

B. HERBERT

& Mrs Shelly
Charwood

1 STIRLING WAY
EAST GRINSTEAD

WEALD IRON RESEARCH GROUP

BLACKWATER GREEN

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.

BLACKWATER GREEN FORGE P 466

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

TQ 29103625

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

OWNER UNKNOWN but bog is on bridge way and the whole place is overrun by tramley children.

4. Features on the ground.

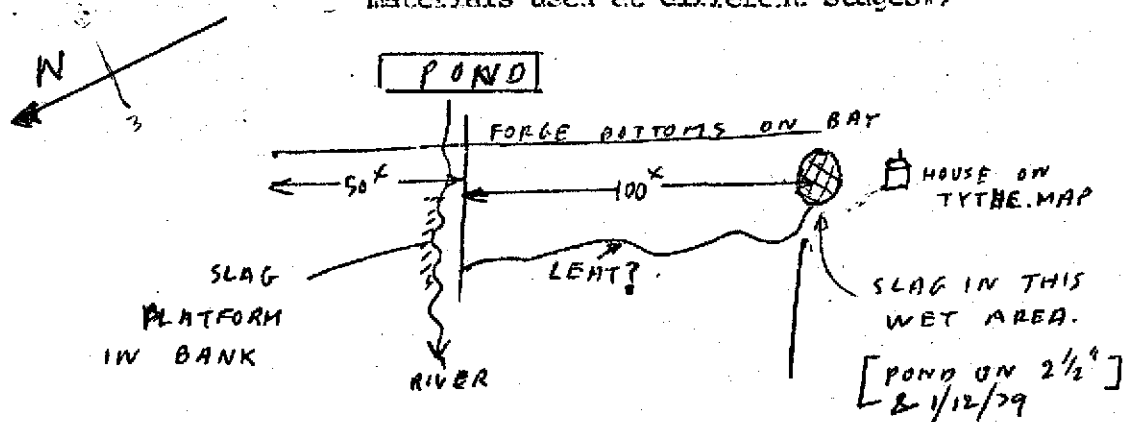
Main Dam Length

150' LENGTH

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

8 ft road side, working side seems to have been "made up" quite a lot, making height measurement impossible!

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?

NONE LOOKED FOR

Mine pits - are there any close by?

N.A.

The area below the dam

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

small
The pond may have been a wheel pit area as there a lot of slag there, or it could have been the spillway.

Surface irregularities

NONE

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 bottoms

blast furnace slag in stream.

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

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

NA

- Ore - any scatter?

NA

- Purple shelly limestone - any?

NA

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

NONE

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

NO

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?

By the Crawley run town commission.

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

NO

11. Other comments.

There is a great amount of forge scider everywhere, but the main concentration seems to be where the stream cuts through.

Sheet B

BLACKWATER GREEN FORGE

Rev. J. Shillington

1974

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.

Blackwater Green FORGE: (Straker p 466)
WORTH

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

TQ 292363

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

On foot path, a rough area of land.
No access problem.

4. Features on the ground.

Main Dam

Length

Approx 170 yds. Running NNE -
SSW

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

5 ft upstream

8 ft downstream

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?)

One big gap through which R Mole flows - bridged. Level rather uneven now.

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

No

Mine pits - are there any close by?

TQ 286353 (I don't think this reference is known)

TQ 276359 The Hawth.

The area below the dam

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

There is a pond ??? wheel pit - too big probably.
Soil & black.

Title map shows a building - & a small pond.

There is a wall at ground level - presumably the building on the title map. Also 2 yew trees & 2 fruit trees.

Surface irregularities

Plenty, including a dry stream bank

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?)

No slag.

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

Much forge cinder, big & small, of varying kinds, some rather similar to tap slag, others rougher, dull.

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

- Ore - any scatter?

No

- Purple shelly limestone - any?

No

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)?

No evidence

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?

It is on the very edge of Crawley New Town, but is not threatened at the moment, as far as I know.

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

No

11. Other comments.

West Worth Tithe Award, 526, "Hammer Mead"

$\frac{1}{2}$ mile South of Blackwater Forge

NO forge cinder found, some slag-furnace slag, no evidence of a bay, fields flat, seems unlikely place for bay.

Copy to J. Hodgkinson, Esq., Wealden Iron Research Group, 20 Spinney Close,
Crawley Down, Crawley, West Sussex.

625

FGA/SAK/K1.401

Mr. Aldsworth

8th February, 1988.

Dear Sir,

**CRAWLEY BOROUGH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE AT BLACKWATER GREEN, MAIDENBOWER**

Further to our previous discussions, I am pleased to inform you of the latest position on the proposed development on this site (application number CR/080/87).

I understand from the Borough Planning Officer that an outline planning permission will shortly be released and development and building works may be commenced this year. The work affecting the iron-working site is currently planned for Phase 2 - likely to be commenced in the summer of 1989.

As you will be aware the site of the forge will not be affected by construction works and is located in a "green" area. However, as I informed you late last year, the site is threatened by a retention pond and it is my view that this would have a detrimental effect on the archaeology if it were allowed to encroach.

The Borough Planning Officer has agreed that an archaeological evaluation of the site would be helpful in order to determine the extent and condition of remains on the site before deciding on whether to press for total preservation or excavation in advance of development, and he has asked me to see whether the Unit would be available to undertake such a survey, which I envisage would involve a geophysical survey and a trial trench, in the first part of this year. I understand that the cost of such an evaluation might be in the region of £1,000 to £1,500 and I have suggested that the developers should be approached to cover the costs of these works.

I will forward a copy of this letter to the Wealden Iron Research Group for information, and perhaps you would be kind enough to let me know whether the Unit would be in a position to undertake the works when the funds are made available.

Yours faithfully,

County Planning Officer.

Dr. P. L. Drewett,
Field Archaeology Unit,
Institute of Archaeology,
31-34 Gordon Square,
LONDON,
WC1H 0PY.



CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Broadfield Annexe, Brighton Road,
Crawley, West Sussex. RH11 9BJ
Tel: (0293) 513611 (Ansafone 28744)

Borough Planning Officer E P M Bence BSc Econ Dip TP MRTPI

The Chairman,
Wealdon Iron Research Group, Affiliated to
The Council for British Archaeology,
The Sussex Archaeological Society,
7, Kiln Road,
Crawley Down,
Crawley, Sussex, RH10 4YJ

Your ref:

Our ref: PMB/JD

Ask for: Mr. Bence

On ext: 126

Date 16th October, 1986

Dear Mr. Hodgkinson,

Maidenbower Development

I am in receipt of your letter of 1st October and note your remarks.

A copy of your letter is being sent to Grove Consultants who are managing the promotion of the development for the Consortium.

It is hoped they will be able to assist you on this project as the Consortium will become the landowners when the development is finally approved.

Mr. T. Hanney of Grove Consultants will no doubt want to write to you shortly on this matter.

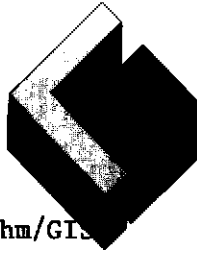
Yours Sincerely,

Borough Planning Officer



GROVE CONSULTANTS LTD.

27 HAMMERSMITH GROVE LONDON W6 7EN TEL: 01-846 2424 TELEX: UK 25666 OVERSEAS 22436 FACS: 01-846 9328



Our ref: MGP/Cr/Ma/IP/1184/hm/GIS

2644

YOUR REF
OUR REF
DIRECT
TEL. LINE: 01-846

6 October 1986

Mr J S Hodgkinson
Chairman
Wealden Iron Research Group
7 Kiln Road
Crawley Down
CRAWLEY, Sussex
RH10 4JY

Dear Mr Hodgkinson,

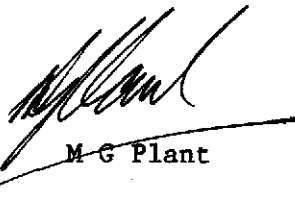
MAIDENBOWER DEVELOPMENT, CRAWLEY, SUSSEX

Thank you for your letter dated 1st October 1986.

Having located your map reference on our proposals plan I can say that it is not in the earliest stages of development which are in the north east corner of Maidenbower.

I will be in touch with you when we have had time to consider your suggestions.

Yours sincerely,



M G Plant

B. MANDENBOWER DEVELOPMENT, CRAWLEY, ~~DE~~ SUSSEX.

In respect of proposals for the above area, I am writing to draw to your attention ~~the~~ the location of the site of the former Ironforge Fusion as Blackwater Green Forge * This ^{was} ~~is~~ situated at ~~the~~ ~~the~~ National Grid Reference

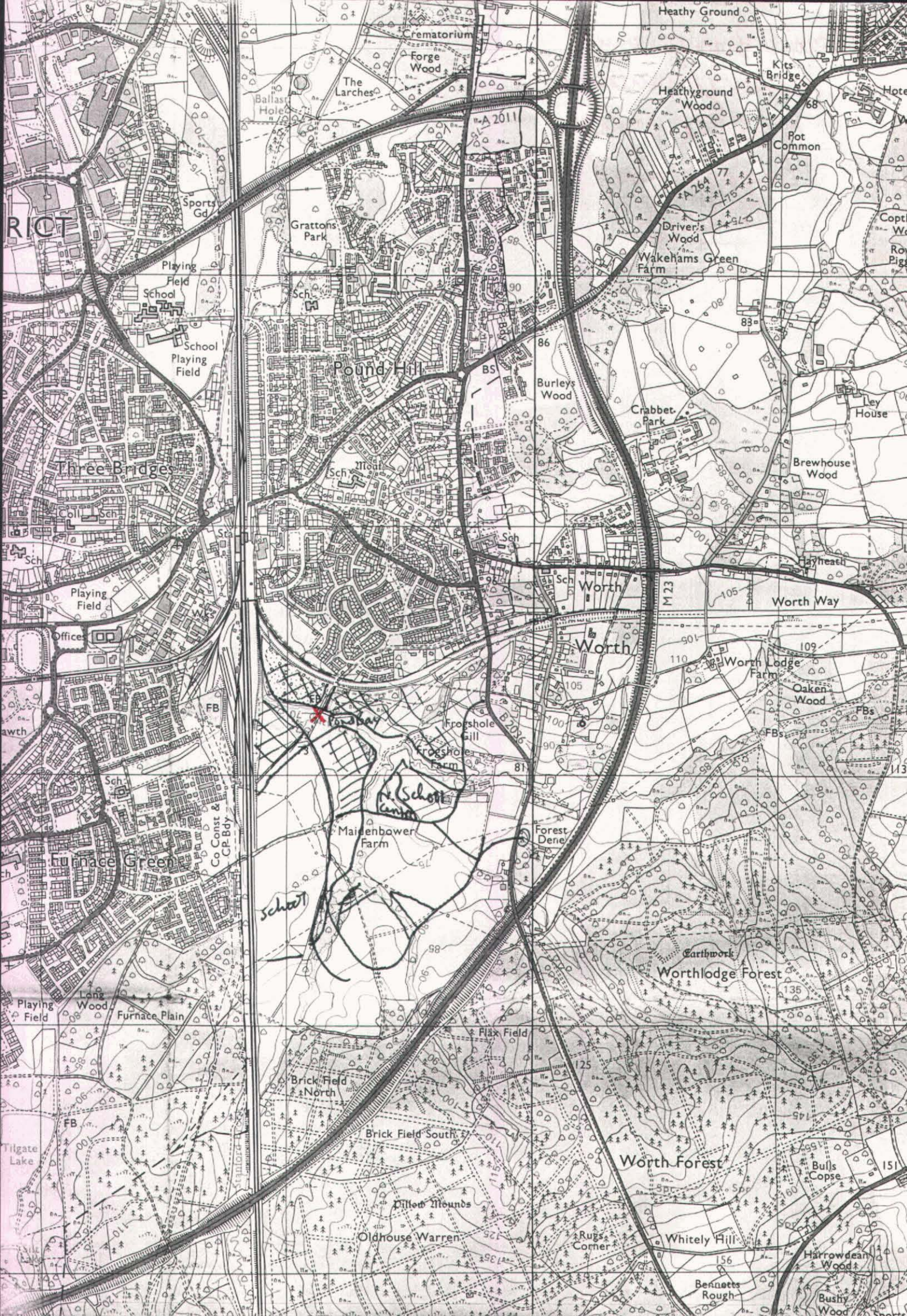
TO ----- 16th century
This site is documented in Shaker, E. "Wealden Iron" London 1931 p. - and Cherrill H.F. and Croesley D.W. "The Iron Industry of the Weald" Leicester 1986 p. Although there is little to show on the surface, except for slag and charcoal debris, it is likely that evidence remains underground, and my Group would like provision to be made, in any plans to develop the site, for a proper archaeological examination so that all the features ~~both visible and~~ above and below the surface may be recorded prior to construction works.

My Group would be happy to advise on suitable action to be taken in respect of this site

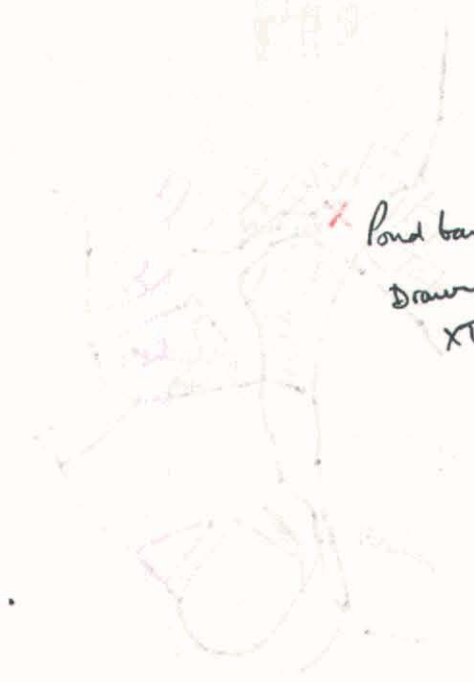
● * ~~The forge was one of a number of sites which~~

9.11.86
Letter to
David Combes

1.10.86
Copies to
Crawley Borough Planning Officer
Grove Consultants Ltd
Fred Aldsworth,
West Sussex Archaeological
Office.
David Pudling
Contacted on
phone

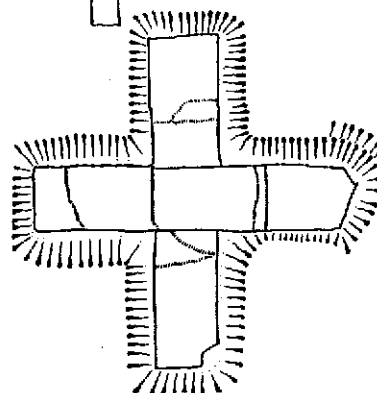
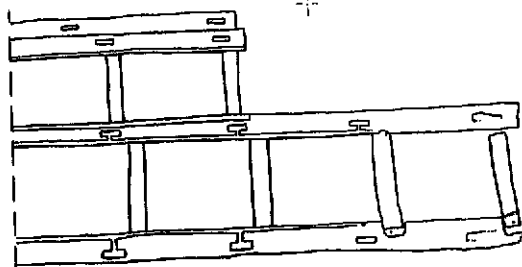


Crawley Borough Council
Planning Department
Broomfield Annex
Brighton Road,
CRAWLEY



Pond bay listed on
Drawing No
XTW0017201

Public Open Space .



Blackwater Green Forge

-  WALL PLANK
-  POST
-  MORTICE



0 3m

