

Summarised
for Mulliken

COWDEN FURNACE

C.F. TEBBUTT

1973

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.

COWDEN FURNACE.

wt. p 226

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

T. Q 454 400.

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

The hay is under the gravel road. Below the hay is private garden belonging to the old mill house. The public road runs along the side of the pond.

4. Features on the ground.

Main Dam

Length

c. 142 yards. comprises public road

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

Down stream . c. 18 feet

Up stream pond - water.

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?)

no. as found in water

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

Mo. Very close upstream was
Scarlets Furnace pond

Mine pits - are there any close by?

Many pits along valley sides

The area below the dam

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

Weir with sluices intact but modern at
N. end. of bay

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?)

There is much ~~of~~ blast furnace slag about the bay and below it. It is rather dull + dark

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

None seen

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.

There is a house, converted from cottage immediately below the centre of the bay and other cottages in the valley bottom not far away along the S. side of the stream but these all probably date from the period of the corn mill

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

Corn mill

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?

No

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

11. Other comments.

This valley has always been subject to sudden floods, & the last one occurred on Sept. 15th 1968 when the dam at Scarlett furnace pond, ~~is~~ $\frac{3}{4}$ mile up the valley, burst releasing a "tidal wave". This swept away part of the dam and road levee at the N. end and flooded the ground floor of the house below the dam.

Supplementary information on Cowden Furnace

Revised foray May 1979

Map reference TQ 45503995.

Samples with B.K. Herbert.

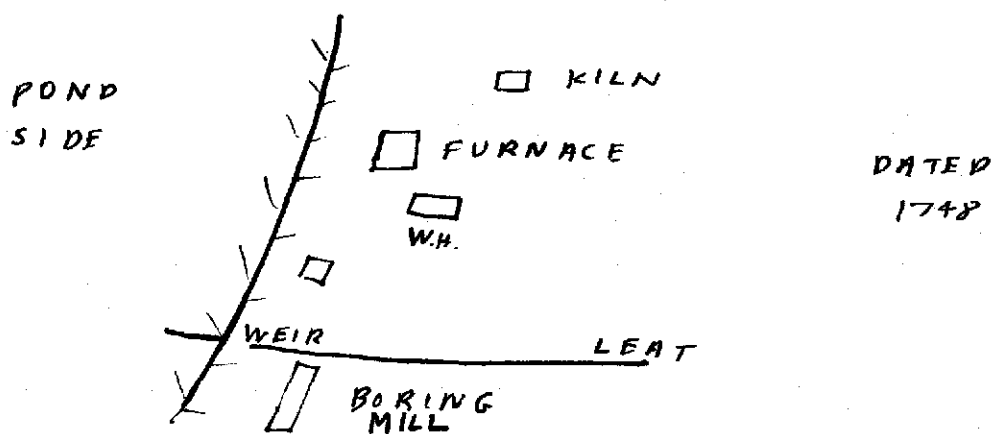
Owner Mr & Mrs Rabone.

The site was modified to a corn mill and is now a private residence.

The pond is in water with a bay 15 ft high and 125 yds long.

There is a plan of the furnace site (on a copy of a map from Maidstone Records Office Kent) in the hall of the house; it is hoped to get a copy as it must be unique.

The approx layout of the site:-



The words on the map:-

" a plan of Cowden Furnace with ye Pond and Land thereunto belonging laying in ye parish of Cowden in Kent belonging to

Mr. William Bowen.

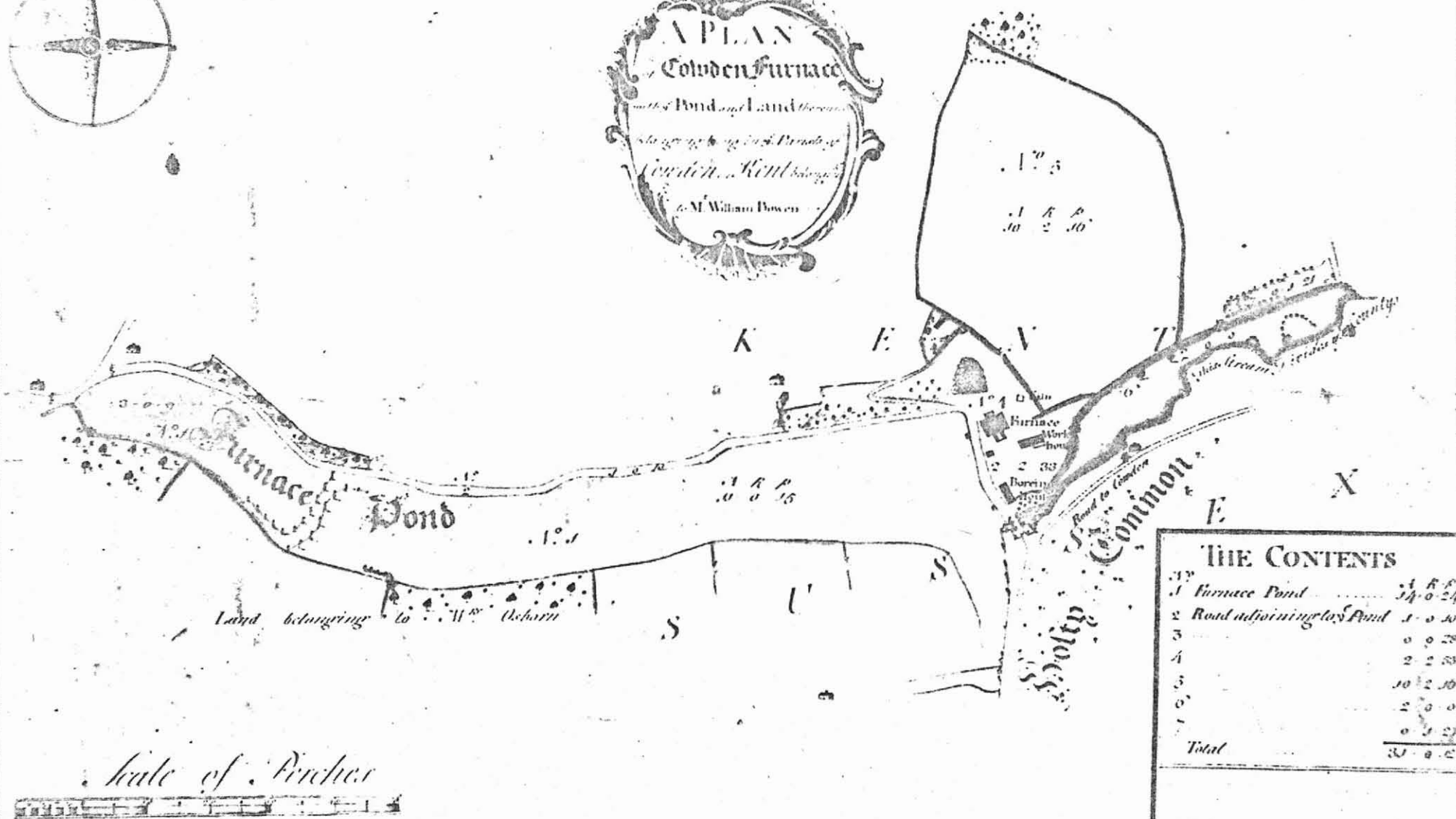
Note the boring Mill which is new information.

In the garden there is a cannon ball
 ≈ 6.5 in diam and 21" circum. There is also
 an iron (cast?) slab ~~west~~^{north} of the house,
 on the ~~west~~^{north} side of the oil storage tank. Its
 dimensions are 3' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1' 11" and approx
 1" thick.

There is no writing on the top side, but
 underneath?



A PLAN
of Colden Furnace
 with the Pond and Land thereunto
 belonging being in the Parishes of
 Colden, in Kent belonging
 to M^r William Bowen

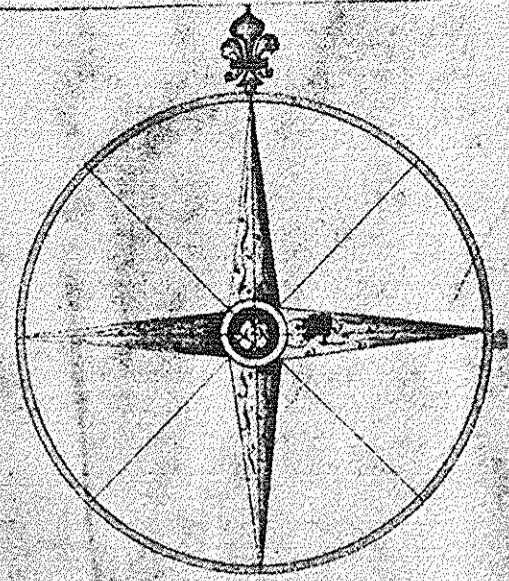


THE CONTENTS		
1 st	Furnace Pond	1 1/2 0 24
2	Road adjoining the Pond	1 0 30
3		0 0 28
4		2 2 33
5		10 2 30
6		2 0 0
7		0 3 27
	Total	30 0 0

Scale of Paces

Surveyed by W^m Bowen 1743

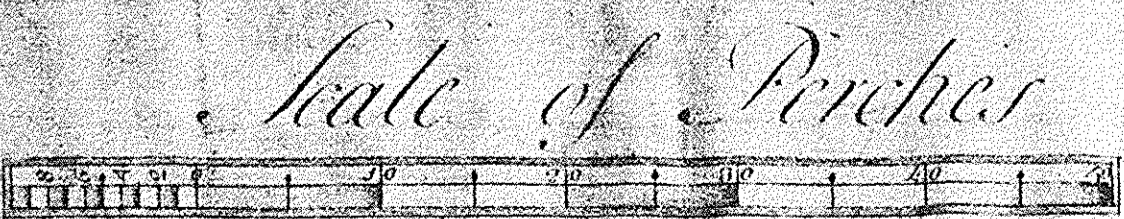
NOT NOW TO SCALE



A PLAN
 of **Colden Furnace**
 with its Pond and Land thereunto
 belonging lying in the Parish of
 Colden, Kent belonging
 to M^r William Bowen



THE CONTENTS		
1 ^o	Furnace Pond	A R P 34 0 24
2	Road adjoining to Pond	1 0 10
3		0 0 28
4		2 2 33
5		10 2 16
6		2 0 0
7		0 4 27
Total		31 0 12



Surveyed by John Bowen 1748

A PLAN
of Coloden Furnace
with Pond and Land thereto
belonging being in S. Parish of
Condens, Kent belonging
to M. William Bowen



A^o 5
 A R P
 10 2 16

A R P
 10 0 16

Land belonging to M^{rs} Osborn

THE CONTENTS		
A ^o		A R P
1	Furnace Pond	14 0 24
2	Road adjoining to Pond	1 0 10
3		0 0 28
4		2 2 53
5		10 2 16
6		2 0 0
7		0 1 27
Total		31 0 12

Scale of Perches



Surveyed by John Bowen 1743