

A late medieval hall-house at Uttershill Castle, Penicuik, Midlothian

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of an integrated study of Uttershill Castle, Penicuik, undertaken in advance of a proposed restoration programme. Documentary research was combined with detailed architectural survey and archaeological excavation. The results indicate a sequence of development more complex than first suggested by the appearance of the ruins. The castle was initially a two-storey bastle-house built in the 16th century. The upper floor was then modified in the early 17th century before a kitchen and solar were added to the east end with a contemporary structure to the south. Slightly later a structure was abutted against the south-western side of the castle. After abandonment, and the disappearance of the roof and external structures, the ruins were cleared of rubble and converted for use as a gunpowder store. This late 19th/20th-century reuse involved blocking most of the ground-floor openings and the erection of a fence across a gap in the south-eastern wall. In addition to this disturbance the remains are reputed to have been subjected to an antiquarian-style excavation at this time.

INTRODUCTION

The ruins of Uttershill Castle (NGR: NT 2385 5943) stand, surrounded by mature trees, high on a bluff above the confluence of the North Esk and the Black Burn, immediately to the south of, and overlooking, the town of Penicuik, some 13 km south of Edinburgh (illus 1), in Midlothian.

Uttershill Castle is now a rather dilapidated ruin and, although a large portion of its south wall collapsed last century and more features, including the ornamental doorway (illus 3), have fallen in the last 15 years, it remains an interesting and in many respects typical 16th-/early 17th-century hall-house. At first sight Uttershill Castle now appears to be a simple rectangular structure of two storeys, its box-like appearance being accentuated by the removal of the upper part of its gables. Closer examination shows it to be a building of some sophistication which, far from being built at one period, displays four phases of construction along with other minor

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modifications. Its original nucleus is of particular interest for it appears to have been a bastle-house, a form of defensive farmhouse now known to have been erected on both sides of the Border during the late 16th and early 17th centuries (Ward 1990).

The castle is now approached along Pomathorn Road (B6372), which also forms the north-eastern and eastern boundary of 'Castle Brae' upon which it is located (illus 1). On the western side of the castle there is a steep slope down to the Black Burn covered by woodland, which may be the remains of the Uttershill Wood that was being 'snedded' (thinned) in 1720 (SRO-GD18/1280). A terraced area around the ruin, most apparent to the north-west and north-east, may represent the remains of a courtyard defined by a barmkin wall (illus 2). Inner and outer turf-covered faces of a wall c 1.2 m wide can be traced to the north-west of the castle, while the steep scarp to the north-east may also represent the remains of this barmkin. There is no evidence for a return of this scarp to the south-east of the castle, although a wall may underlie the field dyke which separates the area around the castle from the cultivated field to the south-east. No remains of walling are visible to the south-west. A possible hollow-way or track leads directly uphill from the valley, and Penicuik, to the north-west corner of the castle.

PREVIOUS WORK

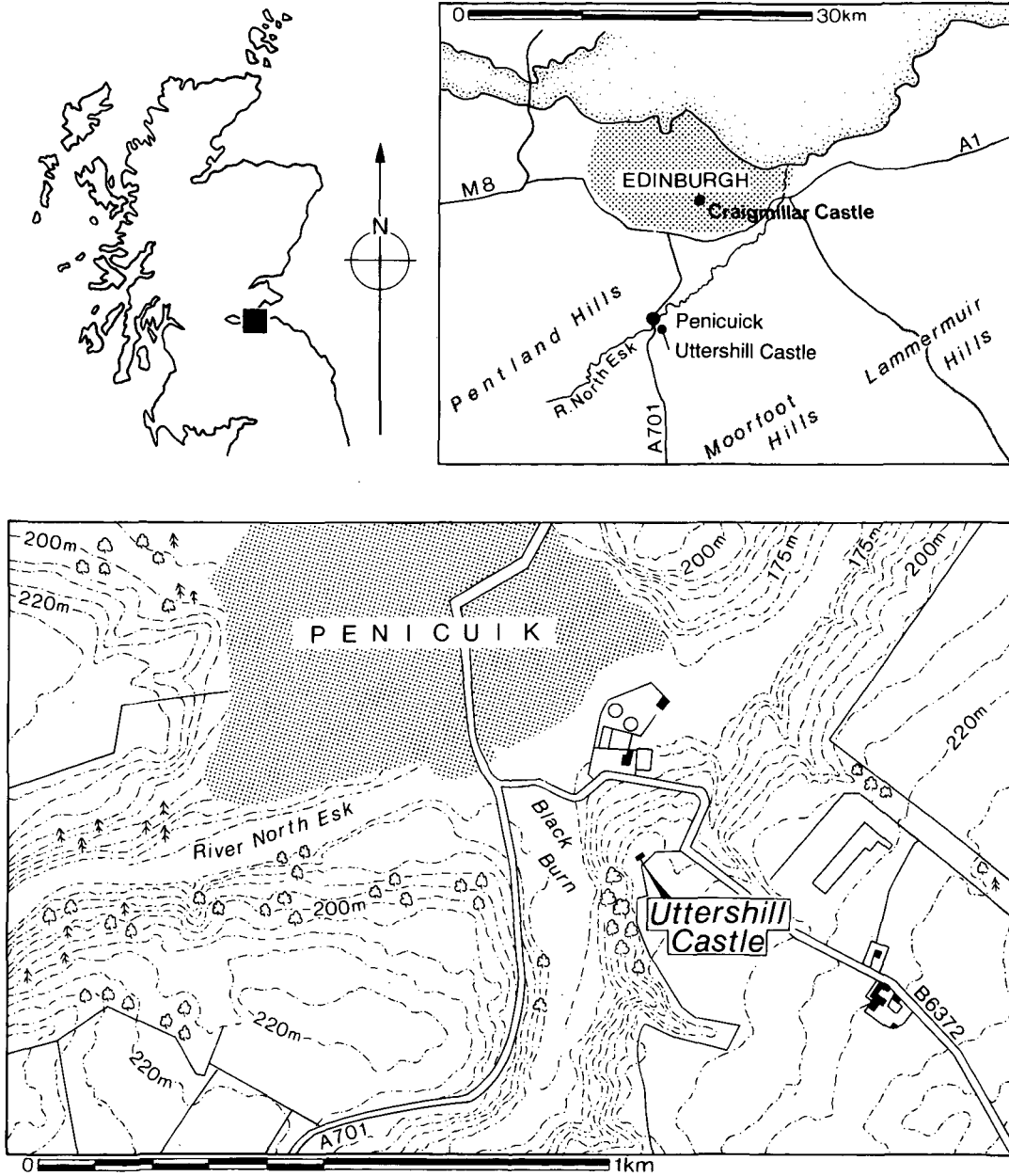
Although the remains may have been subject to antiquarian interest, including possible excavation work at the end of the 19th century, previous work on the site has mainly been limited to surveys of the upstanding remains. The first survey plan appears as an entry in the fourth volume of MacGibbon & Ross's monumental work on early castellated and domestic buildings of Scotland (1887–92, 364–5). The castle was again surveyed and described by Hannah (1928) along with the nearby castle of Ravensneuk. Finally, shortly after Hannah's work, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland published an account of Uttershill in their *Inventory* for Midlothian (RCAHMS 1929, 153–4, no 202). Under closer examination each of these descriptions, although basically similar, revealed a number of inconsistencies and omissions which it is hoped that the recent research has rectified.

The current investigations were commissioned by Jon Grounsell in advance of a proposed programme of restoration. The Centre for Field Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, carried out the archaeological excavations and Nicholas Q Bogdan undertook the documentary research. The architectural survey was supplied by Jon Grounsell.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

As in the case of many of the lesser castles of Scotland, comparatively few documentary records relating to Uttershill seem to have survived. The castle would appear to have been erected and then extended by families (the Penicuiks and Prestons) who have died out and whose records have been destroyed.

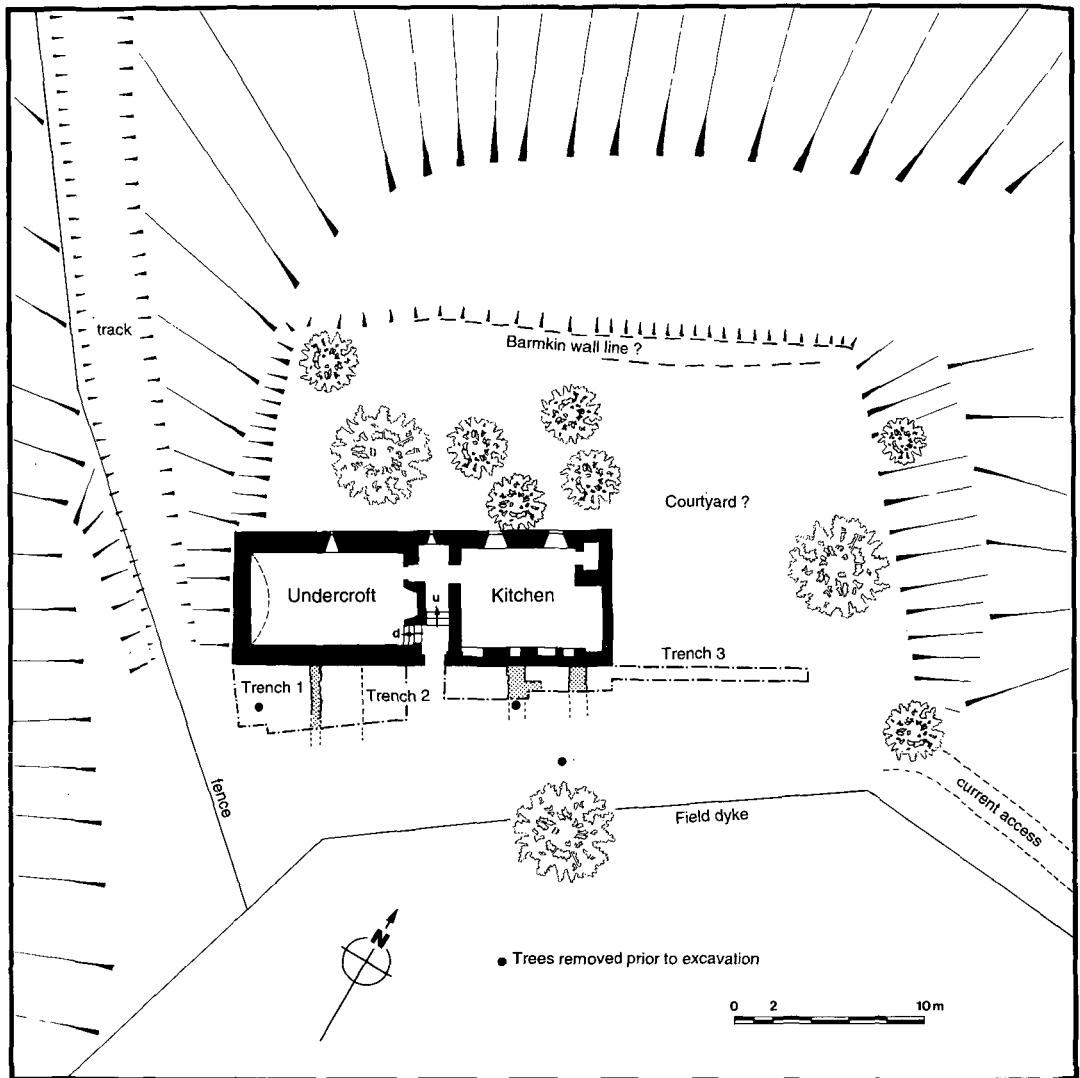
Although it seems likely that the core of the surviving structure is of an earlier date, the earliest specific reference to the manor-place of Uttershill or Outtershill ('maneriei loco de Uttershill') is not until 1641. By then it seems to have been the principal messuage or manor-house of the barony of Preston or Gorton, for in the Register of the Great Seal, 2 February 1641, Charles I confirmed a charter by David Preston of Craigmillar granting George Preston, his son, and Jeanne Gibsoun, his son's future wife, the 'terras et baroniam de Prestoun, alias Gourtown cum maneriei loco de Uttershill, molendinis, piscationibus, tenentibus, &c., in parochia de



ILLUS 1 Location plan. (Based on the Ordnance Survey map © Crown copyright)

Leswaid, vic de Edinburgh' ('Lands and barony of Preston alias Gorton with the manor place of Uttershill, mill, fishings, tenements etc in the parish of Lasswade, county of Edinburgh').

Uttershill seems to have passed to the Prestons from a family called Penicuik early in the 17th century (probably in 1604). Little is known about the Penicuik family, whose 'ancient charters ... have long since disappeared' (Black 1946, 656). Like so many of the older families in



ILLUS 2 Plan of castle and immediate vicinity

Scotland they evidently took their name from their original lands, in this case the barony of Penicuik. The first recorded member of the family seems to be William de Penycok who was one of a number of people directed to fix the boundary of the lands of Lenthenhop during the reign of Alexander II (1214–49). The lands and barony of Penicuik, which probably included Uttershill, notwithstanding that it lay at that time within the adjoining parish of Lasswade, were eventually sold by the Penicuiks in 1604 (*ibid*).

Like the Penicuiks, the Prestons were an ancient family, for an Alured de Preston witnessed a charter in 1222 and Sir John de Preston, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Durham, had obtained a charter of the lands of Gourton or Gorton (another name for Preston) as early as 1342 (*ibid*). There is now no evidence to identify the original caput of the barony of Preston from which the family took their name. As there is no firm evidence to indicate that the surviving late

medieval structure at Uttershill occupies the site of an earlier castle, perhaps the original caput of the barony of Gorton should be sought elsewhere.

Exactly when the Prestons finally moved out of Uttershill is not entirely clear. They retained the lands and barony of Lasswade, which would have included Uttershill, until around 1700 when they were purchased by Sir John Clerk, 1st Baronet of Penicuik, whose family had purchased the adjoining lands and barony of Penicuik in 1646 (Forman 1967, 62–4). The Clerk of Penicuik papers in the Scottish Records Office suggest that while the lands of Uttershill were sold to Sir John Clerk in June 1717, Robert Preston of that ilk may not have finally moved out of the castle until sometime in 1719 (SRO GD18/394). In early September of that year, Sir John Clerk agreed to the temporary loan of a barn at Uttershill so that the plenishings taken from the castle could be temporarily stored until disposed of (SRO GD18/1647). Other sources, however, suggest that Sir John Clerk may have purchased Uttershill as early as 1700 or 1702, or even earlier (Pine 1953, 440–2; RCAHMS 1929, 154; Hannah 1928, 235). It is clear that Robert Preston of that ilk had got into serious financial trouble and had no real alternative but to part with his ancestral seat (SRO GD18/1639). It also appears that whenever the castle was actually bought the Clerks of Penicuik may have had some interest in Uttershill for some years before 1717.

Although the Clerk of Penicuik papers in the Scottish Records Office, which belong to the later 17th and 18th centuries, contain a certain amount of information relating to the lands of Uttershill, there is disappointingly little information about the castle within them. References to woods and a barn at Uttershill have already been mentioned and, by 1721, there would also seem to have been at least two cot houses there, while in 1723 James Alexander, a mason, was ‘in Uttershill’ (SRO GD18/905, 907). Still later in the 18th century, in 1776 and 1782, there are references to the ‘Farm of Uttershill’ which should no doubt be recognized as one and the same as the castle (SRO GD18/964, 966). There had also been an earlier reference to the ‘Mains of Uttershill’, in 1713 (SRO GD18/897). The lack of evidence for another set of farm buildings within the immediate vicinity (either as upstanding remains or on contemporary maps) suggests that these references should probably be associated with the castle site.

Abandoned in the late 18th or early 19th centuries, the castle was ruinous by the late 19th century with the mural chamber in its kitchen used to store gunpowder for both mines and a local rifle-range (Hannah 1928, 237).

In 1920 Sir George Clerk, 9th Baronet of Penicuik, sold the ruins of Uttershill Castle to ‘the paper mills’. Purchased in 1990 by David Lumsden of Cushnie, with a view to restoration, he sold the castle in 1993 to Jon Grounsell, an Edinburgh architect.

STRUCTURAL PHASES OF THE HALL-HOUSE

Although the rubble masonry of the castle now has a relatively uniform appearance, Hannah was undoubtedly correct when he stated ‘there is no doubt that it was built at two different periods’ (Hannah 1928, 235). A detailed examination of the architectural evidence supported by the results of the archaeological excavation indicate that there were at least four main structural phases.

PHASE 1: THE BASTLE-HOUSE

Only part of the ground-floor level of the original building remains, incorporated in the south-western part of the surviving structure. This would have been a bastle-house or hall-house, consisting of a vaulted undercroft, with a main chamber or hall above and probably a garret



ILLUS 3 Photograph from Chrystal collection (*National Monuments Record of Scotland* © Crown copyright)

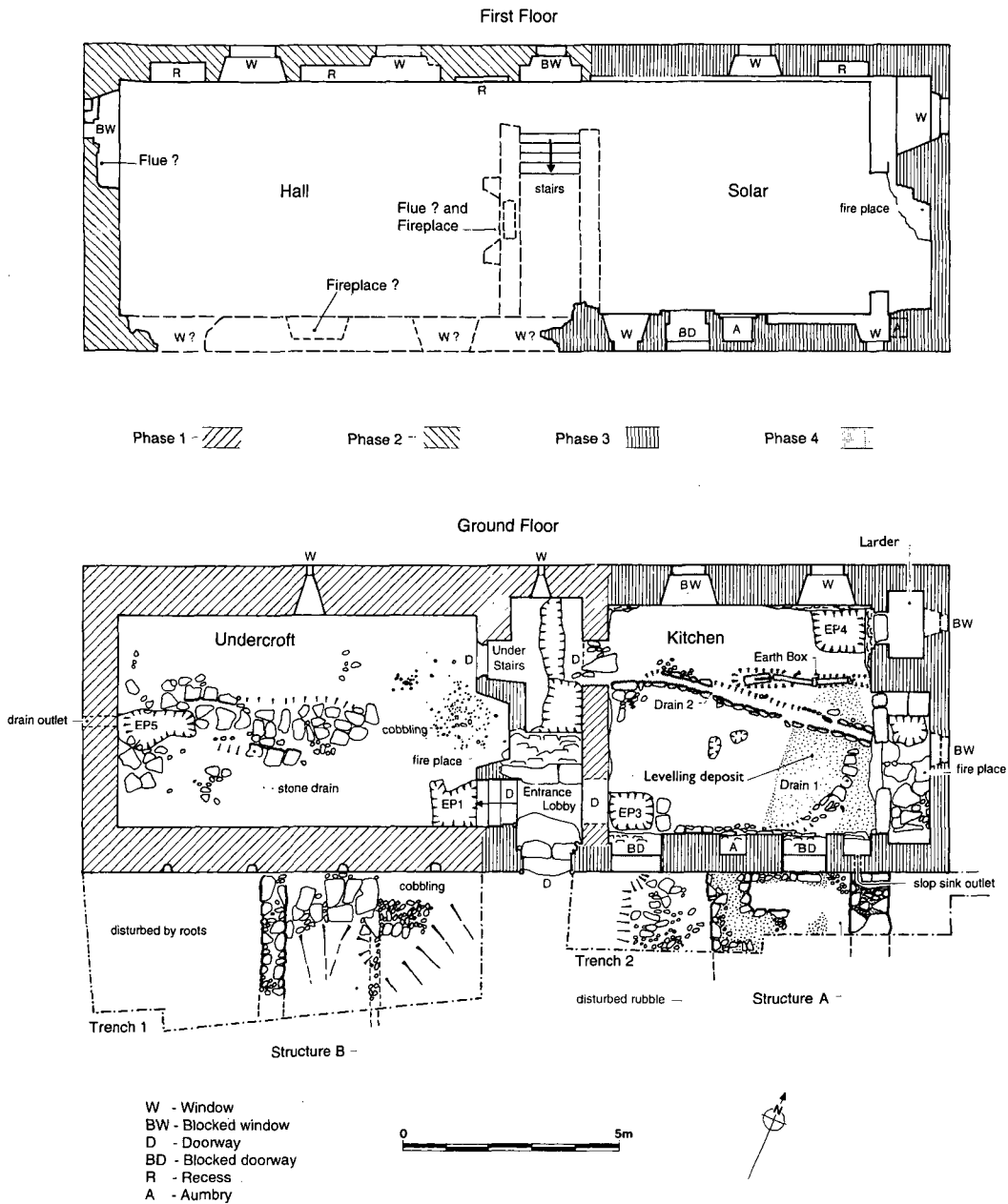
above that. This building phase is visible in the stonework of the exterior of the north-west elevation and in the use of similar slit windows both in the undercroft and under the stairs. It appears to have formed the basement of a structure c 12 m long by 7 m wide (illus 4).

Undercroft

The undercroft was lit by a narrow window, splayed through the springing of the (vanished) vault, in its north-west wall. Both the Royal Commission plan (1929, illus 128) and MacGibbon & Ross's (1887–92, IV, illus 948) show a breach in the south-west gable end of the undercroft, as does a photograph in the Chrystal collection at the National Monuments Record of Scotland (illus 3). Hannah's ground-floor plan (1928, illus 1), however, shows it as a solid wall. Although there is now no breach, there is evidence that it had been repaired in order to preserve the south-west gable.

The south-east and north-west walls of the undercroft are c 1.1 m thick, wider than the north-east and south-west walls, and were probably designed to take the thrust of the vault. The wall at the north-east end is c 0.5 m thick whereas that at the south-west end is 0.9 m thick. Both the plan and illustration in MacGibbon & Ross show the south-east wall of the undercroft as already having collapsed, as does the Royal Commission plan.

The Royal Commission plan shows the undercroft to have had a simple rounded barrel vault. The earlier MacGibbon & Ross plan and Hannah's slightly later one (1928, illus 1) suggest that the vault may have been slightly pointed, although this seems unlikely since given the known springing point it would then go through the apparent floor level above.



ILLUS 4 Floor plans

The archaeological evidence appears to support the interpretation of this structure as a bastle-house. The recovery of a partly intact, open, stone drain is characteristic of other bastle-house sites in Upper Clydesdale (Ward 1990). The open drain ran down the centre of the undercroft and would have emptied through a small opening in the south-western wall. Only the basal stones and six of the kerb stones survived *in situ*. It is likely that the undercroft was originally used as a byre for livestock and that the central drain was used for cleaning out animal effluent. No major *in situ* floor deposits associated with this phase were

recovered, perhaps as a direct result of animal trampling or of later clearance. A deposit of mixed silts from within and around the drain, however, contained some pieces of animal bone which may date from this initial phase.

Understairs

Excavation confirmed the presence of a small vaulted chamber set under the internal stair (illus 4), as shown on Hannah's plan (1928, illus 1). Latterly, this room seems to have linked the vaulted undercroft with the kitchen but probably originally formed the main entrance into the undercroft of the Phase 1 bastle-house. Not only was this small room, like the undercroft, vaulted (although perpendicular to the vaulting of the undercroft), but the narrow window that pierces its north-east wall is similar to that in the undercroft (illus 6.1). If the original castle extended as far as what subsequently became the south-west wall of the kitchen, then this small vaulted room may have served as a ground-floor entrance hall and might even have served as a form of guard-room. Access to the upper floor of the bastle-house may have been via the internal stair in the eastern corner of the undercroft. Comparison with the Clydesdale bastle-houses, such as Windgate House and Glenochar (Ward 1990, 39), suggests that the internal stair could easily be a primary feature. Its presence does not, however, preclude the possibility that there may also have been an external stair leading to the first-floor hall, all trace of which could have been destroyed, or at least masked, by later works.

PHASE 2: REMODELLING OF THE FIRST FLOOR

There is a noticeable difference in stonework on the exterior north-western elevation between that of the ground floor, undercroft, vault and the first-floor hall above (illus 5.1). The stonework of the ground floor is of noticeably different quality and is very weathered. Although the difference is not evident on the exterior of the south-west gable end where the upper part of this wall may be original, the north-west elevation does suggest two distinct phases of construction. The majority of the upper storey of the north-west wall of the Phase 1 bastle-house appears to have been dismantled down to the top of the vault and a new hall constructed above. This remodelling of the first floor included the construction of arcaded recesses and windows along the interior of the north-west elevation (illus 6.1). These features are clearly not typical of bastle-house construction and support the interpretation that the first floor was remodelled.

Hall

As mentioned above, it is difficult to determine if any of the surviving first-floor walling was part of the Phase 1 bastle-house; certainly the north-west wall was completely rebuilt, although the south-west wall reveals no break in construction material. Both the north-east and south-east walls have collapsed. The rebuilt Phase 2 hall, as Hannah (1928, 236) notes, must have been 'a rather striking chamber' measuring some 9.1 m by 5.5 m.

It is the north-west interior elevation of this chamber that provides one of the more interesting features at Uttershill; a series of tall but shallow recesses punctuates it, giving an overall impression of arcading. This arcading consists of, from the south-west: a recess, a window, and two recesses close together with the north-eastern one containing a window (illus 5.1 & 6.1). With the one exception where the proximity of a recess and a window make it necessary for their arches to be supported by a corbel, windows and recesses alike have shallow depressed arches overhead making a lively façade.

The hall appears to have been relatively well lit by one window in its south-west wall, two in the north-west and possibly 'at least two in the south-east wall' (RCAHMS 1929, 153). Like the north-west windows, the dressing of the south-west window had rounded arrises and would appear to have been protected by an iron grille. All of the first-floor windows were provided with relieving arches. The only surviving evidence for a window in the south-east wall are two rounded arrises at the south-western end. The north-west-facing

windows were all significantly smaller than the first-floor gable windows; perhaps a reflection of the exposed nature of the site.

Apart from the north-west elevation, the internal arrangement of this hall is difficult to reconstruct. The position of the hall fireplace, for example, is open to debate. Certainly the north-west wall did not contain a fireplace, but arguments can be put forward for the other three walls. In the south-west wall there is a strange recess beside the window which is suggestive of the former position of a flue. It is possible that a fireplace in this position would have belonged to the Phase 1 bastle-house or the remodelled hall in Phase 2, and that it was destroyed when the window was knocked through at a later date, probably in Phase 3. Additionally, the possibility remains that a fireplace was set within either the south-east or north-east wall, both of which have now collapsed. Hannah, while conceding that a fireplace in the south-east wall was possible, argued that it was more likely, on the basis of Scottish parallels, to have been set within the north-east gable of the original bastle-house (Hannah 1928, 237), an argument which appeared initially to be supported by the discovery of a later fireplace in the north-east end of the undercroft below. Although this later fireplace in the undercroft may have used an existing flue in the north-east end of the hall above, restricted space in this thin wall may have meant that any hall fireplace above would have had to be blocked off to facilitate use of the fireplace below. In the case of both the south-east and the north-west walls the weight of extra stone involved in the construction of a flue, continued through to roof height, may have made the walls unstable and contributed to their final collapse.

Very little evidence of how the hall was roofed survives but two beam holes evident in the interior elevation of the north-west wall indicate that it was originally roofed in timber (illus 6.1). Unfortunately, the upper section of the gable, which could have provided answers to such questions as the pitch of the roof and the presence/absence of crow-stepping, no longer survives.

PHASE 3: NORTH-EASTERN EXTENSION

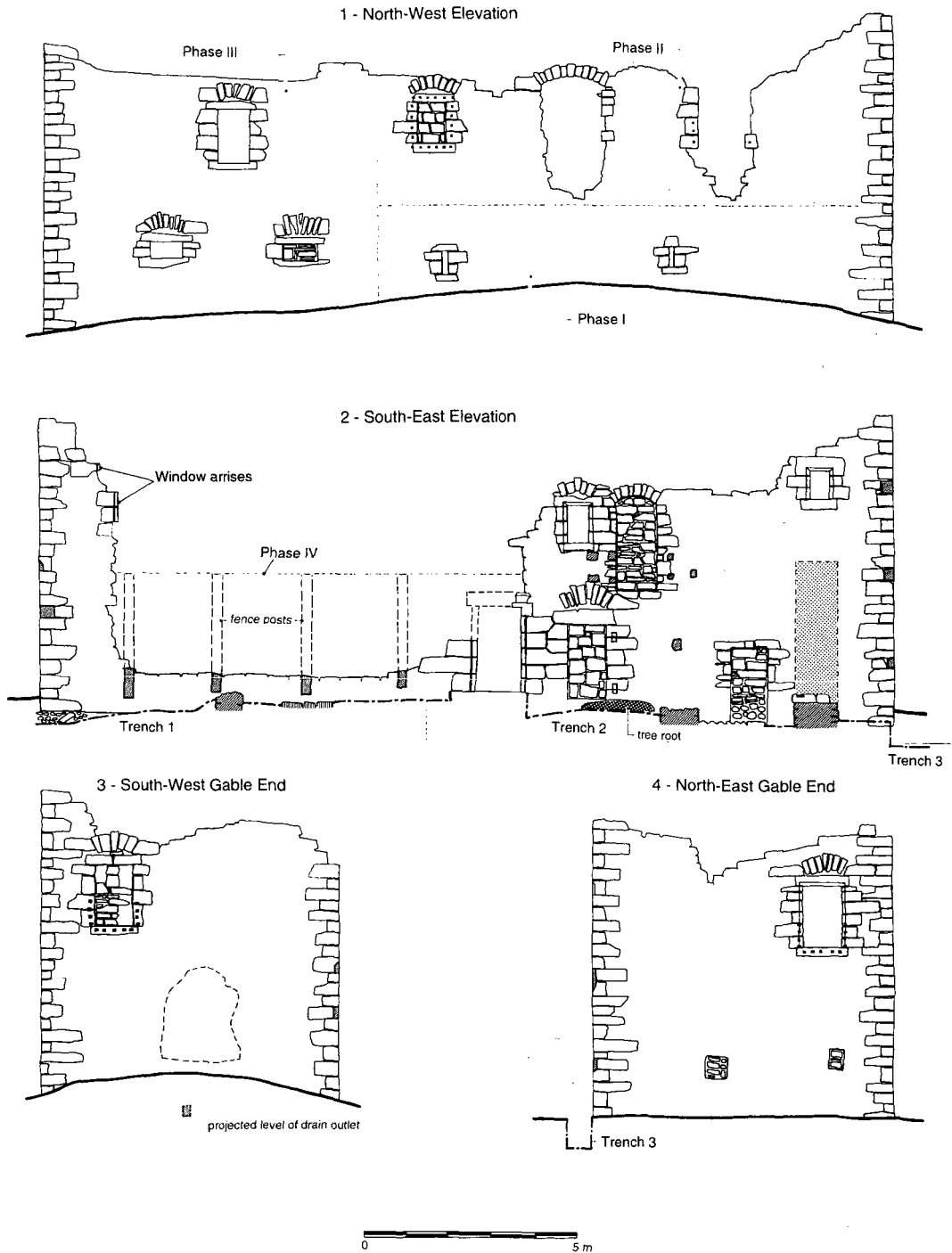
The north-eastern extension consisted of a kitchen on the ground floor with a chamber or solar above. This addition to the north-east end gave the building an overall length of c 19.8 m. Excavation also confirmed the presence of a demolished external structure which was integral with this Phase 3 extension. The gap between Phase 2 and 3 may have been very short; perhaps no more than the time between the completion of different stages of building work. Many of the architectural features visible in Phase 2, such as the roll mouldings around the doors and windows and the interior arcading on the north elevation of the first floor, were continued in the construction of the north-eastern extension, in Phase 3.

A vertical construction break is visible in the stonework separating the Phase 1 and Phase 2 construction from the later addition to the north-east. It is visible on both the interior and exterior north-west elevations. On the interior it appears as a straight join where the stone of the later addition is abutted against the earlier work and is not tied in (illus 6.1), while on the exterior it is apparent as a change in stonework.

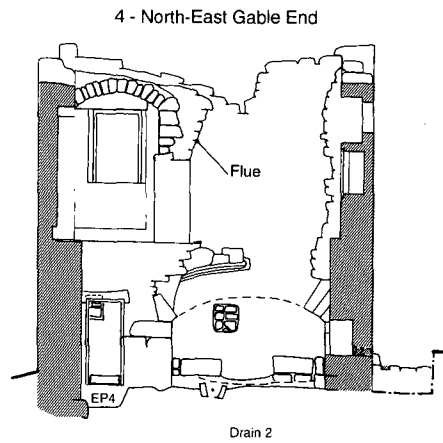
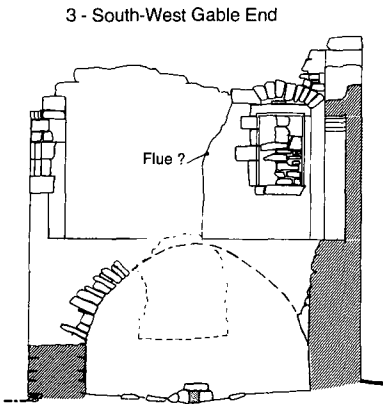
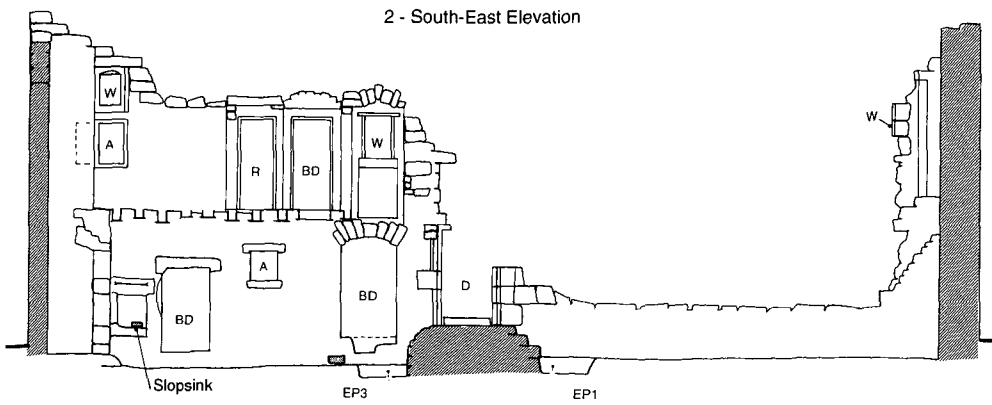
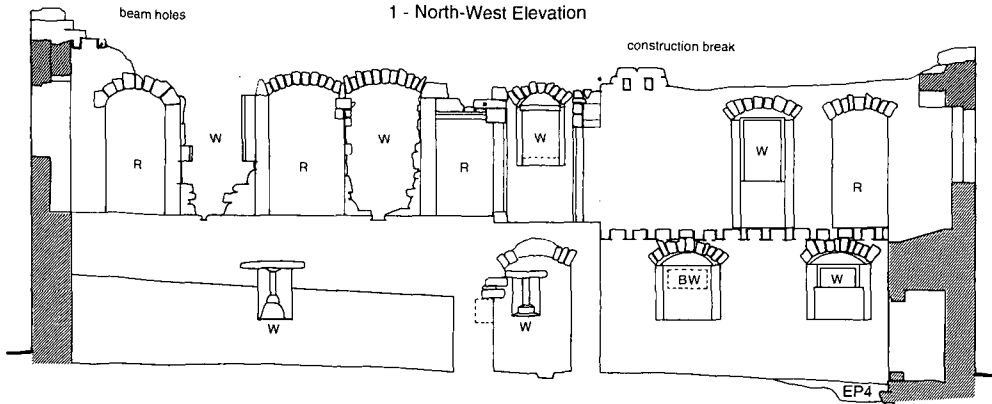
New main entrance

With the construction of the Phase 3 north-east extension a new main entrance was constructed in the south-eastern side of the castle, in what was formerly the eastern corner of the bastle-house.

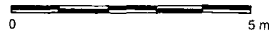
Murray's drawing (MacGibbon & Ross 1887–92, IV, fig 949), the photograph from the Chrystal collection (illus 3) and photographs taken in 1973 by the Royal Commission all show the entrance relatively complete. Unfortunately, some time during the last 15 years, the central section of the south-east elevation (which included the main entrance with a moulded panel above for a coat of arms and a first-floor window above that) seems to have fallen or been removed. Now only the north-east jamb of the main doorway, the lowermost stones of the south-west jamb, the panel's north-east jamb and fragments of its sill and lintel



ILLUS 5 Exterior elevations



- W - Window
- BW - Blocked window
- D - Doorway
- BD - Blocked doorway
- R - Recess
- A - Aumbry



ILLUS 6 Interior elevations

remain *in situ*. This is unfortunate for the illustrations confirm that the main entrance had ‘a moulded and rather well-proportioned architrave and cornice, detailed in the Scottish Renaissance manner’ (RCAHMS 1929, 153) characteristic of the 17th century. MacGibbon & Ross, the Royal Commission and Hannah all confirm that the armorial plaque which would have once been positioned within the deeply recessed panel had been removed at some time prior to the later 19th century (MacGibbon & Ross 1887–92, IV, 364–5; RCAHMS 1929, 153; Hannah 1928).

Entrance stair lobby

The new main door was slightly higher than the original ground-floor level because once the kitchen was built, closing off the former entrance (in the north-east wall of the bastle-house), the only convenient place to build a new entrance was at the half-landing of the existing stair up from the undercroft. The ground level on the exterior of the entrance was probably deliberately raised to allow access to the main door. Within this entrance, there would effectively have been a small lobby at the foot of the stairs which also provided access down to the undercroft on the left and the kitchen on the right. This centrally positioned lobby is interesting because when constructed it would have been a relatively sophisticated feature which could in some ways be compared with the central passage at Drochil Castle, Peeblesshire (Salter 1994, 100–1). Passages linking rooms were not a medieval idea. Rather it would seem to be one that was introduced into Renaissance Scotland from mainland Europe during the second half of the 16th century. It is interesting to see at Uttershill a feature such as this which, although superficially similar to these planned examples, may have simply developed as a result of modifications to the entrance leading on to the existing stair.

Fireplace in undercroft

The fireplace on the ground floor at the east end of the undercroft was discovered during the excavation (illus 4), and is unlikely to belong to the Phase 1 bastle-house. It also appears unlikely to have been an integral construction with the internal stair because of the poor quality of the stonework at the back of the fireplace. In addition, it is set very close to the line of the stair, and lacks any integral support to it suggesting that it was in fact added some time later, perhaps in Phase 3. The construction of this fireplace and the discontinuous remains of a cobbled surface at its east end suggest that the undercroft changed from a byre to probable use for domestic activities. The change to the position of the main entrance, which meant that the most direct access into the undercroft was down a short flight of stairs, would have prevented access for animals.

Kitchen

The ground floor of the Phase 3 extension contained a large kitchen, the chief feature of which is the fragmentary remains of a substantial fireplace. Fortunately, Hannah includes a drawing of this (1928, illus 2) which shows that it originally had a segmental arch which was 3.4 m wide. Not unlike the kitchen fireplace that still survives at Barra Castle, Aberdeenshire, it also seems to have had an internal vaulted section (set at 180° to the arch) within the north-western part of the fireplace. At Uttershill, all that now survives of this vaulted section are two or three corbelled stones. A small, square window originally provided light into this corbelled area of the fireplace but was subsequently blocked up (illus 4–6).

To the north of Uttershill’s kitchen fireplace, but also set in the east wall, is a small mural closet, 1.75 m long by 1.14 m wide, which had also been lit by a small window that had later been blocked. Latterly used to store gunpowder, it had at one time been shelved, and originally it would no doubt have served as a larder or pantry.

In addition to the two blocked, small, windows in the north-east gable end, the kitchen was also lit by two rectangular windows, each measuring 0.76 m wide and 0.43 m high, in its north-western wall. Neither of these windows appear to have been glazed but instead would have been provided with wooden shutters

and heavily protected by three vertical and one transverse bar. Both had later been blocked, but the eastern of the two was subsequently unblocked.

The south-eastern wall of the kitchen contained two doorways, the south-western of which may originally have been a window. The kitchen's south-eastern wall also contained an aumbry and an outlet for water, or slop sink, with a dished stone basin. Hannah, however, records that it had a 'gargoyle on the exterior, locally known as the jaw-box' (Hannah 1928, 237–8). This description may have resulted from the square-shaped projection of the mouth of the drain which is otherwise very plain.

Unlike the earlier (Phase 1) undercroft, the kitchen had a wooden ceiling. Indeed one of the most conspicuous features of the Uttershill kitchen are the voids that formerly housed its joists. As has already been demonstrated, the fact that the kitchen was not vaulted may well be indicative of its late date. In all other respects, however, it provides a fairly typical example of a 17th-century manorial kitchen.

Within the kitchen very few *in situ* deposits survive from the 17th- and 18th-century occupation. No floor surfaces were located but, given the quality of the rest of the stonework elsewhere in the castle, it seems likely that it would have been flagged; certainly there are no beam holes to indicate a wooden floor. It is possible that a flagstone floor, if it did exist, could have been completely robbed when the castle fell into disrepair. Below the level of the kitchen floor the natural clay subsoil sloped down from south-west to north-east. From a thin interface layer immediately above the natural subsoil at the south-west end of the kitchen clay (perhaps a result of trampling during construction of the north-eastern extension), a number of sherds of green glazed pottery (vessels 1 & 6) were recovered. In addition, at the north-east end there was a coal-flecked deposit which contained a number of clay pipe stems, including a bowl (illus 7, no 1) dated to 1640–60 and a stem dated to 1640–1700 (no 5). Although the concentration of coal flecks and pipe fragments initially suggested that this deposit was associated with activity in the kitchen, around the fireplace, it is situated below the level of the flagstones in the fireplace and probably below the level of any contemporary floor surface. It may, therefore, represent a levelling deposit upon which a floor surface, perhaps flagstones, would originally have been laid. The pipe fragments would therefore provide a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the Phase 3 north-eastern extension in the mid or later 17th century.

Two stone-lined drains were found cut into both the levelling deposit and the natural clay subsoil within the kitchen (illus 4). Drain 1 was curvilinear, the northern end was still covered with flat capstones and contained fragments of animal bone. Drain 1 was truncated by Drain 2 which ran at an angle across the kitchen from north-west to south-east and continued through the fireplace. The fill of Drain 2 contained a range of artefacts including bone; glass; pottery; a coin of George III (1776); another very corroded, unidentifiable, copper-alloy coin; and an enamelled lid, perhaps the back of a watch dating to the second half of the 18th century (illus 8). Unfortunately, the fill of this drain had clearly been disturbed; it was missing many of its side slabs and had no capstones (although these could have been formed by a flagstone kitchen floor). In addition, it also contained a number of modern artefacts including sherds of porcelain and brown glazed earthenware.

The relationship between the two drains in the kitchen to the structure of the castle is slightly ambiguous. Drain 1 is cut into the levelling deposit at the north-east end of the kitchen and must belong to Phase 3, although it is difficult to visualize what useful function it could have served. Drain 2 is clearly secondary and, as some of the earlier artefacts in its fill suggest, it may have been constructed in the second half of the 18th century, although because it was subsequently disturbed, possibly during removal of flagstones from the kitchen floor, the secureness of this context for dating this drain has to be open to question. Unfortunately, the precise relationship between Drain 2 and the flagstones of the fireplace remains unclear because these were not removed during the excavation, although there is a noticeable gap in the flagstones at this point. The drain clearly underlies the stone used to narrow the southern side of the fireplace in Phase 4 (below) and was also sealed below the ash/cinders floor of that phase.

In addition to the drains, two small pits were cut into the subsoil but their date and function remain unclear. They at least pre-date the 20th-century reuse of the castle.

A mixed rubble deposit within the kitchen, which overlay both the charcoal-rich deposit at the north-east end and natural clay subsoil at the south-west, contained a stone spindle whorl (illus 7) and a coin of Charles II (1683).

Upper corridor

Although the south-west wall of the solar now no longer exists, MacGibbon & Ross's first-floor plan indicates that it still survived in the late 19th century. It would presumably have served as the north-east wall of the 'upper corridor', which Hannah (1928, 238) mentions. Lit by windows at its north-west and south-east ends, this passage or corridor could be compared, in some respects, with the screen that often isolated one end of a medieval hall. MacGibbon & Ross's plan shows the north-western window to have been blocked. Hannah (*ibid*) noted that it bore holes on the outer face of its lintel and jambs which, he pointed out, could indicate that the stones were reused, or perhaps more probably that it had been protected by a grille similar in form to those that survive at Elcho Castle, Perthshire (MacKenzie 1927, pl XIII).

Solar or laird's (bed) chamber

The room above the kitchen clearly served originally as the laird's (bed) chamber. Although it, like the kitchen, belonged to Phase 3, its north-western wall included a shallow recess similar to those which lined the north-western wall of the Phase 2 hall. In this case the recess should be recognized as the remains of a cupboard. A similar feature survives at Barra Castle, Aberdeenshire, where it was later masked by panelling. This again supports the proposition that Phase 3 of Uttershill was added not very long after the Phase 2 remodelling of the first-floor hall.

Prior to the collapse of the kitchen fireplace arch, it seems that the eastern part of the solar's floor rested upon masonry which lay directly above the kitchen's fireplace and larder. Hannah (1928, 238) reports that the laird's chamber had been heated by 'a large fireplace' positioned directly above the kitchen one. Although all trace of the fireplace opening has gone the line of the left-hand side of the flue is still visible, suggesting that it was centrally placed on the gable; and MacGibbon & Ross's first-floor plan confirms the fireplace's generous dimensions. To the north-west of it, above the kitchen's larder, a substantial window embrasure cuts through the north-east gable wall. In contrast to the window in the south-west gable, this one has a bold edge roll rather than rounded arrises. As in the case of the south-west gable, however, the upper section was missing and thus it was not possible to determine whether or not it had been crow-stepped.

It is, however, at first-floor level that what remains of the south-eastern wall is most interesting. Apart from two windows with a 'bold quirked edge roll', it also includes, at its eastern end, an L-shaped aumbry that extends into the north-east gable wall which can be compared with a similar feature at Amisfield Tower, Dumfriesshire. To the west of this rather curious feature, there are what initially appear to be two 'cupboard recesses', but unlike the recesses in the north wall, these two had lintels rather than arches. Closer examination shows that the more easterly is a blocked doorway. This doorway may have led to a wooden staircase or balcony built along the side of an outbuilding, Structure A, the foundations of which were located by excavation and are discussed below.

The south-west wall of the solar no longer survives, but a century ago sufficient remained to show that access to this room was by way of a doorway that pierced the northern end of this wall. There is evidence of door jambs on the north-west elevation, indicating that both the solar and the hall could be entered by the passage at the top of the stairs.

The floor level of the solar is about 0.3 m lower than the hall. Two beam holes in the solar's north-western wall indicate the position of the ceiling and confirm that it had been constructed of timber.

Garret

Notwithstanding claims that the castle was originally three or more storeys high (MacGibbon & Ross 1887-92, IV, 364-5; RCAHMS 1929, 153), it seems more likely that Hannah (1928, 235, 238) was correct when he suggested that the second floor would have been no more than a garret. This garret or attic would have been of some importance for without it the castle would effectively have consisted of only three large

rooms and a vaulted undercroft, although there were other buildings in the vicinity as shown by documentary records and excavation.

Unfortunately no part of the existing castle walling appears to survive to its original height. Not only has it lost the upper part of its two gables, but it seems probable that the lateral walls must have been slightly higher at one time. Thus one can only speculate as to the original arrangement of the second floor. The roof of the castle is likely to have been covered with slate and quantities of it were found in Trench 1 and Trench 2 (illus 2), many with nail holes for affixing to timber slats.

Southern structure

Archaeological excavation of Trench 2, to the south-east of the Phase 3 extension, revealed the foundations of a building, Structure A (illus 4). The south-western end of this trench contained a layer of rubble which had been disturbed by tree roots and their subsequent removal by machine. To the north-east of this rubble there were the remains of an L-shaped wall c 0.9 m thick which was built directly upon a protruding portion of the foundations for the Phase 3 kitchen and abutted the south-eastern elevation. Another mortared wall, also c 0.9 m thick, lay c 2.3 m north-east. This wall was built tightly against the under-side of the waterspout outlet. In the thickness of the wall there was another slot, set perpendicular to the waterspout, which would have channelled the water through this wall and out to the north-east. This relationship to the waterspout, coupled with the presence of faint tusking in the wall above suggests that this wall was integral to the construction of the kitchen and had originally attained a height of c 4.5–5 m. The full extent of this structure and its function, however, remain unknown.

Outbuilding

The foundations of another building, Structure B, were located in Trench 1 to the south-east of the undercroft (illus 4). The topsoil was removed by machine as was a large tree stump located at the south-west end of the trench. The presence of this stump and its subsequent removal caused great disturbance to the underlying archaeological deposits. The remains of a wall 0.68 m wide and 3.35 m long were found running NW/SE. To the north-east of this wall, against the wall of the undercroft, an area of stone flagging and another, narrower wall were exposed. This latter wall line is represented by stones and is too narrow to have attained any great height. It is more likely, therefore, to represent a stone-packed slot for a timber wall. These remains may have formed part of the foundation of a structure built perpendicular to the undercroft. A small patch of cobbling to the east of the flagstones was suggestive of either an entrance into the structure or the remains of a yard, the rest of which has been removed. Quantities of slate were recovered from on top of the flagstone surface and suggest that the roof of this structure, like the main building, was also covered in slate.

The place of Structure B within the phasing of the site is open to debate. It obviously post-dates Phase 1, because it abuts the wall of the Phase I bastle-house. It is, however, clearly pre-modern, due to the quantity of green glazed pottery found within Trench 2 and that it appears to have been built against the south wall of the castle which had collapsed by the late 19th century. In addition, Structure B was built at the same external level as the Phase 3 main entrance. Although Structure B can be assigned to Phase 3 it could date anywhere from the 17th to the early 19th century.

PHASE 4

Phase 4 occurred during the late 19th and early 20th century by which time the castle had become a ruin, without a roof and with a substantial portion of its southern wall collapsed. There are two events which may have affected the structure of the castle and the deposits inside at this time. The first of these was the use of the mural chamber as a store for gunpowder and the second was a limited archaeological excavation.

Gunpowder store

Documentary research revealed that the remains of the castle were reused to store gunpowder for both mining purposes and a local rifle range. In order to make the ruins more secure the majority of the openings on the ground floor were blocked up. In the kitchen this included blocking up the two doorways in the south-eastern wall, the two small windows in the north-eastern gable wall and one of the rectangular windows in the north-west wall. It is possible that part of the south-western wall of the kitchen remained intact at this time and the main entrance was certainly complete.

Access to the south-western end of the castle was restricted by patching up the rent in the south-western gable wall and by erecting a tall wire fence across the gap in the collapsed south-eastern wall. This fence was fixed onto iron brackets driven into the wall, which are still visible at the south-western end, and attached to four upright posts which were placed in sockets cut into the wall face and braced with rubble. This fence would have run to the western side of the main door which was still standing in the first quarter of the 20th century. All access into the ruin would therefore have been through the main entrance which was also given a new wooden door, crudely mounted on iron brackets hammered into the fine stonework.

The interior of the structure appears to have been completely cleared of rubble. In the kitchen a floor surface of grey ash and cinders was laid down. A threshold stone was inserted into the doorway of the mural chamber which was also given a new door mounted on iron brackets hammered into the old door rebate. The fireplace was mortared over and narrowed by the insertion of two small walls, reusing some pieces of worked stone.

One unusual feature located in the kitchen, presumably associated with the use of the ruins as a gunpowder store, was the remains of a lightning conductor. This consisted of a narrow pit, c 3.3 m long and 0.5–0.8 m wide, which contained a wooden box (illus 4, Earth Box) from which a copper cable ran through two lengths of ceramic pipe to the north-east wall of the kitchen, where the cable appears to have been cut off. This cable had originally been bracketed to the side of the wall and would have been connected to a conductor at the wall head. The wooden box containing the other end of the cable must have acted as the 'earth point'.

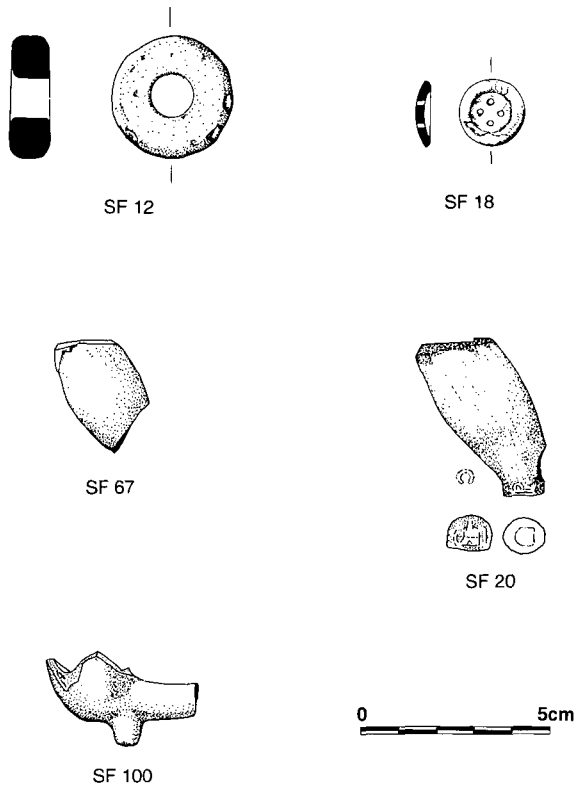
Antiquarian investigations

The second event which may have affected the deposits within the ruin was the alleged previous investigation of the site by a local antiquarian, possibly R E Black (Hannah 1928, 238); although there is no surviving detailed report. This may help explain the number of irregular square pits cut through the deposits particularly adjacent to walls and doors (illus 4 & 6, EP1–5). These include two pits in the kitchen (EP3 & EP4), a pit under the stairs (EP2), a pit at the bottom of the stairs in the undercroft (EP1) and another possible pit at the western end of the drain in the undercroft (EP5). The armorial plaque which sat in the recessed panel above the main door may also have been removed at this time.

After the Phase 4 activity the site was once again abandoned and slowly deteriorated. A large section of the south-eastern elevation, including half of the main door, the panel for the armorial plaque and a window above, appears to have collapsed in the last 15 years, while the arch above the south-western window in the first-floor hall only collapsed in 1993. More recent vandalism has caused the collapse of two more window arches in the hall; above the north-eastern window and the south-west gable window.

THE FINDS

Unfortunately, because the site was subjected to reuse as a gunpowder store the interior deposits were cleared out, and the vast majority of finds, therefore, are redeposited and provide little help in dating the original occupation of the site. They do, however, reflect the known date range of the use of the castle from the late 16th century onwards.



ILLUS 7 Miscellaneous artefacts

COINS

Three coins were found in the excavations and of these two were identifiable as belonging to the 17th/18th century.

- SF89 **Charles II, copper halfpenny** (1683); Ireland; 26.5 mm, 7.36 g, die axis 12.0; green patina; fairly worn (context 007 — mixed silt and rubble against south-west wall of kitchen) (not illus).
- SF88 **George III, counterfeit copper halfpenny** (1776); Ireland; 27.0 mm, 7.61 g, die axis 5.5; surfaces corroded and pitted, especially on reverse; fairly worn (context 097 — fill of north-east end of Drain 2) (not illus).
- SF82 **Unidentifiable** copper-alloy coin, extremely corroded (context 097 — fill of north-east end of Drain 2) (not illus).

MISCELLANEOUS ARTEFACTS (ILLUS 7 & 8)

- SF17 **Thimble** (context 002 — rubble fill of undercroft) (not illus).
- SF18 **Bone button** (context 002 — rubble fill of undercroft) (illus 7).
- SF12 **Stone spindle whorl** (context 003 — on top of clay subsoil beside north-west wall of kitchen) (illus 7).
- SF83 **Watch lid** Enamelled copper-alloy lid for the back of a watch; second half of 18th century (context 097 — fill of north-east end of Drain 2) (illus 8).



ILLUS 8 Photograph of enamelled watch lid

CLAY PIPES (ILLUS 7)

Dennis Gallagher

Forty clay tobacco-pipe fragments were recovered from 14 different contexts. In total 60% of the assemblage came from the kitchen, 23% from the undercroft, 12% from Trench 1 and 5% from Trench 2. Those from the kitchen came mostly from the dark deposit at the north-east end in front of the fireplace. The more diagnostic fragments had a date of c 1640–1700; there were also a number of post-1800 fragments. While most of the assemblage is Scottish in origin, with one bowl from the late 17th-century Edinburgh maker, Patrick Crawford, it also includes an import from north-west England.

- 1 Upper fragment of a biconical bowl, bottered but not milled, polished; Scottish c 1640–60; SF67; context 090 — mixed medium brown silt with flecks of coal at north-east end of kitchen to north of Drain 2 (illus 7).
- 2 Upper bowl fragments, wire-cut rim; post-1800, SF17, context 002 — mixed rubble fill of undercroft.
- 3 Lower bowl fragment, globular with a large spur; north-west England, possibly Rainford (cf Rainford type D, Davey 1978, 6–7); c 1660–1700; SF100, context 102 — fine orange sand under stones at west end of drain in undercroft (illus 7).
- 4 Tall bowl with mould-imparted P/C and a castle-type basal stamp. The bowl is burnished and bottered, with partial milling; Patrick Crawford of Edinburgh 1671–c 1700; SF20, context 049 — mortar and rubble in Trench 1, to north-east of Structure 2 (illus 7).
- 5 Stem fragment with part of spur in a pink fabric; Scottish, c 1640–1700; SF67, context 090 — mixed medium brown silt with flecks of coal at north-east end of kitchen to north of Drain 2.
- 6 Mouthpiece fragment with honey-brown glaze; post-1800; SF6, context 002 — mixed rubble in kitchen.
- 7 Stem fragment with poorly impressed mark THOMAS/EDINBURGH in serif lettering. Thomas White was active 1823–70 (Gallagher 1987, 26–7); SF14, context 002 — mixed rubble in undercroft.

POTTERY (ILLUS 9 & 10)

George Haggarty & Derek Alexander

16th/17th-century pottery

A total of 100 sherds of green glazed pottery were recovered from 19 different contexts. This type of pottery was generally known, at first, as Scottish post-medieval oxidized and reduced-wares. It was produced from the late 15th to the early 18th century (Haggarty 1980). Subsequently a production site for this type of pottery was identified at Throsk, near Stirling, which dated to the 17th and early 18th century (Caldwell & Dean 1992). Therefore, for want of a better name, the pottery is at present called Throsk-type ware.

At the request of the Medieval Archaeological Research Group, Historic Scotland has sponsored new Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry and thin section research on Scottish redwares. This includes pottery of Throsk-type ware from around the Forth basin. This extremely important geochemical and mineralogical fingerprinting has been carried out by the British Geological Survey, at Keyworth by S R N Chenery and in Edinburgh by E Phillips. The important and exciting results, at present with Historic Scotland, would suggest that there are other production sites for this type of pottery. This is also borne out by current research on the City of Edinburgh marriage register, which lists a group of potters working in the city between 1621 and 1645. Thus it would seem that at present Edinburgh would be the likeliest source for the Uttershill post-medieval wares.

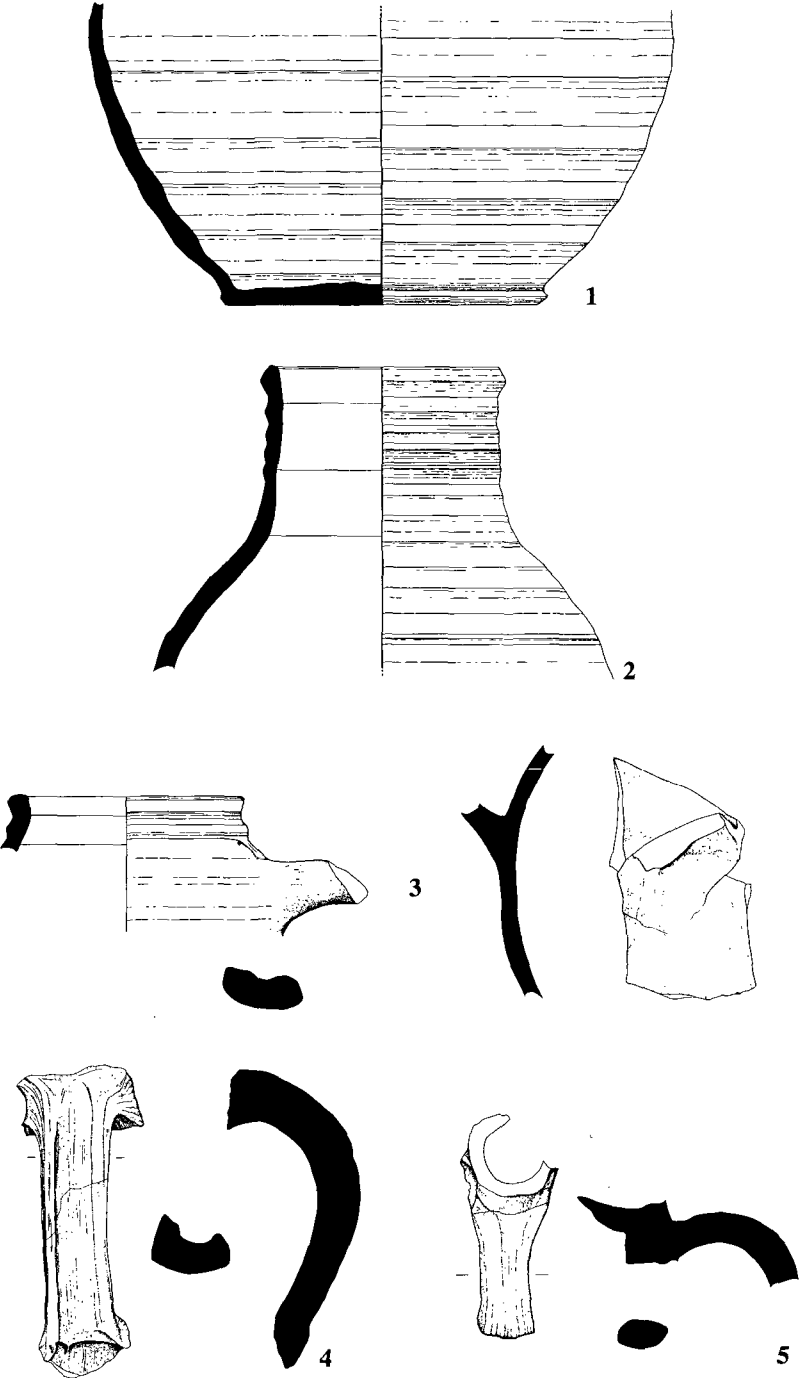
The pottery assemblage at Uttershill has been divided into 23 catalogue entries, on the basis of joining sherds and similarities in fabric and glaze. The most common vessel form appears to have been the large green-glazed reduced ware jug, as is true of most other sites of this type and date excavated in the east of Scotland.

Sherds from only one post-medieval vessel (vessel 6) were found within the undercroft and are likely to have been redeposited. In the kitchen post-medieval pottery was recovered from the layers immediately above the subsoil (contexts 003 & 105) and from within the levelling deposit

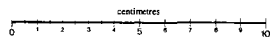
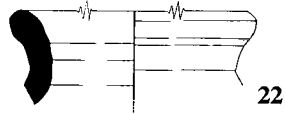
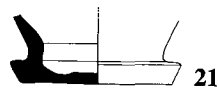
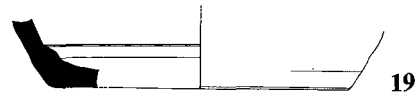
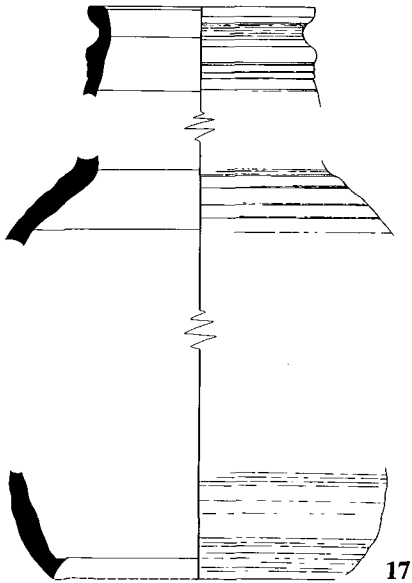
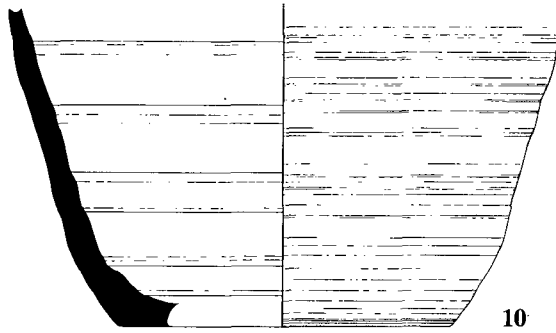
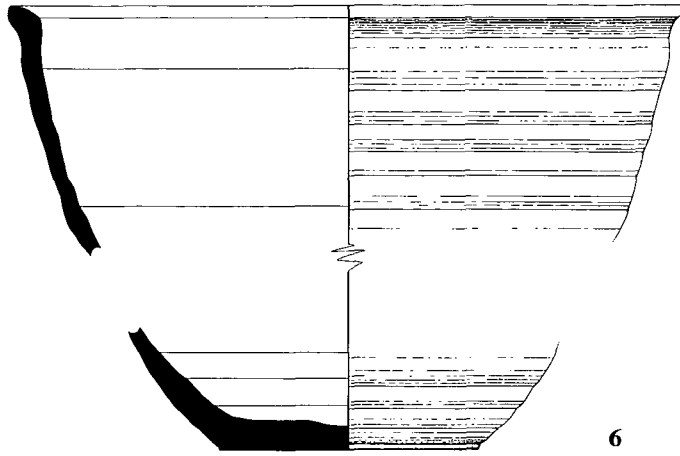
TABLE 1
Summary of post-medieval pottery

Location	Context no	Description	Vessel no	
Undercroft	032	Silty fill at south-west end	6	
Kitchen	003	Compacted clay above natural	1, 6	
	008	Rubble	7, 17	*
	090	Phase 3 levelling deposit	7	
	097	Fill of Drain 2	7	*
	105	cf 003	1	
Understairs	134	Fill of pit 133	23	
	063	Rubble	21	
	093	Silt and charcoal over natural clay	11	
Trench 1	002	Rubble	12, 17, 19	*
	049	Sandy fill	14	
	050	Silty ash and mortar	16	*
	054	Fine compact sand	2	*
	066	Rubble in south-west	12, 16, 17, 23	
Trench 2	056	Rubble	2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17, 19, 23	*
	075	Demolition mortar	3, 8, 9, 11, 13, 18, 22	*
	076	Under 075	3	
	080	Rubble	4, 9, 11, 17, 20, 23	*
	121	Rubble and roots	10	*

*contexts also containing modern material



ILLUS 9 Pottery



ILLUS 10 Pottery

(context 090); and these may represent *in situ* deposits. Around 70% of the post-medieval pottery found during the excavations came from Trench 2, in the topsoil and the mixed rubble around the foundations of the structure. This was mixed with more modern material (18th–20th century); 62% of this is also from Trench 2. All these contexts are mixed and probably result from disturbance by root action, the deliberate dismantling of the external structure and by clearance of the interior.

The presence of modern pottery vessel 56 in the fill of Drain 2 indicates that the kitchen was also cleared of rubble in phase 4. Modern pottery came from the rubble fill within the undercroft (vessels 67 & 68), while modern pottery from around the drain (vessels 31, 50 & 51 in context 102 and 25 in context 038) supports the interpretation that the undercroft had been almost completely emptied, probably during Phase 4.

Catalogue (illus 9 & 10)

The following catalogue entries for the illustrated vessels include a brief description of the fabric, glaze, and then the vessel. This is followed by a list of the sherd numbers; where there are joining sherds there is a + sign. A full catalogue will be deposited with the site archive.

- 1 Four joining sherds and three other sherds from the base of a post-medieval reduced ware jug. A fine, unevenly fired fabric with a reduced, grey core (5YR 5/1) and a less reduced exterior. It is covered in an even lead, green glaze on both the interior and exterior surfaces. The base is unglazed and has a diameter of c 120 mm (003/1–3 + 105/3; 105/4; 105/1; 105/2).
- 2 Ten joining sherds and two other sherds of a rim of a large post-medieval reduced ware spouted jug: fine evenly fired slate-grey reduced fabric (5YR 5/1); the rim is 75–80 mm in diameter with a slight spout opposite the portion of the rim which is missing, perhaps where the handle was; there are four pronounced horizontal ribs on the neck of the jar. (054/1–7 + 054/9 + 054/11; 056/18 and 054/8 are also sherds from the neck of the jug.)
- 3 Four sherds, forming two joining portions of a ribbed rim and neck of a large post-medieval reduced ware jug similar in shape to vessel 2; and two joining sherds of a strap handle, five body sherds; a fine fabric, grey core (5YR 5/1), with a thick lustrous green glaze with brown streaks on the exterior and an unglazed interior; 75% of the rim survives c 70–80 mm in diameter; the strap handle is c 30 mm wide and c 14 mm thick at the top. (075/22 + 075/23, 075/5 + 075/6 (rim); 056/6 + 075/20 (strap handle); 056/28 + 75/14, 056/1, 056/25, 076/1 (body sherds).) In addition to the above two other body sherds may be from the same vessel. (075/9, 075/21.)
- 4 Two joining sherds of a strap handle from post-medieval reduced ware jug; fine fabric, oxidized reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) — grey (5YR 5/1) core; c 120 mm L, 30–32 mm W and 10–20 mm Th. (080/7 + 080/8).
- 5 Two sherds of a narrow neck and handle of a small post-medieval oxidized ware flagon; fresh breaks; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6 — grey (5YR 5/1) core; exterior covered in a very fragmentary green/brown glaze; internal diameter of neck c 23 mm; strap handle 22 mm wide, 12–13 mm thick; handle portion is very worn and abraded while neck has lot of fresh breaks; there is a thumb print at the top of the handle (056/16 + 056/17).
- 6 Three joining sherds of a rim, four sherds of the base and three body sherds, all from a simple oxidized open bowl; rim c 250–260 mm in diameter; fine reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) core; brown glazed mostly on the exterior; in the interior the glaze becomes green at the base; exterior at base is unglazed and weak red (10YR 4/3) in colour; three body sherds have a glazed interior. (003/4 + 003/5 + 003/9 (rim); 003/8 + 003/11, 003/6, 107/1 (base); 003/7, 003/10, 032/1 (body).)
- 10 Two large sherds of the side and basal angle of a post-medieval reduced ware jug; reduced grey core (10YR 5/1); patchy green/brown glaze on exterior, unglazed interior; burnt base. (056/14, 121/2.)
- 17 One rim sherd (080/1) of a well-made drug jar; oxidized light brown core (7.5YR 6/4); green-glazed exterior, unglazed interior; flat-topped rim with deep hollow below and at least four ribs below that;

external diameter of rim is c 90 mm. Not that common a find from Scottish East Coast excavations but 13 examples are known from Throsk. One oxidized green-glazed body shard from Pirlie Pig or money bank with part of a horizontal slot (002/4). Two joining body sherds and seven other body sherds from a small oxidized vessel (056/15 + 056/21; 080/2, 056/12, 008/1, 056/11, 056/13, 060/2, 056/22).

- 19 Two abraded knife trimmed basal sherds from a small jug; grey core; (10YR 5/1); green glazed exterior and base; (056/8, 002/6).
- 21 One sherd of an oxidized very small post-medieval frilled jug; unglazed flat base, interior light grey (10YR 6/1), external knife trimmed green glaze; c 60 mm in diameter. (063/1.)
- 22 Two-rim sherd of an open bowl; green glazed interior and exterior; rounded everted rim of unknown diameter. (084/4, 075/8.)

17th/20th-century industrial pottery

A total of 98 sherds of 17th/20th-century pottery were recovered from 19 different contexts and can be divided into 47 catalogue entries (24–70). A full catalogue of these finds has been deposited with the site archive. The assemblage included a sherd of Staffordshire white salt glazed stoneware with scratch blue decoration dating to c 1750/60 (056/41). Two sherds of a Tin Glazed Earthenware tile probably used to decorate a fire surround, Dutch, c 1700 (Pluis 1977, 568) (075/37 + 075/36). Two other sherds of Tin Glazed Earthenware, possibly Dutch, first half 18th century (080/1, 079/4). Sherd of a small Frechen/Cologne stoneware salt glazed Bellarmine c 1650 (090/060/8). All the rest of the pottery is of a 19th-century date, and includes sherds of glazed red earthenware dairy bowls. A once fired white stoneware Grey's jam pot, sherds from two white earthenware bowls and two sherds of a very late Scottish blue-and-white transfer-printed plate.

GLASS

K Robin Murdoch

A total of 201 shards of glass was recovered from 25 different contexts. Of these shards 15 were of window glass while the majority of the rest were of bottle glass. A full catalogue of these finds has been deposited with the site archive at the National Monuments Record of Scotland. The material ranges in date from the 17th century through to modern and is a fairly typical assemblage for sites of this type.

Bottle glass

Wine bottles from the late 17th century through to the early 19th century are well represented. There is also a quantity of 19th-/20th-century material present, though it is impossible to ascribe a use to much of this because of the small size of the shards. Aereated water and whisky bottles were identified. The only shards of glass to come from contexts that did not contain modern material were nos 12 and 13 from context 054 and 060 respectively. Both of these came from Trench 1; the former from the area to the south-west of the cobbling outside Structure B and the latter from close to the southern corner of the castle where the ground had been disturbed by roots. It is interesting to note that the shards of glass from the fill of Drain 2 (no 5) are of 18th-century date, similar to the coin and enamelled lid (above) which were also recovered from there.

A fragment of drinking vessel (no 15) was recovered from mixed rubble within the foundation for Structure A in Trench 2. It was probably made before 1700 and is likely to have

been *Façon de Venise* (in the Venetian style) but its greenish tinge indicates that it was made in Northern Europe rather than Venice itself. Glass manufacture was taking place in Scotland at least from the early 17th century when works were established at Wemyss in Fife and Morison's Haven and the latter would be a likely candidate if this piece was locally made. Wemyss may only have made window glass at this time and Italian craftsmen are known to have worked at Morison's Haven (J Turnbull, pers comm).

TABLE 2

Bottle glass shards

Location	Context no	Description	Cat no	
Undercroft	002	Rubble	1, 2, 3	*
Kitchen	002	Rubble	8, 9	*
	008	Rubble	6, 7	*
	107	Fill of Drain 2	5	*
Understairs	065	Rubble	10	*
Trench 1	002	Rubble	14	*
	053	Phase 4 fencepost packing	11	*
	054	Compact sand south of cobbling	12	
	060	Rubble south-west corner	13	
Trench 2	056	Rubble	4, 16, 21, 22, 23	*
	075	Demolition mortar	17, 18, 19, 24	*
	080	Rubble	15, 25	*
	121	Rubble and roots	20	*

*contexts also containing modern material

Window glass

Several shards of window glass, both potash and soda fluxed, are present. Until the late 17th century most window glass made in Britain used potash as the fluxing alkali (to lower the temperature of vitrification). This was derived from the ashes of forest plants rich in potassium. Later window glass tended to be soda fluxed, derived from the ashes of kelp or Spanish barilla, rich in sodium. For reasons which are still not fully understood, potash glass is generally much more susceptible to degradation than soda glass in the presence of moisture. It is normally quite easy therefore to tell the difference between the two, but other chemical influences can confuse the issue. Four shards of potash glass were positively identified: two from mixed rubble in Trench 2 (no 31); one from rubble in Trench 1 (no 28); and a single shard from the floor of the undercroft (no 26). Shards of soda glass were found in a number of disturbed deposits in the fill of Drain 2 (no 27) and in Trench 2 (nos 29, 30, 32).

TABLE 3

Window glass shards

Location	Context no	Description	Cat no	
Undercroft	039	Occupation deposit north of drain	26	
Kitchen	132	Fill of Drain 2	27	*
	046	Rubble	28	*
Trench 2	056	Rubble	31, 32	*
	075	Demolition mortar	30	*
	072	Rubble within Structure A	29	

*contexts also containing modern material

Thickness of window glass can also give a very rough clue to date. Study of glass from quite a number of Scottish sites has indicated that the thinnest (<1 mm) tends to appear in contexts

dating from the mid-16th to the early 18th century. Only in Trench 2 were such thin glass shards (nos 29–31) found.

FAUNAL REMAINS

Jennifer Thoms

In all, 118 fragments of bone were retrieved from the excavations. Cattle, sheep and horse were identified and there was also evidence of the presence of a small mammal (rodent/rabbit) or bird. A full catalogue of the bone material recovered has been deposited with the site archive at the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

The bones were generally in good condition with only two being classed as 'very worn' or 'rotted'. One fragment appeared to have been mineralized (context 007 — mixed silt and rubble against south-west wall of kitchen), while one fragment from a disturbed deposit in the kitchen showed signs of burning (SF70, context 091). Two fragments, one from the undercroft and one from the kitchen (SF37, context 029 and SF52, context 008), had been gnawed by carnivores (dog or fox) while one from the upper fill of Drain 2 in the kitchen (SF75, context 107) had been gnawed by rodents.

There was some evidence of butchery marks on the bones: eight fragments showed definite marks and four fragments displayed probable marks.

Cattle Twenty fragments of cattle bone were retrieved, mainly derived from the feet and head of the animal. There are indications that cattle survived into their second and third years and there is evidence of an individual over three years of age.

Horse One bone fragment was identified as horse, and indicated the animal was over 9–12 months old.

Sheep Nine bone fragments were identified as sheep. They derived from meat-bearing and non-meat-bearing parts of the body. The age data indicated that some animals survived into the second and third year of life, and again there is evidence of a very mature animal (over three years old).

Sheep/goat Nineteen fragments did not contain sufficient diagnostic features to allow them to be positively identified as either sheep or goat; young animals and neonates will usually fall into this category. There is evidence of such animals being killed in the first year of life and also mandibular evidence which suggests that at least one individual survived to between 4 to 6 years old and another to between 2 to 3 years.

Interpretation

The information which can be gained from the assemblage is limited by the fact that very few identifiable bone fragments were retrieved. In addition very little was recovered from undisturbed contexts. For this reason many of the questions normally addressed by faunal analysis, such as minimum number of individuals, age at death, herd profiles and body part representation analysis cannot be tackled. It is not possible therefore to speculate on the economic uses of the animals (meat and/or secondary products). Similarly there are too few identifiable bones to allow the deposits from which they were retrieved to be classed as derived from domestic or industrial material.

Some general observations, however, can be made. Sheep, cattle, horse and possibly goat are present in the assemblage. A range of body parts are present including meat-bearing bones, such as ribs and humerus, as well as non-meat-bearing bones such as hoofs and skulls. This may indicate that the assemblage does not derive solely from one type of waste, whether industrial or domestic. There is evidence of a range of ages of animals from neonates to fully mature beasts. There is also some evidence of butchery on the bone fragments. Finally, there appear to have been dogs or foxes in or around the site at the time the bones were deposited and one bone shows signs of having been burnt.

DISCUSSION

The results of archaeological, architectural and historical research suggest that Uttershill was originally erected as a bastle-house (or a related structure), probably by the Penicuiks who held the lands of Uttershill until c 1604. The classification of the Phase 1 structure as a bastle-house is based on similarities with a number of sites in Clydesdale, most notably the central drain, the internal stair and the thinness of the walls; especially the thinness of the gable ends which suggest the structure could not have reached as great a height as a tower house. The castle was then taken over by the Prestons and it was probably they who extended it early in the 17th century. Serving as a country retreat and as an alternative residence when royalty or the greater nobility resided in Craigmillar, the caput of the barony of Preston or Gorton, it was gifted in 1641 to the son and heir, George Preston, perhaps on his coming of age or the occasion of his marriage. The levelling deposit at the north-east end of the kitchen contained fragments of clay pipes which date from the 1640s and which suggest that the Phase 3 extension may have been constructed in the mid-17th century by George Preston.

Documentary evidence mentions the families Penicuik and Preston as early as the 13th century but the location of the caput of their baronies at this period remains unknown. None of the artefacts recovered during the archaeological excavation or any of the upstanding structural remains would suggest that the site was occupied earlier than the 16th century. However, the excavations focused on the interior of the castle and its immediate vicinity and it is perhaps not surprising that no earlier material was recovered since its construction may have removed any earlier features. The possible remains of a courtyard wall around the north-west and north-east sides of the castle are as yet undated and could be an earlier enclosing work, although it is more likely a barmkin wall, contemporary with the 16th-/17th-century occupation, perhaps similar in scale to the recently revealed barmkin wall around Niddry Castle, West Lothian (Proudfoot & Aliaga Kelly 1997). It is possible that since the area enclosed by the identifiable remains of the barmkin wall is located to the north and east of the existing structure it may be attributable to the Phase 1 bastle-house, with its original entrance in the north-east end, prior to the construction of the kitchen. What seems odd is that at the time of the Phase 3 development, when the entrance was moved around to the south-east side, this enclosure would have become redundant as it had no direct access to the castle. With the focus now to the south-east, including Structures A and B, the surrounding barmkin wall may have been taken down to provide stone for the Phase 3 construction work.

Dating the various phases of construction, in the absence of any *in situ* date stones, remains a matter of debate. A carved stone in the Cowan Institute, Penicuik, may very probably have come from Uttershill Castle since it is adorned with a shield bearing three unicorns, the arms of the Prestons, but its precise original location remains a mystery. Hannah (1928, 238) notes that in 1899 a stone bearing the date 1511 and the letter P was found in the ruins, and although this

stone had been lost prior to 1928 it had been seen by 'the zealous, local antiquary, RE Black'. It is uncertain whether this date stone relates to the original construction of the castle, in which case the P would presumably have stood for Penicuik, rather than Preston. Interestingly, neither the Cowan Institute stone nor the lost stone (Hannah 1928, 238) would have fitted the armorial panel that formerly surmounted the main door at Uttershill.

The precise date of construction of the Phase 1 bastle-house is, therefore, unclear. These bastles, small fortified farmhouses with accommodation for their occupants on the first floors and for livestock below, were evidently the residences of minor lairds and more substantial farmers in the Southern Uplands. In Clydesdale, at least, they seem to have been 'built about twenty-five years either side of 1600' (Ward 1990, 39). If the date stone of 1511 'belonged to the western or older portion' of Uttershill as suggested by Hannah (1934, 254, n 1) then it would suggest either an earlier date for bastle-house structures than is currently thought or that it came from another previous structure on the site of which no archaeological trace was found. Certainly there is no reason why structures like bastle-houses should not have had as long a currency as the seemingly more ubiquitous tower house. However, with the absence of this stone and its ambiguous relationship to the surviving structure, such an interpretation must remain tenuous.

The Phase 2 remodelling of the first-floor hall and the construction of the solar to the east in Phase 3 are characterized by arched recesses which give an impression of arcading. These recesses can be compared to similar examples at Hamilton House and Redhouse, perhaps significantly both early 17th-century East Lothian structures. Similar arcading is also apparent along the interior elevation of the south wall at Duntarvie, West Lothian, which was built around 1590 (Salter 1994, 45). The recesses at Uttershill, an attractive but somewhat unusual feature, would no doubt have been provided to allow furniture to be inset (Forman 1967, 69).

The manner in which these recesses are continued in the Phase 3 solar would seem to indicate that there was not a very long break between the construction of Phase 2 and Phase 3. The Royal Commission and Hannah believed that Phase 3 was built in the late 16th century, but it now seems more likely that it was in the mid-17th century, perhaps when the Prestons of Penicuik granted the site to their son George in 1641. Quite apart from such considerations, the sophistication of certain of the architectural details (the arcaded recesses, the effective construction of a stair passage and the elaboration of the main entrance) would also seem to support a 17th-century date.

With the addition of the north-eastern extension the castle would have consisted of a store (the undercroft), kitchen, hall and solar with sleeping accommodation for family and servants in the garret (and outbuildings). As such it would probably have been a fairly typical structure in the 17th century. The fact that the kitchen was not vaulted, but 'ceiled in timber' is of particular note (RCAHMS 1929, 153). Although some of the earliest stone castles in Scotland do not include vaulting, it seems to have become an almost universal feature from the 14th until the early 17th century.

Recent excavations on other late medieval castle sites have suggested that the central building would rarely have stood alone, but were typically surrounded by ancillary structures. Excavations at Smailholm Tower, Roxburghshire, produced evidence for not only ancillary structures, such as a kitchen, but also an additional hall providing extra residential accommodation (Good & Tabraham 1988, 260). At Uttershill the excavation located two external structures. The north-eastern building, Structure A, appears to have been an integral part of the construction of the Phase 3 extension. It is likely this was a long rectangular building, although it could not have been as high as the main building, since this would have obscured the north-eastern window of the solar. If the walls stood to around 4.5–5 m high and were roofed with a pitch of around 60°

the apex of the roof would have reached to just below the eaves of the main structure. The doorway on the first floor, leading out from the solar, was located to the south-west, and therefore outside, Structure A. Access to this doorway must have been up a wooden or stone staircase along the outside of Structure A. The function of this structure remains unclear although the position of the doorcheck suggests that the door swung south-eastwards and that Structure A was entered from the kitchen rather than vice versa. The waterspout from the slop sink in the kitchen drained south-eastwards into the thickness of the north-east wall of Structure A, and then drained north-eastwards via a perpendicular channel. There were fragmentary remains of a slop sink within the corner of Structure A which drained out through the same channel. It is possible, therefore, that the room was used for activities related to the kitchen, perhaps as a brewhouse, bakehouse or store.

In addition to Structure A, there were also remains of a less substantial building, Structure B, built against the same side of the castle, but adjacent to the undercroft. This structure appears to have had a stone-built south-west wall possibly with a timber north-east wall, although the remains were not fully excavated. Its function is unknown but it may be one of the cot-houses or the barn mentioned in documentary records and probably post-dates the Phase 3 extension, perhaps from the latter part of the 17th century onwards.

The south-western ends of both Structures A and B lay outwith the limits of the excavation area and their full length could not be determined, but it is possible that they formed the sides of a yard. The area enclosed by the possible barmkin wall may also have contained other structures although no remains were recorded in Trench 3 (illus 2).

One of the main aims of the research at Uttershill was to gather information on its structural history as a basis for the proposed restoration. Although there are no exact parallels — the straight stair being a very unusual feature — there are a number of sites of similar proportions which can provide details of the ‘missing parts’ at Uttershill. The two-storey house of Blackhall in Paisley, built around 1600 and measuring 14 m by 6.7 m has a similar layout of vaulted storeroom and kitchen on the ground floor with a hall and solar above, respectively (Salter 1994, 123). The site at Blackhall was restored from a ruin in the 1980s and is now inhabited. Closer to Uttershill, there were similar long rectangular houses at Fairniee, and Torwoodlee near Selkirk in the Scottish Borders. Torwoodlee also had a central straight stair and, similar to Uttershill, was only two storeys high with attic space above (*ibid*). In addition, the central section of Duntarvie, near Kirkliston in West Lothian, is comparable to Uttershill, both in the arcading along the southern wall of the hall (mentioned above) and by being divided by a central straight stair. Following these comparisons the Phase 3 structure at Uttershill would have been a substantial house with crow-stepped gables and chimney stacks protruding above a steep-pitched, slate roof. Fragments of slates, many with nail holes, were recovered during excavation but mostly from the external trenches.

Almost certainly the upper floor or garret (attic space) at Uttershill would have been lit by a series of dormer windows, although what form these dormers took remains a matter of debate. They could either have been plain swept dormers or have been pedimented. While it is possible to argue that a simple structure such as Uttershill is more likely to have had swept dormers, it also includes some surprising refinements of detail — and a family like the Prestons may well have preferred more elaborate pedimented dormers.

The masonry was of good-quality freestone rubble; ‘the stone is nearly all from the local carboniferous beds, but some varied material is used, including a compact and gritty conglomerate, probably taken from the bed of the river’ (Hannah 1928, 235). The Royal Commission (RCAHMS 1929, 153) believed that the building had originally been harled. Hannah (*ibid*)

compares the quality of its rubble masonry favourably with that at the similar and nearby castle of Ravensneuk and the quality of stonework, coupled with the severe wind erosion of stones on the exterior of the bastle-house on the north-west elevation, could be construed as supporting the contention that Uttershill was never harled. Certainly there is now no trace of harling.

Following use as a farm, the castle fell into disrepair and was abandoned probably in the late 18th or early 19th century. A noticeable lack of collapsed masonry suggests that much of the rubble from the site was robbed for building elsewhere. Indeed the complete removal of the structure built against the south-eastern wall of the kitchen, and the absence of any traces of the upper portions of the gables suggests that these features may have been deliberately dismantled.

Reuse of the unroofed ruin as a gunpowder store may have in some measure stabilized the structure, with the consolidation of stonework and blocking of windows and doorways, perhaps resulting in reduced deterioration since the start of the century.

CONCLUSION

The results of the archaeological excavations at Uttershill Castle support the structural complexity of the site suggested by the documentary evidence and architectural analysis and highlight the importance of Hannah's 1928 report which was well ahead of its time in recognizing that 'hall-houses' could also date from the later Middle Ages. At least four phases of activity were identified, the first of which appears to have been a bastle-house. Excavation of the castle interior confirmed that it had been cleared out and reused as a gunpowder store and had also been subject to archaeological excavations in the late 19th/early 20th century. The result of this activity had, as expected, left little in the way of *in situ* deposits associated with the 16th- and 17th-century occupation of the castle and although the exterior trenches produced a larger amount of late medieval pottery this was generally mixed with more modern material. Nevertheless the results of the documentary, architectural and archaeological research have combined to present a detailed picture of an unusual structure. As such, Uttershill has an important position in Scottish architectural history for it was one of the first late medieval hall-houses to be recognized in Scotland; a class of building that at one time would have been quite common, but which all too often has not survived as often as more substantial structures such as tower houses, perhaps having been more readily incorporated into later farm buildings.

ARCHIVE

The full project archive, including copies of both the data structure report (Alexander 1995) and the documentary report (Bogdan 1993) will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland. The finds from the excavation will be allocated according to Scots Law, following instruction by the Queen's & Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer.

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