

The slags and scrap lead from Poundbury, Dorset

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The slags (AM Nos 782424-68) and scrap lead (AM Nos 782469-76) were submitted for examination. The individual identifications are given in Tables 1 and 2.

The slags contained a considerable proportion of non-slag material, mostly ironstone, which could have been deliberately collected but is as likely to be chance finds. The slags were mostly iron smithing slag, mainly small dribbles or fragments of larger masses rather than the plano-convex hearth bottoms that are often found. There were a few pieces of fuel ash slag and hearth lining which are not necessarily, though most probably, associated with the iron working. The total quantity of material is small and is probably representative of small "back-yard" working rather than a larger scale industry. There are no very significant differences between the material of different dates; all the later material could be residual Roman.

The lead contains two objects (AM 782469 and 782476) but is mainly scrap of the sort to be expected from small scale working.

The finds seen suggest small scale working of both iron and lead though the small quantities may indicate that the working took place outside the area excavated.

Glossary of terms used

Smithing slags are produced in a blacksmith's hearth when raw metal is worked into objects. The slag often collects at the base of the hearth in a plano-convex bun which is described as a hearth bottom. The clay lining to the hearth becomes vitrified on one side from contact with the fire; this is described as hearth lining. Pieces of the hearth structure may become

Table 1: Slag identifications

<u>AML No</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Description/identification</u>
782424	Pre-Roman	? Iron panning
782425	"	"Crucible" fragment (See AM Report no 3555)
782426	Roman settlement	Smithing slag & ? roasted iron ore nodule
782427	"	Smithing slag
782428	"	Fuel ash slag & piece of ironstone
782429	"	Smithing slag
782430	"	Ironstone
782431	"	Smithing slag
782432	"	Fuel ash slag
782433	Roman cemetery	Ironstone
782434	"	Iron object
782435	"	Fuel ash slag
782436	"	Mortar or stone?
782437	"	"Crucible" fragment (see AM Report no 3355)
782438	Post-Roman 1	Smithing slag
782439	"	? Smithing slag with massive wood impressions
782440	"	Smithing slag
782441	Post-Roman 2	Smithing slag
782442	"	Smithing slag & ironstone
782443	"	Smithing slag
782444	"	Smithing slag and iron object
782445	"	Smithing slag
782446	Post-Roman 3 & 4	Ironstone
782447	"	Smithing slag
782448	"	Ironstone
782449	Post-Roman 5	Smithing slag & hearth lining
782450	"	Smithing slag
782451	"	Smithing slag and iron object
782452	"	? lime-rich smithing slag (dark green, glassy with wood impressions)
782453	"	Metallic iron in smithing slag & ironstone
782454	Post-Roman 6 & 7	Smithing slag
782455	"	Ironstone
782456	"	Smithing slag
782457	"	Smithing slag
782458	Post-Roman 8, 9&10	Smithing slag
782459	"	Smithing slag
782460	"	Smithing slag with wood impressions
782461	"	Smithing slag
782462	"	Smithing slag
782463	"	Smithing slag
782464	"	Smithing slag
782465	"	Smithing slag
782466	"	Smithing slag
782467	"	Ironstone
782468	"	Smithing slag

detached and fall into the fire where they react with the ash at high temperatures producing fuel ash slags.

Table 2: The scrap lead

<u>AML No.</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Description</u>
782469	Roman	Patching piece cast into a hole (eg in a pot)
782470	"	Dribble of molten metal
782471	"	Paring off sheet lead
782472	Post-Roman	Scrap of thick sheet metal
782473	"	Pool of molten metal
782474	"	Paring off sheet lead
782475	"	Dribble of molten metal
782476	"	Object - ?spindle whorl