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Assessment of possible archaeometallurgical residues from Bohereen 1

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Abstract

This was a small assemblage of decomposed rock fragments, apparently from a volcanic 'ash' or sandstone. The materials were natural and not indicative of metallurgical activity.

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Methods

All materials were examined visually with a low-powered binocular microscope where required. 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 commissioned by Fintan Walsh, of IAC.

Results

The sample (s#3, C25) comprised 30.6g (in approximately thirty fragments) of a decomposed rock. The rock contained rounded particles ranging up to approximately 8mm in diameter, set in a variegated pale and green matrix. The greenish fine-grained material appears to a green mineral, probably chlorite, rather than a weathering product from copper.

Interpretation

The rock is probably a decomposed finely conglomeratic material, most likely a volcanic 'ash', and is thus a natural material. Green volcanic ashes and ashy sediments have been widely recorded amongst the Carboniferous volcanic rocks of Limerick (e.g. Lamplugh *et al*. 1907, 20-39).

Further work

No further work is indicated.

Reference

Lamplugh, G.W., Wilkinson, S.B., Kilroe, J.R., McHenry, A., Seymour, H.J. and Wright W.B. 1907. *The geology of the country around Limerick*. Memoirs of the Geological survey of Ireland.

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