

OLD PENRITH, CUMBRIA - THE SLAGS

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The assemblage indicates small scale iron working on the site. The slags pass from dense smithing slag into lighter and more porous fuel ash slag, examples of intermediate intermixing of the two being present. Some of the slag is plano-convex, indicating that it collected in the bottom of the hearth, the average size of these pieces being approximately 11.5cm x 7cm. Wood and charcoal, indicating the fuel used, were found in association with the slag, and there were also two pieces of hearth lining, grading into fuel ash slag. A number of corroded iron objects, usually attached to slag, give further evidence for iron working at the site.

Total weight of slag: 41 lbs.

1) Smithing slag: Nos. 122,133,171,193,242,284,285,290,305,306,320,398,467,  
477,532,605,753,754,755,841,1175,1221,1280,1407,  
1413,1419,1506,1515,1705,1803,2005.

Plano-convex: Nos. 28, U/S (A.M.7815284)

2) Fe rich fuel . Nos. U /S (A.M. 7814880),180,477,949,1400,1701,1705,1735,  
ash slag 2421.

3) Fuel ash slag: Nos. 131, 133,135,238,242,284,316,320,390,398,477,595,  
752,800,1088,1272,1427,1904.

Plano-convex: Nos. 205,2096.

4) Hearth lining: Nos. 467,849.

5) Not slag : Nos. 132,178,456,985,1279. 450,1570,1722.

6) Corroded Fe objects .

Nos. 167,171,206,242,281,312,413,?438,466,471,472,595,671,984.

NOTE

Nos. 132- burnt stone, 178- iron oxides with bone, 456- coral with haematite,  
985- stone with incidental iron oxides, 1279- coal, 450,1570, and  
1722- iron rich conglomerate cemented with iron corrosion products -  
probably a by-product of metal working.