

ROMAN DAUB FROM INCHTUTHIL

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A small fragment of daub from Inchtuthil was submitted for fabric examination in thin section under the petrological microscope, and comparison with a small group of pottery and tile previously examined from the site. In hand-specimen the daub is composed of a friable, reddish-brown (between Munsell, 5YR 6/4 and 6/6) sandy clay which is conspicuously micaceous. A thin section revealed frequent subangular grains of quartz, average size up to 0.20mm across, with a scatter of slightly larger grains, and flecks of mica (mostly muscovite but with some biotite), together with a little iron ore.

The fragment of daub is more coarse than the samples of pottery and tile previously examined from Inchtuthil, which is perhaps what one would expect, for it is unlikely that the clay of the daub received much attention before use. However, the high mica content of the daub does recall the fabric of a sherd of Fabric sample B, a tile and a mortarium all previously examined from Inchtuthil, and it is possible that all these utilized clay from the same general area.