

Evaluation of metallurgical residues from Moorcourt Farm, Lyonshall (LYMF02)

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Abstract

The assemblages from Moorcourt Farm comprised only 87g of probable metallurgical residues. Some of the denser pieces are likely to have been produced during iron-working, but the pale low-density slags are not diagnostic. The tiny assemblage size is insufficient to indicate metal working within this site.

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Catalogue

121	Small piece of stone or lining with a dark coating of flown iron slag. 3g.
307	Two pieces of low density pale vesicular lining slag. Total 6g.
417	Moderately large piece of pale green/grey lining slag with flown/dimpled surfaces. Highly vesicular. 13g.
609	Small piece of dense dark grey vesicular slag. 8g.
706	Small piece of coal (8g)
708	Broken fragment (57g) of poorly flowed dark iron slag with lots of moderately large charcoal inclusions (up to 25mm).

Description

The assemblage as a whole contains three pieces of slag compatible with an origin in an iron-working/making process (121, 609, 708). These fragments are, however, not diagnostic of a particular process. A single piece of furnace/ hearth lining is also likely to have been produced during iron-working/making (417).

One context (307) yielded some tiny fragments of low-density slag which might also be due to iron-working, but is non-diagnostic, and might even have been formed by intense heating of clay in a non-metallurgical process.

Conclusion and suggested programme of further work

These material are not diagnostic of any particular iron-working process. The low volume of material means that they cannot be taken as indication of iron-working within the bounds of this site. No further work is indicated.