

# GeoArch

Report 2009/09

Evaluation of Archaeometallurgical  
residues from the M7/M8 Contract 1:  
Oldglass 1 (E2215)

# Evaluation of Archaeometallurgical residues from the M7/M8 Contract 1: Oldglass 1 (E2215)

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## Abstract

*This site yielded a single piece of a small smithing hearth cake (SHC). The piece would be indicative of blacksmithing (the use of finished iron) rather than iron production. The piece is not indicative of age.*

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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 Iron Age (3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC) ringditch yielded a single piece of slag. This was the majority of a small smithing hearth cake, of an original size (probably originally weighing approximately 170g) which would be indicative of end-use iron working (blacksmithing) rather than iron production.

## Interpretation

This slag indicates blacksmithing was undertaken probably fairly close to the excavated site. The slag is not indicative of age, with similar residues being produced in traditional iron working hearths from the early Iron Age through into the post-medieval period.

## Evaluation of potential

This specimen has little potential for yielding additional information through further analysis. Iron Age smithing slags have not been well represented on the M7-M8 scheme, but an isolated example would contribute little.

There is no especial argument for retention of this specimen.

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<i>context</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>weight</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>notes</i>
f4	s8	134	1	probably 80% of small SHC, 60x(50)x30mm, vesicular ,rusty but quite dense, all surfaces rough

Table 1: Summary catalogue

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