

EXCAVATIONS AT ST. CATHERINE'S CHAPEL, LYDIATE, 1979-80

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Excavations at the site of St. Catherine's Chapel were undertaken by members of the Merseyside Archaeological Society during the winter of 1979-1980. The excavations took place following consolidation of the chapel masonry by the Department of Environment in 1979 and in advance of proposals by Merseyside County Council to landscape the site. Collapsed masonry from the vicinity of the chapel was removed and relaid to the east of the chapel. A survey of the standing masonry had been undertaken in 1975 (O'Hanlon 1977, 43-57). The excavation archive is deposited with the Archaeological Survey of Merseyside, Merseyside County Museums.

Location

The chapel is situated in the township of Lydiate, parish of Halsall (frontispiece). It lies approximately 250m. south-east of Lydiate Hall and, like the Hall, stands a little above the 15m. contour overlooking reclaimed mossland which runs westwards from the site. The drift geology is Shirdley Hill Sand overlying boulder clay and Keuper Sandstone. The soil is a surface water gley of the Rufford series, described as loamy sand to sandy loam overlying till, the upper layers of which are often waterlogged (Hall & Folland 1970, 114).

Previous excavations

Documentary sources indicate that excavation within the chapel has occurred on at least two previous occasions. Before 1876 Father Gibson, parish priest at Lydiate, undertook an examination of the interior of the chapel (Gibson 1876, 174-175). The extent of his excavations was not given but appear to have been concentrated at the east end of the chapel where "about six feet in front of the altar and about three feet from the surface" he found some "dark mould mingled with fine sand", a mixture he claimed as unnatural in the area. He suggested this as the position of an interment though no bones were recovered. On reference to his superior, Bishop Goss, the latter referred to the place as a well for the sacrarium and Gibson subsequently claimed to have recovered a channel running from the front of the altar to the place occupied by the sacrarium on the south side. Masonry on the south wall bears no indication of a piscina or sacrarium in this position, or elsewhere in the chapel.

Gibson also recovered thirty of forty pieces of stained glass, all exhibiting "traces of the burning process but the colours no longer distinguishable" from "within the sanctuary". In addition, he stated

that the whole ground was "plentifully strewn with broken pieces of stone slates".

A brief report in the Liverpool Post and Mercury dated 7 September 1932 described an excavation at the chapel carried out by Father Phillip Howard. Pieces of broken glass had been recovered and the excavations had gone down to the level of the 'old tombstones'. However, it is not clear whether the tombstones referred to were those which are believed to have lain within the chapel (see below) or a group which still stands just to the south of the porch, outside the chapel, and which dates from the 1850s.

The tombstones

Writing in 1876, Father Gibson claimed that some of the tombstones of the Jesuit priests buried in the chapel were still visible (1876, 181). He supposed that no more than four individuals had been interred there, though five were identified in a letter addressed to Mr. Urban at the Gentleman's Magazine, 20 December, 1821. All had died in the early part of the 18th century at a time of intense persecution of those who continued to adhere to the Catholic faith. The report in the Gentleman's Magazine is in slight conflict with the list given in O'Hanlon (1977, 51) and is given below (Appendix 1). Two further interments have been suggested. Father Christopher Small died in 1589 and is believed to have been buried at Lydiate (O'Hanlon 1977, 51). Lady Margaret Anderton, widow of Sir Charles Anderton of Lostock, and daughter of Laurence Ireland, was also believed to have been buried in the chapel (Gregson 1817 f.221). Although the family were in possession of the manor of Lydiate at the time of her death it seems that she died in London on 26 August 1720 and was buried at St. Pancras (Gibson 1876, 27, 72).

Foundation and history of the chapel

It has generally been accepted that the chapel was built as a private place of worship to serve the family at Lydiate Hall, but the date of its foundation has not been ascertained. The popular theory is that it was built by Laurence Ireland, who died c.1469 and was dedicated to his wife, Catherine Blundell. However, the dedication is uncertain and no documentary evidence for a licence for a chapel has been found. In 1773 Pennant described it as a Chapel of ease to the parish church of Halsall (for which there is no evidence) and said that it was dedicated to St. Catherine (Pennant 1801, 51). The dedication was disputed by Roberts who regretted

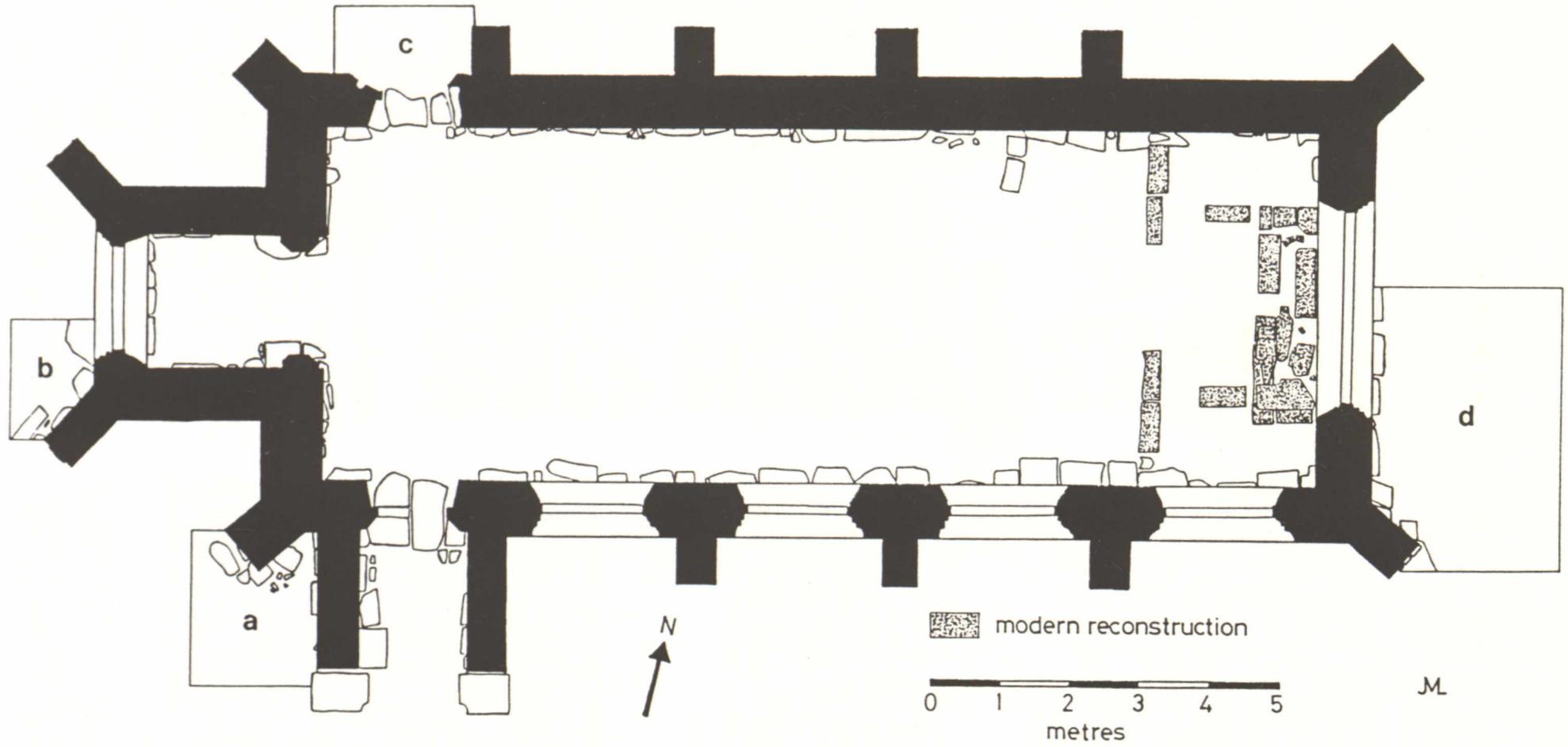


Figure 1. St Catherine's Chapel, plan of the areas excavated 1979-80

that Pennant had not given his authority for such a claim (Roberts 1849, 149). The survival of alabaster panels, believed to have been taken from a reredos at the chapel, depicting the life of St. Catherine, and now in the nearby church of Our Lady, give some strength to the dedication, but provide the only evidence. The alabasters are believed to date from the 15th century and to be of the Nottingham school (Gibson 1876, 175-179; Nelson 1916, 21-26). In addition there are discrepancies in the descriptions of carved initials which have been described variously as "once visible in spandrels of the door", "on the dripstone terminals", "on the spring of the arch". There is also uncertainty as to what the initials were. The coat of arms over the door varies according to different sources. A summary of the descriptions is given below (Appendix 2). A date of foundation in the mid-16th century has been ascribed on the basis of masons' marks found at the chapel and compared with those found on other churches in the area (see D'Arcy below).

Extensive rebuilding at Garston chapel, originally constructed in the time of Edward I, took place in about 1500. At that time John Ireland was lord of that manor as well as the manor of Lydiate (Cox 1890, 122; Farrer & Brownbill 1907, 127). However, Garston chapel was demolished in 1715 and apart from Cox's attempt at reconstruction, based on the recovery of some of the foundations and other loose masonry there are no other records. Certainly it was considerably bigger than Lydiate Chapel which was almost certainly built for domestic purposes.

Lydiate chapel never became parochially attached to Halsall Church and was not recognised as a religious building in the Church Surveys of 1649-1655. At that time it was recorded that "taking into consideration the remoteness of the said Township of Lideat from another Church of Chappell, being the nearest pt distant from pish church three myles, and a place wch wee conceive convenient for a Church to bee built, is full two myles from any Church or Chappell; and we conceive Lideat and pt of Downeholland fitt to bee a pish and annexed to that new built Church" (Fishwick 1879, 87).

Excavations 1979-1980

The purpose of the excavations was to establish a level to which landscaping of the site could take place without destruction of any archaeological layers both within the chapel and in its immediate vicinity. In addition, it was hoped to recover evidence for the existence for the tombstones and the date of the foundation of the building.

The interior of the chapel was excavated throughout to a level just below the top of the masonry foundation course. Four areas (marked a-c on the

plan, Fig 1) were examined outside the chapel, also to a level just below the top of the foundation course. An exception was a small area within trench a, adjacent to the south porch where the level of the underlying natural boulder clay was established. All material was removed by hand.

Across the chapel was a spread of broken sandstone roof flags, some with pegholes, lying loosely in a disturbed layer of dark brown soil. The roof fragments were mostly broken into small pieces. All lay at a level a little below that of the wall footings and, therefore, below any contemporary floor. The original flooring material had previously been deliberately removed before collapse of the roof, perhaps leaving only the tombstones.

Quantities of window glass, both coloured and plain, were mixed with the roof fragments. Although greater quantities were found below the window openings on the south and east side, glass fragments were found over much of the interior.

Towards the eastern end of the chapel a chancel division was marked by a single line of rectangular masonry blocks, laid end to end across the chapel, with a central gap. There was an altar, similarly constructed of rectangular blocks of masonry, lying immediately below the east window. In all instances the masonry consisted of re-used stone. Investigation of the layers immediately beneath the altar and chancel division revealed that the masonry had been laid on disturbed horizons. The present excavations did not supply any evidence for the former existence of either an altar or chancel division.

The tower, at the west end of the chapel, presented the best evidence for construction. Here, below the disturbed layers, lay a clean, undisturbed layer of compressed sandy-clay in which the construction trench for the tower was clearly visible. Small packing stones had been included in the sandy fill of the trench. A large black patch butting the southern arch of the tower proved to be the humic remains of a tree. Although no floor slabs survived (they had probably been removed when the rest of the chapel floor was robbed) the levels at the foot of the tower were protected from further disturbance by an accumulation of debris into which pieces of masonry from the tower had collapsed. Masonry at the south side of the tower showed signs of burning. This was a little distance above the estimated floor level and was believed to be evidence of fires lit by the Home Guard who used the tower as a look-out during 1939-1945.

In the areas exposed outside the chapel a similar indication of topsoil accumulation accompanied by disturbance was noted. Turf stripping outside the east window revealed a silver coin of 1820. Immediately below the turf the topsoil contained modern debris in addition to numerous fragments of plain, painted and stained window glass. Large

fragments of tracery from the east window had collapsed into the soil and lay embedded below the level of the foundation course.

Outside the west window a loose, brown soil, much disturbed by root action, contained pieces of window glass.

With the exception of the window glass, reported in detail below, all finds were of 17th century date and later, and were confined to pottery fragments and pieces of clay pipe.

The glass

A total of 1001 fragments of glass was recovered from St. Katherine's Chapel, Lydiate, during the excavations of 1979 and 1980 (Fig. 2). These have been described and coded, and the information stored on computer in Christ's and Notre Dame College (see note below). This computer exercise was carried out for two reasons. Firstly the program made it possible for simple but laborious and necessary counting to be carried out speedily. Secondly the program was developed to explore the potential of computer storage of archaeological data.

Over 90% of the glass consisted of small fragments of window glass, probably produced by the "cylinder" or "muff" technique (Fig. 2). This type of glass was the favoured technique from the late Roman period up to the introduction of crown window glass in England in the early 14th century, when the two techniques existed side by side. Cylinder glass was made by blowing and marvering hot glass into a cylinder shape, which was then cut longitudinally and flattened, then panes cut to size. Its thickness varies and it often had a characteristic wavy appearance (Hurst Vose, 1980, 60). The bulk of the window glass was greenish in colour, and varied in quality from thin opaque, much weathered, to thick, good quality fire-polished glass. Some coloured glass was found, including amber, and red and blue, both pot and flashed. In pot glass the colour is present throughout the body of the glass. Flashing is the process whereby a thin layer of colour is applied to one surface of clear glass. Some fragments of clear glass showed traces of yellow stain, and in several cases were over painted with opaque brown paint, presumably the remains of *grisaille*, a black pigment fired in a simple kiln by a glazier, used for small details and shading from the early Middle Ages. Yellow stain, or sulphide of silver, was introduced towards 1300, and was always painted on the reverse of the glass, the details in *grisaille* being painted on the front (Charleston 1984, 40-41).

The stained and painted glass

In all, 161 fragments of stained and painted glass

were found. They were in such a fragmentary condition that it was impossible to reconstruct any pattern or picture. Traces of brown painted (*grisaille*) lettering were however, useful in suggesting an ecclesiastical function (Fig. 3e, f & g). Fig. 3a is one of the few whole quarries to survive. It shows a series of rays in yellow stain, which may be interpreted as part of a halo. It is good quality glass, measuring 2.5mm in thickness, and may perhaps be compared in quality to glass of fairly recent date. Similar fragments of glass are shown on (Fig. 3b, 3c, 3d). Lettering has survived on some (Figs. 3e, 3f, 3g) and perhaps 3h. Comparisons in style between these pieces and lettering on sixteenth century glass from Basing House, Hants., (Moorhouse, 1971, 70-2) suggest a late medieval or early Tudor date. The very poor condition of pieces shown in Figs. 3e and 3f, would suggest a similar date.

The fragments of amber glass were generally pitted and weathered. The piece in Fig. 3i, was of poor quality and 'seeded' that is blobs of coloured glass had adhered to it during manufacture. This piece has a pattern faintly discernible on one side.

The blue glass was of better quality. One fragment (Fig. 3j), was scored or cut to approximately half its thickness, perhaps indicating an unfinished cut. Of particular quality were two pieces (Figs. 4a and 4b) were of blue flashed glass, highly polished and with sharp fracture. Both had traces of brown paint.

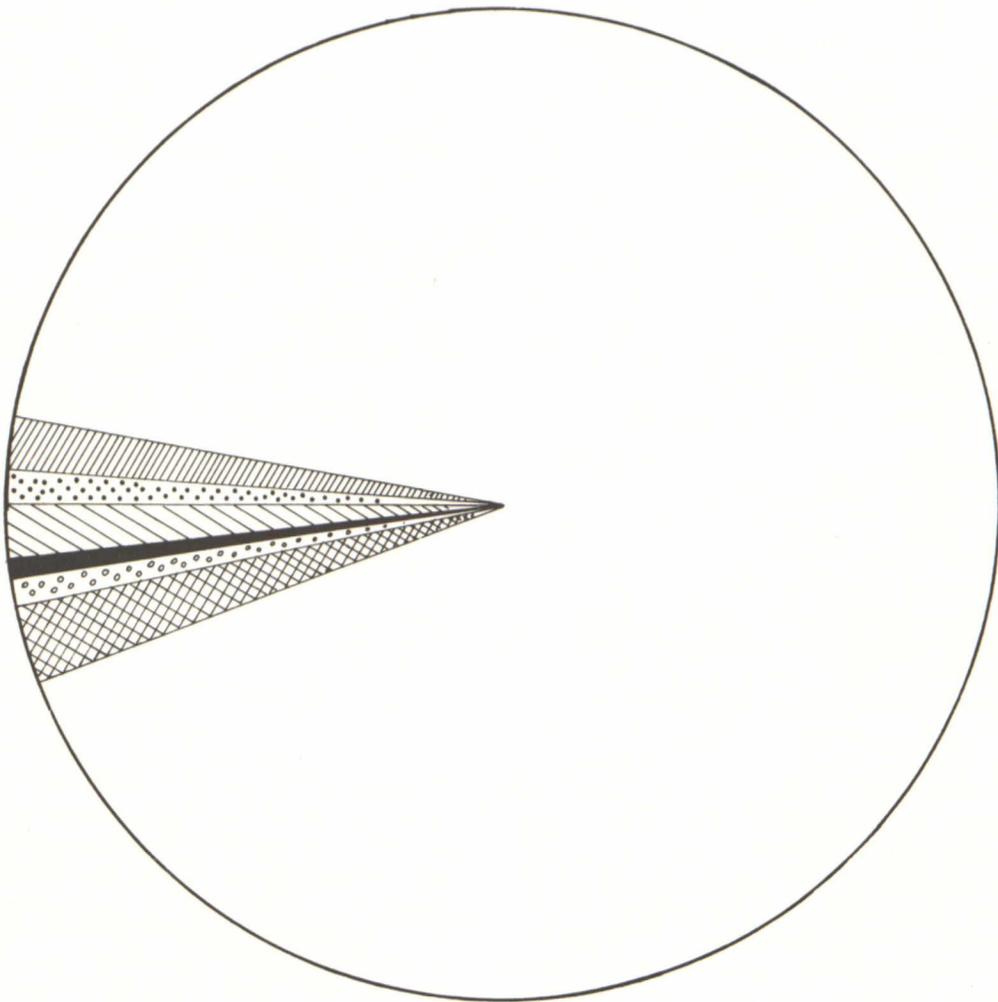
Grozing

Grozing is the term used to describe the way in which the edges of window glass were trimmed or clipped to specific shapes. A grozing iron, a glazier's slotted tool, was used. The whole quarries suggest that a variety of shapes was used, with perhaps a preponderance of triangles as for example Fig. 4d and 4e. Fig. 5 shows that 56% of the fragments recovered had some degree of grozing. This is probably not a significant figure and may merely indicate extensive shattering. Not all edges of quarries were necessarily grozed. As the diamond-point was introduced for cutting glass probably towards 1500, much reducing the painstaking task of grozing, the preponderance of grozed pieces may possibly indicate a medieval rather than post-medieval date for these pieces. Traces of the marks left by the lead comes which held the glass in position in window were also noted (Fig. 4c, 4f).

Chemical analysis

Two fragments of glass were sent to Pilkington Brothers Research and Development Laboratories, Lathom, for chemical analysis. The findings may be compared with results from those excavations of

PROPORTIONS and TOTALS of GLASS
ST KATHERINE'S CHAPEL



			TOTALS
	WINDOW GLASS - GREEN	-	914
		-	BLUE - 18
		-	AMBER - 11
	OTHER	-	19
	WINDOW GLASS - CLEAR	-	5
		-	WHITE - 9
		-	RED - 25
			<u>1001</u>

Figure 2. Pie chart showing proportions and totals of glass

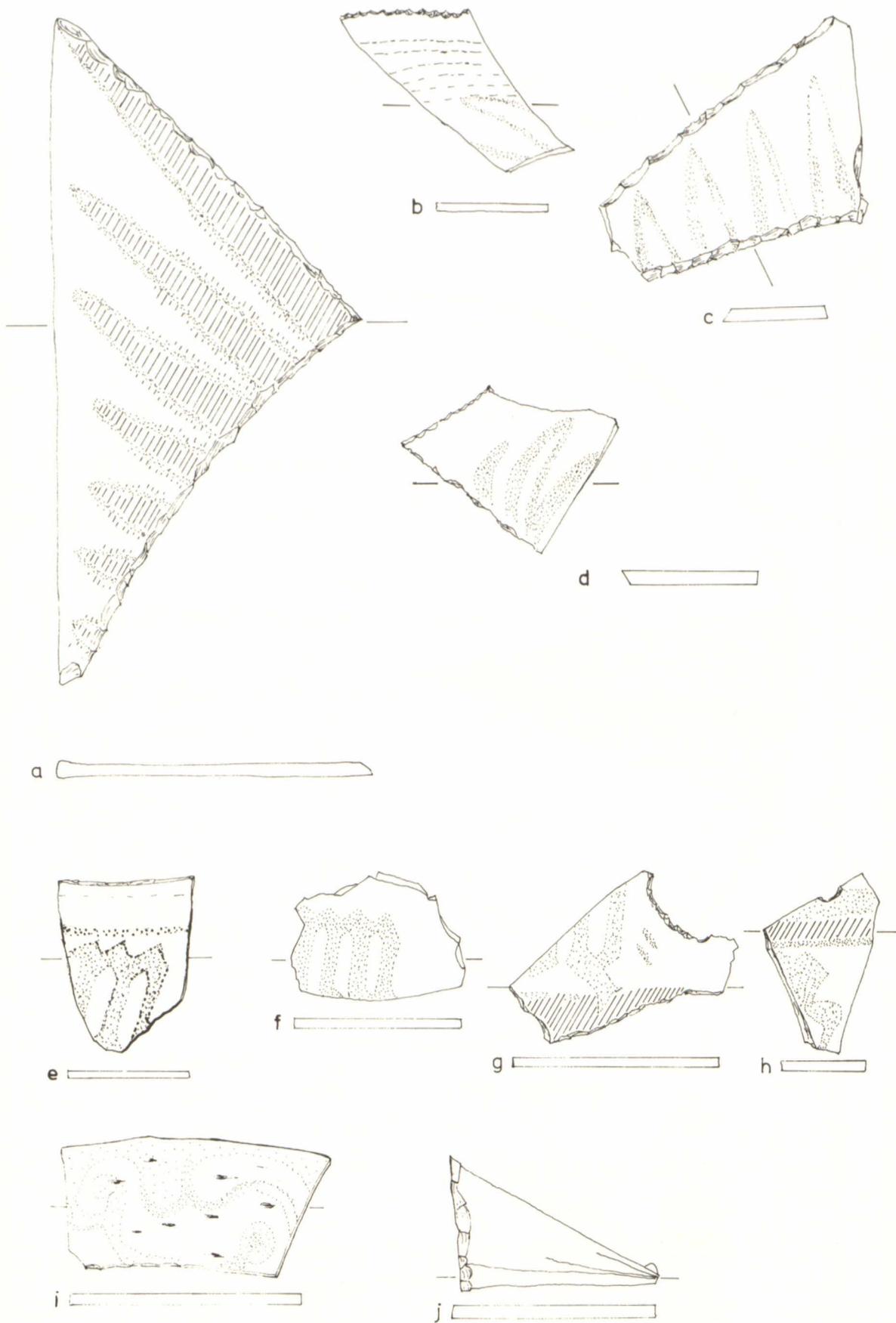


Figure 3. Painted and coloured glass fragments, a - j
 SCALE 1/1

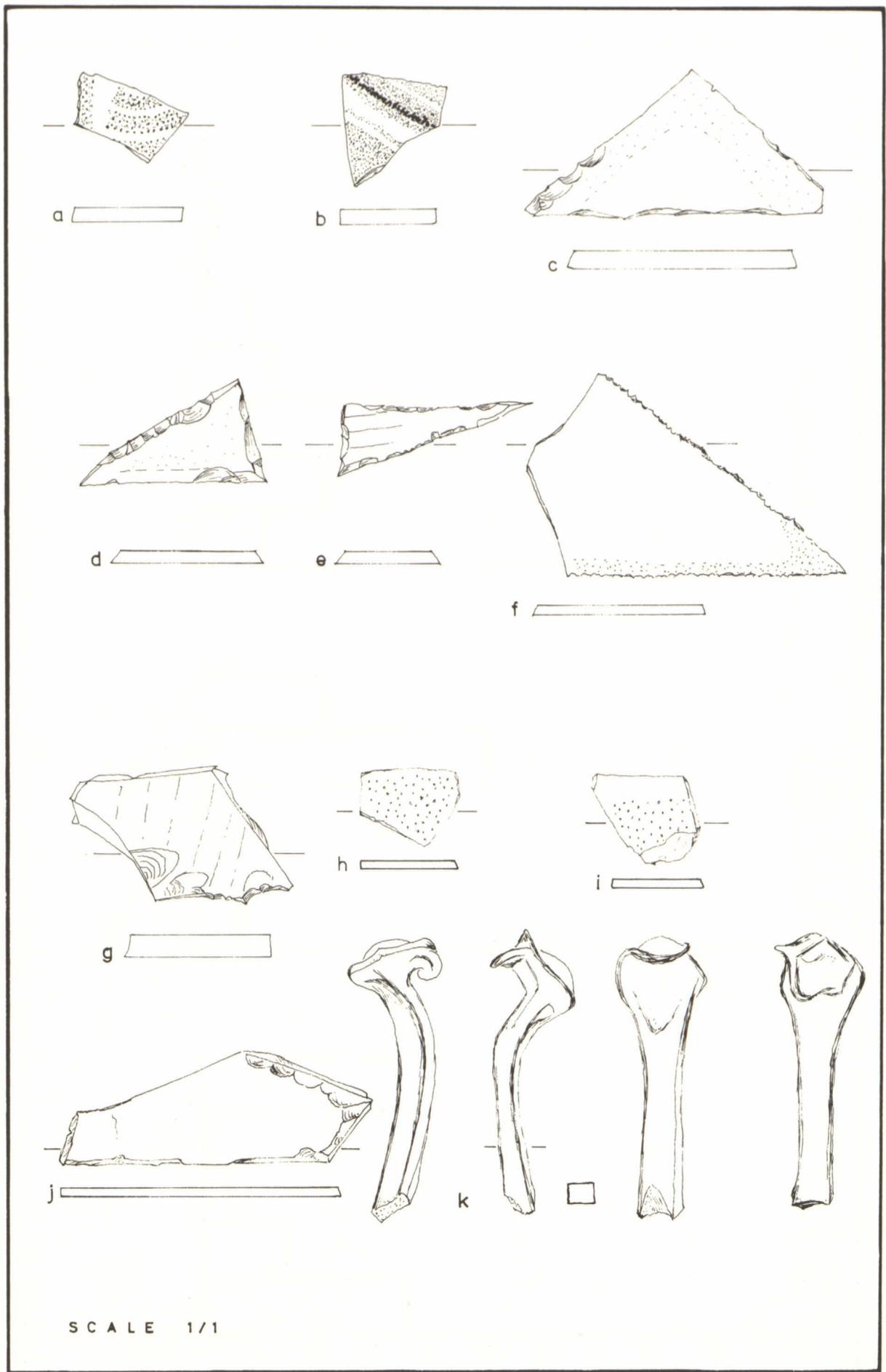


Figure 4. Painted and coloured glass fragments, a - k

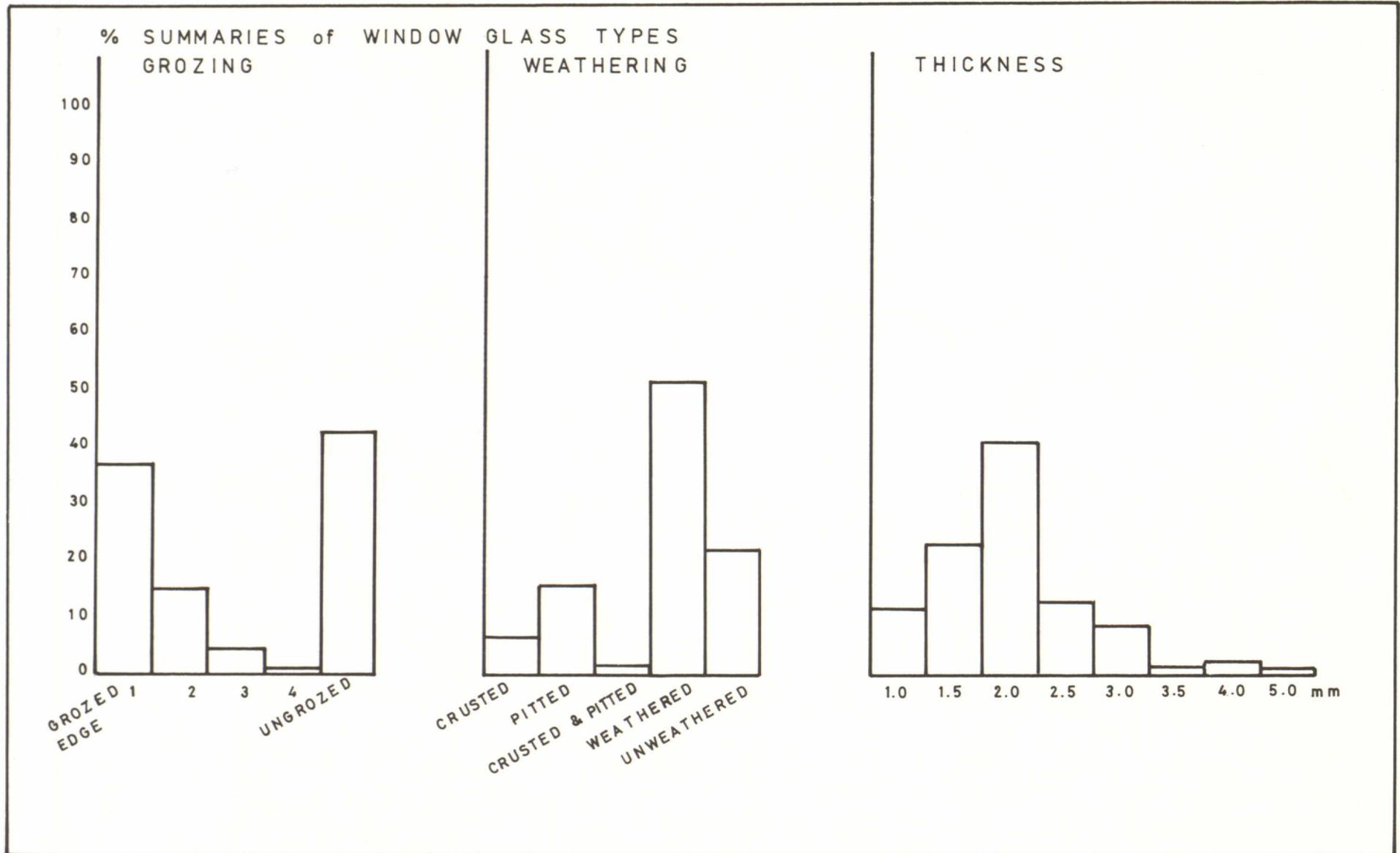


Figure 5. Percentage summaries of window glass types in relation to: a) grozing b) weathering and c) thickness

glasshouses of sixteenth century date, discussed in Turner (1956, 173) and conveniently summarised by Hurst Vose (1980, 230) Fig. 6a and 6b. Sodium and potassium are present in the glass from St. Catherine's, in proportions 1:6. These proportions are similar to those from Bagot's Park, Staffs. (Crossley, 1967, 62) and Hutton, Yorks. (Crossley and Aberg, 1972, 151). The sixteenth century furnaces at these sites made forest glass, so called because its alkali component, potash, was derived from wood ash. In contrast the glass analysis from a local coal fuelled site at Haughton Green, Denton, Manchester, c. 1615-53, shows that the glass manufactured there had a sodium - potassium content of 5:1 (Hurst Vose, 1972, 142). It is therefore suggested that some at least of the glass from St. Catherine's was forest glass dating prior to the second quarter of the seventeenth century when wood-fired or "forest" glass furnaces were suppressed, and possibly much earlier since potash glass was made throughout the medieval period.

Figure 6a. Chemical Analysis of glass from St. Catherine's Chapel, Lydiate

	Sample no. 1 %	Sample no. 2 %
Silicon Dioxide	60.8	58.7
Calcium Oxide	18.8	20.8
Ferric Oxide	00.86	00.87
Aluminium Oxide	04.9	04.8
Magnesium Oxide	03.2	03.0
Sodium Oxide	01.2	01.4
Potassium Oxide	06.4	06.5
Zirconium Dioxide	00.05	00.05
Titanium Dioxide	00.2	00.2
Copper Oxide	00.05	00.05
Nickel Oxide	00.05	00.05
Cobalt Oxide	00.05	00.05
Manganese Oxide	00.8	00.8
Lead Oxide	00.05	00.05
Zinc Oxide	00.05	00.05
Barium Oxide	00.2	00.3
Strontium Oxide	00.04	00.05
Arsenic Trioxide	00.05	00.05
Antimony Trioxide	00.05	00.01
Sulphur Trioxide	00.2	00.2
Phosphorous Pentoxide	02.4	02.4

Figure 6b. Comparative Analyses of glass from different sites in the North of England

Sites	Ratio of sodium to potassium
St. Catherine's Chapel	1:6
Bagot's Park Staffs	1:5
Hutton, Yorks	1:5
Haughton Green	5:1

Weathering

Weathering in this context includes the effects of burial. The majority of fragments showed evidence of weathering of varying degrees, described here as crusted and/or pitted, and weathered (Fig. 5). The most extreme form, crusted, produced effects on the glass similar to those discussed by Newton (1969, 40-2). The crusted glass was blackish, opaque and fragile (Fig. 4g). The crust itself was layered and tended to flake off in small patches rather than large sheets. Although Brill (1961, 22), suggests that the age of glass can be determined by counting the layers caused by weathering, Newton is pessimistic about the possibility. The uneven flaking of the glass from St. Katherine's would tend to confirm this.

The glass described as pitted was generally thin, pale green and opaque and occurred as rather small fragments (Fig. 4h and 4i). Examination with a hand lens showed that the glass was very bubbled and had an almost spongy appearance.

The largest numbers 52% (Fig. 5), and described as weathered, had an iridescent surface which reduced the transparency of the glass, but did not make it unduly fragile. Fragments in this category varied in size from very small, approximately 1.0mm square to the large quarry (Fig. 3a).

Fewer pieces, 22% showed no weathering at all. Some fragments in this category were of good quality greenish glass with a bright fire polish. All contained bubbles, both long and spherical. Included in this group are a number of pieces such as Fig. 4j, which shows a rippled, fire-polish on one surface, while the other is slightly roughened. This may compare with glass from Ordsall Hall, Manchester (Hurst Vose, 1980, 32). Such glass may have been unfinished pieces made by the cast plate process operating at Ravenhead, St. Helen's from the eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries (Barker, 1977, 102-3).

Thickness

The glass was measured for thickness (Fig. 5), and the figures rounded up to the nearest 0.5mm. Thickness ranged from 1.0 - 5.0mm. As Fig. 7b shows, the bulk of the glass measured 2.0mm. Examination of glass ranging from 1.0 - 2.5mm showed that much of it was pitted, milky and spongy in appearance.

Glass measuring 3.0 - 4.0mm was generally of good quality, often weathered, polished and with fewer bubbles. An area of overlap occurred in the 2.0 - 2.5mm range.

Dating

On the basis of the foregoing discussion it would seem to be possible to assign the glass to three periods. The earliest is probably that described as thin and weathered by pitting, (Fig. 4h, 4i). It compares well with the early Wealden glass described by Kenyon (1967,17), who assigns a very broad dating from medieval to mid-sixteenth century. Lightly weathered broad glass found at St. Katherine's probably dates from the seventeenth to the eighteenth centuries. Thicker, unweathered pieces, including some at least of the stained and painted glass may be possibly later.

Non-window glass

Some bottle glass was found on the site, but was of very recent date. The most interesting piece of non-window glass was the small black handle (Fig. 4k). This compares in colour and type with similar pieces found at Haughton Green, Denton (Hurst Vose, 1972, 142), and now in the Pilkington Glass Museum. It may be seen in a seventeenth-century context.

Discussion

Throughout the interior of the chapel there was evidence of extensive disturbance. This had probably resulted from robbing-out of useable material, such as floor flags, removal of the burials or by the previous 'excavations' carried out by Father Gibson and Father Howard. These excavations had effectively destroyed any dating or constructional evidence, though limitations imposed by the present investigations precluded excavation below the level of the footings. There was no clear indication for the siting of any of the burials. With the exception of the small area of boulder clay exposed in the trench outside the south porch, no natural surfaces were encountered.

The recovery of roofing material and window glass suggests that the building had originally been

complete. Removal of the floor flags from the west tower had occurred presumably after the chapel and fallen into disuse but before the processes of decay were too far advanced. The absence of dateable material from the layers of debris is unfortunate.

There was no indication for the former existence of either an altar or chancel division. An altar may have been removed when the chapel fell into disuse; a chancel division may have been a whim of either Father Gibson or Father Howard.

Historic evidence suggests that the chapel must have been constructed prior to the Dissolution, though the supposed interment of Father Christopher Small in 1589 suggests a continuance of worship during the time of the suppression. Indeed Lord Burghley singled out Laurence Ireland of Lydiat as 'tho' in some degree of conformitie yet in general note of evil affection in religion" (Gibson 1876, 243). Architecturally, the building seems to be of 16th century date rather than of the time of the first Laurence Ireland and his wife, Catherine Blundell. The evidence of the initials supposedly on the porch is too much at variance to secure a relationship with individual members of the Ireland family. A dedication to St. Catherine appears to rest with the evidence of the alabaster figures, though a connection between these and Catherine Blundell cannot be ruled out. The evidence of rebuilding at Garston chapel indicates that John Ireland was concerned with the construction of a place of worship; he may well have wished to erect a chapel at Lydiat, perhaps dedicated to his mother, Catherine.

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Note on the use of the computer

In order to facilitate and speed up the analysis of the fragments of glass recovered from the excavation at St. Katherine's Chapel, Lydiate, use was made of the date processing and file handling capacity of a mini-computer. Descriptions of the various characteristics of each fragment, for example, the context in which it was found and whether or not it were weathered, were stored in data files on one of the computer's disks in accordance with a specially designed system of alphanumerical coding. The descriptions were coded in order to economise on the use of storage space on the disk and on the time taken to input the date into the computer. The identifications of the various codes were themselves stored in files, so that they could be printed out with the results of the calculations made by the computer through a separate series of programs. The results themselves were stored in disc files so that they could be printed out at will and subjected to further statistical analysis.

Probably the most useful aspects of the use of the computer in working on the glass from Lydiate, was the ease with which the calculations could be carried out. Storage and retrieval of information was also facilitated.

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Christ's and Notre Dame College,
Liverpool.
June, 1983.

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Appendix 1

Tombstone inscriptions as described in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1821, vol.XCI part 2, 597.

1. Here lyeth the body of Francis Waldsgrave (sic) who departed this life on the 28th day of November, 1701, in the 75th year of his age.
2. Sa. Ro. Ca. Ecc. Sacer, ob. die 2o Ap. An'o Domini 1728 aet. suae. 74 Requiescat in pace
3. Here lyeth the body of Joseph Draper who departed this life on the 26th day of April 1703 in the 33d year of his age
4. Here lye the
 Body of John
 Mosson, who d
 eparted the ..

 5 year
 Aaige Anno D..
 172.
5. Rs. ds. Johannes Blackburne

Appendix 2

Date	Description of evidence
15C.	Alabasters depicting the life of St. Catherine, supposedly removed from Lydiate Chapel at the time of the Dissolution and subsequently kept at Lydiate Hall. Gibson 1876 175
1589	Christopher Small S.J: supposed interment at Lydiate Chapel. Tombstone inscription
1590	Lydiate Chapel shown on Lord Burghley's Map of Lancashire. Gillow 1907
1648-1650	Church Surveys: recommendation that a church Fishwick should be built at Lydiate, the nearest part of the township being three miles from the parish church at Halsall. Fishwick 1879, 87
1672	Letter: William Blundell of Crosby Hall to Laurence Ireland of Lydiate in which Blundell wrote "For my part if you escape a cardinal's hat I think you are as like to translate the Archbishoprick of York to Lydiate Chapel as to become rector of a parish church". Gibson 1884, 50
1690	Inq. p.m. Laurence Ireland Esq: "Lydiate Chapell standing near the manor house, with Chappel yeard etc. etc." Rylands 1880,126-9
1701	Francis Waldegrave S.J. buried at Lydiate Chapel. Gent. Mag 1821, pt.2, 597
1703	Joseph Draper S.J. buried at Lydiate Chapel. ibid.
1728	inscription on tombstone. ibid.
172?	John Mosson S.J. buried at Lydiate Chapel. ibid.

- ? John Blackburne S.J. buried at Lydiate Chapel.
ibid.
- 1773 "The ruins of Lydiate Chapel...with a tower steeple...overgrown in many parts with ivy...A Chapel of Ease to Halsall, dedicated to St. Catherine ...founded by one of the Irelands of Lydiate Hall...over the door are the letters LI for Lawrence Ireland probably the founder".
Pennant 1801, 51
- 1817 "Lydiate Abbey is an interesting ruin ...never seems to have completed ...it is clearly discernible that [the walls] have never received a roof ...Lady Anderton was buried within ...the Abbey ...a marble slab covered her remains" (Drawing published).
Gregson 1817, fol. 221
- 1821 "Walls of the Chapel are still tolerably entire but...ornamental parts are much mutilated. It has been asserted that the building was never completed...I [have] found small fragments of glass in the mortar in several parts of the east window...Over the...porch a coat of arms, a chevron between six fleur-de-lis, and on each side the initials I.I. (probably for John Ireland) who lived in the 6th year of Henry VIII". (John Ireland died in 1514)
Gent. mag. 1821, pt. 2 597
- 1823 Repeats information given for 1821 above.
Kaleidoscope 1823, 5
- 1825 "An interesting ruin which seems never to have been completed.
Baines 1825, 700
- pre-1834 Watercolour by Robert Cort, minister at Kirkby, 1793-1850.
Rufford Old Hall
- 1834 Pen and ink drawing, unsigned.
ibid.
- 1836 Repeats information given for 1821 with additional architectural comment and tombstone inscriptions.
Baines 1836, 268
- 1842 "A ruined chapel built in 1520 ...inscriptions on gravestones illegible...used as a burying place to the early part of the last century".
Itinerary 1842, 142
- 1849 Full architectural description; initials L.I. and C.I. on dripstone terminals either side of porch door. A shield with "a spear in bend pointing to the sinister base point; on the other end a pennon pendant, between six fleur-de-lis".
Roberts 1849, 146-153
- 1870 Founded by Laurence and Catherine Ireland: over the porch their coat of arms "a chevron between six fleur-de-lis" and their initials on the "spring of the arch".
Harland 1870, 424
- 1876 Full architectural description quoted from Roberts 1849. "The chapel is that of the debased order of architecture prevalent at the commencement of the 16th century but as the initials of Laurence and Katherine Ireland are still to be seen on the spandrels of the doorway, this couple must be regarded as its founders." Excavations undertaken by Father Gibson.
1932 Newspaper report and photograph: excavations by Liverpool Father Philip Howard.
Post & Mercury 7.9.1932
- 1977 Historical summary and buildings survey.
O'Hanlon 1977, 43-57