Further excavations at the site of a medieval leper hospital at St Nicholas Farm, St Andrews

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Introduction
(Numbers in parenthesis refer to contexts)

An excavation and watching brief were conducted by the Centre for Field Archaeology (CFA) at the site of a medieval leper hospital at St Nicholas Farm, St Andrews, Fife (NO 518 158), during February and March 1997, in advance of a proposed housing development (Illus 1). A further watching brief was also conducted subsequently during topsoil stripping in June and July of that year (Toolis 1997).

Documentary sources relating to the second half of the 12th century refer to the site of the leper hospital of St Nicholas in an area on the coast near the southern limit of St Andrews. A charter of William I dated to 1178 is the earliest surviving record although the date of the institution’s foundation is unknown. Various charters and documents refer to the existence of a hospital on this site until the late 16th century, at which time the last records refer to a change of use from leper hospital to poor house. This transition probably reflects the decline of leprosy as a significant disease in Scotland (Hall 1995, 48-52).

In 1986-87, archaeological investigations to the east of the present site confirmed the presence of structural remains probably relating to the medieval hospital. These were the first extensive excavations of a medieval leper hospital in Scotland. Thereafter, evaluation assessments conducted by the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust (SUAT) in April 1993 and late 1996 established the presence of walls and drains concentrated in two further areas, respectively north-west and south of the modern sewage works (Illus 1). These features were interpreted as the possible remains of extra-mural settlement associated with the leper hospital or its successor, the poor house (Moloney 1993, 3; Stronach 1996, 2).

Subsequent monitoring during the construction of a coastguard station some 120 m north of the 1986-87 excavations found no trace of any archeological features, indicating that the northern limit of the medieval hospital might lie under the steading of St Nicholas Farm. The southern limit of the hospital has been assumed to lie at the foot of Kinkell Brae, immediately adjacent to the sewage works. Investigations thus suggest that the hospital complex, bounded to the east and west by the precinct walls uncovered during the SUAT 1986-87 excavations (Hall 1995), was confined to the area now occupied by the steading, leisure centre and car park.

Two areas were excavated during the project reported here. Area 1 was located north-west of the sewage works; Area 2 occupied a flat terrace immediately south of that facility (Illus 1). A watching brief on a more substantial area was carried out after the completion of the excavation, and covered the remainder of the development area adjacent to Area 1.

Trench descriptions
Area 1

The core of the hospital is believed to lie under St Nicholas Steading, the modern leisure centre and its car park. Area 1 was situated at the bottom of a moderately sharp slope, east of the St Andrews – Crail road and west of St Nicholas steading, on near-level ground to the west of the probable hospital site. The St Nicholas Burn, which runs through the site on a north-south alignment, now via an underground culvert, marks the western edge of this level terrace. The underlying drift geology comprises mixed sands and gravels on a raised beach. In addition to the culverted stream, a large number of field drains cut through Area 1,
Illus 1. Location maps. All excavation trenches are shown, as are features identified during the 1997 watching brief; features identified during the excavations of 1986–87 are also mapped.
truncating many of the archaeological features and emphasising the natural wetness of this area (Illus 2). Agricultural activities, combined with the high water table and the consequent effects of rainfall, natural drainage and slope wash, almost certainly account for the thick layers of buried ploughsoil that have built up over the archaeological deposits here.

*Features in the north-east sector of Area 1.* Two layers of slope wash deposits up to 0.12 m deep overlying natural were cut by the foundation trench of a substantial but discontinuous wall (wall 1) (Illus 2). This foundation trench was irregularly cut and only intermittently evident in section. The wall, orientated NE-SW, survived to one course high and was c 0.87 m wide. It was built from large, worked, sandstone blocks, which formed its outer faces, sandwiching a core of unworked rubble (072). No mortar was evident. Redeposited hillwash (070) was packed into its foundation trench. A jug handle fragment of late 16th/17th-century Scottish Reduced Greyware with green glaze and a single abraded sherd of medieval White Gritty Ware were recovered from this backfill.

A flat surface constructed from sandstone cobbles (077) had been laid on the south side of wall 1, abutting the face of the wall (Illus 2). A
layer of very compact sand (026) was deposited on a low mound rising south from this cobbled surface. Possibly representing a former ground surface, it yielded a second issue Charles I copper turner coin (Illus 6), and occurred at the same surface level as a buried plough soil (005), located a few metres to the east. This plough soil, also abutting wall 1 (Illus 3), contained numerous shell fragments, charcoal flecks and iron-pan lenses, and appears to have accumulated over a long period, probably through slope wash. Finds from this deposit included a bronze pin (Illus 6) and a mixed assemblage of 13th- and 17th-century pottery sherds.

A clear stratigraphic sequence was identified showing several phases of activity immediately north of wall 1. The first activity evident was the excavation of a large, irregular, shallow pit with a flat base. This appeared to have been filled with a single deposit (091): a compact silty sand, containing a horse tooth. Around this pit was a compacted deposit (055) with some bone and metal fragments. Possibly contemporary with this was a deposit several metres to the east, again consisting of compact, silty sand, with frequent inclusions of pebbles (082).

Overlying these deposits were two layers of redeposited natural possibly representing the formation of a floor surface. This was then overlain in turn by a patchy, cobbled surface, possibly compacted by trampling (079). Fragments of bone were recovered from this layer. A very compact, thin, gravel layer accumulated over this surface, probably through trampling, and yielded fragments of wood. Another silty sand layer (053) lay over the trampled surface. In addition to wood fragments and some fragments of bone, one sherd of 13th-century medieval pottery, a fragment of a clay pipe and a large wooden artefact (Illus 7 and discussed below) were recovered from this deposit.

The last phase of activity north of wall 1, limited to only the central and western sectors of the excavation, included a cobbled surface laid within a compact sandy gravel spread contiguous with wall 1. Surviving intermittently in a strip parallel with and adjacent to the wall, this cobbled stopped abruptly, respecting an oval pit full of burnt material located near the western limit of wall 1. This feature was interpreted as a hearth (028). Both wall 1 and the hearth were truncated by the St Nicholas culvert and are therefore very likely originally to have been positioned close to the bank of the former St Nicholas Burn (Illus 2). A thin spread of mixed charcoal and burnt sand lay around the hearth and adjacent deposits. Overlying this and the cobbled surface was unworked sandstone rubble (045), spread unevenly north of wall 1. A smaller amount of identical rubble was distributed south of wall 1. This rubble, which was
the last identified deposit underlying thick layers of slope wash, very likely represents debris relating to the partial demolition of wall 1 (Illus 2). Contemporary with the accumulation of stratified deposits against the north face of wall 1, an additional dry-stone wall (wall 2) was constructed south of wall 1. This rather incomplete wall had a single surviving course faced with large, worked, sandstone blocks (Illus 2). There is a gap between the south face of wall 1 and the faced northern end of wall 2. Wall 2 runs in a NW-SE direction and was truncated by a drain at its southern end. Much of this wall was fragmentary, probably as a result of deliberate demolition and stone removal. Subsequent plough damage had scattered many of the remaining stones and removed any stratified layers which may have abutted the wall. Stratigraphically, wall 2 is later than wall 1; it is set in a foundation trench, 12.5 m long, 1.10 m wide and 0.08 m deep, which cuts a hillwash deposit that abuts the south face of wall 1 (Illus 3). Demolition rubble extends not more than 0.75 m from wall 2, at the same physical level as the sandstone rubble which probably derives from the destruction of wall 1 (Illus 2). It is thus possible that both walls were destroyed at about the same time.

Situated several metres further south was a large, shallow depression (094) filled with a series of dump deposits. Although it was not excavated fully it appeared to extend to the central culvert, and therefore probably reached the original bank of St Nicholas Burn (Illus 2). The earliest deposit in this depression was a fairly compacted sand. A large piece of rim sherd, from a 13th-century storage vessel of Scottish White Gritty Ware, a large bone and a fragment of red sandy fabric with a brown glaze, possibly French, were recovered from this (093). The primary deposits were sealed by a series of layers containing post-medieval pottery and bone fragments. These would appear to indicate a refuse dump. However, few organic deposits were evident from any of the fills. The last deposits were overlain by the same hillwash deposited ploughsoil that buried the demolition deposits associated with walls 1 and 2. The pottery from both wall 1 and the primary deposits of the depression is similar, which, given the close similarities between the overlying stratigraphic sequencing in both instances, suggests that the refuse dump could have been contemporary with wall 1.

Features of the north-west and south-west sectors. West of the culvert, on the opposite bank of St Nicholas Burn and a small way up slope towards the modern Crail Road, a series of hillwash deposits, rubble dumps, a large charcoal spread and the remains of mortared foundations (039), heavily truncated by modern field drains, survived (Illus 2). One deposit (062) contained fragments of bone, metal and dressed stone in addition to part of a glass goblet stem stylistically datable to the late 17th century (Illus 6). From overlying deposits a mid-17th-century coin, probably a Scottish turner or bodle, was recovered.

These layers were immediately overlain by the remains of a mortared rectangular stone structure (039) (Illus 2). This comprised large, dressed sub-angular sandstones and rubble bonded by a friable mortar. Abutting this structure was a large, thick, spread of charcoal, ash and sand containing post-medieval pottery, bone, metal and tile fragments, which had been severely truncated by modern field drains. Several discrete deposits overlay this charcoal spread including a mass of burnt sandstone rubble from which a late-17th-century coin, a Charles II copper bodle, was recovered. A mixed layer of silty sand sealed all these deposits and is probably the same hillwash that seals all the medieval archaeological remains east of St Nicholas Burn.

At a later stage a trackway (018) (Illus 1 and 2) was cut into this horizon, west of the burn and the mortared foundations. This is probably the public way from St Andrews to Crail depicted on early maps of the district (Ainslie 1775; 1801; OS 1854). This trackway led in a straight line from the north-west corner of Area 1 to the centre of its southern limit, where it was cut by the central culvert (Illus 1). It is at this point that the track would have had to cross the pre-culvert burn. The legend 'footbridge' is marked in the Ordnance Survey first edition map (OS, 1854), but it is unclear where exactly this footbridge lay; it has left no detectable archaeological trace within Area 1. Stratigraphically contemporary with the track were a series of rubble drains and linear trenches that appear to have run parallel with it. One of these trenches was filled with a deliberately deposited linear arrangement of large boulders (021), seemingly designed to revet the edge of the terrace upon which the trackway here runs.

Modern activity. A series of modern drainage features, including rubble and pipe field drains, and the culvert of St Nicholas Burn represent the last phase of activity evident in Area 1. The abundance of drains, necessary for raising the agricultural potential of an area with a high water table, has had a profoundly detrimental impact on the survival of archaeological remains in Area 1.

Area 2

Area 2 was located further south within the same field as Area 1, between Kinkell Brae and the sewage works (Illus 1). The field here slopes down sharply towards the east from the Crail Road and merges immediately south of Area 2 with the slope of Kinkell Brae, before forming a gently sloping
north-facing terrace. This terrace continues north and east, beyond the leisure complex and car park, forming a more level area, on which the medieval leper hospital was most probably centred. Area 2 covered this terrace from the break of the slopes below Kinkell Brae and the Crail Road to the southern limits of the sewage works (Illus 4).

Late medieval features. The earliest activity evident in Area 2 was the construction of a cobbled surface (106) leading north-south up towards Kinkell Brae (Illus 4). The surviving remains of the cobbled surface were restricted to a natural, shallow hollow in the slope of the terrace which lay on a NW-SE orientation from the break of slope below Kinkell Brae (Illus 4). In addition to shell fragments and a copper-alloy strip, a sherd of 15th-century White Gritty Ware was recovered set within the pebble surface of this context. A layer of soft hillwash had accumulated in the hollow sealing this surface.

Post-medieval features. The next phase of activity evident in the hollow in the south-east sector of Area 2 was the construction of a dry-stone wall (wall 3) on a north-westerly orientation. An apparently deliberate gap interrupts this wall line (Illus 4). Only one course of disturbed stones survived, rising no higher than the top lip of the natural
hollow within which wall 3 lay. Modern pottery was found within this fill, the wall being much disturbed by later activity.

A wide rubble-filled drain (105) cut through the wall (Illus 4). Post-medieval and modern pottery was found amongst the rubble. A box drain (110) aligned NE-SW lay several metres further west and appeared to follow a course which would, if projected beyond the limit of the trench, connect it with this rubble drain (Illus 4). However, the modern sewage-pipe trench obliterated any trace of this connection. An indication of the later disturbance of this part of the site is the inclusion of a late 17th-century coin, probably a Scottish Turner or bodle, and window glass dating from after 1860 within the fill of the sewage-pipe trench. Another box drain appeared to have branched off from the rubble-filled drain, immediately south of wall 3 (Illus 4). More post-medieval pottery was found in this feature.

The dry-stone wall (wall 3) and the field drains, disturbed to a great extent by modern ploughing and the installation of a water mains and sewage pipe, appear to represent 18th- or 19th-century farming activity. A number of bone fragments, dressed stone, pottery sherds, concentrated particularly in the eastern sector of Area 2, were recovered from the hillwashed ploughsoil (100) overlying the remains of this phase of activity. The recovery of 3 sherds from a decorated continental 16th-century stover tile was particularly noteworthy. These are the first ever examples excavated in Scotland, and are discussed below. No structure with which this tile could be associated was identified.

Several test pits (Illus 4) were dug into the subsoil in area 2 to examine whether archaeological deposits of earlier date had been buried by significant deposits of hillwash. This did not prove to be the case and all these test pits were sterile.

General – watching brief. Topsoil stripping of the remainder of the development site, judged less sensitive because of the sloping topography, commenced in June 1997. A watching brief was carried out by CFA to record any archaeological features prior to development work. Six discrete archaeological features were identified and recorded during this procedure.

Early historic and medieval activity. The earliest archaeological feature identified was a single example of a much-disturbed long cist (Illus 1). The remains of the grave took the form of a trapezoidal trench containing slabs (Illus 5). A fragmentary, thin copper-alloy artefact, a sherd of White Gritty pottery and a modest number of small and fragmented bones and charcoal were recovered from the silty sand. The grave had an east-west orientation and contained no identifiable human skeletal remains.

An oval pit, also aligned east-west, was uncovered and excavated (Illus 1). A number of flat sandstone slabs were found in the fill of this pit; they had been much disturbed. This fill was very similar to that of the long-cist grave. This probable cist yielded only a modest number of finds, comprising two small fragments of indeterminate animal bone and a White Gritty pot sherd. The original function of this pit is not certain, but the presence of the sandstone slabs suggests it may have been a further cist burial.

Topsoil stripping revealed more remains of the trackway, as exposed in Area 1 (Illus 1). These ran towards the north-west, confirming the route depicted in the Ordnance Survey first edition map (OS, 1854). No finds were recovered from either its surface or make up. A large oval pit was uncovered approximately 10 m west of this trackway, close to the northern perimeter of the development area (Illus 1). This was filled with silty sand (202) with inclusions of shell fragments, bone fragments and a modest number of pottery sherds. These include 1 sherd of Blue Grey ladle attributable to the 12th or early 13th century, a sherd of a type 3 Martincamp flask from the 17th century and a sherd of post-medieval Redware ware with a green glaze of possible 15th-century date, indicative of dumped deposits of mixed origin. A full list of the pottery from this context is given in the pot report below.
Illus 6. Coin, glass and pin finds.
Modern activity. Two cattle burials were uncovered (Illus 1). Both occurred in pits, aligned roughly north-south, which had similar shaped cuts. One burial was partially excavated to reveal a well-preserved cattle skeleton apparently lacking a skull. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this partial excavation.

The other example was fully excavated revealing a complete, articulated adult cattle skeleton, which had been interred on its back. The bones were well preserved and a small pottery assemblage within the silty, sand fill ranged from the 13th to the early 19th century. The shared characteristics of the two burials, expressed by the contents of their fills, the cut shapes and their common orientation appear to imply a common age for the two burials, with the earlier pottery recovered being residual.

Both these cattle burials were located within an oval enclosure defined by an irregular ditch (Illus 1), which displayed a break near its southern limit. The ditch terminals were significantly wider and deeper than the remainder of its course, suggesting a focus on the entrance structure. No finds were recovered from the ditch fills and the interior of the enclosure was otherwise featureless.

Two other features were identified in the watching brief. An L-shaped slot trench was exposed west of the western limits of Area 1 (Illus 1). Its silty sand fill yielded a number of disarticulated bones including the skull of a horse. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. A pit was excavated near the north-west corner of the development site (Illus 1). It contained modern pottery, glass and plastic debris.

Discussion

The excavation was successful in locating features that probably relate to activity associated with the precinct of the leper hospital of the Blessed Nicholas, as defined by the 1986/7 SUAT excavations (Hall 1995). Analysis of the finds from stratified deposits exposed during the 1997 excavations indicate that these features belong to the late medieval period, and are possibly to be attributed to the development of the leper hospital into a poor’s house. The scope for confident interpretation of these features is undoubtedly restricted, but a number of tentative inferences can be made in particular regarding the late medieval activity evident in the north east sector of Area 1.

The relatively substantial accumulation of stratified deposits immediately north of wall 1, in contrast to the largely homogeneous and sterile deposits south of that wall, indicates that one focus of activity lies to the north of wall 1. The breadth and shallowness of the foundation trenches for both walls 1 and 2 are none the less difficult to comprehend. The foundation trench of wall 2 for example survives to a depth of 0.08 m at most, while its width is 1.10 m; whereas the wall it contains has a maximum width of only 0.6 m. The foundation trench for wall 1 has a depth of only 0.10 m and a width of 1.47 m; the wall it holds is significantly narrower at 0.87 m. The presence of stratified deposits overlying the foundation cut on both sides of this wall implies both that the foundation trench was never significantly greater in depth and furthermore that it was originally cut to the surviving width. It seems likely that what survives of the foundation trench of wall 2 is similarly intact.

The stratigraphic sequence shows that wall 2 is later than wall 1 and that it was perhaps built at some time during the accumulation of deposits on the north side of wall 1. There is plausible evidence
for the contemporaneous destruction of these two walls. Their alignments may have implications for the interpretation proposed by Hall (1995, 58) of the hospital boundaries. They may have formed an annex extending from the north-western corner of the hospital precinct as previously identified to the edge of St Nicholas Burn, thus indicating an expansion of the hospital at some time in the 15th or 16th century. A reorganisation of the central portion of the hospital, involving the destruction of some buildings and deliberate levelling, construed from the results of previous work (Hall 1995, 59), could equally account for the deposits associated with these walls.

These features may however relate to entirely different activities. The location of these walls adjacent to St Nicholas Burn might imply a connection with the use of water; perhaps powering a mill. Previous work at St Nicholas Farm (Moloney 1993: 4) has suggested that St Nicholas Burn had been deliberately straightened at a point near the modern sewage works where it reached the foot of the slope and turned northwards. The construction of a mill might have required this. The absence of significant foundations to wall 1 makes its function as part of a mill none the less very unlikely. An alternative hypothesis - that the wall is part of an outbuilding of the farm or of the poor's house - is undermined by the contrast between the relatively substantial nature of the wall and the insubstantial nature of outbuildings of the late medieval period in Scotland as otherwise recorded. The dimensions of wall 1 are not dissimilar to the boundary walls identified during the 1986/7 excavations (Hall 1995) which may suggest it had the same function. However this interpretation is questionable since the main body of stratified deposits appear on the north side of wall 1, with few stratified deposits to the south. The cobbled surface identified adjacent to the north face of this wall could have been a frequently used path that led to the burn for collecting water and/or for the disposal of waste.

The trackway depicted in the Ordnance Survey first edition map (OS, 1854) seems likely to have crossed St Nicholas Burn at some point, and is likely to relate to the 'footbridge' discussed above. It is surprising that no reference to a ford is made on the map as the trackway is substantial enough to have carried more than just foot traffic and seems to have been partially revetted with a series of large boulders. No finds were recovered from its surface or make up although the fragment of glass and the coin from an adjacent stone and mortar feature suggest it was in use by the late 17th century.

The large shallow pit (94), some 4 m south of wall 1 and cut into the bank of St Nicholas Burn (Illus 2), contains dump material that has been argued to be associated with the deposits north of wall 1. The pottery assemblage from the deposits abutting wall 1 matches the assemblage from the pit deposits. The pit is truncated by the modern culvert and is therefore assumed to have also been cut by the burn. The sparsity of organic material in the deposits found within the pit suggests that its contents are not domestic midden material.

The remains of a cobbled surface recorded in Area 2 could relate to the old coast road to Crail, as postulated by Hall (1995, 58). The few datable finds recovered associated with it support a later medieval date. The thick accumulation of cultivation soil sealing this surface before post-medieval farming activity took place suggests that the road was abandoned at some time in the late medieval or early post-medieval period.

Subsequent to the deliberate, and apparently concurrent, destruction of walls 1 and 2 adjacent to St Nicholas Farm in Area 1, a thick cultivation soil formed over the remains. Following this development a number of agricultural features such as field drains, field walls, and a farm track are evident and almost certainly relate to the St Nicholas Farm depicted in the early maps of the district (Ainslie 1775; 1801; OS 1854).

The only activity evident on the site that may pre-date wall 1 was the long-cist grave and the associated pit. Long-cist graves are traditionally ascribed to either the Iron Age or the early Christian period. The pit with disturbed sandstone slabs in its shallow fill may also be a grave, despite its rather shorter length of 1.20 m. However, the disrupted state of this feature allows no confident interpretation. The recovery of 15th-century White Gritty pottery from both features would appear to contradict such early dates, although the extensive disturbance of both features precludes reliance on the ceramic assemblage for dating. The disturbed nature of these graves may help to explain the recovery of fragments of disarticulated human bone below the hospital buildings during the 1986 excavations.

The two cattle burials recorded during the watching brief are somewhat enigmatic. The articulated nature of these animal bones suggests it is unlikely that the bones of the fully-excavated example had been disturbed which, from the mixed pottery assemblage in one (both 13th and early-19th-century), implies the later date for this example. The adjacent and very similar burial, only partially excavated and apparently without a skull, yielded two sherds of 13th century pottery, which may be redeposited. The ditch enclosing the two burials is an unusual feature. At its southern entrance, the two terminals of the enclosure ditch were significantly wider and deeper than the remainder of the ditch, suggesting these may have held uprights. The absence of finds from the ditch leads to difficulty in dating. The location of the burials within this enclosure suggests they may be contemporary with it, which would make them all modern.
The large oval pit, the L-shaped slot trench and modern pit would appear to belong to later activity. The mixed ceramic assemblage from the oval pit indicates a late medieval date and the assorted bone fragments suggest a rubbish pit. The L-shaped slot had no datable material and the curious shape and content of the fill, including a horse skull, are somewhat mystifying. The pit, containing glass, bone and plastics is quite clearly a modern.

The results from the 1997 excavations thus enlarge somewhat on the evidence for a range of activities taking place in this part of the periphery of St Andrews in the present millennium, as already sketched by Hall (1995). As with the earlier work, there are some indications (in the form of possible burials) of use of the area before the establishment of the leper hospital, which certainly existed in the 12th century. By the 17th century or shortly thereafter, the area seems to have reverted to being agricultural land, the dependencies of the farm illustrated by Slezer (Hall 1995). Whether directly associated with the hospital or not (not is perhaps more likely), some of the small finds (such as the 16th-century stone tile) intimate something of the wider connections and status of some of the inhabitants of the locality.

The pottery from St Nicholas Farm, St Andrews

George Haggarty

Overview

As yet there is no good evidence for the production of medieval pottery in Fife, although it has been suggested that some distorted Scottish White Gritty Ware (SWGW) items, recovered from First World War trenching of a midden at Tentsmuir, just north of St Andrews, were possible wasters. The Soil Survey of Scotland (1982) shows Pitscottie and the area around Leuchars to be the nearest places to St Andrews that have large pockets of white firing clays suitable for potting. Field walking in these areas has now produced one of the largest concentrations of SWGW surface finds in Scotland, lending support to the idea of local production. Lloyd Laing (1973) coined the name ‘Leuchars ware’ to describe this material, which he divided it into two grades, one of which is described as fine and thin and the other tending to be thick and coarse. By general agreement amongst Scottish medieval archaeologists this pottery is now described simply as SWGW.

One other possible Fife kiln site at Balchystie has previously been postulated. A geophysical survey by Roger Walker showed a magnetic anomaly in the suspected field, but without excavation the existence of a kiln here can only be suggested. In form, Fife medieval cooking pots tend to be similar to the more globular variants of East Lothian types (as recovered from the Coulston kiln) but the Fife examples lack any hint of a shoulder cordon. Like the Coulston pottery, the rims tend to be square or rectangular. One subgroup, consisting of large two-handled vessels, was first recorded from an early excavation by NQ Bogdan in St Andrews: these seem to have been used as cooking pots.

Among the noteworthy early medieval pottery from St Nicholas there is a single small sherd of Blue Grey ladle or Paffrath-type ware, found in Context WB202. This sherd has the characteristic silvery-blue metallic sheen of the classic Paffrath-type globular cooking pots and handled ladles. Beckmann (1974) has suggested that this material may be the proto-type of the later Seigburg stoneware industry. Paffrath probably reached Scotland via the Low Countries, with secondary contact directly from the continental interior by way of the rivers Meuse and Rhine. The Scottish distribution of this material is now known to be much more extensive than when Thoms (1983) published her list of Scottish imports. Fragments have been found on most large-scale, east coast, urban excavations, for example at Berwick on Tweed, Perth, St Andrews and Aberdeen (Verhaeghe 1983). New or unpublished finds include examples from Leith, the Isle of May and Ballinbreich Castle, Fife. Paffrath Ware can be as early as the 10th century in northern Europe, but seems to date to the 12th or early 13th century on Scottish sites.

The greater part of the pottery from St Nicholas consists of Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware. The best archaeologically controlled date for this type is the 1600–1637 group from the excavation in the Tron Church, Edinburgh (Holmes 1975, 137–163). The present author has published a summary description of this ceramic material, and its partner Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware (Haggarty 1980 and 1980a). The latter is usually more common than the oxidised version, but the St Nicholas assemblage is an exception. This pottery has a ubiquitous Scottish distribution and long date range: it appears probably to have been in use from the late 15th to early 18th centuries.

It has been suggested that production sites for these wares included locations within old Glasgow (Calton) and another near Stirling. This proposition has been partly substantiated by work funded by Historic Scotland, which has confirmed a large production area centred on Throsk, near Stirling (Caldwell and Dean 1992); this was in use between the 17th and early 18th centuries. It is at present not uncommon for archaeologists to call all this material Throsk-type ware. The present author would however prefer to retain Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced and Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Wares as general descriptors, except for
the pottery from the Throsk excavations. Terminology can be reviewed after the publication of the first phase of the scientific work currently being undertaken on this pottery by the British Geological Survey for the Scottish Medieval Pottery Group.

One of the more important post-medieval ceramic fragments from the St Nicholas site is a tiny fragment of fired pipe clay (from Context 056). This might possibly be part of a mould. As there is no sign of the fragment having been in contact with a secondary heat source, however, it is much more likely to be from some sort of figurine. Although small and not very informative, the St Nicholas fragment would thus be part of a white figurine which originated in the Netherlands, where pipe clay figurines made before 1500 usually depicted religious subjects, such as the Madonna and Child. A fragment of such a Madonna and Child figurine was recovered from excavations at Fast Castle, near St Abb's on the Berwickshire coast. This fragment was dated to the last quarter of the 15th century (Haggarty and Jennings 1993, 48; Mitchell 1988, 72, plate 25). Later figurines are mainly of a more secular, indeed, profane nature (Jan Baart pers comm). Unfortunately there is no way of dating this small fragment, although the other pottery in the context might suggest a 17th-century date.

Probably even more important are three very small sherds, two of which conjoin, from Context 100. Although too fragmentary to merit illustration, they are from a Continental 16th-century stove tile decorated with copper-rich lead glaze over a white slip. The body consists of a red/brown sandy matrix with approximately 15–20 per cent quartz sand, sparse mica flakes and a few other inclusions. There is no evidence of sooting on the reverse of these sherds. What is obvious from the study of 16th-century stove tiles known in Britain is that they occur principally on high status ecclesiastical and aristocratic sites in pre-Dissolution England. A number of papers on continental and British stove tiles have been published, of which the most recent and relevant are by Gaimster (Gaimster 1988; Gaimster et al 1990). The latter paper states that there are 35 known find spots in Britain for continental stove tiles, of which 25 were in the Greater London area. Although stove tiles have been discovered as far north as Fountains Abbey and Sheffield Manor in Yorkshire, no examples have previously been recorded from Scotland. It is unfortunate that the archaeological evidence from St Nicholas does not contribute to the dating of this material, nor is it directly indicative of the former position of a stove. Continental lead-glazed stove tiles were traded around the Rhine and Low Countries and a few production sites are known. A lower Rhenish origin has been suggested for the London material (ibid).

Other continental imports include 5 sherds, from the Low Countries, of a lead-glazed earthenware pipkin of late 16th- or early 17th-century date, recovered in Context 085. Low Countries Redware is the name given to a large group of undecorated lead-glazed earthenware with a wide date range, manufactured in many centres from the 13th century onwards. Kilns are known from Utrecht, Aardenburg and Bergen op Zoom. This pottery shows an exceptional typological uniformity. Early forms usually have glazed patches on the exterior. By the end of the 15th century, however, the external glaze cover is complete. Low Countries Redware forms from other sites in St Andrews include a skillet with rod handles and cauldrons with thumbed feet. Large amounts of this pottery have been recovered from excavations in Newcastle, Hull, Norwich and other English east coast towns, in contexts dating from the middle of the 14th century onwards. Although pottery of similar date has been recovered from other Scottish east coast burghs, the quantities are small and the range of forms is limited.

From Context 089 there is also one small rim sherd in a typical Saintonge buff fabric with tiny red hematite inclusions, possibly from a green/brown, decorated vessel, attributable to the period 1550–1650. It has degraded lead glaze and white slip over rim with traces of brown decoration starting about 1 cm below the internal lip. It also displays a very slight trace of green decoration on the flaked exterior about 2 cm below the rim. There are also two vertical bands of fine-stabbed decoration associated with the green decoration. The Saintonge area of south-west France has long been known for its medieval pottery industry. This developed from the late 11th or early 12th century and produced a range of cooking-pots, jugs and tableware in a fine white to buff fabric, which is often micaceous. Saintonge ware was exported in vast quantities from the mid-13th century. Recent work has located 50 or more kilns on a limestone plateau above the Charnel river to the north-east of Saintes (Hurst et al 1986, 76–77). The earliest jugs produced were globular with large spouts (parrot beaks), flat bases and broad strap handles. The 13th century saw a change in style to taller jugs with flanged bases and a variety of decoration; these were produced mainly for the export market. The potters also made a range of elegant polychrome glazed vessels, which usually occur in late 13th or early 14th century contexts in Britain. The commonest Saintonge pottery type imported into Scotland were jugs with a light-green glaze, often speckled. Some English east coast towns (eg Hull) have produced very large Saintonge groups. Scotland has nothing to compare with this, although excavations first by Bill Lindsay, then by the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust, in Ayr would seem to suggest that Saintonge pottery may be
more common in the south west of Scotland than on the east coast.

Although in the main the pottery from this excavation takes the form of small, fairly insignificant sherds, the cumulative evidence from the material would suggest that the site is in the main post-medieval in date. However, as would be expected near a medieval burgh as important as St Andrews, there are indications of earlier activity in the vicinity in the form of a small residual pottery assemblage of late 12th- or early 13th-century date. Somewhat harder to understand is the lack of late medieval (ie 14th or 15th century) pottery in the St Nicholas assemblage. Overall, this small group of post-medieval pottery would seem to show some indications of status, especially with regard to the continental stove tile. Such stoves would have needed workers from the continent to assemble them.

Catalogue

After the context number is quoted an estimate of the minimum number of vessels contained within it (in brackets). This is followed by a short description of the sherds, where possible identifying the vessel type and a likely date of manufacture. None of the pottery merits illustration. Although a few of the sherds are very interesting or unusual, in the mind these examples are very small and as such would add little to any catalogue of Scottish medieval ceramic forms.

Area 1

001 (2) An unstratified group of 19th-century redwares, stoneware, earthenwares and one fragment of early 18th-century tin glazed earthenware along with five sherds of abraded 13th-century Scottish White Gritty Ware.

004 (4) 1 sherd of tin glazed earthenware with blue decoration: late 17th/or early 18th century; probably Dutch.
1 tiny sherd of tin glazed earthenware with traces of blue decoration: 17th/18th century.
2 small redware tile fragment: post-medieval.
2 small sherds from a medieval Scottish White Gritty Ware bowl with a yellow internal glaze.

005 (5) 3 conjoining sherds from an applied and stamped brown salt glazed stoneware bellarmine: Frechen; early 17th century. The medallion is an inaccurate copy of the Arms of Amsterdam. For a similar published example of this common type: see Jennings 1981, fig 52, no 872.
2 sherds in a smooth red paste from a small Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware vessel: probably from the first half of the 17th century.
10 sherds from a Scottish White Gritty Ware jug: medieval.
2 abraded sherds from a Scottish White Gritty Ware jug: 13th century.

1 sherd in a red sandy fabric: English 13th century.
006 (4) 1 redware sherd unglazed: 18th/19th century.
1 redware sherd with a black iron or manganese glaze: 18th/19th century.
1 redware sherd with a white slip under the glaze: late 18th early 19th century.
1 small abraded Scottish White Gritty Ware sherd: 13th century.
014 (2) 1 green glazed, Scottish White Gritty Ware rod handle fragment from a jug with typical piercing: 13th century.
021 (1) 2 abraded sherds of Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.
026 (3) 1 Scottish Oxidised Post-Medieval base sherd: 17th century.
1 abraded Scottish White Gritty Ware sherd: medieval.
1 abraded Scottish White Gritty Ware sherd: medieval.
027 (5) 6 small sherds in a red brown fabric: green glazed on both surfaces: medieval: English.
3 sherds, 2 body and 1 strap handle fragment all in a smooth white abraded fabric: medieval.
2 sherds in a white gritty fabric tempered with large red iron rich grits: medieval.
1 large fragment of a glazed red earthenware vessel with a thick brown glaze on both surfaces: decorated with incised lines on the exterior. Looks late: the author suggests a 17th-century date.

1 sherd of a medieval red sandy ware: English.
040 (2) 2 Scottish Post Medieval Oxidised Ware sherds: one is a rim probably from a small drug pot: 17th century.
1 tin glazed earthenware sherd with later burning: 17th/18th century.
053 (1) 1 sherd of Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.
054 (1) 1 sherd of Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.
056 (7) 1 small ceramic fragment possibly from a mould.
There is no sign of it having been in contact with a secondary heat source and it is much more likely to be from some sort of Dutch figurine.
There is no way of dating this small fragment although the other pottery in this context would suggest a 17th-century date.
2 rim sherds from a drug jar: Low Countries: 17th century.
1 sherd Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware: 17th century.
1 abraded tile fragment: Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware: Probably 17th century.
5 sherds abraded Internal glaze: Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware: post-medieval.
1 sherd of Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware: 17th century.
2 abraded sherds from a Scottish Reduced
White Gritty Ware jug: medieval.

069 (1) 1 rim sherd from a Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware bowl: 17th century.

070 (2) 1 Scottish Reduced Greyware jug handle fragment: green glazed: late 16th or early 17th century.

1 abraded Scottish White Gritty Ware sherd: medieval.

072 (1) 1 fragment of a Low Countries Redware vessel: gritty red sandy fabric. The dipped green glaze is still good on exterior but degraded on interior. This sherd is grittier than most of the fabric found on Low Countries imported vessels in Scotland for example from Context 027 here: looks 16th/17th-century in date.

081 (1) 1 base sherd from a Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware jug: this would seem to be from a smaller vessel than is usual in this type of ware.

085 (4) 5 sherds of Low Countries red earthenware: glazed pipkin: late 16th or early 17th century.

3 abraded sherds of Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware: 17th century.

1 abraded sherd from a Scottish White Gritty Ware jug: medieval.

1 abraded sherd of Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.

086 (3) 9 sherds of Scottish Post-medieval Oxidised Ware: possibly from a storage vessel: late 16th or early 17th century.

1 sherd from Low Countries red earthenware: glazed pipkin; probably from the same vessel as 085: 16th or 17th century.

3 small sherds from a Low Countries highly fired lead-glazed white earthenware vessel: green glazed on both interior and exterior. This type is not at all common in Scotland: 16th or early 17th century.

089 (3) 7 sherds of Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware; possibly from a storage vessel.

1 tiny abraded jug rim sherd from a pulled spout: Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.

1 small rim sherd in a typical Saintonge buff fabric with tiny red hematite inclusions: degraded lead glaze and white slip over rim with traces of brown decoration starting about 1 cm below the internal lip. The sherd also has a very slight trace of green decoration on the flaked exterior about 2 cm below rim: there are also two vertical bands of fine-stabbed decoration associated with the green decoration: Saintonge Green/Brown ware: c. 1550-1650.

093 (2) 1 rim sherd possibly from a storage vessel in Scottish White Gritty Ware: exterior covered with a green yellow lead glaze: late medieval.

1 small flake in a red sandy fabric: brown external glaze: possibly French.

100 (6) 54 sherds from the bottom half of a fairly thick Scottish White Gritty Ware jug externally covered with a green glaze; possibly 13th century.

1 large basal angle sherd in Scottish Post-Medieval Oxidised Ware. Green glazed on both surfaces: possibly a storage vessel. Similar to that in Context 005 (this is a 17th-century example).

1 small blue decorated sherd of Chinese porcelain: Chi’s Lung: 18th century.

3 small sherds: two conjoining: from a decorated continental 16th-century stove tile. All the sherds are covered with a copper-rich lead glaze over a white slip. The fabric consists of a red/brown sandy matrix: approximately 15 to 20 per cent quartz sand, sparse mica flakes and a few other inclusions.

1 tiny sherd of Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.

1 small abraded rim sherd from a Scottish White Gritty Ware jug: medieval.

101 (3) 1 tiny sherd of abraded Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.

1 sherd of a brown glazed red earthenware: 19th century.

1 sherd of a brown glazed red earthenware: 19th century.

105 (3) 3 sherds of blue feather-edged pearlware plate: early 19th century.

3 sherds white earthenware: early 19th century.

1 large abraded thick green glazed sherd from a Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware jug: knife trimmed.

106 (2) 1 sherd white earthenware: 19th century.

1 sherd brown glazed earthenware: 19th century.

WB 001 (1) 1 rod-handle fragment with a vertical groove: possibly 15th century.

WB 201 (3) 2 jug sherds one with a handle/rim scar: Scottish White Gritty Ware: possibly 15th century.

1 glazed redware sherd: 19th century.

1 glazed strap handle sherd: Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.

WB 202 (6) 1 sherd: Blue Grey ladle: This sherd has the characteristic silvery-blue metallic sheen of the classic Paifrath-type globular cooking pots and handled ladle: 12th or early 13th century

1 sherd of a type 3 Martincamp long-necked flask: 17th century.

1 tiny sherd of Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.

2 tiny jug sherds: Scottish White Gritty Ware: medieval.

1 sherd: Scottish Post-Medieval Reduced Ware: green glazed on exterior: 16th century.

1 basal angle sherd from a ballister-style jug: gritty reduced fabric: green glazed on both surfaces: possibly French: late medieval.

WB 204 (4) Rim sherd from a small white salt-glazed stoneware bowl: Staffordshire or Preston-
pans; third quarter 18th century.
Rim sherd from a small red ware bowl; white internal slip late 18th or early 19th century.
2 small sherds; Scottish White Gritty Ware cooking pot; medieval.

1 sherd of Scottish Reduced White Gritty Ware; medieval.

WB 205 (2)
1 small sherd; Scottish White Gritty Ware; external pink slip; medieval.
1 sherd; Scottish White Gritty Ware; medieval.

WB 208 (1)
1 sherd; Scottish White Gritty Ware; medieval.

WB 211 (1)
1 sherd of a type 3 Martincamp flask. These flasks are dated to the 17th century (Hurst et al 1986, 102–4) and are extremely common in Scotland, where they are found on most late medieval sites of any status (Haggarty and Jennings 1993).

Long-necked flasks were produced in Martincamp, which lies almost half way between Beauvais and Dieppe, from the second half of the 15th to the 17th century. Three distinct types are found. Type 1, in a hard off-white to light buff earthenware, dates from 1475 to 1550. Type 2 consists of hard light to dark grey stoneware, of 16th-century date. Type 3 is made in a very hard orange/red earthenware/near-stoneware and is attributable to the 17th century. The necks of these flasks were made separately and then luted to the vessels.

The glass from St Nicholas Farm, St Andrews
R K Murdoch

Area 1

001 Rim and part shoulder from small jar, probably ointment, in bright firebright green with external thread for screw cap fitting, 20th century. Small sherd sheet window glass 3 mm thick with very pale grey green tinge, 20th century. Small lip sherd from wine bottle in dull mid-olive green, generally light patina. Lip is slightly out turned over triangular section down tooled string ring; neck significantly nipped in, mid-18th century. Very small sherd probable wine bottle, pale green with moderate flaky patina, probably 18th century.

004 Small curved sherd in clear firebright with light iridescent patina in the shatter, probably 20th century.

014 Body sherd from wine bottle in dull mid-green with dulled, possibly secondary surface. Slight belling evident, 18th century. Small sherd window glass 1.2–1.5 mm thick with pale sea green tinge and dulled slightly abraded surfaces. Slightly curved striation indicates crown glass 18th to early 19th century.

047 Part kickup from wine bottle in dull slightly olive green with mainly light iridescent patina, moderate in the shatter, probably 18th century. Shoulder sherd from wine bottle in pale dull green with light iridescent patina, probably 18th century.

058 Two conjoining sherds from wine bottle base in dark olive green, mostly light iridescent patina but some moderate in the shatter. Originally c 90 mm dia with pronounced belling and a rounded 30 mm deep kick; wear abrasion of the base; late 18th century or more probably, judging by the colour, early 19th century. Base fragment from similar bottle. Shatter fragment similar.

062 Part stem from drinking vessel or sweetmeat dish in clear firebright metal with spiral groove decoration. The decoration is quite consistent but there are no mould marks and slight irregularities in overall shape suggest that the piece was handmade, but expertly. The stem consists of a flattened knop surmounting a merese which in turn surmounts an inverted baluster, the whole being characteristic of the fussy knopy styles of the late 17th to early 18th centuries. 4 conjoining sherds of base from wine bottle 95–100 mm dia in mid-green with moderate to heavy flaky patina; distinct belling, probably late first half 18th century.

Area 2

100 Wine bottle neck and lip in mid-green with moderate flaky patina. Broad, probably enhanced, lip out turned over heavy downtooled, neatly finished string ring; very slight nipping of neck. Neck height 94 mm, sharp angle of entry into shoulder, aperture 16.5 mm, probably last quarter 18th century.

101 13 sherds, several conjoining and all probably from the same wine bottle neck in dull mid-, slightly olive green; some sherds have moderate patina particularly on the inner surfaces. Fairly sharp angle of entry of neck into shoulder plus small surviving sherd of lip shows downtooled triangular string ring nipping in neck, probably mid-18th century.

105 Very small sherd probable wine bottle in mid green with moderate stable patina on inside surface, 18th century.

107 Sherd window glass, pale aqua tinge, 1.5 mm thick. Surfaces are optically good and consistent thickness would indicate sheet glass of post-1860.

Watching brief

201 Shoulder sherd, probably from bottle in clear firebright with slight abrasion at the shoulder, vertical mould line, probably 20th century.

Discussion

This is a fairly mundane assemblage with the exception of the spiral grooved stem from Context 062 (Illus 6). Although the overall shape of this
Table 1: identifiable bone fragments from St Nicholas Farm (C = Context; P = Preservation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Context type</th>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Side</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Zones: &gt; 50%</th>
<th>&lt; 50%</th>
<th>P Taphonomy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>004</td>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Scapula</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>&gt; 7-10 months</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005</td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Tibia</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>&gt; 20-24 months</td>
<td>56 10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 Gnawed, carnivore and rodent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Humerus</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>&gt; 6 months</td>
<td>7 8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Scapula</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>&gt; 6-8 months</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheep/goat</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Metacarpal</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5 6 7 8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheep/goat</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Radius</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6 7 8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>006</td>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Tibia</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4 8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>026</td>
<td>Sheep/goat</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Molar tooth</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>027</td>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Humerus</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>&gt; 15 months</td>
<td>1 2 9 10 11 7 8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Worn or worked/ flattened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Tibia</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>&gt; 20-24 months</td>
<td>5 6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1 Recent break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Premolar tooth</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>very old</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Calcaneus</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 4 5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Premolar tooth P3</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 4 5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheep/goat</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Tibia</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7 8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gnawed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheep/goat</td>
<td>hillwash</td>
<td>Mandibular molar</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>in wear</td>
<td>1 2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>047</td>
<td>Bantam</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Coracoid</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>048</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Scapula</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>&gt; 6-8 months</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>1 5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>053</td>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Molar tooth</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Recently broken in two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>056</td>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Humerus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7 8 9 10 11 7 8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Corroded metal on bone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>058</td>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>modern</td>
<td>Tibia</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5 6 8 9 10 7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>062</td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Humerus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>072</td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Max M3</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Sheep</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Humerus</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>&lt; 10 months</td>
<td>7 8 9 10 11 7 8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>079</td>
<td>Sheep/goat</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Humerus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>&lt; 3-5 yrs</td>
<td>3 4 5 6 8 7 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>082</td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Metacarpal 2</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>085</td>
<td>Goat</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Calcaneus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>&lt; 3-5 yrs</td>
<td>2 3 4 5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>091</td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>NE Area 1</td>
<td>Inclisor</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Worn</td>
<td>1 2</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>105</td>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>modern</td>
<td>Indent tooth</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 2</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>110</td>
<td>Sheep/goat</td>
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<td>Radius</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Cattle</td>
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<td>Femur</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>207</td>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>early and med</td>
<td>Maxilla fragment</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>both in wear</td>
<td>3 4 9 10 10 H 8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

stem is typical of late 17th-/early 18th-century styles, no parallel could be found for the spiral decoration and the glass was in remarkably good condition. However, this could be due to local soil chemistry. It is, however, just possible that the piece is Victorian, inspired by an earlier design.

The animal bones

Jennifer Thoms

The bones from the CFA interventions were examined for any taphonomic or other archaeological information that could be gained from them. Only 39 fragments were identifiable to species (Table 1). Owing to the limited size of this sample, very little information can be obtained from it. The compilation of a catalogue of the recovered animal bone was thus the main objective of the faunal analysis.

The majority of the identifiable bone was retrieved from non-archaeological contexts. The presence of an immature goat (<2.5–3 years of age at death) in Context 085 should be noted, as should an incisor from an elderly horse in Context
091. A maxillary molar, a radius and a fragment of metacarpal from a mature horse were also retrieved from Contexts 072, 079 and 082 respectively.

The cattle burials, which would have provided more extensive data, were not excavated. The bone deriving from archaeological contexts was otherwise of no great significance and present in such small quantities that it is not considered to be worth adding to other faunal data from this locality (Smith 1995). Data on indeterminate bone is included with the archive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>No frags</th>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Preservation</th>
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<th>Butchery</th>
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</table>

The wood from St Nicholas Farm, St Andrews

Rob Sands

Description

The object, recovered from Context 053 consists of a single piece of wood with bark surviving along one side. At each end it appears to have been worked to create narrower 'necks'. The piece is now in a dry condition; some distortion has consequently occurred and it is not possible to characterise any tooling present.

In length the piece is 63cm, 4.4 cm at its widest point and approximately 2 cm at its thickest. The narrower sections, at either end, are not of equal length measuring 16.5 and 11.5 cm from the points where the piece starts to narrow. The narrower areas are 2-2.4 cm wide and lie centrally to the long axis of the piece.

Species identification

Given the desication of the item it did not prove possible to take a transverse section but radial and tangential sections were obtained. From these sections an identification of Corylus avellana (Common Hazel) was made. Characteristic features observed were uniseriate rays, scalariform
perforation plates with 5–10 bars, and heterogeneous structures in radial section. These features are the ones that would, in the absence of the transverse section, distinguish it from Alnus sp (Alder).

Conclusion

It is not possible to come to any sensible conclusion about what this piece was for. However, it is worth pointing out that while there is deliberate shaping it is very rough and was probably executed quickly.

The coins from St Nicholas Farm, St Andrews

Nick Holmes

The four coins retrieved from the excavations at St Nicholas Farm, St Andrews are consistent with activity in the area in the 17th and 18th centuries. Many Scottish coins remained in circulation after 1707, despite the introduction of a coinage for the whole of the United Kingdom, since the supply of low-denomination coins was at best inadequate. Hence the extremely worn condition of many excavated specimens.

1. Charles I copper turner, 2nd issue (1632–9). 
   Diameter 15.5 mm; weight 0.37g; die axis 12.5; much corroded; moderate wear. 
   Context 026, small find 2.

2. Charles II copper bodle (1677–79). 
   Diameter 18.0 mm; weight 1.38g; die axis 6.0; much corroded; probably moderate wear. 
   Context 107, small find 010.

3. Copper alloy coin, probably a Scottish turner or bodle (1642–97). 
   Diameter 19.0 mm; weight 1.33g; die axis uncertain; much corroded; no details survive. 
   Context 047, small find 4.

4. Copper alloy coin, probably a Scottish turner or bodle (1642–97). 
   Diameter 19.5 mm; weight 2.26g; die axis uncertain; both sides worn flat. 
   Context 063, small find 5.

Acknowledgements

CFA wishes to acknowledge the co-operation and patience of the contractors Hall and Tawse Scotland Ltd. Fife Council Archaeology Service prepared the brief and provided curatorial assistance throughout the project. Jennifer Thoms is grateful for some identification confirmations received from Dr Anne Tresset of the University of Edinburgh.

Responsibility for the final form of this report lies with CFA and the authors, who are grateful to all the named individuals for their contributions.

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Toolis, R 1997 Excavations at the Site of a Medieval Leper Hospital, St Nicholas Farm, St


This paper has been published with the aid of grants from Hall and Tavose and Fife Council.

Abstract

Excavations and a watching brief were undertaken in advance of a housing development adjacent to the site of a medieval leper hospital at St Nicholas Farm, St Andrews, Fife. Earlier excavations nearby had revealed some remains of what was believed to be the leper hospital. Further structural components of the medieval occupation of the area to the north and west of the earlier excavations and adjacent to the modified course of St Nicholas Burn were identified. Evidence suggests these correspond to the expansion of the site during a phase of structural reorganisation corresponding to the historically recorded transition of the site from leper hospital to poor house in the late 16th century. During a related watching brief, a much disturbed long-cist burial and associated pit were uncovered.

Keywords: long cist, leper hospital, later medieval occupation, St Andrews, St Nicholas