

6. A MEDIEVAL MIDDEN AT RED CASTLE, INVERKEILLOR, ANGUS

A MEDIEVAL midden was discovered at the bottom of the slope beneath the north-east corner of the tower on the south bank of the river Lunan (Nat. Grid Ref. NO 688511). The midden had been exposed by the falling away of the bank on which the castle stands as a result of high tides and spates during many winter storms and especially during four days of continuous rain and high tides in April 1958. Many sherds of pottery were found on the river edge in the vicinity of the midden and many types of bone were exposed.

The bones were sent to the Royal Dick Veterinary College, Edinburgh, for examination, where, through the kindness of Mr Graham, a full report was obtained. The bones represented, among others, Celtic Ox, Soay sheep, Terrier Dog and Fowls. An excavation to try to find some indication of stratification and to find enough pottery *in situ* to suggest some sequence was carried out.

The results were disappointing, however, as it was obvious that the high tides had washed some pottery out and some in and so had upset the stratification. Altogether, about twenty sherds were found *in situ* and these were shown to Mr Cruden at the Ministry of Works Offices in Edinburgh. He described them as a miscellany of fifteenth and sixteenth century medieval pottery.

Two pieces, however, were picked up on the beach near the midden and one from the midden itself, which were sent at Mr Cruden's suggestion to Mr Dunning at the Ministry of Works, London.

Two thin yellow pieces of ware, one from the midden and the other from the beach, were described by him as imports from France, probably Normandy, and he suggested they may have been part of a costrel, such as was found at Glenluce Abbey¹ and Coldingham Priory, and they fit in quite comfortably with the fifteenth and sixteenth century date of the midden.

The third sherd, of drab yellowish whitish ware with micaceous specks with red painted blobs, could, he says, be classed with the red-painted wares imported to south and south-east England from Normandy in the late eleventh and early twelfth centuries.²

Two keys were found in different parts of the midden, one of them $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and the other quite a small one.

All the pottery and the keys were presented to the National Museum of Antiquities by the owner of the site, Mr Anderson of Redcastle Farm, to whom we are indebted for permission to excavate.

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