

APPENDIX 1: POTTERY FABRIC DESCRIPTIONS

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Early Medieval Fabric

Fabric 13

Two tiny sherds. These are dark grey and fine-tempered, with a reddish core and burnished on both surfaces. They resemble what has been called Class 14 or Class 15 at Hamwic (Hodges 1981, 21-8), types which are believed to originate in northern France or the Low Countries, though no production site is known. Similar wares are known from other English sites, including Ipswich (C Coutts *pers comm*) and York (Mainman 1990), where they are known from Coppergate.

Medieval Fabrics

Fabric 1

A smooth to very slightly sandy fabric with few inclusions, reduced grey in colour, frequently with a lighter grey margin beneath the glaze. Unglazed surfaces are often oxidised reddish. A reduced olive-green lead glaze is sometimes found on internal as well as external surfaces. Vessels are probably wheel-thrown, but rather roughly made and finished; some have small fragments of clay adhering to exterior surfaces beneath the glaze. External vertical knife-trimming is often visible.

Forms identified include undecorated cisterns with strap handles; it is likely that jugs are also present. Two cisterns at Brougham Castle (*pers obs*) and one at Carlisle bear a deeply impressed O above a bung hole on the shoulder (Bradley and Howard-Davis in press, no 188). The fabric falls within the late medieval/Tudor northern British reduced greenware tradition; similar wares were produced at Silverdale (Lancashire) and Arnside (Cumbria) (White 1977; 2000); it is attested locally at Brougham Castle, Calder Abbey, Bowness-on-Solway, Clifton Hall, and Carlisle (*pers obs*), as well as in Scotland (Hall 1996) and north-east England (Slowikowski 2011). At Dacre, Fabric 1 occurs *inter alia* in association

with Cistercian ware and sixteenth-century Rhenish stoneware.

Fabric 2

Similar to Fabric 1 and probably an oxidised version of it; the fabric is reddish-brown, sometimes with a reduced grey core. The glaze varies from brown to olive green.

Forms probably include cisterns and jugs; bases include examples with thumbing underneath, and plain strap handles are present. The date range is as Fabric 1. Oxidised wares were also produced at Silverdale and other sites where the northern greenwares were made.

Fabric 3

A smooth to slightly sandy wheel-thrown fabric with no inclusions, oxidised reddish-buff in colour, though sometimes partially reduced to grey. The glaze varies from olive-green to brown. Forms present include jugs; the vessels are thinner walled and better made than those in Fabrics 1 and 2. The date range is probably fourteenth century or later.

Fabric 4

A slightly sandy pale buff to red wheel-thrown fabric, the surfaces commonly being oxidised and the cores sometimes a reduced grey; quartz grains sometimes protrude through the surfaces. The external lead glaze varies from olive-green to brown in colour; unglazed surfaces are sometimes smeared with a pale buff slip. At the sandier end of the range, the fabric overlaps with Fabrics 6 and 7. A small sub-group, Fabric 4a, shows a laminated appearance with white and pink clay; this may be a naturally occurring mixed clay that has been insufficiently blended.

Forms include jugs, with rod and strap handles, and square-rimmed cooking pots. Two handles suggest that the repertoire also included pipkins. A white slip is apparent on the external surface of some sherds, and cooking pots occasionally have some glaze. Jugs are sometimes decorated, usually with applied brown-stained strips and pellets, and vertical incised lines.

Occasional examples of possible anthropomorphic decoration are found in the form of probable applied 'arms', and there is one instance of graffito decoration beneath the glaze (Fig 77.7).

The date range is probably thirteenth-fourteenth century, although the cooking pots may be twelfth-thirteenth. Similar fabrics have been excavated at Blackfriars Street, Carlisle (McCarthy and Taylor 1990), and they are known at Penrith (Tudor Cafe and Post Office sites) and at Bowness-on-Solway (*pers obs*). At Bowness, several sherds display features also noted at Dacre. These include thumbing on the underside of jug bases, a white slip swirled round (on the inside), and a fragment of a beard, presumably from an anthropomorphic jug.

Fabric 5

A slightly sandy fabric with quartz grains sometimes protruding through the surfaces, mostly reduced grey to dark grey in colour. The glaze is olive-green; unglazed surfaces are sometimes oxidised to reddish. With the more oxidised examples, there is some degree of overlap with Fabric 4.

Forms include jugs with strap handles; some are decorated with incised vertical lines and applied brown-stained pellets. The date range is probably thirteenth-fourteenth century. A similar fabric is known at the production site of Waberthwaite (Cherry and Cherry 1984), as well as at Blackfriars Street, Carlisle (McCarthy and Taylor 1990).

Fabric 6

A gritty off-white to pinkish buff fabric, with some rounded brown pebbles up to 4 mm across, in addition to the predominantly quartzitic inclusions. The core is sometimes reduced grey, and the glaze varies from orange to light and dark olive-green, sometimes showing brown streaks from iron-rich inclusions in the clay body. There is some overlap with Fabric 4 at the finer end of the fabric range. Vessels are probably thrown.

Forms are mainly cooking pots with square rims, sometimes with some glaze externally; jugs also occur, occasionally with horizontal wavy and straight-combed decoration. Jug bases are sometimes thumbed underneath, and both rod and strap handles are known. A rarer form is the bowl; one example has internal and external glaze and incised decoration (Fig 77.20). Some internal glaze occurs on sherds which may be either from cooking pots or bowls. One rim sherd is a waster, as glaze completely covers the break (Fig 77.19), but this may have been transported accidentally to this site, as there is no other evidence for pottery production. The cooking pots probably date to the twelfth-thirteenth century, falling within the Northern Gritty-ware tradition in both fabric

and form. The jugs appear slightly later, probably thirteenth-fourteenth-century in date. At Carlisle, this fabric type (eg 13) is known from excavations at Blackfriars Street (McCarthy and Taylor 1990) and The Lanes (Bradley and Howard-Davis in press).

Fabric 7

A harsh quartz-gritted fabric with hackly fracture; the inclusions range from medium and large angular quartz grains to small pebbles. The quantity of inclusions varies. The clay matrix is buff to red, and is often partially reduced, varying from soft and poorly fired to hard. Some appears to be hand-made and some wheel-made. Glaze, where it occurs, is dull olive. Forms are mainly unglazed cooking pots, many with square rims. Some jugs, often with thin walls and fully oxidised, are present; glazed rims may belong to pitchers or jars. Bowls may also be present. Some vessels have internal glaze.

The date range is approximately twelfth-fourteenth century, although some sherds may be earlier or later than this. The square-rimmed cooking pots fall within the Northern Gritty-ware tradition of the twelfth-thirteenth century and are well known at Carlisle, where examples were discovered in pits cut by the cemetery of the Dominican friary, Blackfriars Street (McCarthy and Taylor 1990).

Fabric 8

A general category for fine smooth to slightly sandy white to buff fabrics, occasionally reduced. Forms include jugs, one with rouletted decoration, and cooking pots. Sherds in this category are rare, and may perhaps be regional imports of thirteenth-fourteenth-century date.

Fabric 12

Represented by a single sherd, this is a heavily quartz-gritted very hard fabric, dark purple red in colour with a dark olive glaze externally. It is either a regional import or an overfired sherd of a more local gritty medieval fabric.

Early Post-medieval Fabrics

Fabric 9

Cistercian ware, a hard-fired earthenware with a brown lead glaze; it dates to the sixteenth century. There are insufficient diagnostic features here to enable the kiln source to be identified.

Fabric 10

Represented by a single sherd, this is a Hambleton-type ware of North Yorkshire origin. It is a fine, slightly sandy white fabric with a flaking copper-green glaze

on internal and external surfaces (Brooks 1987). The form of the vessel found at Dacre is perhaps a lobed bowl or cup, probably of sixteenth-century date.

Post-medieval and Modern Fabrics

Fabric 11

Slipwares, including one tiny, possible Low Countries, sherd, and the occasional fragment of Staffordshire-type post-medieval slipware.

Fabric 14

Stoneware is represented by only one sherd. This is probably a Frechen product of sixteenth-century date.

Fabric 15

Post-medieval tin-glazed earthenware, comprising only a few sherds, usually with the glaze almost completely abraded.

Fabric 16

An amorphous group of fabrics covering black- and brown-glazed earthenwares of sixteenth-seventeenth-century types, made probably in south Lancashire, in the Rainford/Prescot area, and further afield (Philpott 2015).

Fabric 17

Frechen and Cologne stonewares, generally smoothly finished with a brown-washed surface. Cologne pieces are recognisable by the moulded decoration (Hurst *et al* 1986; Gaimster 1997).

Fabric 18

Hard-fired smooth red earthenware flasks from Martincamp in northern France. They occur widely on seventeenth-century sites in Britain and were frequently imported in wicker baskets, like Chianti bottles.

Fabric 19

Raeren (Belgium) or Langerwehe (Germany) stonewares, recognisable by the rough iron-washed finish, heavily rilled body, and thumbled footring. Vessels were imported from the late fifteenth century onward (*ibid*).

Fabric 20

Westerwald (Germany) stoneware, with a slightly mottled shiny grey surface, usually embellished with blue (cobalt) or purple (manganese) coloured areas (*ibid*).

Fabric 21

A fine light-bodied yellow-glazed earthenware with feathered black or brown decoration, made in

Staffordshire, in the seventeenth-early eighteenth century (Barker 1993). The vessels recovered were principally cups and bowls.

Fabric 22

Light-bodied brown-glazed earthenwares. This is another wide-ranging group, and includes Staffordshire and south Lancashire products.

Fabric 23

Early English stonewares from Fulham or Nottingham, dating from the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century (Oswald *et al* 1982).

Fabric 24

A brown-glazed Coal Measures earthenware with yellow slip decoration, made at Burton-in-Lonsdale (North Yorkshire) from the eighteenth century (White 2009).

Fabric 25

A variegated group of brown- and black-glazed wares with slip-trailed decoration. There are probably several sources but they cannot as yet be identified. A local source for some, perhaps Kirkoswald or Penrith, is probable.

Fabric 26

'Astbury'-type red stoneware sprig-moulded teapots, made in Staffordshire (Noel Hume 1969, 70).

Fabric 27

Press-moulded dishes and plates with light bodies and feathered slip decoration, most likely from Staffordshire.

Fabric 28

'Jackfield'-type wares of fine, well-made earthenware, with a very glossy black glaze, sometimes over-painted in oil colours (*op cit*, 123).

Fabric 29

White salt-glazed stoneware of the mid-eighteenth century, with a characteristic 'orange peel' surface, available from c 1720 (Noel Hume 1969; Edwards and Hampson 2005).

Fabric 30

'Whieldon'-type lead-glazed earthenwares, with tortoiseshell or agate colouring in the glaze (Barker and Halfpenny 1990).

Fabric 31

Creamware, a plain white/cream lead-glazed earthenware, available from c 1761 (Lockett 1986).

Fabric 32

Scratch-blue, a modified form of white salt-glazed stoneware, with cobalt decoration in grooves and

mouldings, available from c 1760 (Noel Hume 1969, 117).

Fabric 33

Pearlware, an improved form of creamware, with a blue tinge added to the glaze to offset the natural cream colour. It was available from c 1782 (Lockett 1986).

Fabric 34

Porcelain, various types, occurring at Dacre only as tiny scraps.

Fabric 35

Transfer-printed earthenware of various types, principally from the nineteenth century.

Fabric 36

Coloured lead-glaze earthenware with sgraffito decoration.

Fabric 37

Tin-glazed earthenware (delft) of various types, mostly plain or decorated in cobalt blue (Black 2001).

Fabric 38

Marbled slipware of unknown origin, probably nineteenth century in date.

Fabric 39

Nottingham-type stoneware, a grey fabric with lustrous or dull brown exterior surface (Henstead *et al* 2010).

Fabric 40

A generic fabric that may be termed 'Devon' ware, blue- and white-striped china, of nineteenth-twentieth-century date.

Fabric 41

Late stonewares, including beer bottles, blacking bottles, and jam jars.

Fabric 42

Plain white china, of nineteenth-century type.

Fabric 43

Coarse black-glazed earthenwares, comprising a range of types of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century date. There must be numerous local products, but individual sources are unlikely ever to be ascertained.

Fabric 44

Plain unglazed plant pot and garden earthenware.

Fabric 45

Coarse brown-glazed earthenwares, similar to Fabric 30.

Fabric 46

Coarse, white-slipped earthenware pancheons.

Fabric 47

Coarse yellow-glazed earthenwares, similar to Fabric 30.