

Report on the iron-rich material from Goddamendy, Co. Dublin (19E0132)

Introduction

During archaeological excavations ahead of construction at Goddamendy, Co. Dublin, quantities of small rounded material were recovered from most of the features on site. This material is most likely as not related to metalworking and is interpreted as natural manganese/iron oxide formations.

Description of the material

Quantities of small rounded material (diam. from 1 to 8mm), non to lightly magnetic and some showing cavities, were recovered from the soil samples of the fills of all but one feature excavated. The features were cereal-drying kiln C. 13, ditch C. 5 and pits C. 11, C. 15 and C. 19. The interior of the rounded pieces is earthy brown to black.

Interpretation

The material is most likely the result of natural processes and appears to be a type of iron and manganese oxide formation. This kind of material is more commonly found as hollow tube-like formations, around plant stems, or as larger masses when it is known as bog iron, or manganese, ore. The presence of this material points to wet conditions in the features in question before they were backfilled or silted up.