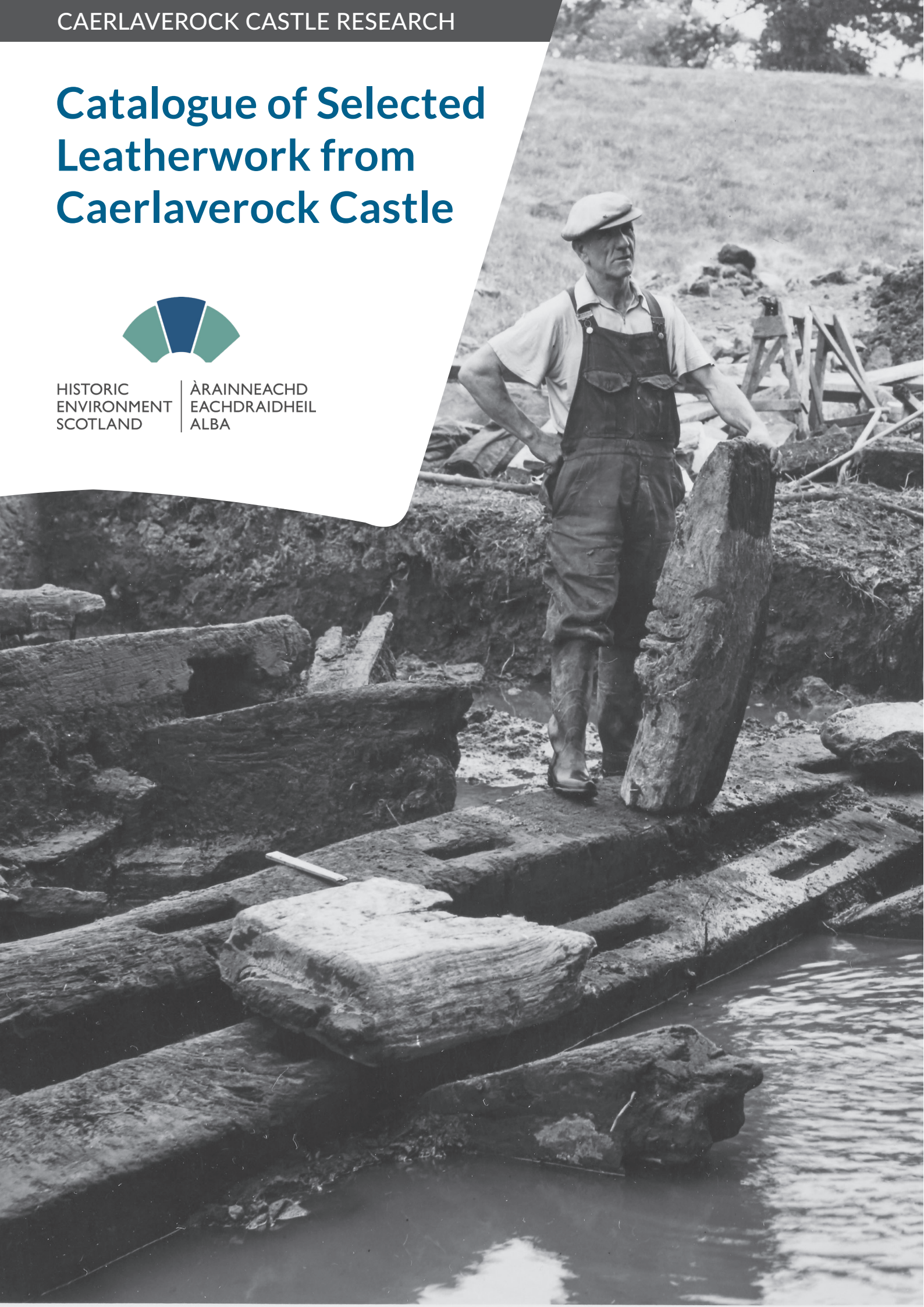


Catalogue of Selected Leatherwork from Caerlaverock Castle



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA



Catalogue of Selected Leatherwork from Caerlaverock Castle Quita Mould and Esther Cameron

Methodology

This catalogue is the result of examination and photography of selected items of leatherwork in the Historic Environment Scotland collection, undertaken in Edinburgh in 2022. Much of it was excavated in 1955-66 and published by Lloyd Laing.¹ Clare Thomas has re-examined the shoe assemblage from Caerlaverock and created a new catalogue.² The below catalogue cross-references with Laing and Thomas where relevant.

The leather had been conserved when it was examined; visual examination suggests that varying conservation methods may have been employed, and surface condition has been noted where relevant. + represents an incomplete measurement, i.e., the object is broken. No allowance has been made for shrinkage that may have occurred in conservation or storage.

Leather species were identified by hair follicle pattern using a low-powered magnification. Where the grain surface of the leather was heavily worn, identification was not always possible. The grain pattern of sheep and goat skins are difficult to distinguish and have been grouped together as sheep/goat when the distinction could not be made. Similarly, the term bovine has been used when uncertainty arose between mature cattle hide and immature calfskin. Shoe bottom components and repairs are assumed to be of cattle hide unless stated otherwise.

The selected images below are the choice of Historic Environment Scotland and further images of the objects studied are available on request to HES.

Catalogue

1. CAER316: Shoe bottom packing, multi-layered sole, pegged, incomplete³

Four pieces with multiple grain/flesh oval-shaped holes from wooden pegs, the pegs now missing, made from old shoe parts, probably packing from a multi-layered shoe sole.

- a. Large D-shaped heel component made from a reused shoe part with edge/flesh seams, stitch length 4mm, along two sides. The top edge is gently sinuous; the lower edge is partially broken. A series of oval grain/flesh holes made by wooden pegs run around the edges and in vertical rows down the interior. Leather: worn bovine. Length 41+mm; width 82mm; thickness 2.7mm.
- b. Sub-rectangular piece with two parallel sides, one straight, the other gently curving. At least one side has an edge/flesh seam, stitch length 4mm. Irregular peg holes run around one straight edge and the adjoining curved edge as though perimeter pegging with two double rows and a single vertical row infilling the central area. Leather: worn bovine, beginning to delaminate. Length 80mm; width 44mm; thickness 2.48mm.
- c. Small D-shaped piece from a blunt toe area, or a heel component, with a row of peg holes around the perimeter and a double row along one side; the

¹ Laing 1999.

² Thomas 2026.

³ Thomas 2026, nos 98-9.

straight edge is unpegged. Leather: cattle hide. Length 33mm; width 51mm; thickness 3mm.

- d. Rectangular piece from the central area of a shoe sole forepart with pegging along two sides and along one end; the other is unpegged (probably the lower tread area), with two vertical rows infilling the central area. The leather is thick with an area of hide edge present along one side. Leather: cattle hide. Length 100mm; width 45mm; thickness 4mm.
- e. Vamp, for right foot.

Irregular pieces such as these, made from old shoe parts and other workshop scraps, were used as packing between the insole and sole of shoes of welted construction or other footwear that had multi-part soles comprising several layers. Small wooden pegs were often used to attach stacked leather heels and repair soles from the seventeenth century onward, but the occasional use of wooden pegs at earlier dates is known. From the eighteenth century wooden pegged construction was used to join shoe soles and insoles to uppers, being particularly good in wet conditions; this construction continued to be used on footwear worn by farmers, seamen, dockworkers, and other labourers into the modern period.⁴

These four pieces, apparently from shoe bottom packing, were either found, or are now associated, with a shoe vamp for a right foot shoe with a high, straight, seamed throat. It is possible, but far from certain, that they came from the same item of footwear. It may be that they come from a leather-soled mule, that is, a slip-on shoe with a 'full' vamp but lacking a back section. Mules were made in a range of styles and were also made from old shoes, by cutting off the back section. The toe of the vamp is missing, having been worn away, so that the shape is uncertain, but it appears to have been either oval or pointed, suggesting a medieval date. Pegged sole repairs are known from the early sixteenth century,⁵ and have been found repairing the sole of a sixteenth century mule,⁶ so it is feasible that these are the remains of a late fifteenth or very early sixteenth century mule. If this is the case, it would be a very early example of the use of wooden pegging. More likely, perhaps, the shoe bottom packing comes from a shoe of later date.

2. CAER418: Sheath, decorated, cut from a larger sheath, complete⁷

Sheath with a lapped seam of grain/flesh stitching, stitch length 8.5-9mm, sewn with a double thread, running along one side (the blade edge). The plain straight mouth, external width max. 40mm, internal width c.34mm, is defined by four horizontal creased lines back and front. There is no differentiation between a handle and a blade section. The decoration is continuous along the entire length. A central decorative field runs from the mouth down to the tip on the front and the back, wrapping around and including the fold. The central field is defined by paired, impressed, creased lines with a decorative impressed and incised motif within, and stamped infilling. The large central motif comprises large leaf-like shapes with a bud in the centre, and curved strokes, incised and slightly lifted, all worked freehand. It appears to be a large single leaf/tree motif. The stamped infilling is a series of dots, principally in linear groups of four made by a stamp c.4mm long, with linear groups of three dots in places. Two possible banderols are present on one face with stab

⁴ Salaman 1986, 159.

⁵ Volken 2022, 155.

⁶ Volken 2022, 155 (fig. 25), 160.

⁷ Laing 1999, 236, no. 247, ill. 59; Thomas 2026, no. 351.

marks imitating inscriptions. To each side of the central field and the edge of the seam is a vertical field with four double oblique impressed lines. At the mouth are two vertical slits for suspension positioned at the seam edge, the upper slit c.8mm long and 2mm wide, is c.6mm below the mouth; the second slit 9mm below is smaller: 6mm long and 1mm wide. The mouth cuts across some of the stamped dot infilling, which suggests this is the lower part, cut from a longer sheath. This might account for the discrepancy between the two slits, the upper one having been the lower of an original pair, the present lower one added later. Leather: calfskin with a black and shiny grain surface. Length 128mm; width 40mm; thickness 1.7mm.

The position of the seam at the edge of the sheath, rather than on the back, is interesting. Edge-seamed sheaths are rare, and this is an 'E3' type like the one identified in Dublin.⁸ Their distribution is northern: Haithabu and Schleswig (north Germany), Trondheim (Norway), Dublin (Ireland) and Perth (Scotland). They have been found in eleventh century contexts and later, such as the one from a fourteenth century context at Kirk Close, Perth.⁹

Incised decoration is not commonly found on British or European leatherwork until the fourteenth century or later.¹⁰ The decorative effect on CAER418 resembles that of foliate-decorated sheaths from Dordrecht, which are from a mid- or late fourteenth-century context.¹¹

3. CAER419: Panel, moulded, decorated, incomplete¹²

Convex, moulded, now slightly distorted round/oval panel with one side now broken. The curving edge has a butted edge/flesh seam, stitch length 4mm; the stitching medium is present within the stitch holes. On one side, the seam changes from a butted seam to a grain/flesh seam, stitch length 5mm, six grain/flesh stitches remaining below the broken edge. The exterior, grain side, is decorated with a shallowly incised sexfoil (six petal) motif with cross hatched infilling. Encircling the central motif and closely following the seam is a 'serrated' zig-zag border (known as walked scorper or rocked decoration when applied to metalwork), worn away in places but clearly visible in others. Leather: cattle hide, black in colour, the exterior cracking in places and much abraded, grain pattern still visible at the seam. Length 115+mm; width 172mm; thickness 3.63mm (curved measurements, not flattened).

The moulded panel of thick leather is more bag-shaped than bottle-shaped. It lacks the double stitched closed seam characteristic of most water holding leather vessels, which may suggest it comes from a different type of container such as a powder flask. Alternatively, it could be an item of armour, such as the unidentified piece from Valkenburg, Netherlands, found in a moat with a fourteenth century breast and back plate.¹³ Convex, oval-shaped pieces of armour were used to protect the elbows, and horse caparisons of the mid-fifteenth century are thought to have included a pair of similar pieces sewn into the breast plate to allow forward movement of the horse's shoulders.¹⁴

⁸ Cameron 2007, 21-2, DLS 30.

⁹ Thomas 1987, fig. 105.

¹⁰ Cowgill et al. 1987, 43; Russell 1939, 139.

¹¹ Volken and Goubitz 2020, 146-178.

¹² Laing 1999, 237, no. 251, ill. 60; Thomas 2026, no. 352.

¹³ Rijkkelijkhuizen and Volken 2017, 69-71, fig. 10.

¹⁴ Wise et al. 1980, 33.

4. CAER420: Panel, decorated, complete¹⁵

Highly decorated tongue-shaped panel. The original orientation is uncertain, but for convenience here it will be described with the curving side upward and the straight edge at the bottom. The panel has a straight, lower, edge 100mm long with a row of fine grain/flesh stitching. The stitches are paired, spaced 3-5mm apart, with some thread impressions between the pairs indicating a single thread 'serpentine' stitch.¹⁶ A second row of fine stitching 18mm from the edge is visible on the flesh side but this surface is worn and the stitching indistinct. However, its presence suggests the straight edge had a lapped seam with the edge whip-stitched down. The left side is straight, flaring out slightly before curving into the rounded top edge, the right side is stepped after 70mm with a slightly sloping shoulder 38mm deep. The edges of the two sides and the upper, curved, side curve downward, whilst the seamed, lower edge is flat. A series of elliptical pulled holes are present at the two sides, four on the left and five on the right (three below the shoulder and two above), extending to a similar height on each side. The holes are spaced c.30mm apart, the two above the shoulder on the right side being more closely spaced at c.15mm apart. The curved top edge has two holes spaced 15mm apart. These elliptical holes appear to be lace holes. The grain side is filled with scrolled decoration with stamped infilling. This has been achieved by outlining the scrolled lines with individual raised dots made using a circular punch, before infilling the background with further stamped dots, at least some using a double or possibly a triple dot stamp. The main panel is divided by a double vertical central border with a vine scroll and bud design to either side. The ornament on the two sides is asymmetrical (not a mirror image), the right side with an additional scroll and bud design and vertical rows of stamped dots filling the shoulder area. Leather: cattle hide, the flesh side is worn, delaminating, and cracked. The grain side is not heavily worn; the decoration is sharp and clear. Both sides now black and shiny. Length 180mm; width 135mm; thickness 2.26-3.41mm.

Originally identified as the toe section of a side-lacing boot, this decorated panel does not come from an item of footwear. The level of decoration indicates an item of unusual quality. The shape with its rounded top, straight lower edge, stepped side and lace holes is reminiscent of a vambrace – a forearm guard – and comparable with the few examples of leather vambraces recognised to date.¹⁷

This panel is slightly smaller in length than the Dutch examples (Dordrecht 22cm; Leiden 28cm) but a certain degree of shrinkage should be allowed for. It is essentially flat in section and, while some leather armour is made of hardened leather which is moulded to fit around the body, other surviving pieces of leather armour are less pronouncedly moulded, appearing more flexible and rather flattened.¹⁸ CAER420 may be a piece of leather armour, however, further research and consultation with armour specialists would be required to confirm this identification.

Stamped raised dots can be seen on many sheaths and larger pieces of leatherwork from the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries.¹⁹ Laing describes the ornament as acanthus scrolls, plain bands and punched infilling, and suggests a late fourteenth

¹⁵ Laing 1999, 239, no. 258, ill. 59; Thomas 2026, no. 353.

¹⁶ Volken and Goubitz 2020, 21, fig. 12.

¹⁷ Rijkelijkhuizen and Volken 2017, 61-2, figs 3, 4, 8.

¹⁸ Rijkelijkhuizen and Volken 2017, 61-2, figs 5-7, 9-11.

¹⁹ Volken and Goubitz 2020, 25.

or early fifteenth century date. Based on the compactness of the scrolls, and the tightness of the leaves and buds, the design may be of earlier date.

If the panel is an item of leather armour, then a thirteenth or fourteenth century date is implied. The Dutch examples date to the fourteenth century and were found in high status contexts. Leather armour was used in both warfare and tournaments, and it is suggested that individual pieces were used for a long time, altered and perhaps reused, such as for training young boys.²⁰



CAER420. Photo courtesy of the authors.

5. CAER422: Dagger sheath, decorated, near complete²¹

Sheath with a central closed back seam, stitch length c.4mm. The seam is sewn with a whip stitch or possibly a serpentine stitch.²² The seam runs down the centre of the handle section, moving slightly to one side on the blade section. The handle section is 40mm deep, meeting the blade section at a stepped junction. The straight mouth has four small stitch holes along the edge of the mouth to attach a lining. The mouth extends into a flap c.7mm wide; the flap has two irregular fastening holes spaced c.20mm apart, the upper hole 6mm below the mouth. The front panel is defined by a double creased line border with a, now, much rubbed design within which appears to be a backward facing bird or beast (*reguardant*). The back has a single vertical creased line down the left side and a double creased line down the right. The spine and the junction of the handle and blade sections are defined by moulding, the latter c.5mm wide, now very shallow from wear and barely visible, but detectable by touch. The blade section now appears distinctly curved, but pleating indicates this is a later deformation and that the blade section was straight. The

²⁰ Rijkelijkhuizen and Volken 2017, 75.

²¹ Laing 1999, 236-7, no. 248, ill. 59; Thomas 2026, no. 354.

²² Volken and Goubitz 2020, 21, fig. 12.

blade section is c.137+mm long; the tip is now missing but it did not extend much beyond what survives now. The blade front has a principle rectangular field defined by a deep creased line filled by a backward facing beast (*reguardant*) with a long tail with little additional detailing and no background infilling. Two very shallow raised mouldings divide this from a smaller panel toward the tip; no internal decoration is visible. The blade back has a single creased line running down the edge of the back and possibly also along the opposite edge of the seam, no further decoration is visible. Leather: black, shiny calfskin. Length 178+mm; width 39mm; thickness 1.91mm.

The flap on one side, and the kinked seam, indicate that this is a 'winged' style of sheath, hugely popular in Dublin from the early eleventh to mid-thirteenth centuries, also present in Waterford, Cork, London, Gloucester and Hull from the late-twelfth century onwards. An additional five examples were found at Perth in thirteenth- or fourteenth-century contexts.²³ The decoration is now very faint as the leather is well worn and heavily rubbed. The sinuous creature depicted on the lower section, perhaps a bi-ped dragon or wyvern with tendril-like limbs, suggests an early or mid-thirteenth century date. Two winged sheaths with similar motifs, one from Wood Quay, Dublin (DLS221) the other from Billingsgate Lorry Park, London (383), are both from early to mid-thirteenth century contexts.²⁴

The two holes in the upper section, and possibly a third near the upper edge, are gouged. There are many examples like this among medieval sheaths from London and Dublin, where rivets of pewter or iron have been cut out for recycling.²⁵

A superficial resemblance to a dagger sheath may have been intended. However, the form of the upper section suggests it contained a handle of similar width to the blade, indicating a knife rather than a dagger with a cross-guard.



CAER422 © Historic Environment Scotland.

²³ Thomas and Bogdan 2012, 272-8.

²⁴ Cameron 2007, 27-31, fig. 40; Cowgill et al. 1987, 119, fig. 78.

²⁵ Cameron 2007, 50-52.

6. CAER423: Case panel, decorated, incomplete

Broken panel with a peaked (pointed) top, parallel sides and the lower edge now broken, apparently along the lower line of a decorative field. The top and sides of the asymmetrical panel are moulded, so that the panel is hollow, not flat. The two straight sides appear to be delaminating but there may be two separate layers, the inner being a separate lining. The edges of the sides and top are broken but the remains of a closed grain/flesh seam, stitch length 4mm, is present in places. The central peak is defined by a pair of horizontal grooves; the left shoulder is gently rounded but the right appears more angular. The front, grain, side is decorated with impressed and embossed animal motifs and punched dots within impressed linear borders. The decoration comprises a principal field with a large roundel formed by a single scrolled branch with leaves containing a lion *reguardant* (backward facing) with a large foliate-ended tail. Above the scrolled branch is a rearing animal, the head rising to fill the apex of the peaked upper edge. The animal is a seal-like creature with a divided tail resembling flippers and one front leg (or flipper) raised. The background infilling comprises individual impressed dots, irregular and not uniformly stamped. A further narrow panel is present along the right side with leaf and branch decoration with the same dot infilling. Leather: cattlehide. Length 110+mm; width 73mm; thickness 3.75mm; depth 12mm (left shoulder); depth 20mm (right shoulder).

This is likely to be broken from one side of a case; what the case may have contained is uncertain. The pointed top is reminiscent of that on a slip case of moulded leather, also with tooled decoration, that protects a series of parchment leaves of a Kalendar housed in the Pepys Library, Magdalene College, Cambridge. This Kalendar case, of fifteenth century date, differs from CAER423 in being formed from moulded leather with a single overlapping glued seam.²⁶ Nevertheless, CAER423 could have served a similar function as a slip case or a lid. Slipcases for keys, suspended from the girdle, also have pointed tops and may have been made of either moulded or soft, flexible leathers. The slight asymmetry of the panel suggests it was made to house a specific item that cannot be recognised from what remains.

The 'inhabited' roundel formed from a scrolled branch, the vine scroll, is a well-used motif. Such roundels containing cephalopods decorate the rerebraces from the British Museum and Dordrecht,²⁷ as cited above for the saddle panel CAER481. Vine scrolls with lions, wyverns, and other creatures occur on knife sheaths of fourteenth century date from London and Dordrecht so that a fourteenth century date is suggested for this case.²⁸

7. CAER424: Roundel, decorated, cut from a larger object, incomplete²⁹

Flat sectioned roundel, about half surviving, cut freehand from a larger, decorated, item. The grain side, now black and shiny, is decorated with stamped and incised decoration with small areas of an outer plain border present in places. The roundel appears to have been divided into four quarters by a narrow cross-shaped border, defined by paired incised lines drawn freehand, with seven paired triangular-shaped stab marks within each arm of the cross. The two lower quarters have a plump foliar design of three large, stylised leaves or flower buds in one quarter and a

²⁶ Cameron and Mould 2003.

²⁷ Paalman 2016, 92-3.

²⁸ See, for example, Cowgill et al. 1987, cat. nos 414, 417, 419, 421, 422, 423.

²⁹ Laing 1999, 234, no. 244, ill. 60.

central stylised acorn between two elongated leaves in the other. The acorn cup is rendered by cross hatching. A small area of an upper quarter remaining, opposing the large, stylised leaves/buds has two smaller but similar leaf/bud motifs. The background areas have stamped infilling of a series of four impressed stabbed marks, imitating stabbing by the point of a blade, each stamp 3mm long and potentially made by comb teeth. Curved and linear marks and motifs are engraved with U and V-sectioned blades that have removed the top layer of the leather. This method is different from the other decorated leatherwork in this catalogue and may be an example of a special cut-leather technique called *cuirciselé*. Leather: presumed to be bovine, grain side is black and shiny, the decoration crisp and unworn, the flesh side is smooth, worn and compacted. Width 101+mm; thickness 3.10mm; diameter 156mm.

The roundel was thought to be a cover for a travelling flask and to date to the fifteenth to sixteenth centuries.³⁰ This item was cut from another object, and it is possible that it had belonged to a leather flask but equally it could be a decorative roundel cut from a different item such as a lid from a circular box. It has no stitching or other holes present so that in its current form, unless it was stuck down, it was not attached to another surface or object. The crispness of the incised and stamped decoration shows that the item had not undergone heavy wear.

The roundels from Caerlaverock are difficult to parallel. Perhaps closest is a roundel from Statenplein, Dordrecht described as a 'flat circular leather panel decorated with fantastic animals and a grotesque figure of a knight with an animal body. Its precise function is yet to be determined'.³¹ Unlike the Caerlaverock roundels, the Dordrecht roundel has slots around the edge and is suggested that it might be a cover for a drum.

The foliate design here described as stylised leaf/flower bud is in the same tradition as the single oversized leaf, representation of a tree, seen frequently used in 14th century sheath ornament.³² The acorn and leaves are a common medieval motif; it is seen, within scrolling, on a baselard scabbard from the Statenplein site, Dordrecht.³³ Oak leaves similar in outline to those on CAER424 are depicted on the front of a fifteenth-century Austrian bookbinding and appear to have been executed using the same technique (see Bodleian Library Broxb. 83.3). Acorns with their cups rendered in cross-hatching, and oak leaves, are depicted on an English roll of parchment inscribed by its owner William Okeden and referring to his marriage in 1455 (Bodleian Library MS. Lat. Misc.e.22 R).

³⁰ Laing 1999, 234.

³¹ Paalman 2009; Rijkelijkhuizen and Volken 2017, 74.

³² For example, Volken and Goubitz 2020, 168-9, figs 36-7.

³³ Volken and Goubitz 2020, 133, fig. 15.



CAER424 (acorn detail). Photo courtesy of the authors.

8. CAER427: Leaf from wool carder, incomplete³⁴

The remains of the greater part of a rectangular panel, known as a leaf, from a hand wool carder. The panel, now in three pieces, has a plain border around the edge, varying in width from 3mm at its narrowest to 14mm at it widest. The border has holes made by the tacks or nails by which the panel was attached to the wooden card which resembled a small paddle or bat. One of the shorter sides is complete and has a nail hole in each corner and one in the centre, the other, shorter, side is torn off and missing. The two long sides have two nail holes present, those in the narrower border are now broken. The central panel is covered with a series of closely spaced, awl-made, holes to house wire hooks. No sign of iron staining from the wire hooks is visible. Leather: calfskin. Length 190+mm; width 102-11mm; thickness 1.50-1.65mm. The leaf from a wool carder provides direct evidence that wool was being carded to align the fibres ready for spinning.

³⁴ Laing 1999, 238, no. 257; Thomas 2026, no. 363.



CAER427. Photo courtesy of the authors.

9. CAER428: Shoe upper with knotted lace fastening, incomplete³⁵

The back part of a shoe upper now presenting as a folded and distorted panel with a whip-stitched top edge, stitch length 3-4mm, vertical front opening, the lower edge is deteriorated and broken, so that the lasting margin is missing. The vertical front opening of the shoe is now folded over on the left side with four rows of vertical thong slits present, each c.5+mm long; the upper slit may be single but the other three thong slits are paired, with the stubs of torn-off thongs protruding. The pointed-ended terminals of the thongs are present on the interior (flesh side), knotted so that the thonged fastenings are securely held in place. These flat-sectioned thongs are narrow, 4-5mm wide. The right side is heavily deteriorated, but a small area of whip-stitched edge can be seen at the lower edge, which is similarly deteriorated and broken. Two knotted fastenings of thong are also present, having become separated from the upper. One is a knotted (braided) button, also known as a toggle, with two equal lengths of broken thong present; the other is a single thong knotted at one end, known as a tailed toggle, or tailed knot fastening.³⁶ Leather: appears to be bovine, the grain pattern much rubbed in places. Height 125+mm; width 96mm; thickness 1.64–2.47mm.

The leather, apparently the left side of the front opening of an ankle boot, is folded and slightly distorted so that some important features are obscured; unfortunately, it is rigid and brittle and now cannot be opened out.

The surviving fastenings show features of two common ankle shoe/boot styles but differ in some respects. Both a knotted button/toggle and a tailed toggle/tailed knot fastening are present. Such fastenings occur on instep toggle-fastening and

³⁵ Laing 1999, 237, no. 254; Thomas 2026, no. 364.

³⁶ Goubitz et al. 2001, 162, fig. 2.

tailed knot-fastening styles of the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries;³⁷ indeed, occasional shoes have been found which use both fastenings on the same shoe.³⁸ Parts of at least 15 shoes of the knotted button/toggle type, comparable with examples from the City of London,³⁹ are present in the Caerlaverock assemblage (termed here as 'uppers with latches'⁴⁰) and knotted buttons/toggles occur in quantity.⁴¹ Here it appears that the button/toggle fastenings have been torn off, leaving only the broken stubs of their thongs in the paired slits. In this instance, the two ends of each button passed through the paired slits and their ends were knotted together on the interior. More usually both button and tailed-toggle fastenings passed through a single thong slit and were held in place on the interior of the shoe by stitching. It may be that this different method of fastening attachment is a local variant. Alternatively, it could be that this fastening was used on another type of clothing. CAER428 is most likely to be a component from a low ankle boot, that is, a variant of a common fourteenth century shoe style, but as so little has survived, one cannot be certain.

10. CAER429: Disc and strap fitting, incomplete⁴²

Central disc-shaped fitting with the remains of two opposing straps. The disc has a central circular hole 6mm in diameter surrounded by a concave depression c.20mm in diameter on the grain side, with the impression of a larger ring c.34 x 38mm in diameter on the reverse, flesh, side. The depression suggests a large rivet or dome-headed mount or stud had passed through the central hole. To each side of the central disc is the remains of a strap, now torn off and missing. One is 26mm (c.1 inch) wide; the other is narrower at 22mm wide. The narrower strap has a central buckle pin hole, max. 3mm in diameter, made by a punch, and is broken across a second. The item of thick, heavily worn leather is flat with no obvious curvature, but both upper and lower faces are contoured or deformed around the perforation on the grain side and the larger ring impression on the flesh side. Leather: cattlehide, heavily worn. Length 76+mm; width 62mm; thickness 4.68mm; central disc 62 x 46mm.

This incomplete fitting is unidentified at present. It appears to be a strap attachment that was secured either with a central rivet or had a central decorative mount. The thick and robust nature of the leather may suggest use on harness or another item subject to heavy wear.

11. CAER435: Neck collar from costrel, complete⁴³

Rectangular piece with each end folded inward and joined with a central vertical butted edge/flesh seam, stitch length 4mm, to form a cylinder which is now flattened. The flattened cylinder is slightly tapering with a wider end, the mouth, and a narrower end, both with stitched edges. The wider edge has a butted edge/flesh seam, stitch length 4mm, along the 'front' (the side opposite the seam), changing to a grain/flesh seam along the back (the two 'sides' either side of the seam). The narrow edge has an edge/flesh seam, stitch length 5mm. Undecorated. Leather:

³⁷ Goubitz et al. 2001, 161-6. Payerne and Freiburg styles: Volken 2014, 152-3, fig. 209.

³⁸ Goubitz et al. 2001, 237, 239, figs 5a and b.

³⁹ Grew and de Neergaard 1988, 60, fig. 94.

⁴⁰ Thomas 2026, 9.

⁴¹ Laing 1999, 239.

⁴² Laing 1999, 237, no. 253.

⁴³ Thomas 2026, no. 376.

bovine, black and shiny in colour. Length 57mm; width 41mm (mouth, external); width 38mm (mouth, internal); width 38mm (narrow end, external); width 31mm (narrow end, internal); thickness 1.83mm.

This is likely to be a cylindrical collar that has been squashed and is now flattened. A collar like this, inserted into the neck of a barrel costrel (SF369), was recovered from fill (347) of a pit (301) in plot 2 at India Buildings, Cowgate, Edinburgh.⁴⁴ This complete barrel costrel is dated by comparison with another from Baynard House, Queen Victoria Street, London to the late fourteenth century.⁴⁵ While the leather of this collar is not as thick as that from the Edinburgh costrel, it has stitching by which it was held in place and would serve the same purpose of supporting the neck so that it is likely that this is an internal support for the neck of a costrel or other leather vessel.

12. CAER454: Roundel, decorated, cut from a larger object, incomplete⁴⁶

Flat sectioned roundel cut freehand from a larger, decorated, item, a small area now broken away and missing. The grain side is decorated with incised, tooled, and punched ornament. A vertical border runs down one side of the roundel, defined on each side by a pair of creased (impressed) lines, spaced c.1.5mm apart and so producing a raised rib between. Within the vertical border are a series of now indistinct round raised motifs. The greater part of the roundel is decorated with a diagonal lattice of creased lines, one of each pair incised, worked freehand so that the individual resulting lozenges vary in size and shape. Each lozenge contains a central quatrefoil (four petal) punched motif, the motif c.5mm long, rather crudely executed. As used here, the term punched is an impression made by a punch, rather than a stamp which is a metal tool with a negative design carved into the face to produce an upstanding motif. Leather: cattle hide. Thickness 5.24mm; diameter 73mm.

The roundel is diapered (decorated with a repeated geometrical or floral pattern), frequently seen on late medieval leatherwork. In these cases, such as the thirteenth century sheath in the Museum of London (395),⁴⁷ fleur-de-lis motifs occur more often than quatrefoils, and stamps more often than punches. The punched quatrefoil may be a less accomplished imitation of the stamped quatrefoil, but its overall effect, and date, may have been similar.

13. CAER456: Sheath, handle section, decorated, incomplete⁴⁸

Handle section of a 'winged' knife sheath torn away from the blade section which is now missing. It is heavily moulded to house the knife handle with a flap for suspension on one side. The flap, c.12mm wide, has a gently concave outer edge with a pair of large, well formed, oval-shaped suspension holes c.6mm long, 4mm wide, spaced c.39mm apart. A vertical closed seam runs obliquely down the back of the flap, with grain/flesh stitching, stitch length 4mm, sewn with a double thread. The seam starts at the outer edge of the flap and runs inward toward the moulded handle section, giving a handle width of c.23mm at the junction with the blade. It continues at a right angle along the lower edge at the junction with the blade section for a short distance. The plain mouth is now beginning to deteriorate. The front of the flap is

⁴⁴ Mould 2022.

⁴⁵ Egan 1998, 239, no. 731.

⁴⁶ Laing 1999, 234, no. 243, ill. 59; Thomas 2026, no. 396.

⁴⁷ Cowgill et al. 1987, 124.

⁴⁸ Laing 1999, 236, no. 246, ill. 59; Thomas 2026, no. 398.

decorated with a series of well-formed oblique impressed lines; the back is plain. The handle front has a horizontal band, 3.5mm wide, below the mouth, with oblique linear infilling. Below this is a large vertical field with three oval roundels, each containing a five-petaled floral motif, connected by a double border. To the right side of the central field is a narrower field, defined by a double impressed linear border, containing two rectangular cells each containing a zoomorphic motif of an animal *passant* (forward-facing), resembling a hunting hound with a pronounced muzzle, backward streaming ears, and a long tail. There is a smaller angular field above and below. The angular borders and the background of the animal figures have been deeply impressed, resulting in the figures appearing in relief. To the left side, the blade edge, has a narrow field of plait design. The handle back is decorated with a single panel of lozenges, the central lozenges with vertical linear infilling, the side areas with oblique linear infilling. Leather: calfskin, the grain surface rubbed in places, the floral motifs are indistinct, and some detail is lost. Length 70+mm; width 28mm (mouth); thickness 1.64mm; diameter 26mm (internal).

This distinctive style of sheath originated in Dublin in the early eleventh century. Production increased in the late twelfth century, from which time winged sheaths are also found in Waterford, London and elsewhere in the UK.⁴⁹ The additional stitches seen at the base of the flap result from the offsetting of the seam along the blade section.⁵⁰

All the motifs on this sheath fragment, including the oval frames containing floral images, the zoomorphic stamps, plait motif, and oblique and vertical linear infilling, occur on winged and other styles of sheaths from mid-thirteenth to mid-fourteenth century contexts in London and Dublin. Five examples of winged sheaths were found at Perth High Street in thirteenth- or fourteenth-century contexts.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Cameron 2007, 27-31; Volken and Goubitz 2020, 135-7.

⁵⁰ For the practicalities of stitching the seam, see Volken and Goubitz 2020, 266-8.

⁵¹ Thomas and Bogdan 2012, 272-8.



CAER456 © Historic Environment Scotland.

14. CAER474A: Circular panel, front, decorated, incomplete⁵²

Remains of a circular shaped panel, broken away along the left side. The edges are torn away along a seam around much of the object with a small area with five grain/flesh stitch holes, stitch length 4mm, surviving. Impressed decoration on the grain surface, comprising a shield defined by a double border of creased (impressed) lines, each line c.3mm wide, with an additional shallowly curved line above. The point of the shield has three horizontal lines below. In the centre of the shield are three motifs, each 66mm long and 39mm wide, executed as impressed lines c.2mm wide. The motifs appear to represent money bags: round bottomed bags with radiating pleats, tied at the neck. These motifs have been alternatively interpreted as reversed wheat sheaves or scallop shells.⁵³ The leather is delaminated so that only the grain side is present; the impressed decoration from the grain side is clearly visible as raised areas on the reverse. The reverse side has

⁵² Laing 1999, 234, no. 245, ill. 60 (upper left); Thomas 2026, no. 416.

⁵³ Laing 1999, 234, no. 245; Thomas 2026, no. 416.

areas of a finely cracked surface remaining in places. This deteriorated surface suggests that much of the flesh side has been 'eaten away'; that the surface had been coated with a substance, possibly a resin or pitch, that has subsequently shrunk and cracked off, leaving the back of the grain surface exposed. Now broken into two pieces, delaminated, only the grain surface surviving. Leather: bovine. Length 239+mm; width 193+mm; thickness 1.54mm.



CAER474A. Photo courtesy of the authors.

15. CAER474B: Circular panel, back, decorated, probably from a bottle cover, incomplete⁵⁴

Remains of a near circular panel with moulded and impressed decoration. One side of the panel has a curving edge torn along a row of stitching. The stitching survives in small areas, showing it to be a closed seam sewn with a double row of 'saddle' stitching (two thread stitch), stitch length 6mm, the two rows spaced 4mm apart, with thread impression visible between each stitch, the thread c.1-1.15mm

⁵⁴ Laing 1999, 236, no. 245, ill. 60 (upper right); Thomas 2026, no. 417.

thick. The upper face, the grain side, is decorated with a plain border defined by two creased lines, each c.1mm thick, drawn freehand varying between c.11-13mm apart, the border c.18mm from the stitching and c.27mm from the edge. One side, probably the upper area, of the border sinks gently into a shallow concave curve, with a similar plain but moulded field above, c.10mm wide. The centre of the panel within the border is decorated with a saltire of double creased lines 11-12mm apart, drawn freehand. The upper face (grain side) is worn but not heavily; the impressed creased lines are clear and crisp in some areas but rubbed in others. Four slightly curving vertical nicks running obliquely in the broken edge above the single moulded field appear to be secondary. Now in seven surviving fragments mounted on a supportive backing material. Half of the circular panel is broken or torn away; the rest is torn along a seam. The length may be roughly complete; the width is not (estimated diameter c.245mm). Leather: bovine, calfskin. Length 243+mm; thickness 2.22mm (with backing).

The circular shape and double stitched closed seam around the edge suggest this to be broken from a bottle or flask cover. While the back panel shows no sign of an internal coating of wax mixed with pitch, which would be necessary to make a vessel watertight,⁵⁵ the front panel has a finely cracked substance on its inner surface which might represent such a coating. Alternatively, it could be an unusual effect of the burial environment. From what survives, the panels appear likely to be a bottle cover, being insufficiently thick, rigid and robust to be a leather bottle. Laing points out the possible significance of the saltire being the arms of Robert Maxwell, and the wheat sheaves those of his wife, Agnes Stewart (m. 1539).⁵⁶ CAER474A and B may be parts of a bottle cover, a protective cover for a glass bottle when travelling. The decorative designs may imply use by a member of the couple's household, perhaps a high-status member who would require protection for a valuable liquid when travelling.

⁵⁵ Goubitz 2009, 107.

⁵⁶ Laing 1999, 234.



CAER474B. Photo courtesy of the authors.

16. CAER478: Panel, shaped, stitched, incomplete⁵⁷

Flat, sub-rectangular panel with whip-stitched seams, stitch length 8-9mm, on all sides. The panel has a long straight side, a gently convex curving side opposite, and two short straight sides. Viewed from the grain side with the straight side at the bottom, the panel has suffered damage to the upper left corner, and more extensively to the right side at the upper, lower and side edges. The right corner is torn but clearly extended higher than the curved edge to its left. A large, punched hole, 7 x 8mm, is present where two torn edges meet. All the surviving edges are whip-stitched, presumably for a lapped seam. The faint impression from a possible lapped seam is present c.9mm below the curved edge, with a row of five small tack holes below that, only visible on the grain side. There are a series of apparently random tack holes scattered across the panel, with at least 12 shank holes visible in the interior and a single hole at the right hand (original) corner. One tack hole has the possible impression from a domed stud head visible; no head impressions are visible elsewhere. The grain surface is missing in places through heavy wear; the flesh side shows similar wear. Leather: bovine, the surface colour is black, but brown where abraded and the grain surface is missing. Length 545mm; width 325mm; width 285 (from straight to curved edge); thickness 2-2.70mm.

The use of the panel is uncertain. The whip-stitched edges may suggest it to be a lining but, if that were the case, it is difficult to account for the extent of wear on both faces. The size and shape may suggest it comes from either a saddle skirt panel or a horse caparison.

17. CAER479: Leather sheet fragment, nailed, incomplete⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Laing 1999, 237, no. 252, ill. 61; Thomas 2026, no. 426.

⁵⁸ Thomas 2026, no. 428.

Large fragment of sheet leather with broken and irregular edges, no seams or stitching present. Five small tack holes are present around the broken edges. Two of these, spaced 40mm apart, have the impression of circular domed stud heads, 8mm in diameter. A third one is a large oval-shaped shank hole with a faint impression of the head visible. A fourth one has a small circular shank hole surrounded by a circular area of darker discolouration, c.5mm in diameter, with the faint impression from a larger circular area around it, c.10mm in diameter, possibly made by a larger dome head. A fifth shank hole, on the opposite side from the oval one, has a faintly depressed circle around it. A hole is worn through the leather in one area, while a slit c.23mm long and 2mm wide, and an oval hole c.11mm long and 3mm wide, have no obvious wear associated with them and appear to be due to damage and not deliberate thong slits/slots. Leather: presumed bovine, grain side heavily worn, black/brown in colour. Length 288+mm; width 260+mm; thickness 2.70mm.

18. CAER480: Leather sheet, fragmentary, incomplete⁵⁹

Piece of sheet leather with no diagnostic features present, lacking any stitching or evidence of nailing, broken from a larger item, possibly a piece of hide. Now in multiple fragments, some with a single cut side, all other edges broken. The leather is delaminated with much of the flesh layer lost; the grain surface does not show signs of heavy wear. Recorded as being in eight fragments, now broken into 12 fragments. Here the largest fragment is described, and the properties of the smaller fragments are summarised:

- Largest fragment with a 37mm length of cut edge, all other edges broken, no obvious stitching, tack holes or other holes present. The leather is delaminated with the grain side present and the fibrous flesh layer surviving in one area. Leather: cattle hide, black in colour. Length 340+mm; width 211+mm; thickness 4.67mm; thickness 2.38mm (delaminated grain layer only).
- Fragment with a cut edge c.30mm long, other edges broken 143+ x 85+ x 1.94mm (delaminated)
- Fragment with a cut edge 62mm long, others broken. 115+ x 84+ x 2.01mm.
- Fragment with a cut edge 70mm long, others broken. 103+ x 54+ x 1.77mm.
- Fragment with a cut edge c.65mm long, others broken. 122+ x 23+ x 1.27mm.
- Fragment all edges broken. 170+ x 52+ x 1.72mm.
- Fragment all edges broken. 161+ x 107+ x 2.11mm.
- Fragment all edges broken. 74+ x 40+ x 1.75mm.
- Fragment all edges broken. 27+ x 24+ x 1.05mm.
- Fragment all edges broken. 55+ x 28+ x 1.33mm.
- Fragment (originally in two pieces, now joined). 192+ x 92+ x 1.34mm.
- Fragment all edges rolled under and broken. 47+ x 19+ x 1.54mm.

19. CAER481: Saddle panel, decorated, lined, with repairs and secondary cutting, incomplete⁶⁰

The saddle panel comprises two layers: an outer decorated layer and an inner lining. The outer layer and the lining are placed together flesh to flesh, with the grain sides facing outward and the edges whip-stitched together, stitch length 6mm. The decorated panel and its lining have three original edges; the fourth upper edge is

⁵⁹ Thomas 2026, no. 429.

⁶⁰ Laing 1999, 234, no. 242, ill. 58; Thomas 2026, no. 430.

irregularly cut away. Original edges: the left, shorter, side is vertical, the right, longer, side gently angled inward; they each meet the lower edge at a rounded corner. A hole near the top left corner of the decorated panel matches another in the lining, as do two smaller horizontal slits along the irregularly cut edge (these horizontal slit holes may be secondary and relate to mounting for display). The lining also has a larger and a smaller grain/flesh hole at the right corner, and two small horizontal slits along the irregularly cut edge and a third below.

The decorated outer layer is shiny and dark brown/black in colour. It is smooth, polished by wear; some of the background stamps are faint, but it is not heavily worn; most of the decoration is still clear and relatively crisp. The decorated panel edge has a plain border 10mm wide, defined by creased lines each 1mm wide. A double border, 10mm wide, comprising three creased lines, runs in a sinuous course close to the upper edge, defining the remains of the pear-shaped saddle seat. The panel is decorated by a pair of facing grotesque figures, placed one in each rounded corner, with a central stylised leaf between (foliate decoration/vine scroll), all depicted by creased lines, double in places. The grotesques have a human head with a lowered crest, squat body with two legs and a tail; from each mouth issues a long tongue or stem joining at the centre of the panel with a single large oak leaf. The three veins of the leaf are depicted with a double creased line. The eye of each grotesque, the right more pronounced than that on the left, is made by a central triangular-shaped depression, not penetrating the leather, within a non-continuous concentric line. The entire background, including the remaining pear-shaped seat area, is filled with a series of free-hand stamped triskeles, each motif 3mm across.

Repairs: the decorated outer panel has a short vertical slit 20mm long in the cut top edge, repaired with an edge/flesh whip stitch, stitch length 4mm. Two horizontal slits, one c.18mm long, with stitching faintly visible, and a second more sinuous slit, c.30mm long, are also expertly repaired with whip stitching. The horizontal slits appear to be the result of inexpert 'fleshing' of the flesh side of the hide rather than later damage.

Decorated panel of bovine leather, length 357mm; width 248mm (max.); width 134mm (min.); thickness 1.63-2.16mm; the decorated area (inside the plain border), c.340mm in length. The lining is of worn sheep/goatskin, length 371mm; width 243mm (max.); width 132mm (min.); thickness 1.17mm.

Such grotesques are known as *cephalopods* (from Greek 'feet around the head') and a variety of these strange, composite creatures occur as medieval decorative motifs. Two, differing, cephalopods decorate a fourteenth century leather upper arm guard (rerebrace) in the British Museum (1856.0701.1665), and one of the two examples of rerebraces from Dordrecht.⁶¹ The Dordrecht rerebrace was excavated from the site of Tolbrugstraat-Waterzijde from a context dated between 1325 and 1450.⁶² Both cephalopods and vine scrolls against a stamped infilling ornament a large leather object, described as 'possibly a saddle', of mid-fourteenth century date in the British Museum.⁶³ The single stylised leaf, used here on CAER481, appears to be a common motif, thought to be representative of a tree, and can be seen on several fourteenth century knife sheaths from Dordrecht.⁶⁴

⁶¹ Paalman 2016, 92-3.

⁶² Rijkelijkhuizen and Volken 2017, 63-5, fig. 5.

⁶³ Ward Perkins 1940, 199, pl. XLVII.

⁶⁴ Volken and Goubitz 2020, 167-9.

Based on the decorative motifs employed, therefore, a fourteenth century date for the saddle panel is suggested.



CAER481. Photo courtesy of the authors.

20. CAER622: Stitched and nailed panel, lined, incomplete⁶⁵

Flat panel with an original curving top edge, the lower edge and right side broken, resulting in a crescent shape. The lower edge is broken but has a small cut area present in the centre. The curving original edge has a series of holes made by a row of dome-headed studs/mounts, the heads 8mm in diameter, the heads spaced 9mm apart (nail holes spaced 15-16mm apart). A row of grain/flesh stitching, stitch length 2mm, runs directly below the studs, with a second row 35-40mm below, creating a plain border. What remains of the lower, central, area has a similar row of grain/flesh stitching forming a tongue-like shape from the remains of a leaf design, and an arch probably from a second leaf motif, indicating a foliate design decorated the centre. These rows of stitching have thread impressions on the grain side but not the flesh side, indicating that the panel was lined. Two fragments of the displaced lining adhere to the flesh side of the panel, one fragment protruding beyond the broken edge of the front panel on the right side. Areas of an original edge of the lining have widely spaced grain/flesh stitching. Leather panel, worn, shiny and black in colour: bovine. Length 180+mm; width 125+mm; thickness 2.44mm. The lining has no grain pattern visible, both faces compacted, thickness 2.27mm.

The curving, arched shape, nailed edge and stitching all suggest that this comes from the leather covering of the wooden cantle or pommel of a saddle, the leather being attached by the decorative nailing to the arch-shaped wooden cantle/pommel of the saddle tree (wooden frame) while the stitching held padding in

⁶⁵ Thomas 2026, no. 431.

place as well as being decorative. If from a cantle or pommel, what remains comes from a cantle/pommel more than 125+mm tall and about 190mm wide.

21. CAER633: Knife sheath, blade section, decorated, incomplete ⁶⁶

Tapering blade section of sheath, handle section torn off and now missing, with a grain/flesh back seam, stitch length 3mm, positioned slightly off centre. The tip end of the blade section is broken with horizontal, slightly oblique, impressions and two pin holes on the fold (knife back) marking the former position of a metal chape. The chape impression is c.24mm above the tip, with a second c.8mm below, both lying on top of the decoration. The sheath front is decorated with a single central field of impressed scrolls and stops (dots) comprising two rows of opposing scrolls within a tooled border, with impressed linear infilling of the central area created. The end of each scroll is marked by a pair of stops (impressed dots). The back has the wider, left, side decorated with the same opposing scroll and dot, with the narrower border having an impressed key pattern. The sheath was treated with bavon and white spirit (10 July 1978).

Leather: calfskin, black and shiny in colour. Length 95+mm; width 26+mm (max.); width 9mm (min.); thickness 1.64mm.

The decoration, while simple, has been skilfully executed freehand. While insufficient survives to know whether the blade section came from a sheath to house a knife, or a longer blade such as a dagger, the impression made by a chape may suggest the latter. A winged sheath of unknown date in the British Museum (1903 0626.71) has the same decorative design.

Bibliography

- Cameron, E., 2007, *Scabbards and Sheaths from Viking and Medieval Dublin*, Dublin: National Museum of Ireland
- Cameron, E. and Mould, Q., 2003, Unusual leather case in Pepys Library, *Archaeological Leather Group Newsletter* 17, 2-3
- Cowgill, J., de Neergaard, M. and Griffiths, N., 1987, *Knives and Scabbards*, London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office
- Dransart, P. et al., 2012, *Perth High Street Archaeological Excavation, 1975-1977, Fascicule 3: The Textiles and the Leather*, Perth: Tayside and Fife Archaeological Committee
- Egan, G. et al., 1998, *The Medieval Household: Daily Living c.1150–c.1450*, Her Majesty's Stationery Office
- Goubitz, O., van Driel-Murray, C. and Groenman-van Waateringe, W., 2001, *Stepping through Time: Archaeological Footwear from Prehistoric Times until 1800*, Zwolle: Stichting Promotie Archeologie
- Goubitz, O., 2009, *Purses in Pieces: Archaeological Finds of Late Medieval and 16th-century Leather Purses, Pouches, Bags and Cases in the Netherlands*, Zwolle: SPA Uitgevers
- Grew, F. and de Neergaard, M., 1988, *Shoes and Pattens*, London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office
- Holdsworth, P. (ed.), 1987, *Excavations in the Medieval Burgh of Perth, 1979-1981*, Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
- Laing, L., 1999, The Finds, in MacIvor, Gallagher et al. 1999, 196-240

⁶⁶ Thomas 2026, no. 443.

- MacIvor, I., Gallagher, D. et al., 1999, Excavations at Caerlaverock Castle, 1955-66, *Archaeological Journal* 156:1, 143-245
- Mould, Q. (ed), 2017, *Leather in Warfare: Attack, Defence and the Unexpected*, Leeds: Royal Armouries
- Mould, Q., 2022, *Assessment of the leather from India Buildings, Cowgate, Edinburgh (site No 23843)*, unpublished report for Headland Archaeology
- Paalman, D., 2009, Mooiste vondst uit de collectie van archeologie: schildfoelraal, *DIEP Cultuur Historisch Magazine Dordrecht* 12, 10-11
- Paalman, D., 2016, *The Golden Age of Dordrecht, 1350-1450*, Dordrecht: Dordrecht Museum; Varna: Regional Museum of History
- Rijkelijhuizen, M. and Volken, M., 2017, A poor man's armour? Late-medieval leather armour from excavations in the Netherlands, in Mould 2017
- Russell, J., 1939, English medieval leatherwork, *Archaeological Journal* 96, 132-41
- Salaman, R., 1986, *Dictionary of Leather-working Tools, c.1700-1950 and the Tools of Allied Trades*, New Jersey: Astragal Press
- Thomas, C., 1987, Leather, in Holdsworth 1987
- Thomas, C., 2026, *Caerlaverock Castle's Shoe Assemblage*, Edinburgh: Historic Environment Scotland, via <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/>
- Thomas, C. and Bogdan, N. Q., 2012, The Leather, in Dransart et al. 2012
- Volken, M., 2014, *Archaeological Footwear: Development of Shoe Patterns and Styles from Prehistory till the 1600s*, Zwolle: SPA Uitgevers
- Volken, M., 2022, *Archaeological Footwear, II: Sandals, Pattens and Mules from the Roman, Medieval and Modern Periods*, Zwolle: SPA Uitgevers
- Volken, M. and Goubitz, O., 2020, *Covering the Blade: Archaeological Leather Sheaths and Scabbards*, Zwolle: SPA Uitgevers
- Ward Perkins, J., 1940, *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, London: His Majesty's Stationery Office
- Wise, T., Hook, R. and Walker, W., 1980, *Medieval Heraldry*, Oxford: Osprey



© Historic Environment Scotland 2026

You may re-use this information (excluding logos and images) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated.

To view this licence, visit <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/> or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Any enquiries regarding this document should be sent to us at:

Historic Environment Scotland

Longmore House

Salisbury Place

Edinburgh

EH9 1SH

+44 (0) 131 668 8600

www.historicenvironment.scot

You can download this publication from our website at

www.historicenvironment.scot.

Cover image © Crown Copyright HES.