

# Trial Excavation at St Ann's Lane, Perth

Lisbeth M Thoms\*

## INTRODUCTION

Late in 1974 a number of people were brought together to form the group known as the Perth Archaeological Survey in order to assess the archaeological potential of Perth in as quick and simple a way as possible. Just over a year later the booklet entitled *It will soon be too late: an archaeological survey of Perth*, was published (Stewart & Thoms 1976). In the course of gathering information for this booklet it became clear that a number of small sites lay vacant within the area of the medieval burgh and that, in order to begin to assess the archaeological potential, a trial trench would have to be dug on one of these sites. Consequently the open site in St Ann's Lane, owned by the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, was chosen for excavation. Work began in March 1975 and continued for 10 weeks with two full-time excavators and a small team of part-time local volunteers.

## THE EXCAVATION

The site lay at the NE end of St Ann's Lane directly opposite the S transept of the medieval parish church of St John (fig 1). Lying in this position within the medieval burgh, it was hoped the site would yield evidence of medieval use, particularly as there are a few references to a chapel, dedicated to St Ann, sited in this part of the town (Hay Marshall 1849, 381; Fittis 1885, 281). A machine was used to remove between 0.8 and 1 m of rubble overburden from a rectangular area measuring c 15 m by 5 m, the longer side being parallel to and 0.5 m from St Ann's Lane. On completion of the machine work it was apparent that the N, E and S sides of the trench were composed of loose, disturbed material caused by cellarage infill. Only the W side of the excavated trench, close to the lane, had an undisturbed section (fig 2).

Initial clearance after the removal of the overburden revealed a 0.4 m thick wall running parallel to the E side of the trench some 1.2 m from it, and broken by a square, stone stair-well, 8 m from the N end, with steps leading in an easterly direction, presumably to the cellarage lying to the E of the excavation. This wall and stair-well belonged to the 19th-century buildings which had been demolished long before the excavation. To the N, the limit of the disturbed ground was 2.8 m from the edge of the trench and to the S the distance was 1.2 m from the trench side. Effectively, the area remaining undisturbed for excavation was 11 m by 4 m.

In the SW of the trench and cut by its W side (fig 2) a setting of small, thin, flat stones was found forming a circle with an external diameter of c 2 m. About three-quarters of the area of this feature could be seen in plan, the rest lay in the section. Within the area bounded by the stones,

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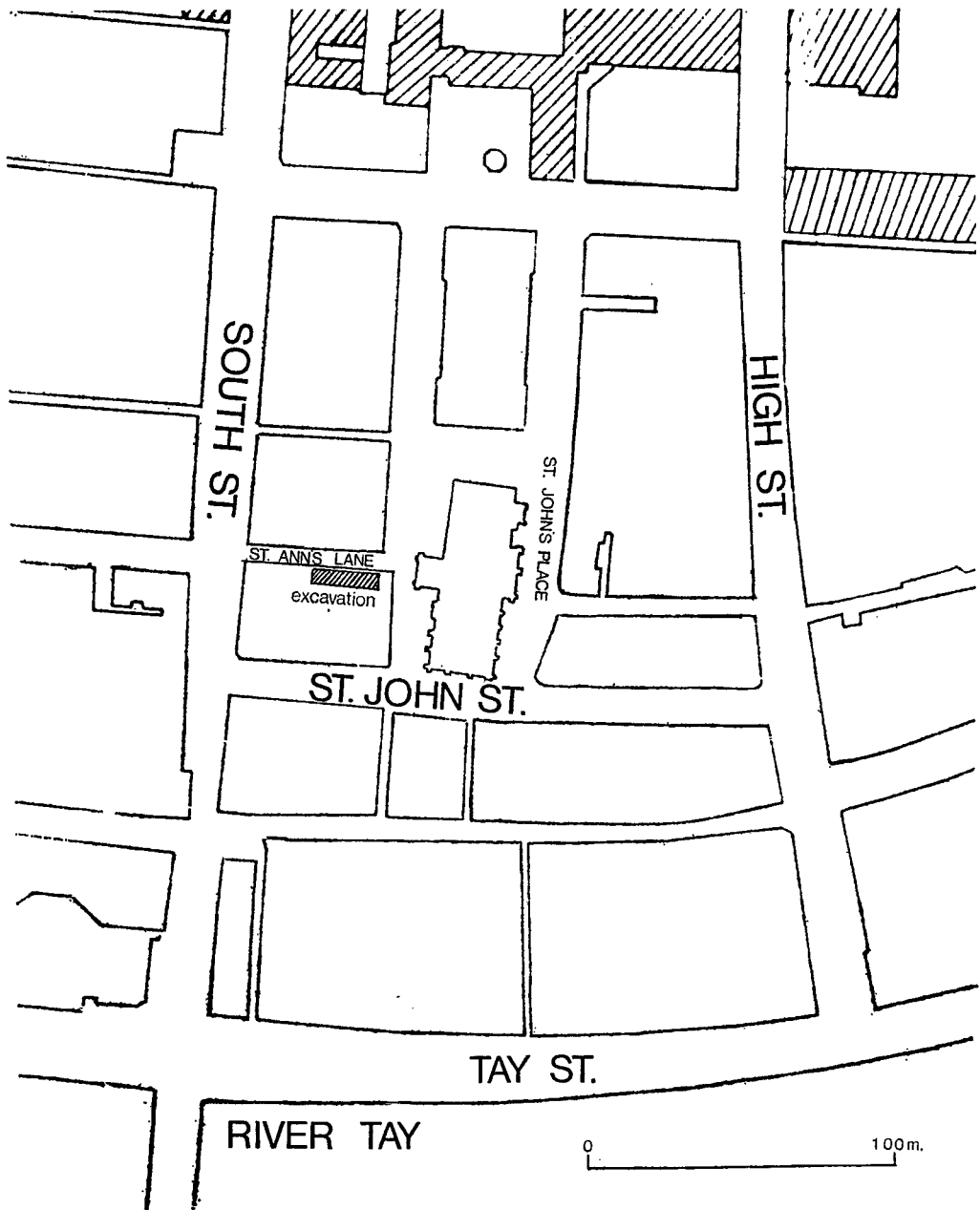


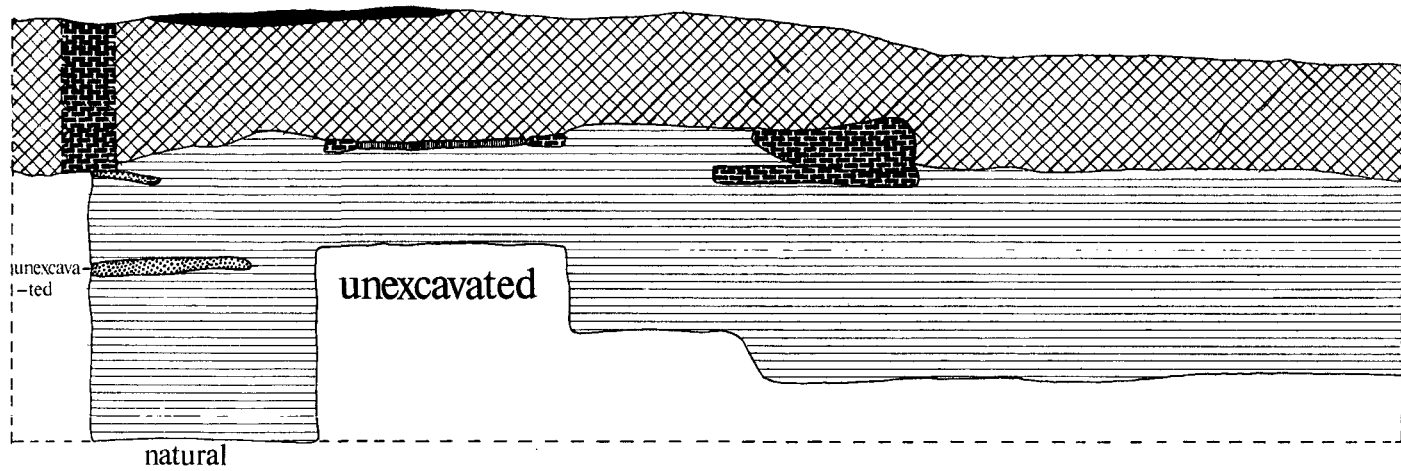
FIG 1 St Ann's Lane, Perth: location map

PERTH, ST. ANN'S LANE  
Section West Face

0 1 2 metres

South

North



ash, 
  clay, 
  clinker, 
  wall(stone), 
  rubble, 
  midden,

FIG 2 St Ann's Lane: section on W side of trench

which were not bonded together, was a layer of clinker 60 mm deep. No artefacts were found associated with this feature which seems to have been a circular hearth or maybe a smelting area. There was no indication of its association with any other feature and no means of determining the date of construction or use other than its location directly on top of medieval midden material: it must thus post-date it but by how long a period of time could not be ascertained.

All of the features so far described lay directly on top of black midden material, with the exception of the stone stair-well which cut into it. The first level of trowelling-over the midden deposit yielded sherds of pottery dating to the 13th and 14th centuries. The midden covered the entire remaining area of the site and was excavated to a depth of 2.4 m below the street level, in an area at the S end of the trench, where the sand and gravel natural was reached (fig 2). Unfortunately it was impossible to excavate the trench to natural throughout because of lack of time. The midden yielded quite a variety of finds: as well as a considerable amount of pottery (Appendix 1) there were objects of bone, metal, glass and stone, scraps of wood, leather and textile (Appendix 2) and animal bones (Appendix 3) and oyster shells. However, no sieving or sampling were carried out to retrieve small animal bones or palaeo-botanical remains. The midden produced no structural remains. From analysis of the pottery and other finds the midden seems to have accumulated over a period of c 150 years from the early 13th century to the middle of the 14th century.

Although there were no structural remains from the medieval part of the site (and no feature which could be attributed to St Ann's chapel) the excavation did demonstrate a considerable depth of accumulation during the medieval period. The results of this relatively small-scale excavation will be more meaningful when seen with the excavations that have taken place in Perth since 1975 and those that will take place in the future. The St Ann's Lane excavation, the first of its kind in Perth, pointed to the extremely rich archaeological potential of the burgh which subsequent excavations have undoubtedly proved.

#### APPENDIX 1: REPORT ON THE POTTERY

George Haggarty and Lisbeth M Thoms

All the pottery reported on came from the midden and it would all appear to belong to the medieval period with the exception of the sherds numbered 14 and 36 which are possibly post-medieval. The midden yielded no structural features and there was no apparent stratification within the deposit. The pottery recovered was bagged daily and kept separately but once post-excavation work began it was clear that there was no distinction between the pottery recovered from the upper levels of the midden and that recovered from the lowest levels.

About 4500 sherds in total were recovered and provided the first workable quantity of medieval pottery from Perth. Analysis of the material aimed to identify the production areas and give some indication of date. Nearly 80% of the sherds were in one fabric which was presumed to be local. Stevenson and Henshall published a short note in 1957 on material from a possible kiln site at Kinnoull, situated opposite Perth across the River Tay. They suggested that three fabric types were present but further work by Miss Catherine Brooks has shown that fabrics 'A' and 'B' described by Stevenson and Henshall are in fact the same and there is so little of their fabric 'C' that it probably is not local.<sup>1</sup> There is still no conclusive evidence from the site at Kinnoull to suggest the presence of pottery kilns but it seems reasonable to refer to the pottery fabrics once called Kinnoull 'A' and 'B' simply now as Kinnoull fabric.<sup>2</sup>

The dominant fabric in the midden material was Kinnoull fabric which is very micaceous and is used for both jugs and cooking pots. Sometimes a coating of white slip is to be found on both vessel types. This white slipping is also known on locally produced fabrics in Aberdeen and may well be an attempt to copy the white fabrics produced from low iron-content clays in the S and E of Scotland and NE England. The amount of Kinnoull fabric from the midden is demonstrated in Table 1.

The pottery was worked on for some considerable time but with little success in achieving sufficient sherd joins to build up any significant number of vessel profiles. No attempt was made to estimate the number of vessels represented.

TABLE 1

St Ann's Lane, Perth, medieval pottery: body sherds

Type	Number		%						
Total	4219		100						
Total unglazed	2810		66.6						
Total glazed	1409		33.4						
Unglazed Kinnoull fabric	1735		41.1						
Unglazed Kinnoull slipped fabric	417		9.9						
Unglazed other fabrics	658		15.6						
Glazed Kinnoull fabric	1091		25.9						
Glazed Kinnoull slipped fabric	114		2.7						
Glazed other fabrics	204		4.8						
Total Kinnoull fabric	3357		79.6						
Base sherds									
Diam (mm)	80	100	120	140	160	180	200	Total	%
Total	6	17	22	45	39	32	31	192	100
Kinnoull fabric	2	5	14	40	34	30	30	155	80.7
Kinnoull slipped fabric	4	12	8	5	—	—	—	29	15.1
Quartz-tempered fabric	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	8	4.2
Ext glaze	1	—	3	12	14	6	12	48	25
Int glaze	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Soot blackened	—	—	—	4	8	3	3	18	9.3
Thumbled	2	15	8	14	13	1	3	56	29.2
Total Kinnoull fabric								184	95.8

Of the remaining material which was assumed to be of non-local origin, Scarborough ware was well represented in addition to other possible Yorkshire imports. Scarborough ware has now been found on a significant number of E Scottish sites and is found on virtually all urban sites, eg Inverness, Elgin, Aberdeen and Dundee. Clearly Scarborough ware had a very wide distribution, reflecting its high quality and standards of production.

Pottery from the continent is also represented by a number of sherds of Low Countries and N French origin. The actual number of vessels is small; no more than four from the Low Countries and two French, so the amount of imported material is nothing like the scale of, for example, the SW French imports into Southampton at the end of the 13th century. Pottery similar to the Low Countries and N French material from St Ann's Lane has also now been recorded from a number of Scottish urban sites, eg in Elgin, Aberdeen and other Perth excavations (none fully published). The pottery from Yorkshire and the continent does however demonstrate the importance of Perth's sea-borne trading links with the rest of E coast Scotland and England and the countries of NE Europe, during the medieval period.

It is difficult to date the deposit closely because of the lack of stratification within the midden. Guides to dating are gained from the imported material for which approximate dates can be given to its discovery on numerous other sites with good stratification. The earliest import is the Scarborough ware which was probably first produced in the first half of the 13th century (Farmer 1979), and the latest material is that from Aardenburg, in the Low Countries, which was probably not produced much before the early part of the 14th century. It would seem reasonable therefore to date the accumulation of the pottery and other material in the St Ann's Lane midden over a period of 150 years or so from the early 13th century to the middle of the 14th century. Undoubtedly the dating of pottery from Perth, particularly the local Kinnoull fabric, will become a little less generalized when material from sites excavated in recent years is fully analysed.

## CATALOGUE

Items marked \* are not illustrated on figs 3-5.

- Five rim, one handle and 36 bodysherds conjoining to form the upper half of a decorated, squat jug in Kinnoull slipped fabric. Light green to yellow glaze on external shoulder, neck and handle. Decoration composed of applied strips running vertically down shoulder. Two basal-angle sherds almost certainly from the same jug. Rim stacking-scar and finger-pinched spout.
- Five rim and 15 bodysherds conjoining to form neck and shoulder profile of a large jug in Kinnoull

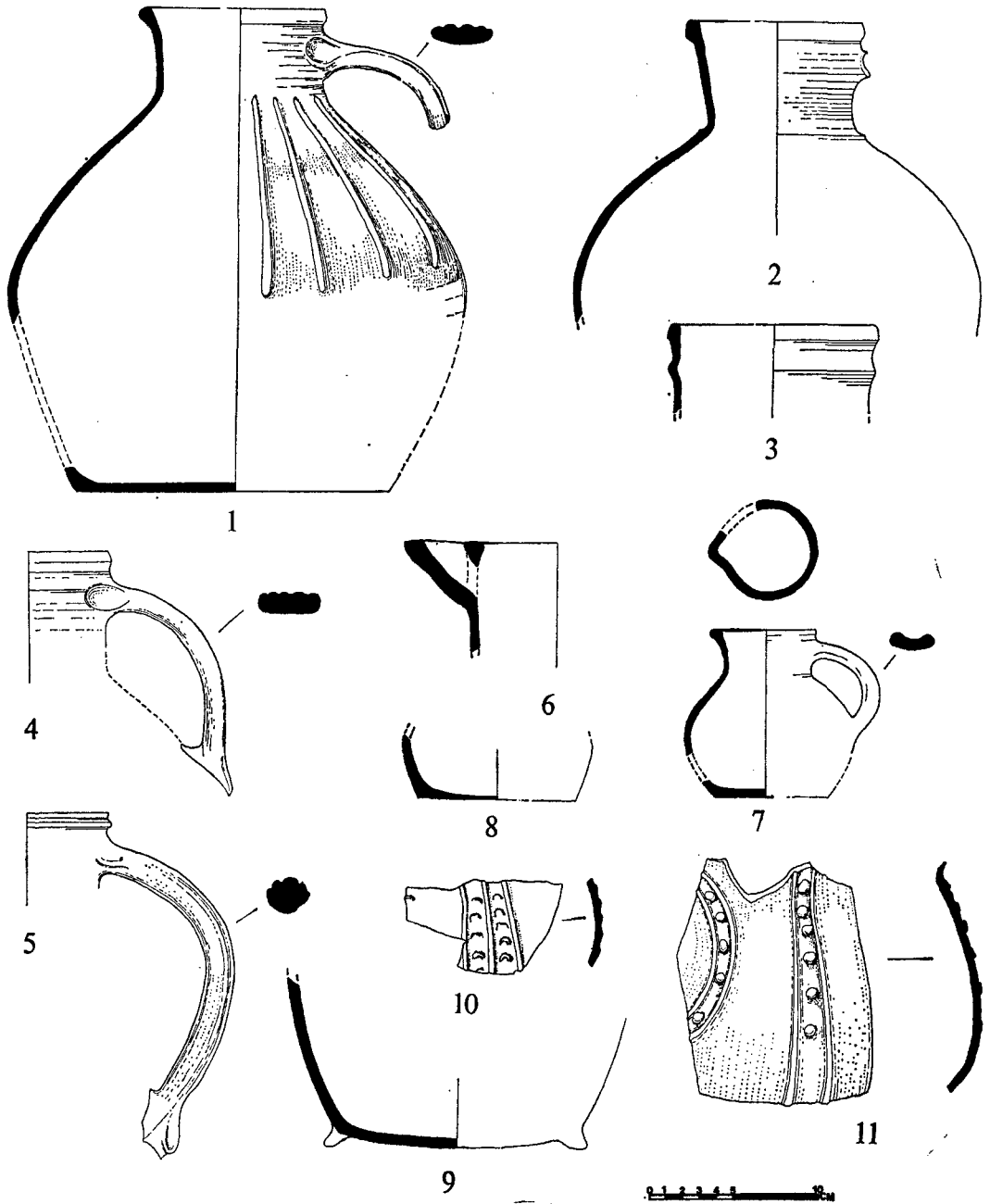


FIG 3 St Ann's Lane: pottery (scale 1:4)

- slipped fabric. Heavy olive-green mottled glaze on shoulder. Finger-pinched spout, rim stacking-scar.
- 3 Jug rimsherd with neck cordon. Kinnoull fabric with traces of slip on bottom of exterior. Finger-pinched spout.
  - 4 Two rimsherds, one bodysherd and one strap handle conjoining to form the rim and shoulder profile of a jug in Kinnoull slipped fabric. Light green glaze on exterior. Rim stacking-scar.
  - 5 Two conjoining fragments of a grooved rod-handle with rim attached, from a large jug in Kinnoull slipped fabric with light green mottled glaze.
  - 6 Two conjoining rimsherds of a bridge spouted jug in reduced Kinnoull fabric, probably originally slipped. External mottled light green glaze on lower neck and under spout. Rim stacking-scar. \*One other example in quartz-gritted ware, white at surface below glaze, smooth reduced grey elsewhere.
  - 7 Four rim, one handle and three bodysherds conjoining to form approximately one-third of a small finger-pinched spouted jug in Kinnoull slipped fabric, external green-yellow glaze on shoulder and beneath lip. There are two basal-angle sherds possibly from same jug. Soot blackened on exterior and rim. \*One similar rimsherd in same fabric and glaze.
  - 8 Four conjoining basal-angle sherds from a jug. Slightly larger than no 7, Kinnoull fabric, soot-blackened on exterior along with splashes of glaze.
  - 9 One complete jug base in Kinnoull slipped fabric, decomposed green glaze on exterior. Small applied pad on basal angle, probably one of three to give support to the sagging base.
  - 10 Three conjoining jug bodysherds, dark grey micaceous fabric, probably Kinnoull, reduced thick greenish brown glaze, externally decorated with groups of three vertical applied strips with applied scales between. Probably an imitation of Scarborough ware. \*Sixteen sherds with similar decoration, though with only two strips, probably representing seven vessels.
  - 11 Five conjoining bodysherds plus another six sherds not conjoining, Kinnoull fabric, external green glaze mottled dark green in places. The decoration is in the form of double rows of applied strips containing applied pellets in vertical bands and circles, and probably derives from that found on Rouen jugs (Barton 1966, fig 2). \*Thirteen sherds representing three or four other vessels plus four sherds not conjoining. There are also five sherds from one vessel, again local, with a similar decoration; an applied strip forming a circle with pellets applied on top of the strip at approximately 20 mm intervals.
  - 12 Five conjoining bodysherds plus another four sherds not conjoining forming part of neck and shoulders of a decorated jug in Kinnoull slipped fabric. External thick dark green glaze with mottled green glaze in places and applied vertical strips, probably in imitation of Scarborough ware (Rutter 1961). \*Fifty-two sherds with similar decoration representing perhaps another 12 vessels.
  - 13 One bodysherd of decorated jug, reduced Kinnoull fabric, olive green glaze on exterior and horizontal rows of applied pellets, coloured brown. \*Six sherds in similar decoration representing about three vessels.
  - 14 Four rim, two handle and 21 bodysherds conjoining to make up almost two-thirds of the shoulder and neck of a large jug. Kinnoull fabric with grey core sparsely glazed greenish-yellow on shoulder. Pronounced rilling and neck cordon. Possibly late 14th century.
  - 15\* Five sherds, three conjoining, of a jug in Kinnoull fabric with runs of internal slip, decorated externally with diagonal bands of thick white slip over which the glaze is greenish-yellow and pale green elsewhere. One sherd from another similar vessel with brown glaze, yellow over applied slip.
  - 16\* Fragment of a tubular spout with slash decoration encircling the spout at its junction with the jug wall, Kinnoull fabric, reduced yellowish glaze on exterior. Tubular spouts are known from the possible Kinnoull kiln site (Stevenson & Henshall 1957).
  - 17\* Seven small upright rimsherds probably representing seven vessels in Kinnoull fabric, all with traces of external white slip under thick dark green glaze. Probably local imitations of Scarborough ware.
  - 18 One small cooking pot rimsherd in Kinnoull fabric, external yellow-brown glaze smoke-blackened externally. \*Twelve others all in Kinnoull fabric of which two are green glazed externally and one other brown glazed.
  - 19 Four conjoining basal-angle sherds forming almost complete cooking pot base in Kinnoull fabric. Evidence of rim stacking-scar.
  - 20 Fragment of a curfew in reduced Kinnoull fabric, glazed brownish-green on both sides.

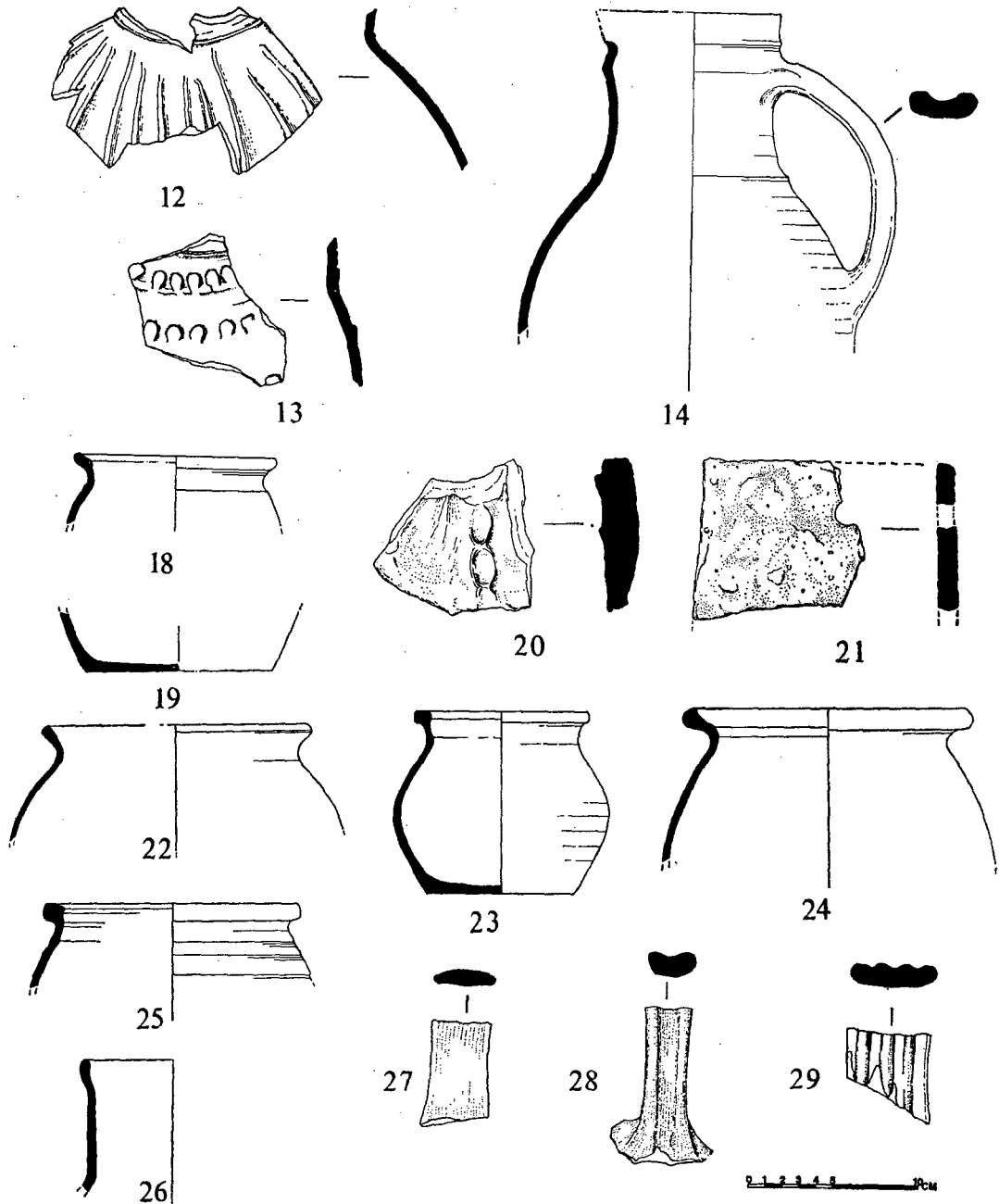


FIG 4 St Ann's Lane: pottery (scale 1:4)



- 21 Fragment of coarse unglazed roofing tile in Kinnoull fabric with large flint chips up to 10 mm. \*Eight similar fragments. Three fragments of green glazed tile 12–15 mm thick.
- 22 One rim and one conjoining bodysherd from a globular cooking pot in black, sandy fabric, soot blackened on exterior. \*Twenty-nine similar rimsherds, 27 in Kinnoull fabric, of which five are green and two are brown glazed. The remaining two sherds are in a white quartz-tempered fabric.
- 23 Three rim, one base and five bodysherds conjoining to form complete profile of a small cooking pot in dark grey micaceous fabric. \*Eleven similar rim sherds in Kinnoull fabric.
- 24 Everted cooking pot rimsherd with a lid seating, hard fairly smooth light grey micaceous fabric, dark grey core. \*One other similar rimsherd in the same fabric.
- 25 Cooking pot rimsherd, upright thickened rim with lid seating, sandy orange fabric. Traces of decomposed honey-coloured glaze. \*Fifteen other examples, seven in white gritty fabric unglazed and eight in Kinnoull slipped fabric.
- 26 One rimsherd from a straight necked jug. Off-white, sandy fabric with pinkish surface. External light green glaze on lower neck. Simple finger-pinched spout. Fired upside down.
- 27 Small fragment of strap handle, probably local. Smooth buff micaceous fabric with pale grey core. Splashed yellow-green glaze on exterior.
- 28 Strap-handle fragment in smooth reddish micaceous fabric with pale grey core, probably local, yellow-green glaze on exterior. \*Twenty-two other examples in Kinnoull fabric varying in width from 25 to 50 mm, five other examples in white, quartz-tempered fabric, pale green glaze, varying in width from 30 to 45 mm.
- 29 Fragment of grooved strap-handle. Off-white, non-micaceous coarse fabric with large grits. Buff external surface. \*Nineteen other examples in Kinnoull fabric, green glaze, varying in width from 30 to 45 mm. Two other examples in white quartz-tempered fabric, both 30 mm in width.
- 30 Bodysherd probably from the neck of a jug in hard, smooth, pale grey fabric. Exterior green glazed over two parallel thumbed cordons. Glaze runs over much of internal surface.
- 31\* Four jug sherds, two conjoining with applied strips forming triangular zones filled with applied pellets, pinkish buff slightly micaceous fabric, probably local. Streaky brownish-green glaze. This form of decoration is probably derived from Rouen jugs (Barton 1965, fig 1, no 1). The same decoration is found on London copy Rouen jugs (Rackham 1972, pl 90).
- 32\* Forty-eight small sherds with applied strip decoration, five of which have rouletting on the strips similar to that seen on the Aardenburg sherd (no 53) and one also with the base of a possible arm from a face-mask jug.
- 33\* One tiny glazed knob, probably decoration from a jug.
- 34 Small sherd, from neck of costrel/part of a lid?
- 35 Rimsherd of a poaching dish thickened at one end presumably for attachment of handle. Heavily knife-trimmed on interior and exterior surfaces, grey sandy fabric fired reddish on surface, spots of brown glaze on interior and just below lip on exterior.
- 36 Rimsherd from a large storage vessel in red, fairly smooth fabric. Splashed red-brown glaze on interior and over rim. Internal rilling. Possibly post-medieval.
- 37 One cooking pot rimsherd in off-white fine quartz-tempered fabric, everted bifid rim with frilling, large spots of pale yellow-green glaze on rim and exterior probably accidental. This rim form is typical of Fife and Angus with outliers at Cramond (unpublished material) and Perth (Laing 1973, Type 18, fig 5). \*Two sherds of similar rim without frilling, in white gritty fabric.
- 38 Cooking pot rimsherd, off-white, quartz-tempered fabric. The rim of this vessel has been made by folding over the clay.
- 39 Three conjoining basal sherds forming two-thirds of a jug base in off-white, quartz-tempered fabric much abraded.
- 40 Jug bodysherd, white quartz-tempered fabric with buff internal slip, external honey coloured to light brown glaze with three dark brown applied vertical strips. The fabric and decoration are closely paralleled in material from the Colstoun kilns (Brooks 1980). \*Twelve sherds of similar jug with dark green applied strips on yellowish-green glaze. Twenty-nine sherds representing five or six similar jugs.
- 41 Two conjoining rimsherds of a large cooking pot. Off-white quartz-tempered fabric with dark grey core, soot blackened on exterior. This may be an English import. \*Also nine similar large squarish rimsherds all in the same off-white gritty fabric; probably representing three vessels.
- 42 One rim and three conjoining bodysherds of a jug with face-mask decoration, face broken off

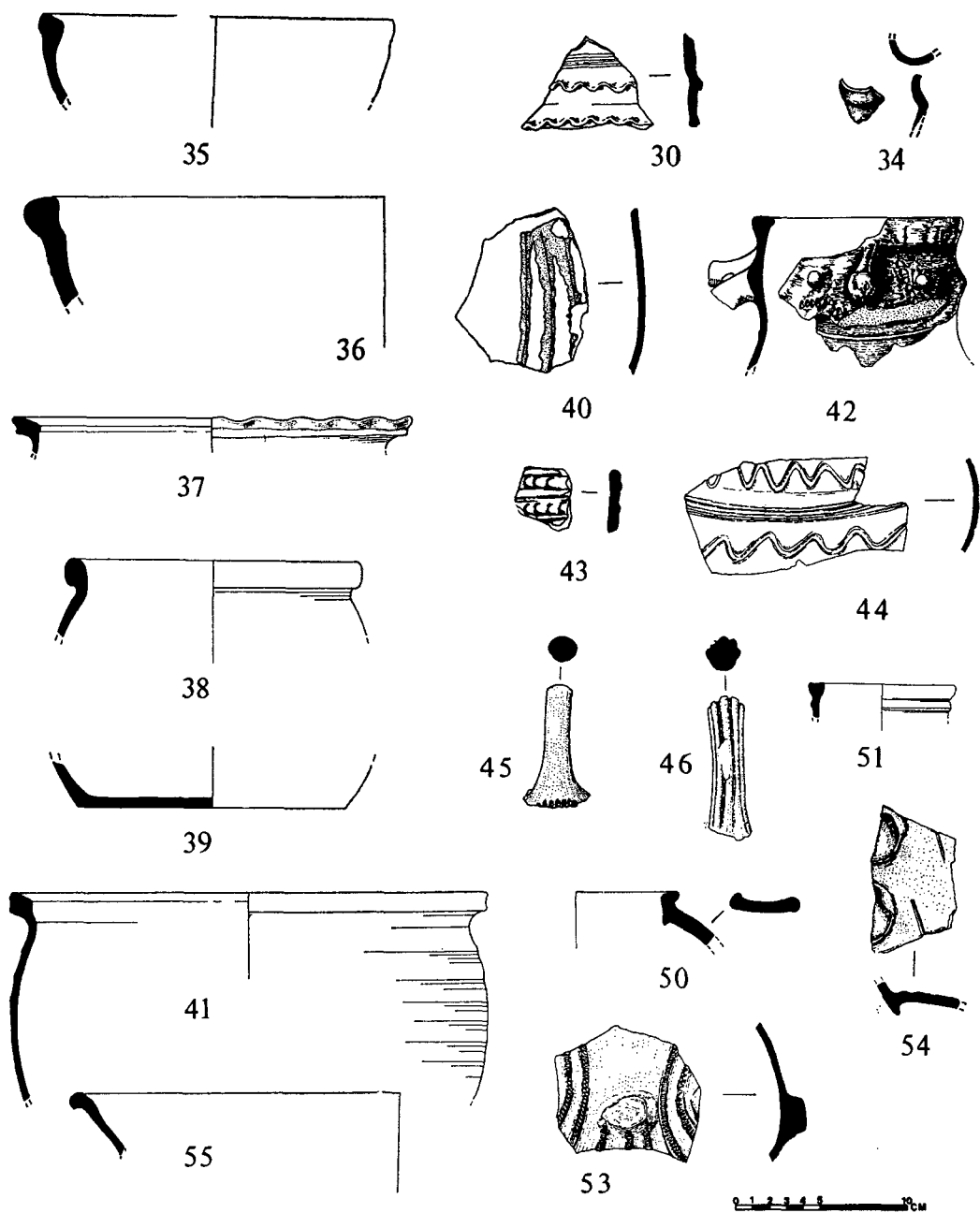


FIG 5 St Ann's Lane: pottery (scale 1:4)

below nose with probably two separate struts or arms flanking the face-mask. On the interior are deep finger impressions left by the application of the face-mask and arms. Hard non-micaceous white fabric, thick glaze varying from mid-green to dark green. Possibly a Yorkshire import although the form is not paralleled exactly there. \*There is also a small fragment of a bearded face-mask much abraded in a white, quartz-tempered fabric with grey core and dull greenish-brown glaze. This is similar to the face-masks from the Colstoun kilns which seem to be copied from Yorkshire material.

- 43 Small jug neck fragment with alternate horizontal applied strips and scales. Smooth off-white sandy fabric with pale grey internal surface, green glaze externally. Probably a Yorkshire import.
- 44 Four conjoining jug bodysherds, one other not conjoining, grey sandy fabric with buff interior surface, thick green glaze, three incised horizontal bands on the shoulder with wavy combed lines above and below. This type of decoration is found in Yorkshire (Rutter 1961). \*Another four bodysherds representing four vessels with same decoration, another two conjoining bodysherds with wavy combing at the shoulders, vertical strips below this in the manner of no 12.
- 45 Applied 'arm' of jug possibly a face-mask jug in Scarborough ware. Some finger-nail decoration at the end where it was applied to the jug. Non-micaceous, fairly smooth fabric, buff with grey core, heavy dark green glaze. \*Fragments of two other similar arms. There are also fragments of four arms in Kinnoull fabric, copying the Scarborough ware type, with yellowish-green glaze.
- 46 Grooved rod-handle, hard sandy pinkish Scarborough fabric with grey core, speckled green glaze. \*Two other grooved rod-handles, one in white quartz-gritted fabric, one in Kinnoull fabric. One plain rod-handle base in reddish fabric with grey core, thick olive-green glaze probably Scarborough ware.
- 47\* Four rimsherds, one with handle scar, 17 bodysherds with vertical applied strips (as in no 12, local copy); 15 sherds with applied vertical strips and rows of pellets (paralleled by local copy, no 10), three sherds with traces of other forms of applied decoration. Some sherds are in a pinkish buff fabric, some are off-white with a sandy texture. All Scarborough ware.
- 48\* One rim and seven bodysherds, five conjoining to form a straight necked jug, smooth orange Scarborough fabric, glossy orange and green striped glaze.
- 49\* Four small neck sherds with incised wave decoration, smooth orange Scarborough fabric.
- 50 Jug rimsherd with part of strap handle in white fabric with some fine quartz grits. Handle with pale grey core. Mottled dark and apple green glaze on exterior. The glaze continues over the rim and on to part of the interior. Probably a N French import.
- 51 Tiny rimsherd of a jug, smooth, pale grey fabric, yellow glaze externally with traces of red glaze along the rim. Probably an import from Rouen, N France.
- 52\* Two tiny bodysherds decorated with yellow blobs on brown zones. Probably an import from Rouen, N France.
- 53 Large bodysherd with base of rod handle of an Aardenburg ware jug, brick red sandy fabric with grey core in the handle. Decorated with applied rouletted strips, glazed mottled green over a white slip. \*Eleven other similar bodysherds. For published examples of this type see Dunning (1968).
- 54 One unglazed basal sherd of a grey ware jug, heavily thumbbed at the angle and with slashing on the underside of the base. \*One similar sherd. Possibly Low Countries imports.
- 55 Rimsherd from a large open bowl in a grey, reduced, sandy fabric with dark grey surfaces. \*Two similar rimsherds, probably from the same vessel. Possibly Low Countries imports.
- 56\* One tiny bodysherd, orange sandy fabric, white slip under glaze; pushed-out rosette decoration. Probably a Low Countries import.

## APPENDIX 2: THE SMALL FINDS

Items marked \* are not illustrated on figs 6 and 7.

### BRONZE

- 57 Key; solid stem, flattened ovoid section with circular bow. 45 mm long.
- 58 Barrel lock; only the spring and bolt survive.
- 59 Buckle; trapezoid with incomplete intermediate bar to take the tongue placed very close to one side. On the opposite side there is a rectangular decorative 'knob'.
- 60 Pin; circular section, flattened head decorated with eight punched dots on one side and four on the other. 97 mm long.

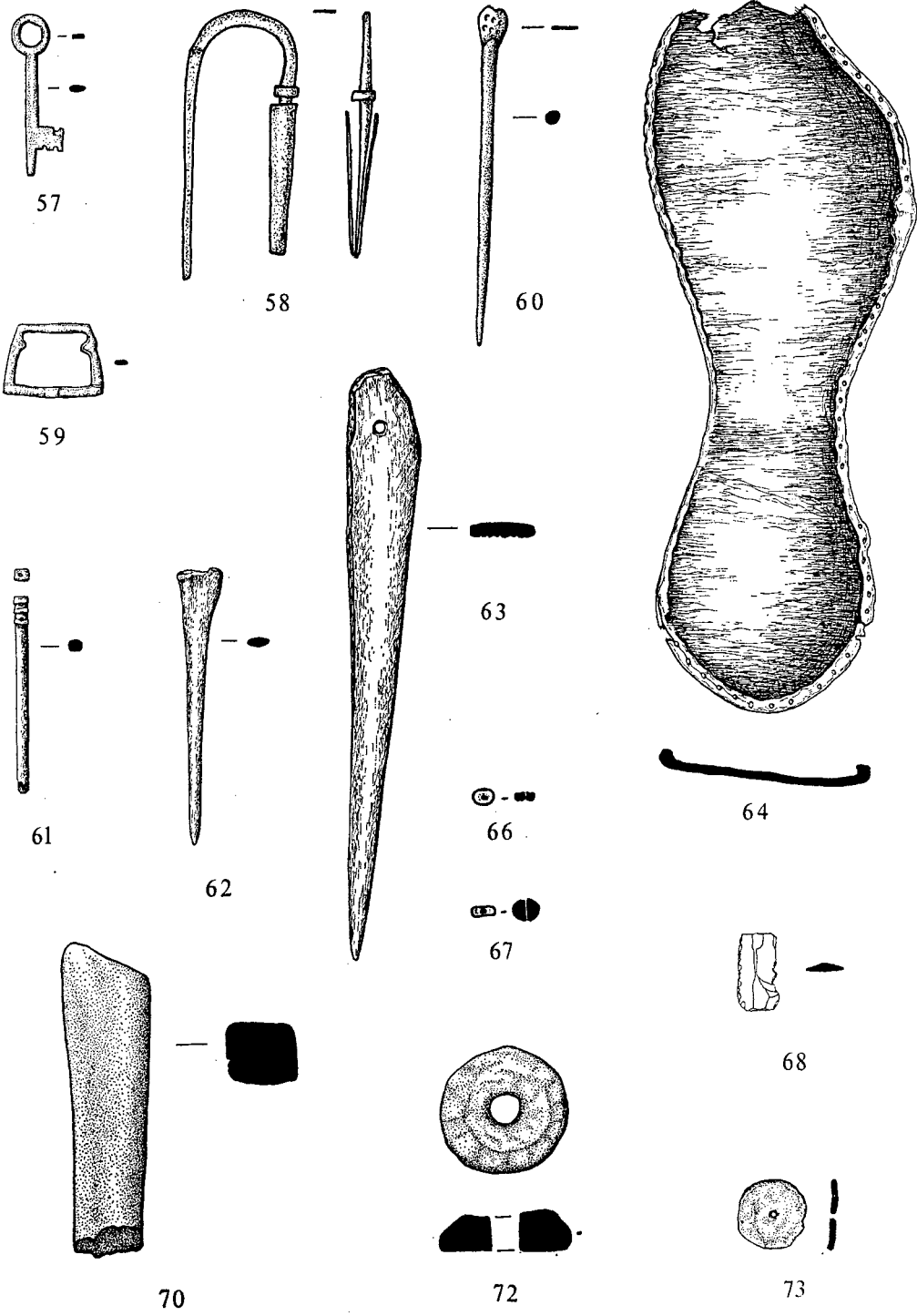


FIG 6 St Ann's Lane: small finds (scale 1:2)

## BONE

- 61 Pin; point missing, circular section, carved head with approximately square section decorated by punched dots. 57 mm long.
- 62 Pin; complete. 79 mm long.
- 63 Pin-beater; tapered to a point by paring both edges, hole 3 mm in diameter pierced at broad end. 170 mm long. Presumably used in weaving.

## LEATHER

Clare Thomas

The two fragments of leather described below are both typical medieval turnshoe soles. In this method of construction the same sole acts as outer sole and insole, with the flesh side of the leather facing upwards. The shoe is stitched inside out, with the thread passing through grain to flesh holes in the lasting margin of the upper, then through the edge of the sole to the flesh side. Once sewn, the shoe is turned the right way round. No 64, with its gently curved shape, has parallels of 12th to 14th century date from many sites, including York (Goodfellow & Thornton 1972) and Perth (Thomas forthcoming, Type 3). No 65 is too fragmentary to assign to a particular type.

- 64 Leather turnshoe sole, right foot, with rounded seat, narrowing for waist, slender gently curved forepart, front missing but probably rounded; forepart is turned inwards very slightly. Edge-flesh stitching channel, stitch length 5–6 mm. Worn, particularly rear of seat and front of forepart. Slightly delaminated. Surviving length, 205 mm, maximum width of forepart 77 mm, width of waist 41 mm, maximum width of seat 63 mm. Thickness 3.5 mm (inner and outer edges of waist), 3 mm (inner edge of forepart), 4 mm (outer edge of forepart), 4.5 mm (rear of seat). Not conserved.
- 65\* Fragment of slender leather turnshoe sole, with front seat, waist and rear of forepart. Edge-flesh stitching channel, stitch length 4.5–6.5 mm. Left edge very worn, stitching channel replaced by thong holes of which three survive, holes are c 2 by 3 mm, and 26 and 22 mm apart. Surviving length c 165 mm, width of waist 42 mm. Thickness 3 mm (right edge of waist and forepart), 2 mm (left edge of waist and forepart). Not conserved.

## GLASS

- 66 Glass bead; pale amber colour, 5 mm in diameter. \*144 similar beads found.
- 67 Glass bead; pale amber colour, flattened, 7 mm wide. \*Twelve similar beads found.

## STONE

- 68 Flint flake; distal segment blade, damaged, most likely of early prehistoric date.
- 69 Part of a mortar; external tool marking, internal surface worn with evidence of fire blackening. Stone probably local dolerite.
- 70 Whetstone; incomplete, local schist.
- 71 Roofing stone; incomplete, local sandstone.
- 72 Spindle whorl; domed at centre, flattened base. Siltstone, probably found locally. Height 10 mm, diameter 37 mm, central hole 8 mm in diameter.

## LEAD

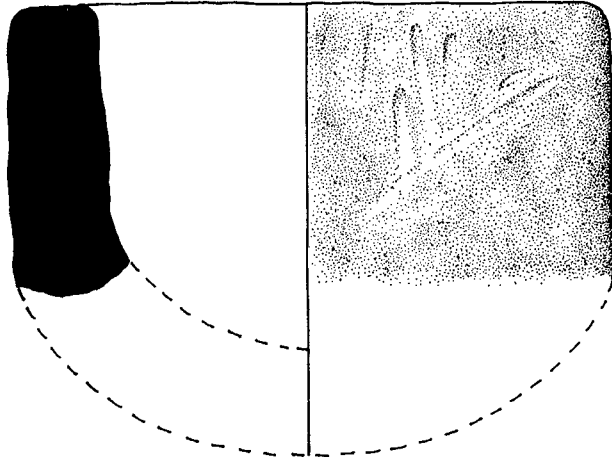
- 73 Disc; slightly irregular circular shape, rim slightly raised. No trace of any markings. Diameter c 20 mm, central hole 1 mm in diameter.

## APPENDIX 3: REPORT ON THE ANIMAL REMAINS

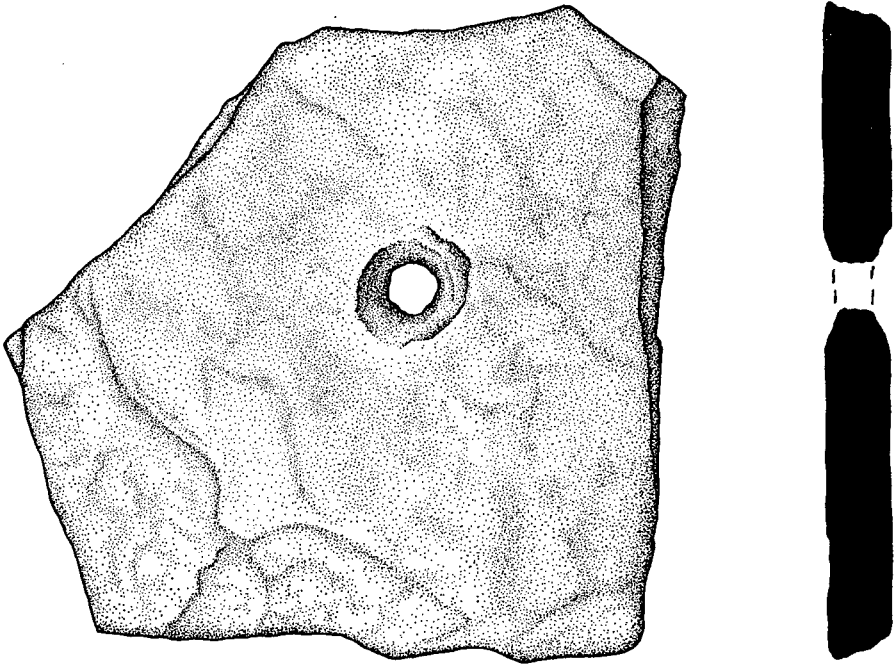
G W I Hodgson and Angela Jones

## SUMMARY

Evidence is advanced which shows that the majority of cattle and many of the sheep were slaughtered when they were adult. This successful overwintering of animals through two winters may have been carried out in response to the financial rewards associated with the export from Perth of hides and wool-fells. Meat would have been a by-product from such a trade. Data are presented which indicate the presence at this site of a large pig or pigs, the bones of which significantly extend the size ranges for



69



71

FIG 7 St Ann's Lane: stone objects

medieval Scotland. Carcass analysis shows that the ratio of high meat-yielding to low meat-yielding cattle and sheep bones is almost unity. This is interpreted as indicating that the samples came from domestic rather than commercial refuse.

#### METHODOLOGY AND INTRODUCTION

The animal remains were identified by direct comparison with modern defleshed material. Measurements were taken in accordance with the scheme proposed by von den Driesch (1976) and are reported in millimetres. Bird bones were not identified as to species, but are reported on by type of bone and size. There were no remains of fish in the samples presented for examination. Twenty-five bones from small mammals (mice and voles) are not reported on.

The animal remains are thought to come from domestic, rather than industrial or commercial, refuse and may, therefore, be related to the diet of the inhabitants.

#### SPECIES AND RELATIVE FREQUENCIES PRESENT

The number of bones identified and belonging to the following species was:

Cattle	806	Hare	2
Sheep/goat	459	Bird	76
Pig	125	Dog	20
Horse	6	Cat	26
Roe deer	3		
Total=1523 (excludes small mammal bones)			

The relative frequencies of the main food-forming mammals, based on percentages of bones present, were:

Cattle	57.5%	Horse	0.4%
Sheep/goat	32.8%	Roe deer	0.2%
Pig	8.9%	Hare	0.1%

The relative frequencies of all species estimated on the basis of minimum numbers of animals present are given in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Relative frequencies of animals, based on estimates of minimum numbers of animals present

Species	Minimum number of animals present	Bone used for estimate
Cattle	17	Right astragalus
Sheep/goat	21	Right mandible
Pig	9	Right tibia (prox)
Horse	1	Several alternatives
Roe deer	1	Right mandible
Hare	1	Right mandible
Bird	5	Left tarso-metatarsus
Cat	3	Right innominate
Dog	3	Right innominate

#### CONTRIBUTION TO MEAT SUPPLY

Attempts have been made to relate estimates of minimum numbers of animals of different species to their relative contribution to meat supply: Yealand and Higgs (1966) assigned carcass weights to each species, while Chaplin (1971) expressed minimum numbers as sheep equivalents (S Es). On the basis of the former method, the percentage contribution to meat supply for four species is cattle 74.5%; sheep/goat 12.8%; pig 8.8%; and horse 3.9%; while, on the basis of the latter method, the percentage contribution for three species is cattle 84.0%; sheep/goat 8.6%; and pig 7.4%. By either reckoning, a clear indication of a beef-based meat supply.

AGE, SIZE AND SEX OF ANIMALS

The ages of the animals on death have been estimated on the bases of osteological and dental criteria proposed by Silver (1963, 252-67).

*Cattle*

Sixty per cent of cattle radii displayed fused distal epiphyses and are, therefore, considered to come from animals older than three and a half years of age. Thirty-six per cent of cattle mandibles had M3 fully erupted with the III pillar in wear and are, therefore, considered to be at least five years old. This evidence suggests that many of the cattle were not killed until they were mature, as would have been the case if cattle were being raised for hide production.

The cattle bones fall within the size ranges published for the Perth High Street site (Hodgson 1981a). The cattle horn-cores come from oxen and cows.

*Sheep/goat*

The killing curve for sheep and goats, based on assessment of tooth eruption and wear in the mandible, is given in fig 8. This curve shows a high killing rate between two and three years. Payne (1973) has interpreted this type of curve to signify the raising of sheep for meat rather than for milk or wool production. It is also the type of curve which would result from the raising of sheep for woollfells, ie skins with wool attached to them.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
% DEATHS	—	3.3	13.3	26.7	33.3	6.7	10.0	3.3	3.3
% SURVIVORS	100	96.7	83.4	56.4	23.1	16.4	6.4	3.1	0.0

n=30

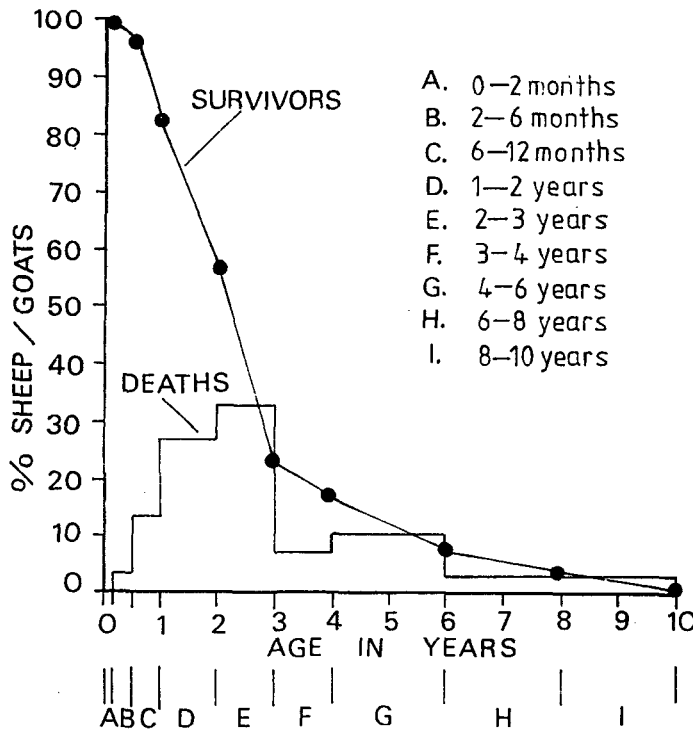


FIG 8 St Ann's Lane: killing curve for sheep and goats



The sheep and goat bones fall within the size ranges of Perth High Street. There is no direct evidence as to the sex ratios of the animals.

### *Pigs*

There is no evidence of old pigs, ie older than three years old, yet surprisingly six of the pig bones come from a large or large animals and they significantly extend the size range of Perth High Street, even though the sample size is small (Table 3) (Hodgson 1981a).

TABLE 3

Scapula SLC	30 mm	Tibia Bd	42 mm
Scapula SLC	34 mm	Phalange II Bp	26 mm
Humerus Bd	49 mm	Phalange III Bp	33 mm

### *Horse*

The horse teeth came from an animal about five years old.

### *Roe deer*

The jaw bones came from mature animals. No antlers were found, therefore there is no evidence as to the sex of the deer.

### *Cat and dog*

There is evidence of kittens and puppies as well as of adult cats and dogs being killed. None of the remains comes from aged animals.

The size ranges of the cat and dog remains fall within those of Perth High Street. There is no evidence as to the sex of the animals.

### CARCASS ANALYSIS

A comparison of the number of high meat-yield bones (femur and humerus) against the number of low meat-yield bones (calcanea) gives ratios which approximate to unity. This indicates there was little dispersal of best and poorer cuts of meat away from the site and supports the belief that samples are from domestic, rather than commercial, refuse.

### DISCUSSION

Evidence has been presented which suggests the sample was domestic refuse. As such, it may reflect the dietary preferences for meats or the extent to which they were available in medieval Perth. Evidence as to the age of slaughter of cattle and sheep suggests that many of these species were successfully raised through several winters, possibly for the production of hides and woolfells which were exported via the royal burghs.

The published bone size ranges for pigs from medieval Scottish burghs are significantly extended upwards by six pig bones from this site. Possibly these remains came from an older (?larger) breeding boar or sow.

The apparent low uptake of venison is in accord with the results of analysis of animal remains from six other medieval sites in burghs on the eastern Scottish seaboard (Hodgson 1981b).

### NOTES

- 1 I am indebted to Miss Catherine Brooks for making the results of her work known to me. (Since the preparation of this pottery report Miss Brooks's work has been published: Brooks 1980).
- 2 Pottery reports on Perth material prepared by a number of authors since the St Ann's Lane report, refer to Kinnoull fabric as Perth local fabric and it is the latter terminology which is now uniformly accepted.

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