

### **Note on the slag from BRMLF 18**

A total of 6 fragments of slag weighing 172g were recovered from the site.

A fragment of tap slag weighing 63g was recovered from context 2079. Its upper surface has the characteristic rivulets of slag resembling a flow of lava and the under surface is rough. The fragment is dense with few bubbles and is dark grey/black in colour. Tap slag is produced during the smelting process, charcoal is added to the furnace it reacts with oxygen, and generates carbon monoxide, which reduces the iron ore to iron metal. The liquefied slag separates from the ore, and is removed through the tapping arch of the furnace wall while still hot and fluid.

A fragment of undiagnostic slag weighing 36g was recovered from context 2242. Undiagnostic slags are small fractured pieces of slag that have the dark colour of iron-rich slags, but do not have any diagnostic surface morphology. Therefore, although indicative of iron working they cannot be used to distinguish between smithing and smelting.

Four fragments of fuel ash slag weighing 73g were recovered from contexts 2110 and 2179

### **Bibliography**

EH Centre for Archaeology Guidelines: Archaeometallurgy (2001)