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Assessment of possible archaeometallurgical residues from LBMM13 Site 14E003

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Assessment of possible archaeometallurgical residues from College Green, Dublin 2 LBMM13 Site 14E003

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Abstract

The submitted material comprised a single concretionary lump from c352 (s#3). The piece comprises coarse sand and granules bound by a ferruginous cement. Although the core is not certain, the form suggests that the piece may have formed within a coarse sandy sediment around a small corroding nail. The piece is not an archaeometallurgical residue.

Contents

Abstract 1

Methods 1

Results 1

Interpretation 1

Conclusion 1

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 Carmelita Troy of Rubicon Heritage.

Results

The single piece of submitted material is a concretion formed of coarse sand/granules bound by a ferruginous cement. The piece is not an archaeometallurgical residue.

Although concretions form by various mechanisms during sediment diagenesis, this concretion is magnetic, suggesting that it formed on an iron core. The overall form of the concretion is suggestive of a small hand-made nail with a square-sectioned shank and asymmetric head. Confirmation of the nature of the core could be sought by means of an X-radiograph.

Interpretation

The piece is a small concretion formed by corrosion of iron with a coarse sandy host sediment. The core may have been a small iron nail.

Conclusion

It is likely that the piece would probably not yield further useful information on detailed analysis, so no further analysis is recommended, although X-radiography might be employed to confirm it is a corroded nail.

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