

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

Mine pits - are there any close by?

The area below the dam

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

Very near N.E. end in irregular ground with a dip in the height of land and a new shallow channel leading W. to the river. Here are bricks, tiles and loose stones & a hollow representing the wheel pit.

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?)

at the site, mentioned above, in an oblong forge bottom c. 2'6" x 4', also round forge bottom & lump cinder. also glassy furnace slag, as has been found at other forge site (cf Carrivon). Sample taken.

- 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

see L¹/₄ Cannon ball found when digging in main road near
Hammes Mill Fm. in location Mr. Hall

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)?

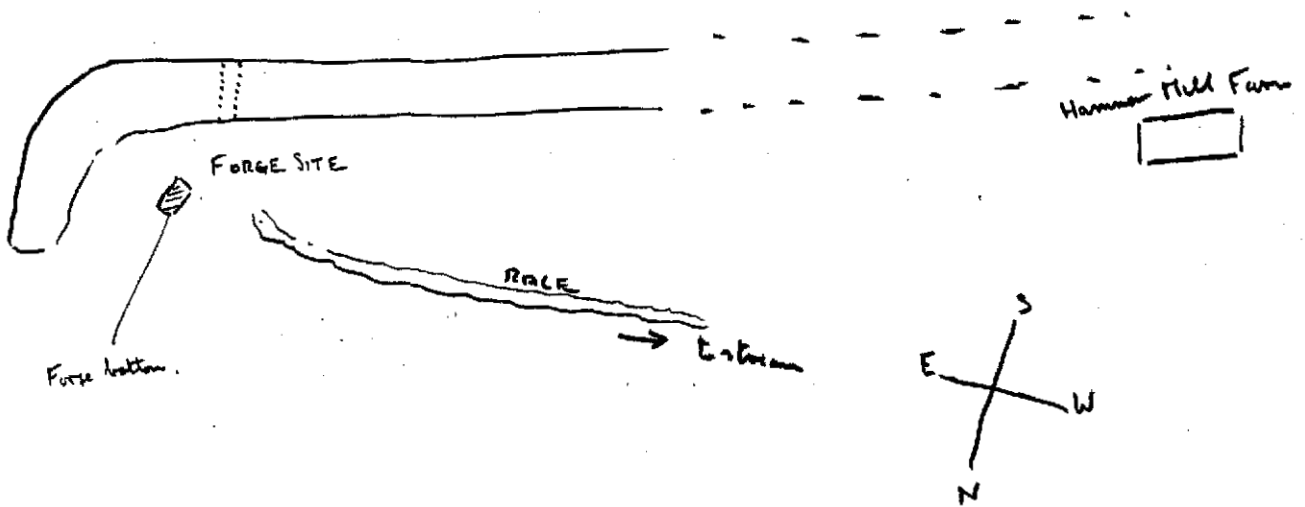
Yes, remains of corn mill at S.W. end of long fur wheel
a long deep mill race or beat from the main river runs
N. of the main road

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 Do you know of any published or unpublished excavation which may have taken place? Note details, in particular of the excavator and location of finds in the case of unpublished work.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

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

11. Other comments.



INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

Secretary mounted an exhibition on The Kentish Hop Industry. Material was very kindly lent by the Tonbridge Historical Society, the Tunbridge Wells Museum, and Messrs. Whitbread.

Several 'finds' in the area reported to the Secretary included more mesolithic flint artifacts from Southborough Common, and a mould for making farm tokens (described elsewhere in this issue).

The Secretary would like to put on record her appreciation of the help so readily given, in spite of his other commitments, by Mr. K. W. E. Gravett to local members studying the history of old houses in the area.

She much regrets to have to announce the sudden death of Mrs. M. K. Norwood, who joined the K.A.S. in 1962 and had been a staunch supporter of its activities throughout the ensuing period. Her presence at local and county outings and at local meetings will be much missed.

Wealden Archaeological Research Group. Mr. A. B. Cardwell reports:

The Wealden Archaeological Research Group was to have begun excavating the Roman remains at Farningham Farm, near Cranbrook, this year but postponed this project and turned instead to a more recent iron-working site at Hammermill Farm, Biddenden.

On this site, which is thought to have closed in the latter half of the seventeenth century, the 'bay', or dam, of its original pond, and much of the man-made channel, which once conveyed the water to turn the foundry wheels, are still clearly defined. It seems likely that the site will be found to contain both blast furnace and forge.

Excavation has been started to locate the site of the furnace at the foot of the bay, and abundant brick and tile debris, which is in places at the present soil surface, has facilitated this preliminary work. There is much evidence here of furnace workings: slag, roasted ore, burnt brick and stone and deposits of ash.

By following the layers of brick and tile rubble, the wheel-pit was found, its rim lying some 4 ft. below the present surface and its depth as yet unknown. It is loosely filled with bricks and tiles which must have slid into it as the building decayed. Remnants of timber shoring clearly define the sides of the pit, and it is still an underground watercourse. Its wet clay provides recreation for a large number of contented leeches and, although these creatures make undesirable companions, they do help to delineate the buried parts of the leat which powered the bellows.

Prominent among the small finds so far discovered are fragments of clay-pipes, which fortunately include some bowls; only a few potsherds have been found.

Next year the watercourse will be further excavated, and it is hoped that this will help to orientate exactly the furnace building which can then be uncovered.

INVESTIGATIONS

West Kent B...
Secretary,

The West Kent B...
throughout the
Group's activities

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(2) *Field survey*

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(3) *Trial excava*

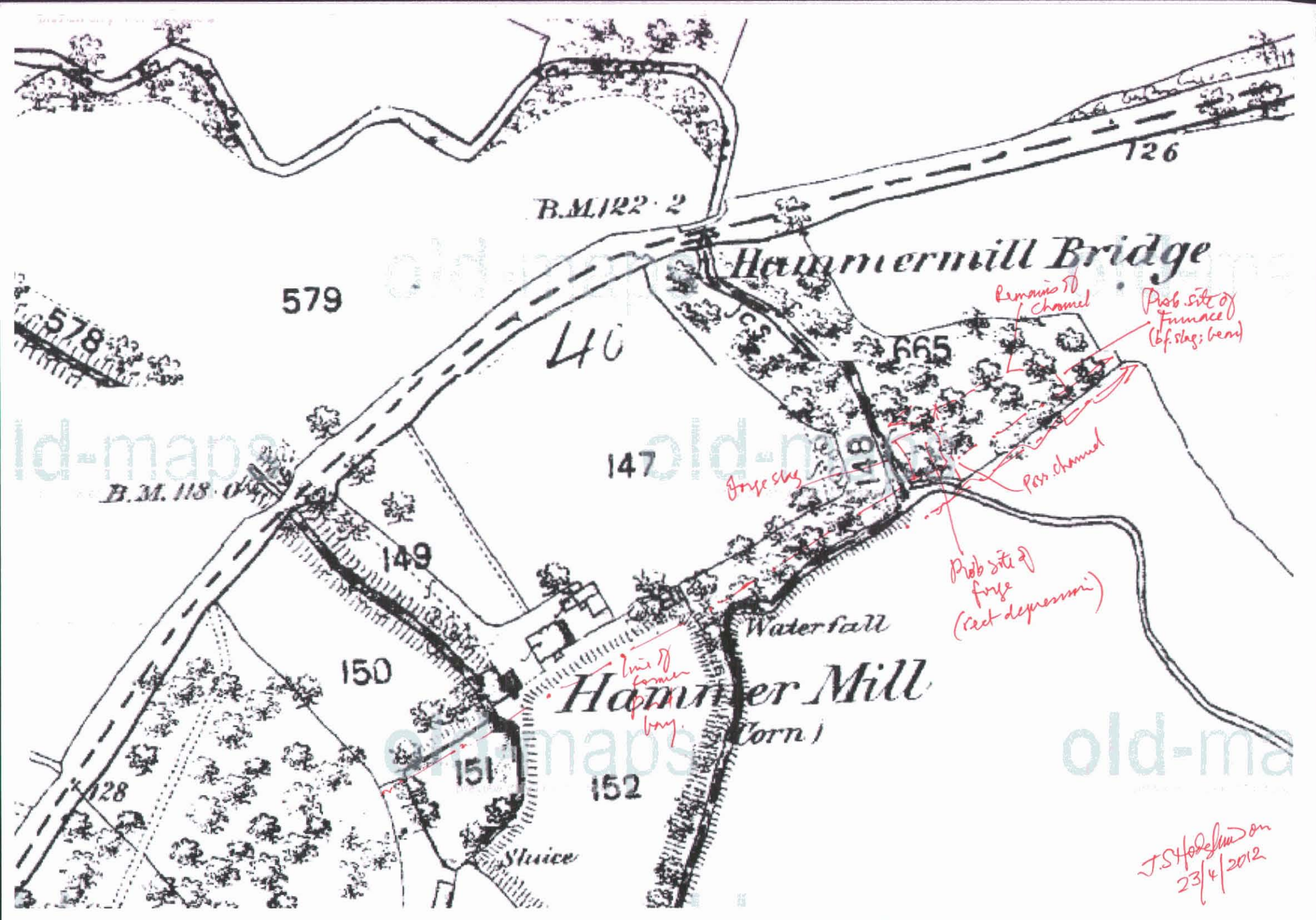
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(4) *Operation G*

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(5) *Emergency w*
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126

B.M. 122.2

Hammermill Bridge

579

440

665

Remains of channel

Prob. site of furnace (bf. slag; beam)

578

147

Forge slag

Pass channel

B.M. 118.0

149

Prob. site of forge (rect depression)

Waterfall

150

Hammer Mill (Corn)

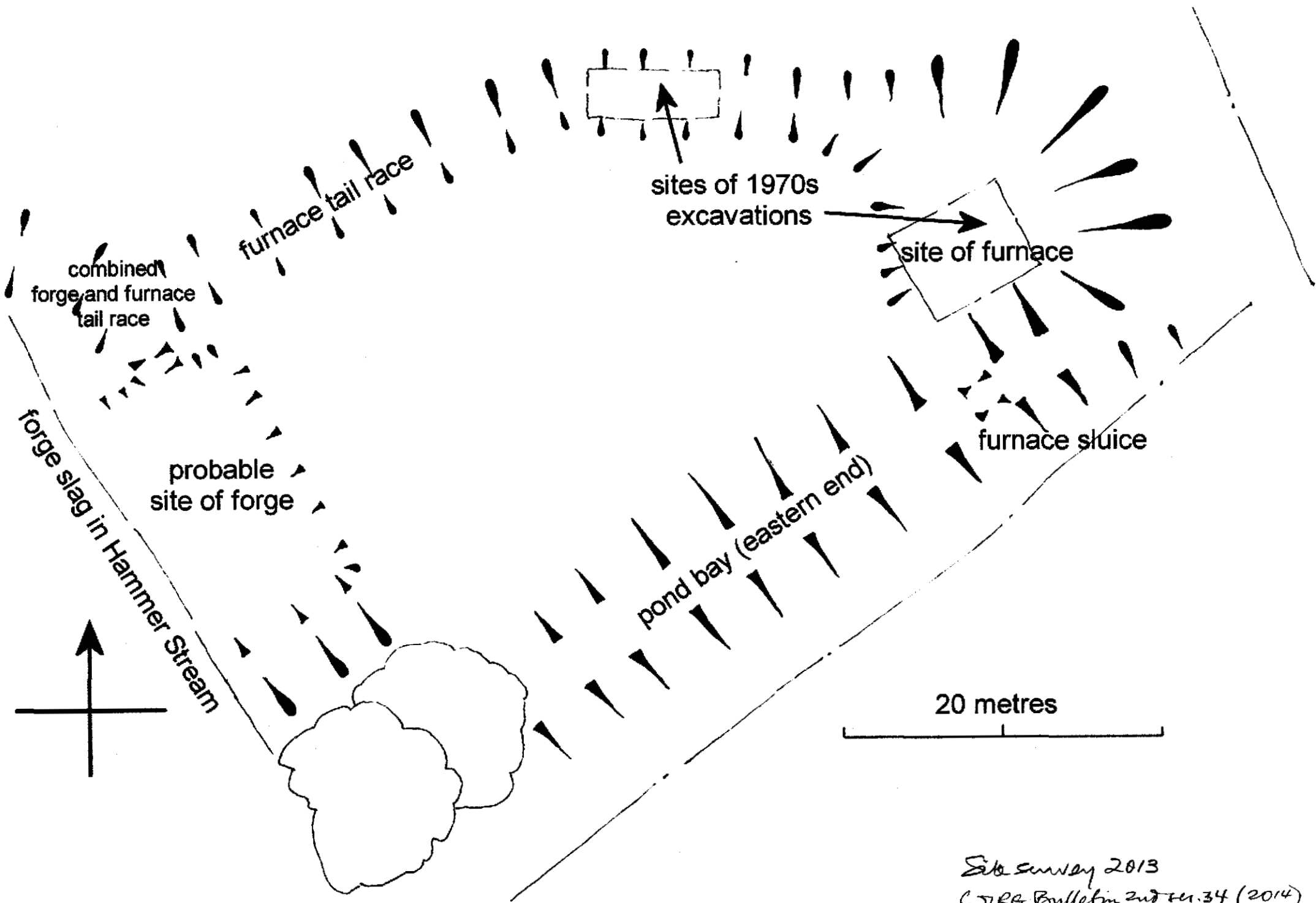
152

Line of former pit bay.

Sluice

old-ma

J.S. Hodson
23/4/2012



Site survey 2013
 CSTRG Bulletin 2nd ser. 34 (2014)