

APPENDIX 6 INDUSTRIAL RESIDUES

Mike Roy

Thirty-one contexts produced material that was identified on site or during sample analysis as industrial residues. This material mainly comprised fuel ash slag, with occasional fragments of vitrified ceramic. The material is catalogued in the site archive to be deposited at the National Record of the Historic Environment of Scotland.

A.6.1 The assemblage

The majority of the material recovered consisted of fuel ash slag. This was generally present in small fragments within contexts associated with the burial ground. Fuel ash slag can be produced as a result of metalworking, but can also result from other processes such as the burning of daub and timber walls (Zeuner 1959) and cremation (Henderson et al 1987). The small amounts of vitrified ceramic material recovered might have

derived from metalworking structures such as the lining of smithing hearths, but it is also possible that it was produced by the burning of huts or ovens constructed with clay or daub. Although there were Fe inclusions in this material, only Context 426 produced iron slag (possibly hearth slag). This small amount of material (0.36g) was associated with the burial soil around Skeleton 93.

A.6.2 Conclusion

Only small fragments of material were recovered, commonly from the processing of samples. It is likely that this represents dispersed, reworked material spread through the burial ground and underlying layers. The fuel ash slag and vitrified material may derive from non-metalworking processes such as the burning of timber and daub structures. However, the presence of metalworking in the general area can be inferred from the presence of metalworking slag within a single context.