
6 Ceramics *by Alan Radley & Bob Will*

The excavations produced a total assemblage of 372 sherds ranging in date from the 13th to the 20th century. Within this small assemblage there were 226 sherds dating from the 18th, 19th and 20th-century occupation of the site and these are not described in detail. The remaining 146 examples are described as a series of ceramic types per archaeological period. The typology is based largely on the major ceramic assemblage recovered by excavations in St Andrews, Fife (Haggarty & Will 1996). The distribution of the full ceramic assemblage (including the 18th to 20th-century material) is presented in *illus 33*.

In the 13th century, reformed Benedictine orders such as the Cistercians took advantage of generous grants of land and channelled their efforts principally into wool production, often for export. Alongside the development of this important trade with Europe, monastic houses such as Dundrennan appear to have stimulated the production of locally made wheel-thrown pottery in previously aceramic areas. Despite its small size, the assemblage retrieved from 12th and 13th-century contexts establishes early Dundrennan as part of a much wider tradition of pottery manufacture in Scotland.

The medieval and post-medieval assemblage consists of both local and imported fabrics from Britain and mainland Europe, concomitant with an established network of trade links and revenues. Significantly, many of the imported wares are from France and Spain, indicating a west coast trade route and contact with the Gascon wine trade during the 15th and 16th centuries. Further evidence of European contacts is suggested by two 17th-century vessels in a local post-medieval redware fabric, which proved to be copies of Raeren stoneware drinking mugs (nos. 1 and 2, *illus 34*).

Over half the total number of sherds recovered from the site date from the later 19th century. The landscaping of the mounded debris over those buildings recently excavated appears to have seen some household rubbish disposal at about the same time, probably from the neighbouring manse. Large numbers of fragments of household crockery, storage jars and bowls were found, along with several ink pots, a ceramic hot water bottle and a small jar for hair restorer.

6.1 Ceramics by period

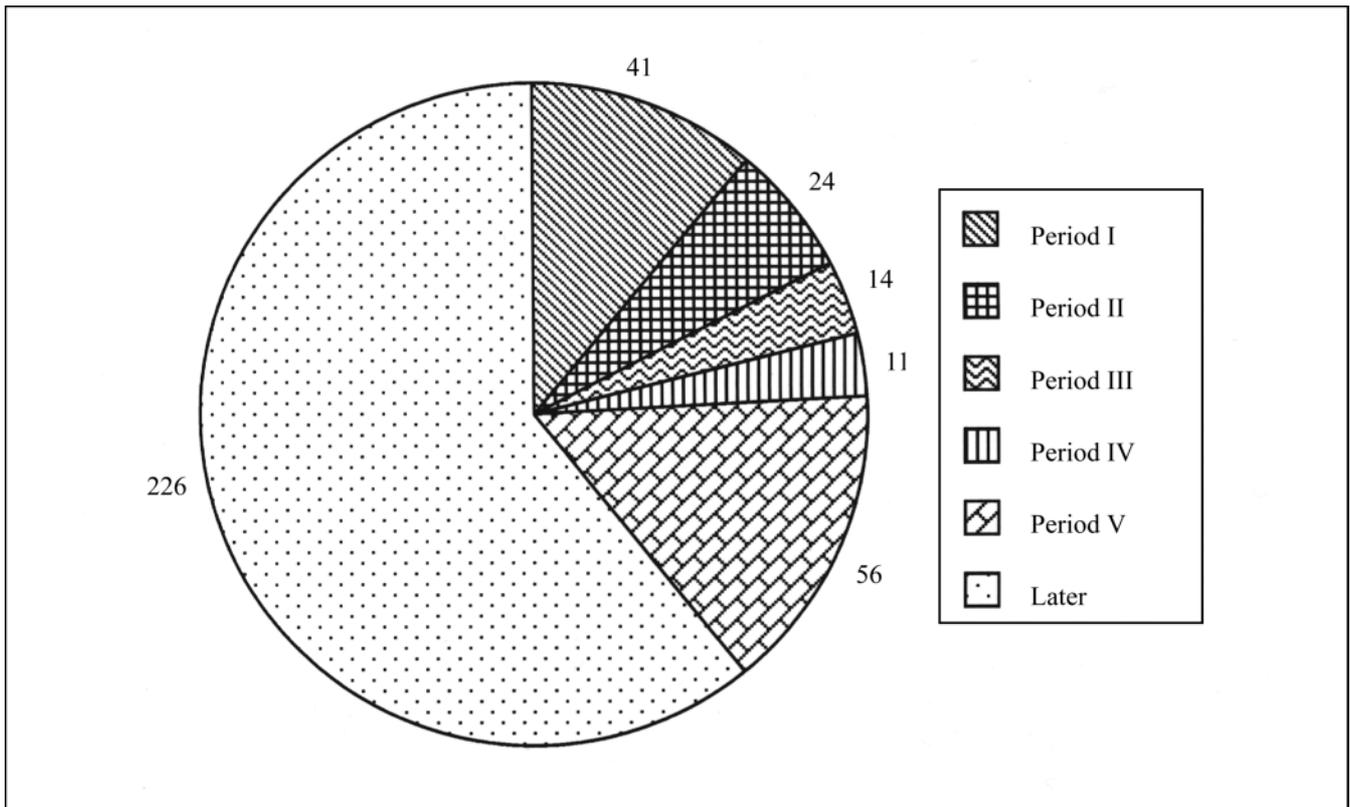
Periodisation of the ceramic assemblage is somewhat problematical. The frequent repair and rebuilding of the buildings of the south range, as well as post-abandonment taphonomic processes, has

meant that much of the pottery occurred in disturbed or residual contexts. These factors, coupled with problems inherent in the dating of Scottish ceramic assemblages, have resulted in a periodisation (below) which is occasionally at odds with the more specific chronology derived from the archaeological stratigraphy and building sequence. With this caveat in mind, the following offers an abbreviated summary of the incidence of pottery types by period and provenance:

Period I	Type	Local; Scottish white gritty ware	
	Total	41 sherds	
	Vessel types Date range	Cooking pot 12th–14th century	
Period II	Type a	French import; Saintonge green glaze ware	
	Total	8 sherds	
	Vessel type	Jug	
	Date range	Mid 13th to late 14th century	
	Type b	Local; Scottish medieval redwares	
	Total Vessel type Date range	16 sherds Jugs Late 13th to late 14th century	
Period III	Type	French import; Loire region Spanish/Portuguese import	
	Total	14 sherds	
	Vessel type Date range	Jugs Late 14th to 15th century	
Period IV	Type	Local; Scottish post-medieval reduced wares	
	Total	11 sherds	
	Vessel types	Jugs, bowls	
	Date range	Late 15th to mid 18th century	
Period V	Type	Local; iron glaze ware Local; Scottish post-medieval reduced wares	
	Total	56 sherds	
	Vessel types	Jugs, bowls, flasks and plates	
	Date range	Late 15th to early 17th century	
			French Import; Beauvais stoneware
			French import; Martincamp flask

6.2 Catalogue of illustrated ceramics (*illus 34*)

1. Two conjoining sherds forming the base and most of the body of a small-handled drinking vessel. Hard red earthenware fabric with a very dark green/black iron glaze throughout. The vessel has a round foot and a bulbous lower body, tapering to a more regular cylindrical profile at its upper part and rim. Two of five fragments of local copies of German vessels, produced in Raeren (see also no. 2). 17th-century. Context 153, backfill of trench over drain, Period V.
2. Base and most of the lower body of a small-



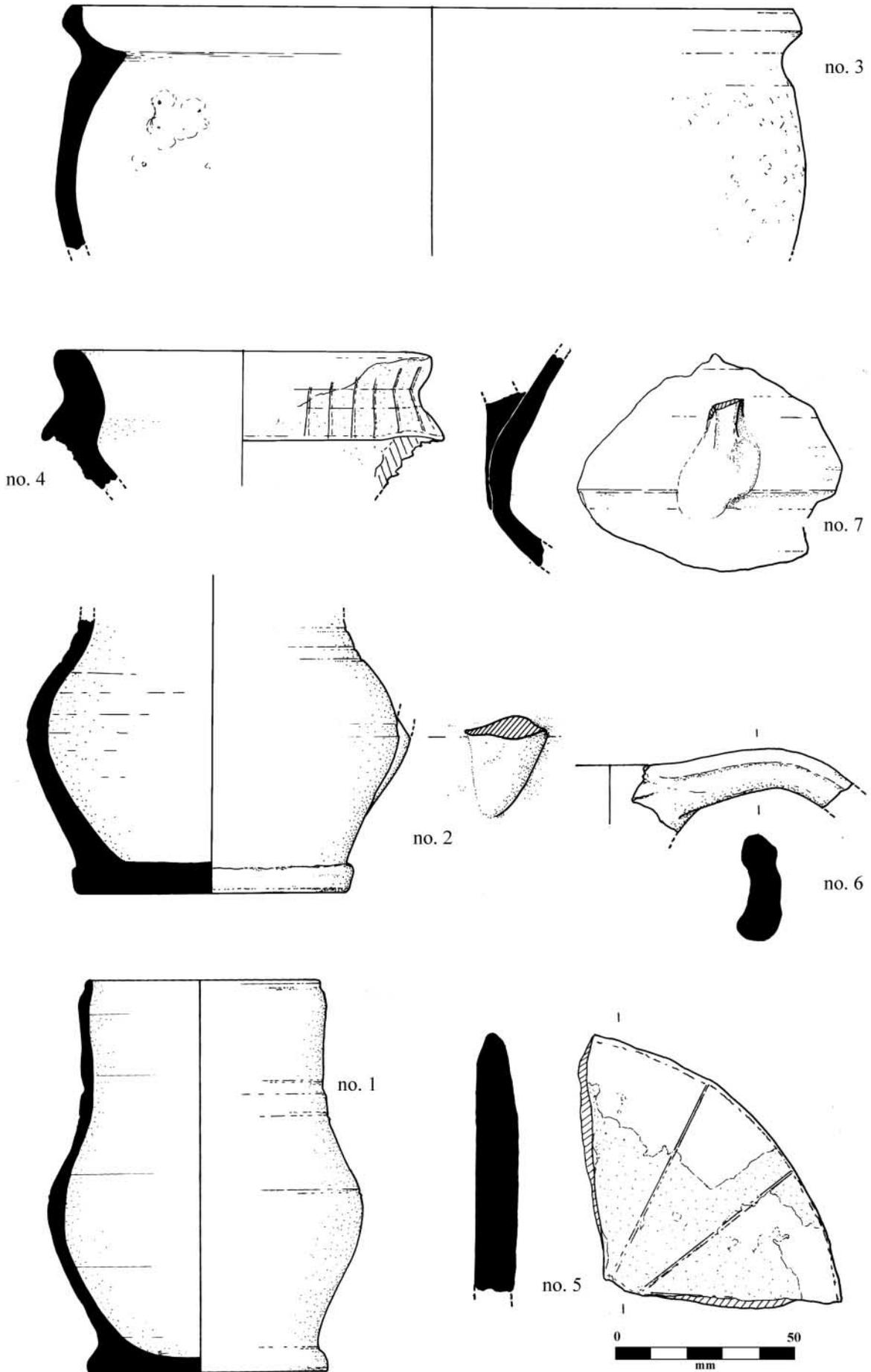
Illus 33 Pie-chart of ceramic sherds by period

handled drinking vessel. It has a hard, dark red earthenware fabric with very dark green/black iron glaze throughout. There is evidence of a single handle base fixed to the widest part of the lower body profile. Base of handle coincident with raised single line decoration. Similar to no. 1. 17th-century. Context 090, garderobe pit, Period IV.

3. Rim and body fragment of a large bowl with quite a wide rim projecting from the generally curving, almost rounded body profile (possible evidence of a lid setting). It is made from a coarse, (very gritty) pale cream/buff coloured fabric, heavily abraded externally. Internally there are splashes of green/yellow glaze around small pits, (where stone inclusions have fallen out during firing?), with drip lines down from them. This is an imported vessel, probably from Portugal or Spain. 15th-century. Context 158, remains of masonry vault, Period IV.
4. Rim and handle stub of a bowl. The rim features a band or frill decorated with incised lines with a very pale green/yellow glaze. The fabric is a soft,

fine grained pale red ware. 13th to 15th-century. Context 158, remains of masonry vault, Period IV.

5. Lid fragment, approximately 25% of a circular lid. It is decorated with incised lines, radiating from the centre. The exterior or upper surface features a patchy red/brown, extremely gritty glaze. The interior is unglazed and the fabric is a slightly gritty, smoothed pale red ware. 13th to 15th-century. Context 175, raising of floor in room 9, Period II.
6. Part of the handle of a jug. It has a very smooth, cream/buff coloured fabric with a few red gritty inclusions. This is an imported vessel from the Loire region of France. 14th-century. Context 108, dumped clay and stones supporting south side of drain, Period II.
7. A body fragment, with handle stub, probably of a locally produced 'pirlie pig' money box. It has a rilled exterior with external green glaze over red fabric reduced to grey. 15th-century. Context 158, remains of masonry vault, Period IV.



Illus 34 Selected ceramics