EXAMINATION OF TECHNOLOGIAL MATERIAL FROM RAUNDS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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The material examined (AM 813680, 830080-83 and 830787-91) consisted of lead, ash, soil and fired clay. The samples were analysed qualitatively using energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence.

Apart from AM 830789 and AM 830790, the material was of no direct technological significance. AM 830789, was a mixture of soil and ash, but high levels of lead were detected in it and AM 830790, the washed residue of the same material as AM 830789, consisted of dribbles of lead and lead rich ash slag. AM 830790 was almost certainly waste from a process involving molten lead, such as casting lead or melting down lead scrap. AM 830789 was probably from a hearth used in such an operation, although corrosion of the dribbles of lead after burial could be responsible for at least part of the lead level detected in the ash.

AM 830083 was a sample of fired clay and the other samples included ash, charcoal, soil and fired clay in varying proportions. Although these samples may have been from hearths, they had not been raised to very high temperatures and no evidence of residues from technological processes was found in any of them.