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Evaluation of Archaeometallurgical residues from the M7/M8 Contract 3: Killeany 2 (E2250)

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Abstract

This site yielded a single small fragment of iron slag from the topsoil. The fragment was probably, but not certainly, from a slag cake produced during iron-working (smithing).

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Methods

All investigated materials were examined visually, using a low-powered binocular microscope where necessary. All significant materials were summarily described and recorded to a database (Table 1). As an evaluation, the materials were not subjected to any high-magnification optical inspection, nor to any other form of instrumental analysis. The identifications of materials in this report are therefore necessarily limited and must be regarded as provisional.

Results

The single small fragment of slag from this site was a fragment of dimpled basal crust from a slag cake. It was formed of dense slag and was 4mm thick. The most likely interpretation of the piece is that it derives from the base of “thin-crust” type of smithing hearth cake.

Interpretation

No inferences can be drawn the presence of such a fragment in the topsoil.

Evaluation of potential

No further investigation of this fragment is required. There is no requirement for retention of this material.

F	find	sample	context wt	wt	no	notes
1		46		20	1	small fragment of 4mm thick dense dimpled crust

Table 1. Summary catalogue

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geoarchaeological, archaeometallurgical & geophysical investigations

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