

# Report on the metalworking remains at Killeen 5, Co. Cork (E4907)

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## Description and interpretation

Archaeological investigations at Killeen 5, Co. Cork ahead of road construction work revealed a series of pits and linear features.

A fragment of weathered rather dense slag with flow structure (69g, Fig. 1) was recovered from the topsoil. This material is reminiscent of iron smelting slag, either deriving from a slag-pit furnace or from a furnace with lateral slag removal. In slag-pit furnaces, the clay shaft is built above a pit that is filled with organic material, generally pieces of wood. During smelting, the slag descends into the pit and solidifies. In the other furnace type, the slag is evacuated through a hole at the base of the clay furnace shaft often solidifying in an adjacent pit. These types of furnaces were in use in Ireland, respectively, from the Iron Age until the end of the Early Medieval period and during the Late Medieval period.

The dimensions and shape of some of the pits excavated do not conform with known furnace structures and the lack of smelting waste in those features suggests that the activity leading to the piece of slag took place elsewhere.

## Catalogue

Cut	Fill	Sample #	Feature	Description	Weight (g)
n/a	Topsoil	1	Topsoil	Fragment of weathered rather dense slag with flow structure	69

## Figures



*Fig. 1. Fragment of likely iron smelting slag from topsoil*