

BRIGHTLING / GLAZIERS FORGE

P. Willmott.
1975.

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.

Date of visit 15.2.75

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

BRIGHTLING OR GLAZIERS FORGE, WI. 301-2

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

TQ 651 213

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

The only approach for cars is by a track running North from the B2096 road at point 649 195.
Several houses in the forge area - permission to visit readily given.

4. Features on the ground.

Main Dam Length Approx. 60 yds.

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

Upstream approx. 4 feet

Downstream approx 10 feet. (reverted by stone)

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?)

This is a gap where the stream now flows, crossed by a road bridge which gives access to Glaziers Forge Farm. The road runs across the bay.
Many ^{large} ~~furrows~~ bottoms in bank of stream below the bridge. Cross section of bay not easily visible.

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

No, but there was a Corn mill with a bay and pond at TQ. 652 201.

Mine pits - are there any close by?

None seen.

The area below the dam

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

No ?

Surface irregularities

No ?

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?)

One or two pieces of possible B/F slag found along stream below bay

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

Considerable quantity both in the road over the bay and in the stream and banks below the bay. Including very many ^{iron} furnace bottoms.

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

None seen as large as this.

- 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.

Part of house below the bay could possibly date from this period.

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

No

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.

No

9. Is the site apparently threatened in any way?

No.

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

11. Other comments.

The owner of Glaniers Forge Farm has in his possession what is alleged to be a mould for cannon balls. It is in cast iron and the dimensions are given below. There is no evidence of provision for a runner or for dowels to locate with the other half of the mould. The mould is heavily

sealed and dimensions are, in consequence not highly accurate.

