

GeoArch

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Evaluation of residues from M1
Northern Motorway (J2009):
Rathmullan 10 (00E0813)

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Abstract

Material submitted from this site comprised natural rock fragments, together with a single tiny ferruginous concretion from a modern field ditch. None of this material is archaeologically significant.

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Evaluation of potential

The nature of the core of the concretion is unseen, but might possibly be a piece of iron. X-ray investigation (or breaking the concretion) would be required to establish the core. However, since the piece derives from a modern field ditch, the piece does not have great significance.

None of the material has high priority for retention.

Background

This report is an evaluation of archaeometallurgical residues from Rathmullan 10 (00E0813) on the M1 Northern Motorway development, excavated by T. Bolger, on behalf of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

Methods

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

It should be noted that after washing the overall weights of the material submitted in many cases differs significantly from those originally recorded.

Description

The catalogue for this site is presented in Appendix 1, p.10 of this report.

Approximately 32g of natural rock and a 1g small ferruginous concretion of sandy silt were submitted from Rathmullan 10.

Appendix 1. Summary catalogue of material

Site: Rathmullan 10 (00E0813)

<i>area</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>sample no</i>	<i>weight (g)</i>	<i>quantity</i>	<i>description</i>
A	1	33	14	2	Broken hollow concretionary rock in two pieces, Mn-stained interior, slightly curved profile - natural
	30	35	18	3	Quartz-rich rottenstone - natural
A	77	189	1	1	Concretion with unseen core – might be on iron but unseen and therefore uncertain
<i>total</i>			33		

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