

B.K. HERBERT
1 STIRLING WAY
EAST GRINSTEAD

& Mrs Shelly
of
Charlwood.

WEALD IRON RESEARCH GROUP

TILGATE

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.

TILGATE FURNACE P465

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

TQ 2845 3545

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

~~It~~ It is under "Furze Green" a part of Crawley new town.

4. Features on the ground.

Main Dam

Length

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

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?)

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

Mine pits - are there any close by?

APPROX TQ 286353 in the wood bordering the
new houses there seem to be
~~the~~ mine pit depressions.

The area below the dam

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

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?

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

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)?

CRAWLEY NEW TOWN

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 Do you know of any published or unpublished excavation which may have taken place? Note details, in particular of the excavator and location of finds in the case of unpublished work.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

TOO LATE.

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

NO.

11. Other comments.

The type map shows a pond near ~~the~~
"Furnace Farm".

The water seem to have been leated off
the main river at TO 28053585 and
returned to the main stream at TQ 28653610.
The leat from the furnace seems to be intact
but dry! The exact location of the furnace
is no doubt under a road.