

Additional information already collected
Bullekin No 6 p 29
Summarised & Bullekin again

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.
Crowborough Forge, Marden Hill. Not in WI
2. National Grid Reference (2 letters, 6 figures). T.Q 49⁸ 326
3. Access. State problems of terrain or land-use. (If the name of owner and tenant is easily available, this could be useful.)
Public open space next main road, probably part of Coldon Forest
4. Features on the ground.
Main Dam Length C. 123 yards

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

Upstream 9ft.
Downstream 12-

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?)

Probably dry away at W. end
Cut by present stream
Gap at E. end, probable site of weir.
See sketch on back page.

Good cross section on left bank of stream showing 2 series of height

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

no. Main pond must have been long & narrow

Mine pits - are there any close by?

The area below the dam

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

Very swampy at E. end (E. of stream)

Remains of ^{wooden} arched base in stream - see sketch

also some plate of irregular shape, approx 2'x3' in stream near right bank just below arched base

Surface irregularities

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?)

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

In banks of stream below long.

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

- Ore - any scatter?

- Purple shelly limestone - any?

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

An iron plate, about 2' x 3', lying in stream bed,
about 6 feet from arrival base, slightly down stream and
nearer right bank

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)?

~~Probably not~~

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.

9. Is the site apparently threatened in any way?

Scheduled Ancient Monument NO 469

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

11. Other comments.

