

The source of the Newcastle 'Anglo-Scandinavian York Ware' vessel

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In 2002 a sample of a wheelthrown vessel found in what was interpreted to be the foundations of a church associated with a post-Roman, pre-Norman cemetery was analysed by the author and compared with samples of late 9th to early 10th-century Anglo-Scandinavian York ware from Coppergate (Holdsworth's York A group). It was found to be petrologically and chemically similar to the York finds. Subsequently, a re-interpretation of the stratigraphy at the castle site in Newcastle casts doubt on the Anglo-Scandinavian dating and function of the 'church'. Meanwhile, several more Newcastle- and York-made Anglo-Scandinavian and early medieval wares have been examined by the author.

Consequently, data from a number of these wares was studied using Principal Components Analysis (Fig 1). The data come from the following wares:

- York Anglo-Scandinavian ware (York A ware, filled squares)
- York Anglo-Scandinavian D ware (York D ware, open triangles)
- York Gritty ware (half-filled squares)
- Coarsewares similar to those made at Dogbank (and including four Dogbank samples) in which the following distinctions were made: coarse gravel-tempered (dotted circles), light-firing fabric (DURCW, half-filled circles), fine-textured fabric (DURF, filled circles), very fine-textured fabric (DURVF, filled diamonds).

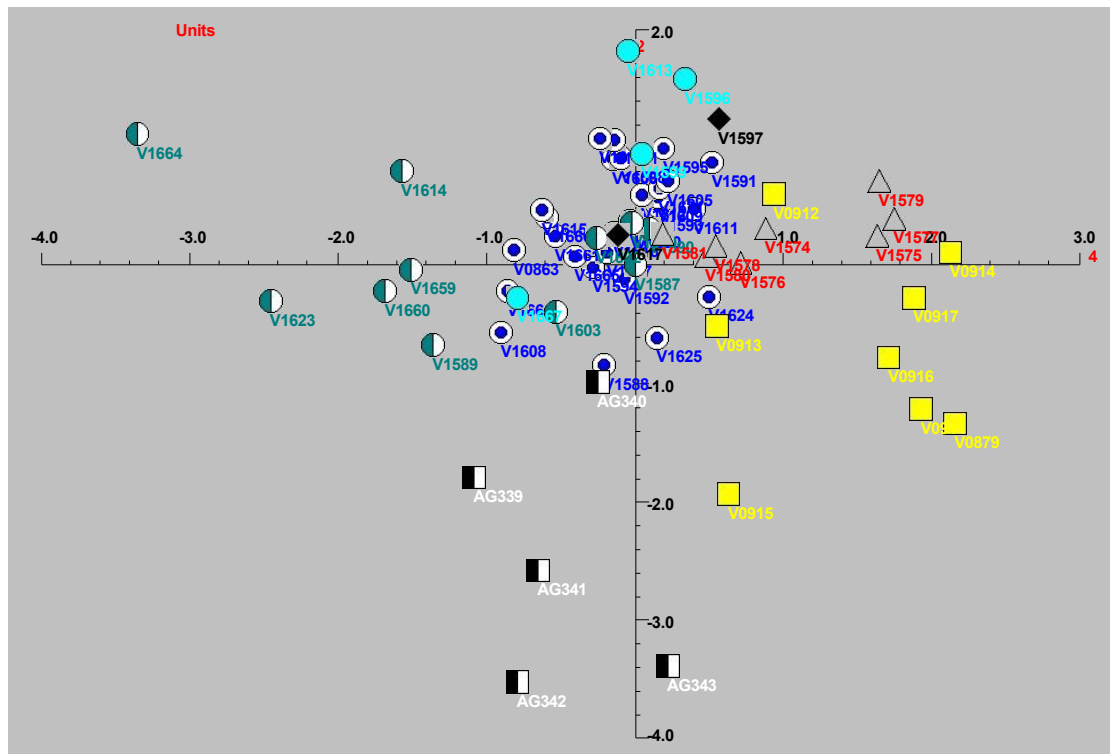


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows a plot of PC2 against PC4. It shows that although the fabrics are all similar (ie plotted close together) it is possible to distinguish a York group (high values of PC4 and negative values for PC2) and a Newcastle group. The 'York A' sherds from the castle plots with the remaining York A samples and thus appears to be a genuine York area product.