
http://repository.nms.ac.uk/1175

Deposited on: 16 October 2014

NMS Repository – Research publications by staff of the National Museums Scotland

http://repository.nms.ac.uk/
sorted, this seems to reflect a genuine absence (ibid 30–1).

The chronological shift in pottery production from thick-walled, heavily tempered vessels to thinner-walled vessels with less temper, identified by Cool in relation to the Broxmouth assemblage, has been noted in a number of recently published assemblages from the area. While it would appear that there may indeed be a chronologically based change in preference, the wholesale application of this scheme may result in subtle, site-based distinctions being missed. It is possible that the choice of fabric was site-specific, with its changing mix perhaps reflecting the function of the vessels, for example for repeated use on the hearth, or for storage of dry or wet materials. While Broxmouth’s fabric variation may be chronological (illus 10.9), other sites would not necessarily be expected to follow this pattern, developing in a way that suited their communities’ changing needs, and so it is suggested that the Broxmouth scheme, while a useful shorthand, is used with caution.

10.2.2 Samian pottery
LOUISA CAMPBELL (based on original catalogue by KEVIN GREENE and H E M COOL)

A total of six sherds of Samian pottery were found in contexts dating to Phases 5/6 and 6. Three of these (SF144) formed part of the small hoard contained in a pit (KEM) associated with House 1, along with several glass bangle fragments (SF624–8; section 10.10) and sherd of Roman bottle glass (SF 1244; section 10.9). Another (SF142) derived from terminal deposits filling House 7. The remaining contexts represent midden deposits in the South-west Entrance and Inner Ditch West.

The evident modification of several of the sherds suggests that their deposition was not necessarily contemporaneous with their primary period of manufacture and use in a Roman military context. This practice is in line with single or small assemblages of Samian in other non-Roman contexts in northern Britain and may be indicative of the long term curation and deliberate deposition of Roman material culture by indigenous communities (Campbell 2011). In the case of the Broxmouth examples, however, there is nothing to suggest that any were retained beyond the second century AD, and the hoard, at least, is likely to have been deposited in the earlier part of this century.

CATALOGUE
SF141 (illus 10.10) Lower body fragment of a vessel similar to SF144, so potentially a South Gaulish Dragendorff 18 or shallow Dragendorff 18/31 of Flavian date (shallow bowl or platter). The sherd may have been trimmed down. Phase 5/6. Context: CAM (mixed, tertiary midden in Inner Ditch).

SF142 (illus 10.10) Lower body and foot-ring fragment of a Central Gaulish Dragendorff 37 (hemispherical bowl) of early Antonine date. The sherd appears to have been trimmed down. Phase 6. Context: HAB02 (House 7, terminal infill deposits).

SF143 (illus 10.10) Foot-ring fragment of a Flavian South Gaulish Dragendorff 27 (cup). The sherd appears to have been trimmed down. Phase 5/6. Context: Uncertain (South-west Entrance, late deposits).

SF144 (illus 10.10, 10.71) Two fragments from the foot-ring and base of South Gaulish Dragendorff 18 or shallow Dragendorff 18/31 of Flavian date (shallow bowl or platter), and a third sherd, probably from the same vessel. One of the sherds appears to have been trimmed down. Phase 6. Context: KEM04 (pit associated with House 1).

10.2.3 Middle Neolithic pottery
TREVOR COWIE

A small assemblage of Middle Neolithic pottery was recovered from residual features in the area of the
Phase 5 cemetery. The material forms a homogeneous group which can be related to the Impressed Wares, now seen to form the dominant ceramic tradition from the mid to late fourth millennium BC in southern and eastern Scotland (MacSween 2007). Parallels for the Broxmouth sherds can be found locally in East Lothian, among the pottery from Hedderwick (Callander 1929) and small groups from Kingston Common (MacSween 2009b: 14), Knowes and Pencraig Wood (Lelong and Macgregor 2008; Haselgrove et al 2009), and farther afield (eg Luce Sands, Wigtownshire; McInnes 1964). The pottery may date to the same broad period as the residual lithic assemblage recovered largely from the ploughsoil (section 10.5).

**CATALOGUE**

SF145 Rim sherd, plus two rim and body fragments, all joining; also two body sherds and 17 featureless fragments and crumbs, all from the same vessel. Form uncertain owing to flaking of external surfaces and absence of any portion of the lower profile but probably an open bowl, with simple upright, rounded rim. Rim diameter: c 200 mm. Colour: internally: dark to very dark grey, some reddish patches; core: dark reddish-grey to black; externally: reddish-brown – reddish-yellow (body sherd). Fabric: hard fine clay matrix with tendency to foliate; slightly sandy texture with some medium grits; construction lines clearly visible. Decoration internal: on interior of rim, row of obliquely set slightly curved ‘maggot’ impressions; external: indeterminate finger-tipped or slightly pinched mark on surface of body sherd and one fragment. Condition: abraded and flaking; consolidated prior to examination. Phase: Middle Neolithic. Context: MAP (pit in cemetery area; also contained carbonised hazelnuts, baked clay and cobble tool SF145; section 10.4.5).

SF146 Three body fragments and one crumb of a vessel of indeterminate form; orientation/position of fragments uncertain, but largest possibility from near rim. One or both surfaces wanting. Colour internally: brown; core: reddish-brown. Size range: largest fragment 25×22×>13mm. Fabric: hard fine compact with sandy texture; interior smoothed. Decoration: none. Condition: abraded; consolidated prior to examination. Phase: Middle Neolithic. Context: MAP (pit in cemetery area; also contained carbonised hazelnuts, baked clay and cobble tool SF145; section 10.4.5).

SF147 One rim sherd – simple rounded rim. Tempered with crystalline grits showing pyrites up to 5mm in length. Fabric fired dark grey. Wall thickness: 13mm. Phase: Middle Neolithic. Context: MAS (residual stony mound in cemetery area).

**10.2.4 Post-Medieval ceramics**

NIGEL D MELTON

The post-Medieval ceramic assemblage, recovered primarily from topsoil contexts, comprised 42 tile fragments, 207 pot sherds and 24 clay tobacco pipe fragments. The pottery is dominated by late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century wares, which account for 91% of the material recovered, the majority of which is domestic tableware and likely to be products of the Scottish pottery industry. It is, however, somewhat surprising that sponge-printed ware, produced by many Scottish potteries in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Cruikshank 1982; Kelly 1993), is present in only small numbers. The smaller assemblage of pre-nineteenth-century ceramics includes red, buff and white earthenwares (both unglazed and lead-glazed), porcelain, and tin-glazed earthenwares. The bulk of this earlier material dates from the eighteenth century. The pottery assemblage probably derives from manuring.

The much smaller assemblage of clay tobacco pipe fragments differs from that of the pottery. The bores of the stem fragments indicate that the majority are likely to be from seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century pipes, and may represent casual losses during working of the land.

Details of this material, along with other post-Medieval and modern assemblages, are contained in the project archive.

**10.2.5 Baked clay/daub**

Pieces of baked clay or daub were retained from six contexts, though more are mentioned in the archive.


SF1104 Baked clay. Small piece with slight vitrification on one face. Surviving thickness: 20mm. Weight: 9.5g. Phase 1. Context: HCZ/OAN (sediment sealing Houses A and B).
