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Evaluation of archaeometallurgical residues from the N71 (Chetwynd Viaduct): Garrandarragh 2 [10E0352]

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Abstract

The single submitted piece was a small iron-rich concretion around a piece of corroded iron, possibly the shank of a nail.

Methods

All materials were examined visually with a low-powered binocular microscope. As an evaluation, the materials were not subjected to any high-magnification optical inspection, not to any form of instrumental analysis. The identifications of materials in this report are therefore necessarily limited and must be regarded as provisional.

This project was undertaken for Irish Archaeological Consultancy.

Results

The material (C45, s1, 4.8g) comprised one small iron-rich concretion around an elongate central void with a square cross-section (2.5mm x 2.5mm) and longitudinal marginal striations.

The piece is the result of complete destruction by corrosion of a small piece of iron (now the central void) and its pre-precipitation as the minerals binding the surrounding concretion.

The square cross section and elongate form suggest that this was an object such as object such as a small nail, although no head is currently visible.

The concretion has preserved numerous remains of plants, although whether these were originally present fresh remains, or as charcoal was not determined.

Evaluation of potential

The material is not of metallurgical significance (although as an artefact it might have broader archaeological significance) and does not require further investigation.

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