

1158 A1I2B F163N Mill
David Starley
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Possible Mill structure within F163N

A very limited quantity of material, totalling 5g, was examined ahead of other material from Baines. This derived from a soil sample of the fill of a beam slot, associated with a possible medieval mill in Field 163N.

A single sphere had the appearance of spheroidal hammerscale, but its limited magnetic response suggests it may be the waste product of a different pyrotechnic process. One piece of fired clay had been (oxidized) fired to an orange colour, but no surfaces survived to suggest whether this was during a metallurgical operation. A tiny fragment of clinker was the waste product of coal or coke burning. Finally, two tiny crumbs and one larger piece were shown by their magnetic response to be heavily mineralised iron. The latter may be a small used nail or tack.

On balance, the material examined does not provide convincing evidence for any metallurgical activity at the possible mill site.

Metalworking Debris Recording Form D.Starley Job DS078

Site: A1L2B F157 - 165 Baines

Client: NAA

Box	Field	Sample	Context	Slag type	Activity	Wt (g)	Comments
BA.0003	F165N	AA<4mm	4761	Spheroidal slag	Possible ironworking	<<<1	Only slightly magnetic
BA.0003	F165N	AA<4mm	4761	Clinker	Fuel waste	<1	Single frag. Orange fired. No surfaces survive
BA.0003	F165N	AA<4mm	4761	Fired clay	Metalworking or other high temp process	<1	Single frag
BA.0003	F165N	AA<4mm	4761	Ferrous object	Non-slag	5	1 poss. nail 2 small crumbs