

Latton Lands Slag

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In the following descriptions; fuel ash slag is a lightweight, and usually light coloured, vesicular slag-like material formed by the reaction of wood ash with minerals such as sand. It is not necessarily of industrial origin. Hearth slag is here vesicular fayalite, iron silicate, with traces of fuel, such as charcoal, and iron residues in the form of rust. It is commonly found in hearths where iron has been worked. Tap slag is the residue from iron extraction, smelting, it is usually very dense grey fayalite, sometimes showing a flowed structure, occasionally partially vesicular. It does not usually show any rusty iron corrosion. The fired clay with a slagged coating is probably hearth lining, whilst the crucible fragments have a slagged coating on one or both sides.

Context	wt
Pit 1282	
1281 fuel ash slag	3
1288 fuel ash slag	22
Possibly just domestic burning.	
Enclosure 1285	
1301 [1201?] partly vesicular tap slag	135
1362 hearth slag	167
1692 fuel ash slag	4
1687 granular haematite – iron ore	30
2974 ferruginous clay-stone, possibly iron ore	1
Possibly iron smelting, but a very small sample.	
Roman settlement	
Enclosure 1458	
1468 partially vitrified and vesicular sandy clay hearth lining or residue	9
Some form of industrial activity.	
Enclosure 3930	
1486 partially vitrified and vesicular sandy clay hearth lining or residue	2
1560 partially vitrified sandstone	10
1622 hearth slag	33
1634 partially vesicular tap slag	85
1015 partially vitrified and vesicular sandy clay hearth lining or residue	7
1678 limestone fragment	3
Probably iron working and possibly extraction.	

Northern MIA settlement

Pit/waterhole 3126

3128	hearth slag	90
3129	crucible fragment with a glassy slag coating but with no obvious metal traces	8
3167	partially vitrified and vesicular sandy clay hearth lining or residue	2
3167	2 bags - hearth slag	99 + 7

Probably ferrous and non-ferrous metalworking, including casting of an unknown non-ferrous metal.

Ditches 4001, 4002

3304	hearth slag	80
3386	hearth slag	62
3389	fired sandy clay with a sintered sand and glass coating	11
3317	crucible fragments with fuel ash slag coating	11

Probably iron working. Hearths could be used for both iron working and copper alloy casting.

Enclosure 3955

3508	hearth slag	194
3508	hearth slag	35
3560	fired clay with a sintered sandy coating, possibly hearth lining	21
3539	vesicular fuel ash slag	4
3590	hearth slag	44
3615	hearth slag	130
3636	fired clay with traces of fuel ash slag	100
3636	fired sandy clay with a sintered sand and glass coating	20
3671	hearth slag	73
3672	1] fired clay with a sintered sandy coating, 2] crucible fragments with a slagged coating showing signs of green, copper corrosion	101 35
3672	hearth slag	419
3870	fired clay with a sintered sandy coating, possibly hearth lining	49
3870	fired sandy clay with a vesicular slag coating possibly crucible fragments or a hearth lining	10
3913	hearth slag	822

Probably copper alloy casting and iron working. As above, hearths could be used for both iron working and copper alloy casting, and many other processes requiring high temperatures.

In the above report, the amounts of slag present are all very small, suggesting that industrial activities were taking place in the vicinity. In the case of iron smelting very much larger quantities of tap slag would be expected.

LALA01 B1997/4 slag

759	clay with haematite and charcoal possibly smelting residue	35
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