

Sent to Bulletin

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BATSFORD FURNACE

WEALD IRON RESEARCH GROUP

Winter 1973/4 scheme for revising information on water-powered sites included by E. Straker in Wealden Iron (1931).

The following points are designed to produce a rapid survey of these sites, many of which have not been visited in recent years. You will be aware that Straker's site-comments were unsystematic, and, beyond this, modern developments such as tree clearance or planting, bulldozing, or building, have made major changes.

Please ensure an adequate National Grid Reference.

1. Name of site. State if that used by Straker is in any way misleading.

BATSFORD FURNACE. SP 360.

2. National Grid Reference (2 letters, 6 figures). TQ. 629154.

3. Access. State problems of terrain or land-use. (If the name of owner and tenant is easily available, this could be useful.)

Owner Available at Batsford Farm.

4. Features on the ground.
Main Dam Length 85m.

Height (estimate from both upstream and downstream sides if possible.)

4m furnace side

Condition (i.e. gaps, erosion etc; are there any good cross-sections in bulldozed gaps? If so, do these show the construction materials used at different stages?)

Gap at stream end.

Pen-ponds - is there any evidence for dams upstream from the main supply pond?

Pen Pond 230 m upstream - no sign of slog: 2 1/2 m high on each side, 80 m long, cut near middle by stream.

Mine pits - are there any close by?

The area below the dam

Clear indications of buildings, wheel-pits, sluices, etc.

Soggy area at N.E. end, possibly wheel-pit

At same end, solid base

Actually note 16th cent mill excavated 1978

Surface irregularities

Opposite to Bay end, Block area: brick, charcoal, ore, signs of clay subjected to heat.

5. Slags and cinders. (Keep samples.)

- Blast furnace slags (glassy). How much?

What is the general colour range? (In particular are there significant quantities light in colour?)

Stream solid with B.F. slag + occasional light green shesky.

No slag in Bay.

- Forge cinders (generally rusty, bubbly, but varying widely in form.) How much?

Occasional Cinder

Are there many large cakes ("Furnace bottoms") over, say, 18"x 18"?

Yes.

- Ore - any scatter?

- Purple shelly limestone - any?

Other surface finds (pottery, clay pipes, timbers, etc.) Note these

6. Are there any buildings, industrial, domestic or agricultural, apparently dating from the likely period of the site? Note briefly.

7. Has the site been re-used (e.g. corn or fulling mill)?

8. Do you know of any published or unpublished excavation which may have taken place? Note details, in particular of the excavator and location of finds in the case of unpublished work.

"The Excavation of a late 16th-century blast furnace at Balford, Herston course, East Sussex, 1978" Owen Bedwin
Post-Medieval Archaeology 14 (1980), 89-126

9. Is the site apparently threatened in any way?

10. Do you know of any documentation missed by Straker? State details and whereabouts, if known.

11. Other comments.