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Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 71/86

EXAMINATION OF SLAG FROM EARLY
ROMAN PHASES AT VICTORIA ROAD,
WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE

Paul Wilthew

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Summary

Eighteen samples of slag from early Roman Phases at Victoria Road were examined and identifications of each sample are reported. The quantity of material involved was small about 1.5kg in total, and the results are consistent with the conclusion drawn in earlier reports on other material from these phases which was that small scale blacksmithing almost took place in the vicinity of the site, but that the site itself was not a major ironworking area.

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Examination of Slag from Early Roman Phases at Victoria Road,
Winchester, Hampshire

A small quantity of slag (AM8650639), about 1.5kg in total, from early Roman phases at Victoria Road was examined. Rather larger quantities of slag also from early Roman phases has already been reported on in AML Reports 4638 and 4782. The present samples are identified individually in the appendix.

The material analysed was mainly fuel ash slag but also included small pieces of iron smithing slag. Fuel ash slag is the result of a high temperature reaction between ash and silica rich material such as sand or clay. It is often associated with metalworking but can be produced in any sufficiently hot fire and is not therefore in itself an indicator of technological activity.

This material is quite consistent with the conclusion drawn in the earlier reports, which was that blacksmithing almost certainly took place in the vicinity of the site but probably only on a small scale. It is unlikely that the site itself included any areas on which significant iron working activity took place.

Appendix - Identifications of the samples

Phase	Layer	No.	Identification
174	4287	11835	Fuel ash slag
903	513	11661	Small fragments of (probably) fuel ash slag
904	510	11662	Fuel ash slag
907	519	11663	Iron smithing slag
907	519	11664	Fuel ash slag
909	475	11665	Fuel ash slag
910	470	11666	Iron smithing slag
910	476	11667	Fuel ash slag, ?iron smithing slag
910	481	11668	Iron smithing slag
910	482	11671	Fuel ash slag
913	498	11670	Fuel ash slag
913	498	11691	Iron smithing slag
913	498	11692	Iron smithing slag
913	498	11693	Vitrified fired clay
913	498	11694	Fuel ash slag
915	484	11695	Fuel ash slag
915	484	11696	Fuel ash slag
915	490	11697	Iron smithing slag