

Dornoch Primary 6 finds from Meikle Ferry 27th May 2009

POTTERY

Mass produced Scottish pottery took off in middle 18th century. Potteries required clay to make the pottery, coal to fire the kilns, people to work and transport links e.g mainly by sea. So the early potteries are by the coast/ports such as Glasgow, around the Forth and as far north as Aberdeen. Locally found pottery could well have been transported from around the Aberdeen area as there were close links to Burghead.

57 fragments of pottery were recovered, indicative of the usual range of pottery used domestically and dated 19th to early 20th century.

Description:-

8 refined earthenware transfer printed (blue printed white earthenware) – 1 plate with a bridge design, 1 cup with willow pattern, 4 with floral designs (1 rim, 3 body sherds), 1 cup rim with part of a brown border design and 1 reddish abraded plate fragment

15 refined earthenware with sponge printed decoration ranging in colour from blues, greens, pinky reds to brown. (2 rims, 1 base, 12 body sherds). Sponge printing has come to be regarded as a typically Scottish decoration

1 refined earthenware with a trace of blue colour unsure if transfer or sponge

5 refined earthenware with clear glaze, all body sherds

6 whiteware – 4 body sherds, 1 rim and 1 cup handle

6 salt glazed stoneware – 4 tan coloured (1 base, 3 body sherds one of which has 2 parallel incised line decoration = jar) and 1 dark brown ; 1 abraded brown glazed handle
Salt glazing – throwing salt into kiln during firing = thin shiny coating pitted like orange peel

1 earthenware with brown glaze – relief decoration- Rockingham ware?

3 unglazed redwares – 2 with 2 incised parallel lines and 1 rim with burnishing (polishing by a smooth object) and an incised line of decoration

11 redwares with white slip covered with a clear glaze making it appear yellow. 6 pieces of rim fit together (large bowl) 3 other fragments may be part of the same vessel – 1 abraded body sherd, 1 base and 1 rim all slightly abraded. One other different base fragment present and a rim with slipped and oxidised sections given a brown and yellow glaze.

1 redware body sherd with a brown glaze (where the iron within the clay has been oxidised during the firing) showing through a clear glaze.

GLASS

31 fragments recovered:-

7 dark green all vessel body sherds

2 brown 1 bottle base, 1 twisted fragment which has split

11 pale green – 10 vessel including 1 much thicker fragment, 1 tube

11 clear – 1 half a marble probably from the neck of a fizzy drink bottle; 7 vessel incl 1 neck, 3 base (1 with UCKIE W & J probably W & J Cruickshanks, Buckie soft drinks manufacturer), 3 body sherds (1 with grooved line decoration); 3 flat window glass (1 ribbed)

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

14 fragments recovered :-

1 purple glazed tile (floor or fire place)

5 whiteware sanitary ware – sewerage pipes

1 redware water pipe

1 curved roof tile

6 miscellaneous – 1 probably abraded brick with large clay inclusions, the rest abraded tile

ANIMAL BONE

1 sheep metapodial (leg ankle bone) recovered

SHELL

9 winkle – 2 with infestation holes; 9 snail; 4 cockle; 1 mussel; 6 crab; 2 very abraded ?oyster; 4 otter shells (these are Trough shells which live deep in the sand and indicate a storm has brought them to the surface)

STONE

Slate - 4 fragments recovered, all grey, 1 with modern mortar adhering to it and one burnt. Slate is not a local stone so would have been brought in for use as roofing material

Flint – 3 fragments recovered, 1 natural, 2 burnt – flint is not a local stone so would have been brought in. (Prehistoric man used flint to make tools and burnt flint often indicated deliberate firing such as use as 'pot boilers' where they were heated and then put into a pot of water to heat the water.)

Local stones – quartzite – 29 fragments; granite – 8 fragments; gneiss – 1 fragment; sandstone – 1 fragment. All waterworn

METAL

LEAD - 1 flat fitting with a large number of rivet holes around the edges

COPPER ALLOY – a buckle with 4 large rivet holes at each corner

IRON – 1 twisted bar (barley sugar); 1 cast iron plate/fitting; 1 part of a bed, the section which holds the mattress supports; 3 bars/nails including hollow roll pin; 1 round ? rope tie; 1 gate bolt; 1 possible fireplace fitting (for holding the cooking pot/kettle);
2 miscellaneous fragments

MAN MADE

Plastic - 6 fragments -1 stirrer; 3 thick walled vessels; 2 thin walled – 1 with base with embossed writing with ?maker

Tarmac – 2 fragments

Carbon rod – 1

NATURAL

Wood – 12 pieces; Seaweed – 2 pieces; Berries - 1