

Summarised for
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ETCHINGHAM FORGE

C.F. TERBUTT
1975

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.

ETCHINGHAM FORGE

WI. 298.

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

T.Q. 701266

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

Public footpath leads to it from 3 directions. Easiest access along S. side railway line.

4. Features on the ground.

Main Dam

Length

no bay now visible, railway line goes through middle of site, but none in comparison with earthworks between railway and Forge cottages.

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?

no

Mine pits - are there any close by?

The area below the dam

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

Surface irregularities

Some banks & ditches between railway & Forge Cottages
on S. side

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?

Mound in banks of the artificial leat &
scattered in arable field on N. side of railway;
some also from mole hills in farm field on S.
side railway

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

Yes, in stream bank.

- 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.

Forge cottage has recent appearance of being
much more recent in date.

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.

9. Is the site apparently threatened in any way?

No, main damage already done by
railway.

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

11. Other comments.

Straker says that this site did not have a long
but was run by taking water from a long leak
from the river much higher up & it may well
have been the cause, ~~The small race was also~~
but the railway line has made this difficult to
verify. However there is no doubt about the long
artificial ^{tail} small race stream that runs from the site,
for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, parallel & close to the river before joining
it near the main road downstream. Actually the
main stream has broken through to this, at the site &
most of the water now goes that way.

A transcription of P.R.O. C78/1 No.57

FOR THE MATTER in varyance betwene Johanne Welshe uydowe late Wyf of Thomas Welshe deceased and executryx of the testament and last Wyll of the seid Thomas Complaynant and Robert TyrWytt Esquyre defend It is ordered and decreed by the right honorable sir Thomas Wrythesley knyght of the noble order of the garter Lord Wrythesley and Lorde Chancellour of England and the Courte of Chancerye by the assent and agrement of both the seid parties and their lerned Counseylles that the seid Robt TyrWyt and Elyzabeth his Wyff and their heires and assignes shall frome the feast of seynt Mychell tharchanngell next ensuyng the date hereof have and enyoie the forges and Iron Mylne set lying and being in Echyngnam in the Countie of Sussex and the Furnes at Darvall Wood in the seid Countie late Thomas Oxenbrege esquyre deceased With Wood and all other commodityes necessaryes and easymentes in as ample and large manner and Wyse as the seid Thomas and Johanne or eyther of theym any tyme heretofore held had occupied or enyoied the same Wythout lett or interupcon of the seid Johanne or her executours admynstratours or assynes or any other claymyng by the seid Thomas and Johanne or any of theym / And that at the Feast of seid Mychell tharchanngell the seid Johanne her executours admynstratours or assignes Shall Surrender up in to the handes of the seid Robert TyrWyt and Elyzabeth and of their heires and assynges the seid lease of the seid forges and Iron Mylne the premysses made by the seid Thomas Oxenbrege esquyre deceased unto the seid Thomas Welshe by Indenture beryng date the XVjth daye of Maye in the XXXjth yere of the reigne of our soveraigne lord the Kyng that noWe is And also at the same tyme shall delyver or cause to be delyveryd unto the seid Robert TyrWyt and Elyzabeth their heires or assynges the one parte of the seid Indenture sealed and sygned by the seid Thomas Oxenbrege to be cancelled and made voide. / And Further it is ordered and decreed by the seid Thomas lorde Wrythesley and the seid Courte of Chancerye by thassent and agremente of bothe the seid parties and their lerned Counseylles that the seid Johanne Welshe her executours admynstratours and assynges shall Frome the Feaste of seynt Mychell tharchanngell next ensuyng the date hereof as is aforeseid have perceyv and enyoie one annuall rent or somme of XXiiij Li of good and lafull money of England yerely to be payed to the seid Johanne her executours admynstratours or assignes at the Feastes of thannuncyacon of our Blyssed lady the Vyrgyn and seynt Mychell tharchanngell or Wythin XXXti dayes next ensuyng after eyther of the seid Feastes by even porcons duryng the space of Xij yeres then next Immedyatlye ensuyng the seid feast of seynt Mychell tharchanngell in

the parisshe Church of Echingham in the seid Countie of Sussex betwene the howres of viij and X of the Clocke before noone of eyther of the seid Feastes And that thassurannce of the seid annuall or yerely some to be paied in maner and forme aforeseid Shalbe made and assured before the seid Feast of seynt Mychell tharchanngell next ensuyng And so Frome tyme to tyme untyll such tyme the seid assurannces be had and made by the foreseid Robert Tyrwyt and Elyzabeth or their heires in suche manner and forme as shalbe appoynted by the seid Thomas lord Wryothesley / And that untyll the seid Feast of seynt Mychell tharchanngell next ensuyng / the seid Johanne her executours admynstratours to occupye and enyoie all and every the premysses in suche manner and Forme as she at anye tyme heretofore hath occupied and enyoied the same by vertue of her seid leasse paying the rente reservyd upon the seid leasse for the same that thenne shalbe due at the seid Feast / And that the seid Robert Tyrwyt and Elyzabeth their heires or assignes shalbefore hys or their entre into the seid Ferme paye or cause to be payed unto the seid Johanne her executours or admynstratours for such stuff as there shalbe found unwrought that is to saye Wood redye cut into Cord Wood Cole redye made and Owre redye dydded so moch money as they shalbe praysed and valuyed at by foure indyfferente persons inhabityng within the seid paroch of Echingham / And further it is ordered and decreed by the foreseid lord Chancellour and the foreseid Courte of Chancery that the foreseid Johanne her executours admynstratours and assynges shall permyt and suffer the foreseid Robert TyrWyt esquier and Elyzabeth his Wyff their heires executours and assignes to have Frelybertie and passage to passe wythe their caryage thurough such other groundes there as the seid Johanne hath in lease of the seid Thomas Oxenbrege lying in Echingham or Darvall Wood unto the Foreseid forges Furnes and mylne Wythout any her or their lett denyall agynsaying or interupcon in any manner of Wyse in such sorte as hath ben heretofore used by the seid John havynge in occupying the seid Mylnes and Forges and as may be left to her detryment