

Dear John,

A piece of pottery from Orkney with a fingerprint is being written up in the Press. Newstead can do far better than that.

When I was fieldwalking Trimontium, I noticed a number of different-sized fingerprints on bricks and coarse pottery. By keeping a rough idea of where they were found, I can say with reasonable assurance that there was a kiln producing pottery to the west of the south annexe, probably 'INVOMANDUS' and/or 'EMI'. This seems to have been largely destroyed by the west end of the railway cutting as kiln-spacers have been found on both sides of the cutting.

About 200m to the south of this, there another two kilns. I am not so certain of their produce as the hollow in which they were, was filled in during the 1980/90s and I never got round to having a sneaky poke there. Two fields to the west of this, there are a number of claypits noted on the east side of the Oakendene Burn; I think these are noted in Curle.

Finger-print evidence can be found somewhere In the National Museum. In 1999, Fraser Hunter collected a very large car-load to save me from the Treasure Trove authorities; or at least that was the excuse. An enthusiastic student or member might seek a fine subject on which to write a paper.

Best Wishes,
Walter.

Dated 26 October 2021

Communication by email from Walter Elliot to Dr John Reid entitled "Fingerprints and Newstead Pottery"