

Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Report 201/87

NOTE ON THE PETROLOGY OF A MEDIEVAL  
SHERD FROM PARK HILL, BARROWFORD,  
NELSON, LANCASHIRE.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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### Summary

Thin section analysis of a Medieval sherd from Park Hill typologically similar to Scarborough ware shows that the fabrics are in fact different and another source seems likely.

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NELSON, LANCASHIRE

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HC 83 C10 (2)

The sherd is in a hard, fine-grained sandy fabric, darkish green glaze on the outer surface, pinkish-buff inner surface and core. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope shows frequent well-sorted subangular grains of quartz, average size 0.20mm and under, with a few grains just slightly greater than this, flecks of mica,, a little chert and some sandstone. A comparison of this fabric was then made with sherds of Scarborough ware Phase I and Phase II previously analyzed (Williams and Tomber, 1982) because of possible typological similarities between the Park Hill sherd and Scarborough ware. This examination suggested that the Park Hill sherd was not sufficiently similar texturally to suspect that it belonged to either of the Scarborough ware phases on this evidence alone. The common range of non-plastic inclusions present in the sherd from Park Hill make it difficult to suggest a likely alternative origin.

Reference

- Williams, D.F. and Tomber, R. (1982) 'Appendix I: Petrological examination of Scarborough ware and other Mediaeval pottery', in P.G. and N.C. Farmer, The dating of the Scarborough ware pottery industry', Mediaeval Ceramics, 6(1982), 111-119.