

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

23

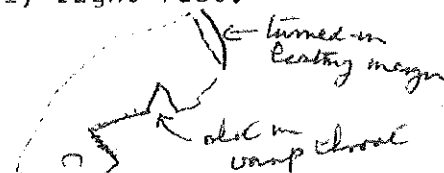
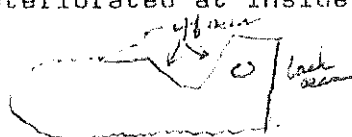
750271 Seven small fragments - cutting scrap, skin edges, thongs, etc.,
No special features.

750272 A small quantity of scrap including some fragments of upper with
edge/flesh stitch holes.

750273 A semi-circular fragment, c. 95mm. across the straight cut edge, the
convex edge being torn. May be the forepart of a vamp. Also a
few small fragments.

750274 A quantity of fragments, very deteriorated, the largest being roughly
rectangular, c. 220mm. x 115mm. One of the pieces has an edge/flesh
seam, c. 5.0mm. stitch length, suggesting that it is an upper
fragment but another piece having some superficial resemblance
to a sole forepart has a transverse cut and bevelled edge with
the edge/flesh seam also 5.0mm. stitch length.

750275 (a) Shoe upper, turnshoe construction, probably right foot.
Deteriorated at inside toe and outside waist.



There is a slot in the vamp throat c. 30mm. long.

The top edge has an edge/flesh seam, c. 4.0mm. stitch length, where
the insert was attached and the backseam is similar. The right side
of the toe-end of the vamp is in good condition and still has the
lasting margin turned in and well defined with a grain/flesh seam
c. 5.5mm. stitch length. A hole in the quarter may be for a tie.

Height of back: 70mm.

Another rough fragment may be part of the same upper.

(b) A semi-circular section with a slightly convex transverse edge
carrying an edge/flesh seam c. 3.5mm. stitch length may be part of
an upper but it is not apparent where it came from (although it
resembles a modern toe-cap). The curved edge is now rough and may
not be the original one. Width: c. 140mm.

Also a few smaller fragments.

750276 Various fragments including a sole lamina, cutting scrap and thongs,
one pair of these being knotted together.

(a) Sole lamina, from a turnshoe, possibly a right foot. As far as
the shape is concerned this is nearly complete except for a worn
portion at the inside (left) toe end. Very thin leaving the normal

edge/flesh stitch holes (c. 7.0mm. apart) exposed on the outer (underneath) surface, indicating that this specimen is a flesh lamina. Traces of grain lamina still adhere in places.

There is only slightly more wear on the outside (right) corner of the heel seat compared with the inside (left) corner but presumably this would have been more obvious on the now disappeared grain lamina.

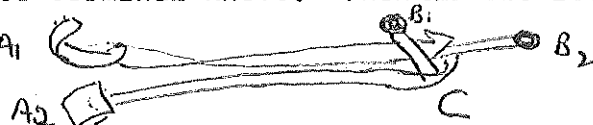
The overall shape is simple with no obvious waist; the toe shape was probably round but there is not sufficient left to determine this or even to say with certainty whether the specimen is part of a right or left foot sole.

Length: 212mm.; width at tread: 90mm.; at seat: 66mm. About size 13 (children's) in modern sizes.

(Draw flesh up)

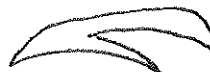


(b) Knotted thongs. These appear to be ^{two} ~~the~~ thongs each originally attached to its own shoe quarter and knotted together by the wearer. One end of each (A1 and A2 in the sketch) has been inserted through a slot near the end to form a loop; the other ends (B1 and B2) are formed into terminal knots. Then the two loose ends are knotted together (C).



Among the other fragments is a piece of cutting scrap showing a double cut, presumably a mistake.

Also a small bone



750277 Two small triangular laminae of between-section cutting scrap.

750278 Three small fragments, probably between-section cutting scrap.

750279 Triangular piece of scrap with one corner extended into a long strip. This does not appear to have any significance but happens to have been formed during the cutting of a section.

750280 Four pieces of scrap. One, c. 180mm. x 50mm. (max.) has two cut edges, one long and one short, but otherwise there are no special features. May be goat or sheep skin.

750281 Triangular strip, 130mm. x 115mm. x 35mm.; it has two holes 25mm. ^{roughly} ~~apart~~ ^{apart} near the broad end. A slight cracking round these holes suggests that a string or tie went through them. Use unknown.

*roughly
central*

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

750282 Three fragments. One is a strip, slightly curved, c. 125mm. x 35mm. (max.) with one end torn. Another could be part of between-section cutting scrap while the third is possibly a very small piece of turnshoe sole margin as it carries edge/flesh stitch holes 5.5mm. apart and has a curvature similar to the toe-end.

750283 Small triangular pieces of between-section cutting scrap.

750284 Three small pieces of thonging and a piece of triangular cutting scrap.

750285 A quantity of cutting scrap with the usual between-section triangular pieces, some quite thick (c.4.0mm.); pieces of thonging, roundings and possibly pieces of old shoes.

750286 A quantity of cutting scrap similar to 750285; also one skin shank piece. One curiously knotted thong could hardly have assumed its present form accidentally.



750287 A few leather scraps, very deteriorated. One appears to be the cutting waste between two adjoining soles; 130mm. x 38mm. x 5.5mm. thick.



750288 A few pieces of cutting scrap with no special features. One may come from the edge of the skin.


750289 Shoe upper; right foot; for turnshoe construction; one-piece wrap-round economy pattern as previously noted; very deteriorated. As the rear edge of the present specimen is now torn it cannot be said whether or not it was butted directly on to the inside vamp wing after wrapping round the back of the foot or whether there was an insert here. The top edge of the quarter has a scalloped edge/flesh seam, c. 5.5mm. stitch length, where a top band was attached. The lasting margin survives most of the way round with an edge/flesh seam, c. 6.5mm. stitch length. In some places the holes are right in the angle of grain and edge making it almost a grain/flesh seam. There is a very short length of edge/flesh seam, c. 4.0mm. stitch length at the instep but the general deterioration here is too great to allow a precise interpretation. Overall length: 277mm.




- 750290 A few scraps including a semi-circular piece, 70mm. x 35mm. x 5.5mm. thick which resembles a heel seat but has no stitch holes in it; also a piece of sole lamina and two small strips, possibly roundings.
- 750291 A few scraps including one skin edge with two large holes in it. It has some superficial resemblance to a shoemaker's handleather but this is probably fortuitous.
- 750292 One very small triangular fragment - no special features.
- 750293 One small triangular fragment, 75mm. x 60mm. x 35mm., with one edge carrying edge/flesh stitch holes, stitch length 4.0mm. Presumably part of an upper.
- 750294 A triangular piece of cutting scrap, c. 70mm. x 70mm. x 40mm.
- 750295 A small triangular piece, 45mm. x 35mm. x 35mm., with some indication of stitch holes along the edges; very deteriorated.
- 750296 Three fragments - two short strips and one small triangular piece with one cut edge.
- 750297 A few scraps, mostly from cutting, and one piece of strap, 65mm. x 28mm.


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(Main Finds)

 766470 1502 A curved strip, c.120mm. x 11mm. (max,) possibly an offcut from a re-used section of upper. Also two very small unidentifiable pieces.

 766471 1503 A narrow strip, c. 105mm. long, with one end broadening to 7.0mm. which now appears to be embedded in a metal concretion. Its shape suggests it could have been an instep tie thong.

(? X-ray)

 766472 Turnshoe upper, incomplete, pointed toe, right foot (judging from wear). Assuming this is a right foot then the vamp has been extended backwards on the outside (right) to form the outside quarter. Top and bottom edges both curve upwards at the back where presumably the sole had a V-extension at the back forming an upwards peak and becoming virtually part of the upper (similar types have been found at York and in Sweden¹). The throat has the usual "economy" cut giving the top front edge of the outside quarter. The inside vamp wing is short and shallow and must have had at least one other section stitched to it to complete the inside quarter and match the pattern of the outside one. The front top edge of the outside quarter when turned upwards gives an opening over the foot instep of c. 47mm. in height.

An unusual feature is the dip of the top edge of the outside quarter before rising to the peak, presumably at the middle of the back of the heel of the foot. The edge preceding it forwards to the instep is straight and has no stitch holes but this curved part is scalloped on the flesh side with edge/flesh holes, c. 3.0mm. apart where presumably another section was added to complete the quarter and continue the straight top edge. The inside ^{vamp wing} has edge/flesh seams on both sides of the ^{top corner} varying from 3.0mm. to 4.0mm. in stitch length where the additional quarter sections were added.

Near the top of the outside quarter are four parallel cuts ranging (front to back) from c. 10mm. to 6.0mm. and about 9.0mm. apart where an instep tie was inserted. This is additional evidence that the specimen is a right foot upper.

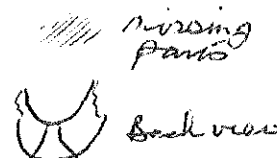
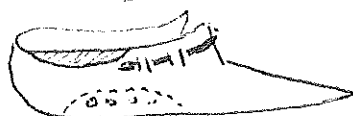
Near the bottom are two pairs of holes in a line more or less parallel to the bottom edge. These may be where a repair sole was wrapped round and thonged to the upper.

The lasting margin remains all round with grain/flesh marginal holes c. 5.0mm. apart except at the back peak where they become edge/flesh

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

closer together (3.5mm.). This change in seam where the sole becomes part of the upper was also noted in the York shoes (see above).

Overall length: 290mm.



766473

Some small fragments including:

(a) A piece of serpentine thonging from an upper/sole attachment with fragments of the sections remaining.

(b) A torn piece of upper c. 80mm. x 30mm. with one edge carrying a grain/flesh (? edge/flesh) seam, holes c. 4.5mm. apart.

(c) A narrow curved strip, 67mm. x 3.0mm., grain/flesh holes 4.0-5.0mm. apart. May have been part of an inserted rand or a strip cut from an upper.

766474

Turnshoe sole and a small quantity of scrap.

(a) Sole. Right foot, rounded toe, seat missing, worn into holes at inside toe and centre of tread. Usual marginal edge/flesh stitching holes, very fine in both size and separation, c. 3.5mm. stitch length, suggesting that this sole was part of an expensive indoor shoe, late Saxon or later. Length: 255mm., width at tread: 95mm., at waist: 55mm.

(Draw flesh up)

(b) The usual scrap, some triangular in shape from between sections during cutting; also thongs and strips. One piece from the edge of the skin still has the hair on it.

(Identify the hair)

76 75

16 1575

Three fragments forming most of a turnshoe sole with the toe-end missing. All are flesh laminae and carry what are now grain/flesh stitch holes, 4.0-5.0mm. stitch length but which were originally edge/flesh ones. The seat piece has its margin turned inwards and is creased as though it had been pulled by the upper here.

A small hole near the margin of the central (waist) section has an impressed ring round it, diameter 5.0mm. possibly where a nail rested (head underneath).

Overall length, the three pieces together: 187mm.; width at forepart: 92mm.; at seat: 77mm.



766476

20 1562

Parts of a left foot turnshoe consisting of two upper fragments, sole and repair clump.

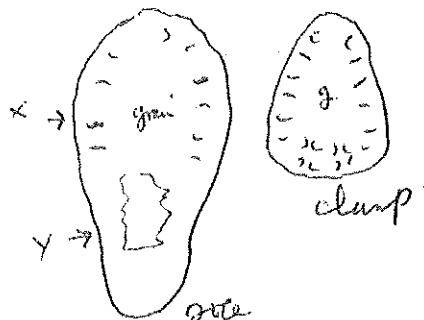
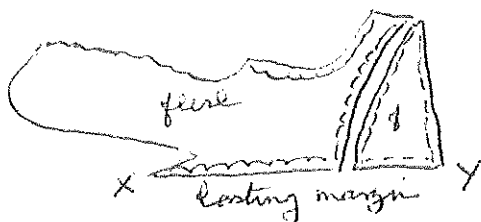
(a) Upper. Two fragments, one irregular and one triangular which fit together as shown in sketch. They illustrate how these early uppers were made on an "ad hoc" basis, pieces being fitted in as required. The inter-section stitch holes are all edge/flesh c. 4.0mm. apart.

The lasting margin is more prominent with grain/flesh holes, 4.5mm. apart.

(b) Sole. This has a complete lasting margin with edge/flesh marginal holes, stitch length 4.5mm. The waist and part of the seat have been completely worn away into holes and repaired at some time since there are additional holes, particularly at the seat, where nails were inserted. Part of a nail still remains.

The forepart is also worn thin and here a clump was thonged on (or stitched using a heavy thread) and still remains although deteriorated. The holes also remain in clump and sole, variable but c. 14.0mm. apart with ridges between; there is a double set across the waist.

It is not clear where the upper pieces joined the sole; possibly at X and Y



766477

25 1524

Two pieces of sword sheaths:

(a) 198mm. x 50mm. Central butted seam down one side, stitch length 4.5mm. It may be the bottom (pointed) end since it has been cut to a taper and there are stitch holes right through where a repair piece has been added but is now missing.

(b) A much heavier specimen than (a), 180mm. x 55mm tapering to 40mm. and crudely thonged, so much so that it is difficult to see how this sheath, if it is a sheath, could have been opened. There is some indication that the two sides were originally continuous round one edge and stitched down the other with coarse stitches, some over 10mm. long, but now both sides are separated and the pieces are held together by thonging.

(Draw both sides of (b))

766478

27 1562

Two fragments of a turnshoe sole, very thin, possibly left foot; toe-end and outside of forepart now missing. Fine marginal edge/flesh seam, 3.0mm. stitch length. Overall length: 170mm.



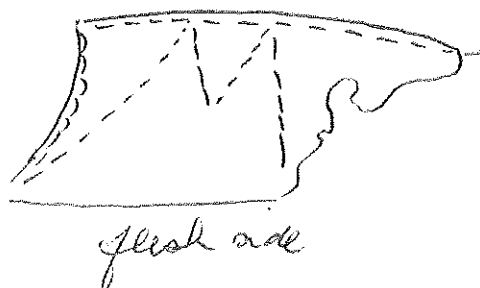
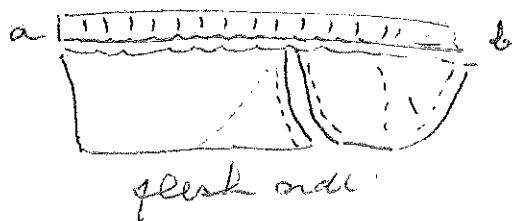
766479

33 1529

Three upper(?) sections and one piece of edge binding.

Now that the upper pieces have been treated and flattened it is difficult to say how they fitted together. Two of them with more or less corresponding edges (concave and convex) have edge/flesh stitch holes, 2.5mm. stitch length, where presumably they were butted and blind seamed together. They then give a continuous scalloped top edge (ab) to which the piece of edge binding may be fitted as it has corresponding scallops and holes and a bevelled edge.

The large section, c. 205mm. x 100mm. also has ^{two} stitched edges with similar stitch lengths but it is not apparent how this fits in with the others. One characteristic of this section and also of the others, however, is the presence of rows of grain/flesh stitch holes, c. 3.5mm apart forming zig-zag lines across the specimen. Presumably these were for decoration.



The top-band is now 140mm. x 60mm. and consists of a folded strip of leather. In addition to the lower scalloped and bevelled and pierced edge already mentioned, there is another row of very small transverse slots for about two-thirds of its length (which is the length of the rectangular section over which it fits) through which thread passed.

766486

106 1639

Turnshoe upper, "economy" pattern, probably right foot, deteriorated.

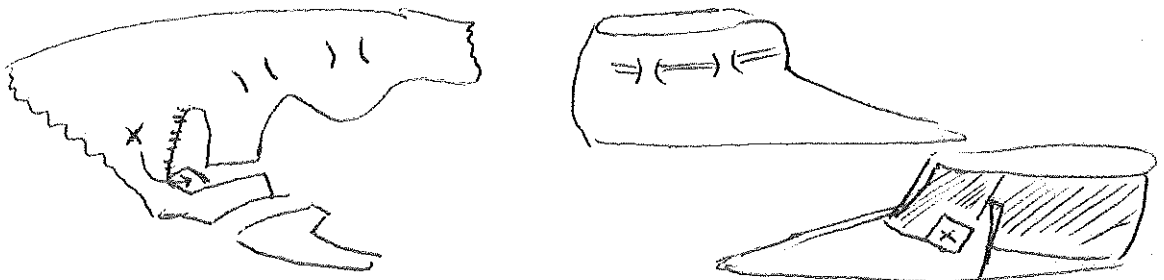
The right side of the vamp projects upwards over the instep and backwards to form the right(outside) quarter; the upper part of this quarter appears to have been cut away and used for another purpose. Presumably this quarter then passed right round the back of the foot and eventually met through an intermediate section the inside (left) vamp wing. A small L-shaped fragment remaining may be part of this intermediate section.

The top of the right quarter has a scalloped edge/flesh seam, c. 3.5mm stitch length, where presumably a top-band was added. The edge of the vamp throat, left side, has an edge/flesh butted seam, c.4.0mm. stitch length, where the next section of the inside (left) quarter was added.

The lasting margin and lower edge all round have deteriorated so much that no identifiable part remains.

Two pairs of slots, each about 10mm. long and with a separation of 10mm., and 55mm. between centres of pairs, are where the instep tie was passed, again indicating that this is a right foot (see 766472 above). The small L-shaped section still retains what is probably part of the lasting margin, turned inwards and with a stitch length of 4.5mm.; also the front butted seam, stitch length 4.0mm. where it joined the left vamp wing.

There is also a small piece from X on diagram with stitch holes corresponding to those on the vamp throat.



766487

Turnshoe, right foot, complete with instep tie thong and some of the sole attaching thread in situ and still joining upper and sole. Upper. The "wrap round" type with the vamp extending on the inside (left) into a short quarter and on the outside (right) into a long quarter passing round the back of the foot. Inside and outside

Insert for page 30

766480

46
1589

Turnshoe upper, wrap-round pattern, right foot. It may be the fellow of 766498 but appears to have had a piece cut away from the top of the quarter. The toe-end of the vamp has some longitudinal cuts which may be deliberate slashing or just fortuitous. The vamp throat has an edge/flesh seam, stitch length c.4.0mm., and this continues round the angular end of the vamp wing (left). The front end of the right quarter has a scalloped edge with edge/flesh holes, ~~stitch~~ stitch length c.4.0mm., where a top-band was added (see 766498). The lower edge (lasting margin) has now deteriorated all round and does not show any holes. Two pairs of more or less vertical slots in the outside quarter are where the instep tie thong was inserted (again see 766498). Overall length: c.315mm.

An L-shaped detached fragment with two stitched edges is probably part of an insert for the left quarter.

(Draw flat)

766481

74
1513

Turnshoe, left foot; upper, now in two parts, and sole.

Vamp: very deteriorated over the big toe area and round the throat but the lasting margin remains still turned in with a grain/flesh seam, stitch length 3.0mm.

Quarters: now flattened and deteriorated all round the edges so orientation is difficult but they appear to have extended in one piece round the back of the foot and to have been stitched to the vamp wings either side. One fragment has stitch holes corresponding to those on the sole at the inside waist.

Sole: small size, probably for a child, left foot; slightly pointed toe but a wide waist giving a nearly "straight" shoe (neither left nor right). Partly delaminated. Marginal edge/flesh seam, stitch length 3.0mm. matching the vamp. Two parallel rows of holes across the front end of the waist indicate that a repair clump was added over the forepart but it is not clear how this would have been attached round the edges unless the new stitches passed through the old ones. The heel seat is worn as usual but there is no indication of repair. Length: 176mm.; width at tread: 66mm.; at waist: 62mm., at seat: 50mm. c. size 8½ children's in modern sizes.

766482

100
1627

Turnshoe sole, forepart and part of waist (right side) only, left foot; worn thin in centre of tread. Usual marginal edge/flesh seam, stitch length 3.0-3.5mm. ~~stitch length~~, which is very fine for a large shoe. The original sole, ignoring shrinkage, would have been c.260mm. long, c.size 6 adults' in modern sizes, which is quite large for an early shoe. Width across tread: 95mm.

The general shape and fine stitching of this sole suggest it was part of a high-class shoe.

(note: a long cut near the outside edge may be where it was intended to re-use the sole but the job was never finished)



766483

102
1630

Leather fragment, oval with two projecting tabs. One of the tab edges continues as a cut into the oval suggesting that it is an over-cut and therefore that the specimen is waste from the cutting of something else rather than an artifact in its own right. In either case the solution is not clear.



766484

104
1633

Turnshoe sole; forepart and waist only; part of toe and whole of seat now missing. Much larger than usual and also has an unusual toe shape. The inside (right) edge of forepart, waist and seat is nearly straight but there is an outward flare in the little toe region of the outside (left) edge. The back edge is now torn but may have been cut at some time and holes across here (possibly more than one set) suggest that a repair was made, such as ^anew seat-piece. The sole itself has the usual edge/flesh holes, stitch length 4.5mm., very clear along each side of the waist but they have disappeared near the toe indicating that the present edge there is not the original one, again making it impossible to determine the original toe shape. Present length: 221mm.; width at tread: 105mm., at waist; c. 88mm. The original length was probably c. 260mm. c. size 6 adults' in modern sizes.



A small triangular fragment has one marginal grain/flesh seam, stitch length c. 4.5mm., presumably a piece of the upper for the above sole. There is also a piece of upper lasting margin, 104mm. long, again with stitch holes at 4.5mm. separation. Both of these specimens have thread in situ.

766485

105
1639

Turnshoe upper, wrap-round pattern, left foot. Similar to other examined but possibly of finer quality. The vamp is more or less complete with the right wing (inside) finishing in an edge which slopes forward and carries a butted edge/flesh seam, stitch length 4.0mm. The outside (left) wing continues to become the quarter which then carries on round the back of the foot and would originally have met the inside wing with or without an insert. In this present case

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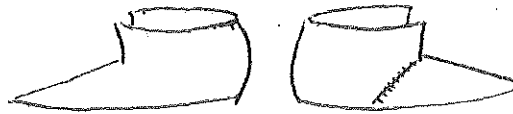
the leather has deteriorated very badly here and the inside quarter is incomplete.

The front of the outside quarter projects upwards over the instep but neither here nor along the top of the quarter are there any signs of stitching so no top-band was added.

The lower edge (lasting margin) remains intact in some places, with grain/flesh holes, stitch length c. 3.5mm. This is quite a fine stitch for sole attaching suggesting a high quality shoe.

Present length: c.345mm.

(Draw grain up and as a reconstructed upper)



quarters are connected by two . . . inserts - a vertical rectangular one extending from the top edge to the lasting margin and a triangular one with a sloping top edge filling in the right-angle between the top of the vamp wing and the front of the other insert (see fig.)

The vamp throat is round and there is an indication of an edge binding. The instep tie tong remains passing through two slots in the outside quarter, after which it broadens to prevent its pulling through. There are also two closer slots in the inside wing, the thong now passing through one of them, and two more in the insert which forms part of the inside quarter. There is also a detached piece of thong, shorter than the other and again with a broad end. These two thongs would presumably have originally been tied together over the left quarter.

The various upper sections have been butted together and blind seamed with an edge/flesh seam, stitch length 4.0mm.

The lower edge or lasting margin of the upper is very sharply turned in and moulded and has large grain/flesh holes, stitch length 6.0-7.0mm., some of which still carry thread, where it was stitched to the sole and at one place (the outside joint) the sole is still actually attached, a very rare occurrence with shoes of this age.

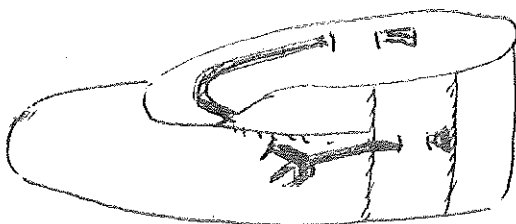
(identify thread)

Sole. Markedly right foot with a very prominent and curved outside joint (little toe area) but fairly straight at the inside joint and waist; toe shape is medium round (as contrasted with the very sharp toes of the 14th and 15th centuries). It has the usual marginal edge/flesh turnshoe seam with stitch holes 6.0-8.0mm. apart.

Worn into holes at toe, tread and seat (more on the right side of the seat as usual for a right foot).

Length (sole): 245mm. width at tread : 95mm.; at waist: 85mm.; at seat: 77mm. About size 4, adults' in modern sizes.

There is also a small piece of scrap, possibly a lamina of the upper but it is not clear where it came from.



(consider JHT re-changing)

UPPER

766488

109 1647

Small oval-shaped leather object, c. 95mm. x 60mm., originally filled with a fibrous mass of what appears to be flat vegetable fibres, also possibly some hair. The periphery is folded and there are some indications of stitch holes. May be a bag or even a baby's shoe but there is no clear indication of this or why it should be stuffed.

766489

110 1639

Three narrow fragments of leather, the longest c. 160mm. with a maximum width of c. 2.0mm. These are too narrow to be used as shoe ties and may simply be parings from upper sections. One is bifurcated but this is apparently due to delamination rather than cutting.

766490

115 2066

Fragments of a looped moccasin-type shoe, sides and sole portion.

The left side has three loops and one tie thong and has been delaminated, the flesh lamina remaining on the sole portion.

The right side has one complete loop and tie thongs at front and back, also fragments of two other loops. The rear edge of the right side also has creases and grain/flesh stitch holes where it was joined to the other side, c. 6.0mm. stitch length.

This type of shoe is essentially Romano-British and many similar types have been found in Britain². The rather crude backseam however compared with the Romano-British ones suggests that this method of shoemaking was continued onto Saxon times but with less skill.

Note: the loops were formed in the upper by slotting and pulling sideways.

The sole portion is probably a lamina and carries part of the left side of the upper; it also has the creases and stitch holes at the back.

Length (longest side): 165mm.



(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

766491

124 1630

Turnshoe upper, right foot; wrap-round type, one-piece except for a missing V-shaped insert (or perhaps two inserts) to complete the inside quarter. A slight ridge down the centre of the vamp has been formed by two parallel rows of fine stitching on the grain side, the holes still remaining, c. 1.5mm. apart. The vamp has a semi-circular throat and its edge, and also the rear edge of the left (inside) wing, has edge/flesh holes, 3.0mm. stitch length. It is not clear what the throat holes were for unless some sort of tongue was attached here but the end holes are where the insert was attached. The top edge of the extended vamp-wing/quarter is scalloped with edge/flesh holes, c.3.5mm. stitch length, where a top-band was attached. The end rises to a peak and the back edge then curves away from it, presumably where ~~where~~ the section passed round the back of the foot to the inside where it then joined the now missing V-shaped insert to complete the inside quarter. This back edge carries edge/flesh stitch holes, stitch length 3.0mm.

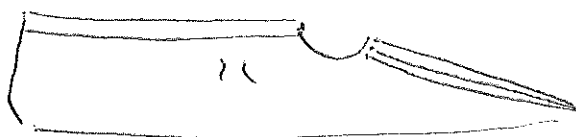
The lower edge (lasting margin) of the section, although deteriorated, is still turned in at places and carries the grain/flesh stitch holes 5.0mm, apart used for the sole attaching.

A small crescent-shaped fragment, also with a turned-in edge carrying similar stitch holes to the lasting margin and with a slightly scalloped opposite edge carrying holes 7.0mm. apart, may be a repair for the back of the upper since there are similar holes here. It might even be a small stiffener for the back of the shoe although these are not common at this period.

Two parallel slots c.7.0mm. long and 8.0mm. apart in the outside quarter and two similar ones in the short inside vamp wing show where the instep tie was fixed.

Overall length: 290mm.

There are also two very small fragmentary V-shaped laminae with stitch holes. They appear to be the remains of the inside quarter insert referred to above.



missing
sections

766492

128 1655

Low boot, turnshoe construction, right foot, very deteriorated but most of the upper and sole remain.

Upper. "Economy" pattern as previously described. The vamp portion is more or less complete but the back of the quarter is badly deteriorated. The short inside vamp wing has edge/flesh stitch holes c.4.0mm. stitch length. There are several vertical cuts in the

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

outside quarter and one which now extends from the top edge may have been intended to permit easier entry of the foot. The top edge has no stitch holes. The bottom edge (lasting margin) still remains turned in in places with grain/flesh holes, c.4.0mm. stitch length.

Sole. Also badly deteriorated and it is now difficult to determine what was the original shape of the toe and forepart. It appears to have had a very wide tread indeed (c.110mm.) narrowing to 80mm. in the waist and c. 60mm. at the seat. The overall length (when straightened) is c.260mm. or c.size 7 adults' in modern sizes, which is quite large for a shoe of this period (as excavated). The present shape of the sole suggests it might even have been made for a person with an abnormal foot.

A thong remains in situ through a slot, presumably used to attach a forepart repair, since there has been a great deal of wear here; the seat has the usual maximum wear for a right-foot sole at the right corner and side.

The marginal edge/flesh holes correspond with those in the upper, c.4.0mm. stitch length.

A small curved and perforated strip may be part of an inserted rand originally included between upper and sole³ or a lamina from the edge of the upper itself. Its curvature corresponds with that of the vamp.

(Draw)

76493

Various shoe parts

(a) Boot upper, turnshoe construction, left foot "economy" pattern complete except for a very small triangular insert, now missing, at the top edge of the right quarter. This is a "classic" example of the skillful cutting and folding of a single piece of leather to form an upper. The rear edge of the right vamp wing and the corresponding front edge of the right quarter (after it has passed round the back of the foot) both carry an edge/flesh butted seam with stitch holes, 3.5mm. stitch length. The top edge (except where the small insert was fixed) is scalloped with edge/flesh holes, c.4.0mm. stitch length where the top-band was attached. The front end of the top edge where the triangular insert was required has edge/flesh holes with 3.5mm. stitch length but no scalloping.

The lasting margin is still turned in with grain/flesh sole attaching holes, stitch length c. 4.5mm.

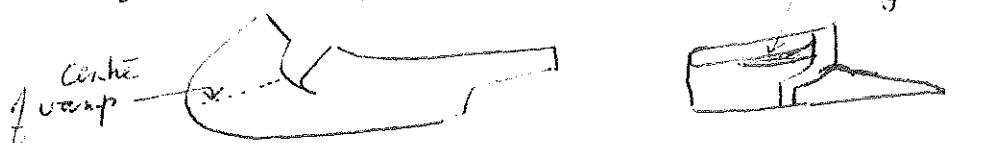
On the inside surface (flesh) there still remain at the seat the stitch holes to which the top edge of the stiffener was attached by

140 1655

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

overstitching forming an arc above the bottom edge; variable stitch length c.8.5mm.

Overall length: 400mm.; maximum width: 170mm.; height of top of leg above lasting margin: c.125mm.



(b) Boot upper, left foot, a wrap-round pattern for turnshoe construction requiring a greater area of insert (perhaps more than one piece) than does (a). The right vamp wing has a rather crude row of grain/flesh stitch holes, 4.5-5.0mm. stitch length, with creasing between them, not such a craftsman-like job as the similar seam in (a). The front edge of the leg portion (left side of upper) rises much higher than does (a), c.100mm. above the lasting margin. There is no scalloping or row of stitch holes along the top edge.

The back edge is very deteriorated at the bottom but nearer the top there is an edge/flesh seam, c.3.5-4.0mm. stitch length, where it was joined to the missing section.

Parallel slots on both sides show where a tie thong was inserted. The lasting margin remains except at the seat, still turned in and carrying a grain/flesh seam, 6.5mm. stitch length, where it was attached to the sole. Overall length: 260mm.



(c) A rectangular fragment c.90mm. x 65mm. with two cut edges one of which is scalloped and carries an edge/flesh seam, stitch length 3.5mm, and the other with an edge/flesh seam also 3.5mm. but not scalloped. This piece may be the front top corner of the right leg of (b) but this is by no means certain.

(d) Four small fragments, no identifiable features.

766494

14L 1625

The remains of a shoe which appears to have been made by thonging together scraps from other shoes almost at random. There are so many individual pieces superimposed that it is virtually impossible to work out a pattern or method of procedure by which the "new" shoe was made. Some of the pieces have marginal edge/flesh stitch holes belonging to the "parent" shoe but not required for the "new" one, e.g. there is a section of turnshoe sole, possibly that of the original shoe, which now forms the foundation of the present shoe but the "upper" has been thonged to it. This "upper" is itself only c. 25mm.

high above the sole edge and carries another row of thonging so possibly yet another section was added above this. The forepart, both above and below, is a confused agglomeration of re-used scraps. Altogether, this shoe is a truly remarkable example of a really "cobbled" job.

Overall length: c.260mm.; width:140mm.

(Photo. both sides)

766495

152 1621

Turnshoe sole, right foot. Medium pointed toe, wide waist.

Marginal edge/flesh seam, ditch length 4.5mm. Worn into a hole at outside joint, waist and right corner of seat. A good example of a turnshoe sole before fashion exaggerated the pointed toe and narrowed the waist.

Length: 266mm., width at tread: 93mm.: at waist: 85mm.; at seat:68mm.

(Draw flesh up)

766496

161 1524

Half of a wooden disc, diameter:110mm., thickness: 10mm. Use unknown.

766497

170 1735

Fragments of a turnshoe in very poor condition. Probably right foot.

Upper. One side remains, ~~vamp and inside wing now detached~~ and its lasting margin has a rand in situ - an early example of this⁴. Stitch holes 5.0mm. apart. There is

some indication that the vamp and quarter were similar to those ~~of~~ ^{already} described ~~above~~ but the deterioration is so great that one cannot be certain of this. There is also some indication that the sole continued with a V-extension at the seat to form the back of the upper since the back edge of the upper seems to run on continuously from the lasting margin with similar stitch holes.

Sole. Only ^{fragmentary} two/flesh laminae remain and these have lost forepart and seat. Marginal holes, originally edge/flesh 5.0mm. stitch length.

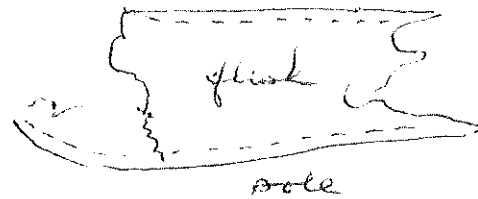
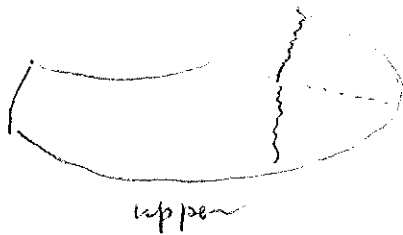
There is also a five-sided fragment with three plain cut edges and two stitched ones both carrying edge/flesh seams, stitch length c.5,5 mm. Probably an insert from the other side of the upper.

The upper appears to have a deliberate cut or hole with creases on one side through which an instep tie passed. There are somewhat similar holes on the other side but these may be due to deterioration.

Rand. Two small strips remain, 4.0mm. - 5.0mm. wide, with grain/flesh stitch holes 4.5mm. apart. Also another strip or thong with no holes. Overall length length of upper: 340mm.

Two other fragmentary laminae, one with a cut edge and one with two cut edges showing traces of stitch holes, may belong to the upper.

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

(766497
ctd.)

766498 Turnshoe. left foot, complete wrap-round "economy" pattern upper with insert and sole.

Upper. The typical "Economy" pattern complete in one piece except for a roughly rectangular insert forming the right instep tab and joining the outside left quarter after this has passed round the back of the foot. The top edge of the quarters has no stitch holes so a top-band was never added. The insert seams and corresponding seams on the main part of the upper are all butted with edge/flesh stitch holes, stitch length c. 4.0mm. The lasting margin is well defined and carries two sets of holes: (a) the original edge/flesh ones, stitch length 4.5mm. and (b) a few tunnel stitch ones round the inside of the toe-end, slightly higher than the first set and with a stitch length 7.0-8.0mm. used in repairing.

Some slots in the outside quarter near the lasting margin are probably where the instep tie ~~up~~ was inserted. There is also a slot in the narrow backwards extension of the inside vamp wing



Sole. left foot, rounded toe, straight inside waist; worn at the usual places: inside toe, outside joint and heel seat. Some indication of a foot impression. Usual edge/flesh marginal turnshoe seam, stitch length 4.5mm. (as on lasting margin of upper)

Length: 212mm.; width at forepart: 90mm.; at waist: 80mm.; at seat: 74mm. c.size 12, child's in modern sizes.

A clump repairsole, a fragment of which/^{still}remains, was added by tunnel stitching to cover the hole on the toe end of the sole. This has also worn into a hole at the same place.

(Draw both sides of sole and flesh side of clump to show tunnels)



766499

Turnshoe sole, probably left foot. Almost "straight", i.e. neither left nor right, but the wearing away of the left corner of the heel seat

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

suggests it came from a left foot shoe. Usual marginal edge/flesh stitch holes, stitch length 4.5mm.

Length: 210mm.; width at tread: 88mm., at waist: 80mm.; at seat 72mm. c. size 12½, child's, in modern sizes.

(Draw flesh up)

766500

177 1744

Knife sheath, mm. x mm. (max.); one edge folded, the other stitched. The stitched edge is stepped to give a flange through which there is a hole, presumably where the sheath was suspended from a strap or belt. The tapered end of the sheath has a criss-cross incised decoration. Extra stitch holes suggest a repair.

(Draw)

766501

182 1745

Turnshoe sole, forepart and waist, probably right foot; flesh lamina only except for a small portion at the inside waist (the area of least wear) where the grain lamina also remains. Usual marginal edge/flesh seam, stitch length 3.0mm. (finer than usual). The fairly pointed toe shape and finer stitching suggests that this sole was part of a high-class fashionable shoe. Only a few fragments of the seat now remain. Present length: 190mm.

(draw flesh side to show seam)

766502

174 1743

Strap. 115mm. x 11-12mm. x c. 2.5mm. thick; torn each end. Two longitudinal parallel rows of oblique stitch holes, c. 3.0mm. stitch length, suggest it was stitched to another similar piece.

(Draw)

766503

190 1717

Turnshoe upper and sole, sandalised, right foot.

Upper. This is now in two parts, vamp and back of quarters, and in the present collection of shoes is unique in design. The vamp has been cut into an asymmetrical open-work pattern with some superficial resemblance to a Roman-British moccasin-type looped shoe⁵ but of course with the leather continuing over the top of the foot and attached via the lasting margin to the sole with ^agrain/flesh seam, stitch length 2.5mm. The part of the upper covering the big toe (the left side of the toe-end) is solid without cut-outs, a good point in design of any period. The quarters are sandalised matching the vamp with a strap projecting forwards and upwards from the left side. Two pairs of holes at the end of this strap suggest that it was folded here to form a loop for an instep tie but another strap may have been stitched to it. The edge sloping forwards and downwards from this strap is

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

apparently torn. Behind the dtrap there is a deep U-shaped inlet and then a torn edge. The lower edge, the lasting margin, is similar to that on the vamp.

The outside quarter (right side) is now missing but presumably the complete upper was similar to the reconstruction shown in Fig....



Sole. Mostly ^{the} flesh lamina only with odd grain fragments remaining; its shape is similar to those of the 13th and 14th centuries with its long pointed toe and wide flare at the outside joint; the waist, which is now worn away along the outside edge, ^{was} ~~is~~ probably wider than that of the later shoes however. Usual marginal edge/flesh seam with a stitch length 2.5mm. - 3.0mm.



Although this shoe is unique in the present collection similar ones have been recorded in the 10th/11th centuries⁶.

766504 Turnshoe vamp and sole, right foot.

1692 1770

Vamp. Straight throat with no indication of joining to other sections. Lasting margin well defined with stitch holes c. 4.0mm. apart. Length - toe to throat: 90mm.

Sole. Broader and larger than usual; worn into a hole at the inside toe and back of seat, more on left than right which is unusual for a right foot. Usual marginal edge/flesh seam, 4.0mm. stitch length corresponding with vamp. Length: 249mm.; width ~~at~~ tread: 100mm.; at waist: 90mm.; at seat: 73mm. c. size 5 adults' in modern sizes. This shoe is in complete contrast to the previous one, 766503

(Draw)

766505 (a) Knife sheath. Similar to 76500 with a step in the stitched edge.

173 1637

The stitching, however, continues in line from the lower edge and does not follow the stepped flange. mm. x mm.

(b) Turnshoe sole, child's (?), probably right foot, deteriorated, particularly at toe and seat but still carrying marginal edge/flesh stitch holes, c. 3.5mm. stitch length.

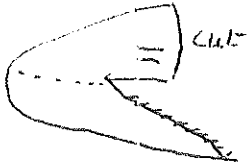
Length: 160mm.; width at tread: 53mm.; at waist: 45mm.; at seat: 43mm. c. size 7, child's in modern sizes

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

(766505b
ctd.)

766506 (a) Turnshoe: upper (part) and sole, right foot.

Upper. May originally have extended round back of foot as the right vamp wing now finishes in a cut edge without stitch holes. Inside this wing there are two parallel slots, presumably for a tie thong. The inside (left) vamp throat has edge/flesh holes, 3.5mm. stitch length, where an insert was added (see Fig...). The lasting margin remains in places, turned in with grain/flesh holes, stitch length c. 4.0mm. Length: c.205mm.



Another very thin section, c. 180mm. x 75mm. may be part of the inside (left) quarter and has some possible traces of stitching but it is now too deteriorated to determine exactly how it fitted, if indeed it ever did. It may even be a sole lamina.

Sole. a flesh lamina only, right foot, with edge/flesh marginal holes 3.5mm. stitch length, corresponding to those in the upper. The toe end, outside waist and seat have now gone.

(b) Part of a turnshoe upper, probably left foot, which has been well-defined "cannibalised", only a narrow section including the lasting margin remaining with grain/flesh holes 4.0mm. apart. Thicker than usual for an upper leather - 3.0mm. Two tie slots remain and apparently the original upper passed round the back of the foot. The rear/end of the flattened section has edge/flesh holes c. 3.0mm. stitch length 3.0mm. where butted and stitched to the right vamp wing (or insert) after going round the heel. Length: c. 260mm.

Another section, trapezoidal shaped, has two plain cut edges and two stitched ones with edge/flesh holes c.4.5mm. apart; also two pairs of tie slots. It may be part of an insert from the same upper.

It also has two repair holes.

(Draw both parts together)



(c) A small quantity of fragments, some with stitch holes; probably pieces of upper

(d) A small triangular section, 30mm. x 40mm. x 50mm. has a lasting margin and two butted edge/flesh seams. Probably an insert for an otherwise incomplete "wrap-round" upper.

(Durham Castle - leather - continued)

References

1. "Excavations at South Corner Tower, Roman Fortress, York, 1956" by I. M. Stead. (Yorkshire Arch. J. Vol. XXXIX, "Leather Shoes" report by J. H. Thornton and A. V. Goodfellow, pp.525-530)
2. "Leather Found in Mediobogdum, the Roman Fort of Hardknott" by Dorothy Charlesworth and J. H. Thornton. ("Britannia", Vol.IV 1973 pp.141-152)
3. "The Examination of Early Shoes to 1600" and "A Glossary of Shoe Terms", both by J. H. Thornton. (Transactions 12 of the Museums Assistants Group, 1973)
4. ibid
5. see 2. above
6. A shoe with a cut-out upper is illustrated in "The Book of the Feet" by J. Sparkes Hall (London, 1847). It is said there to be "copied from 'the Durham book' or book of St. Cuthbert, now preserved among the Cottonian manuscripts in the British Museum, and is believed to have been executed as early as the seventh century by the hands of Eadfreid, afterwards Bishop of Lindisfarne, who died in 721."