

Examination of Technological Material from Elstree Hill, London

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The material examined included slag, hearth lining, corroded iron objects, mortar, fired clay and natural concretions and deposits. Only a small proportion of the material was of any direct technological significance.

Two samples of iron smithing slag (123, 419) were found. Several small samples of iron slag (4, 20, 24, 25, 101, 325) were also found, but it was not possible to say with certainty if they were produced during iron smelting or iron smithing, although it is highly probable that they were all also iron smithing slag. Samples of fuel ash slag (20), which is the result of a high temperature reaction between silica rich material such as clay or sand and ash, and hearth lining (7) were also present. They may have been associated with ironworking, but could have been produced in any sufficiently hot fire. The amount of iron slag found suggests that blacksmithing took place on or near the site, but probably only on a small scale.

None of the four stone objects was made from a stone which was likely to have been <sup>found</sup> in the area of the site. (113) was a quernstone made from Niedermedig basalt, a vesicular stone imported for use as quernstones. (20) and (26) were probably honestones, made from a micaceous sandstone and (225) might have been a hammerstone.

The remaining material was of no technological significance and consisted of natural ferruginous concretions (L61, 42, 43), iron nails and fired clay (8), a calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), hard water deposit (65) and two very similar samples of lime mortar with quartz filler (30.3, 30.4).