrated that the foundations of that wall abutted those of the gatehouse but, although recent masonry consolidation has obliterated much of the evidence, the walls themselves were probably continuous. Billings' drawing also shows the roof-line of a narrow, single-storey, lean-to building which had stood against the inside face of the barmkin wall. Wall F08 in Trench A (illus 4) appears to have been the east wall of that building whereas wall F09, which was in line with the west wall of the gatehouse, defies easy interpretation. This wall, which clearly did not pre-date the gatehouse, would have blocked the dumb-bell gunloop on its south side, indicating that it was probably built after the barmkin wall was at least part-demolished and perhaps after the castle



ILLUS 10 Drawing of Newark Castle in the mid 19th century, by Robert Billings (1852, pl 24), showing the remains of the barmkin wall against the south wall of the gatehouse; note the gunloop sighted along the outside face of the barmkin wall



ILLUS 11 Undated pencil sketch of Newark Castle, showing a cottage standing to the west of the castle and a now-demolished building to the south of the tower (NMRS D/7433)



ILLUS 12 Part of a plan of Port Glasgow, drawn by John Ainslie in 1806, showing Newark Castle with a building extending westwards from its west barmkin wall

was abandoned. The pencil sketch (illus 11) shows a wall running southwards from the gatehouse, apparently from its south-west corner. However, the dubious quality of draughtsmanship evident elsewhere in this sketch would make it unwise to draw too many conclusions from this; and it is possible that this wall was intended to be the barmkin wall. Thus the question of wall F09 remains unresolved.

Although the investigations outside the west barmkin wall were not very extensive, the excavation demonstrated that at least one building had stood there before Ferguson's shipyard was built. The locations of the walls uncovered in Trench L coincide roughly with those of a building extending westwards from the south-west corner of the castle in Ainslie's plan of 1806. Whether Ainslie's building was an integral part of the castle or was the single-storey cottage depicted in the undated pencil sketch (illus 11) is not clear. The latter is perhaps more likely. A thumbnail sketch by Billings (not illustrated) shows that the same building was roofless by 1852, while the first edition Ordnance Survey map shows that it was demolished shortly after.

The crude flagging to the north of wall F106 is probably a remnant of a road leading into the castle, as shown both in Ainslie's plan and in the undated pencil sketch.

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