

STREAM

revised - J
W. Bullock

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.
 STREAM (CHIDDINGLY) FURNACE AND FORGE W.I. p 384
2. National Grid Reference (2 letters, 6 figures).
 T.Q 555155
3. Access. State problems of terrain or land-use. (If the name of owner and tenant is easily available, this could be useful.)
 Bridle road passes into along top bank.
 owner of Mill House. A.C. Hartley, Mill House Stream, Chiddingfold
 Lower. SX (Phone C. 293) Left 1980
4. Features on the ground.
 Main Dam Length: 170 yards. see sketch plan

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

Upstream 5 feet
Down - 10 feet.

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?)

In good condition - in Straker's time still held pond in water. now dry probably by lowering weir. Much slag on top bank probably to make road surface

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.

Almost completely flat ground, I thought that main working area must have been on site of forest mill house and outbuildings

Surface irregularities

No. see above

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?)

Much glassy slag mainly very black

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

Yes.

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

Yes, used to reset level of level road

- Ore - any scatter?

- Purple shelly limestone - any?

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

Boring rod for cannon boring. c. $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet long for
c. 5" boring in fair condition; found by occupier in Garden Mill House
a half cannon ball of c. $3\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter found in road surface half
way between Stone Mill and Stone Farm. See Post. Med. Soc.
Vol 9(1915), 38-41

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 as 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.

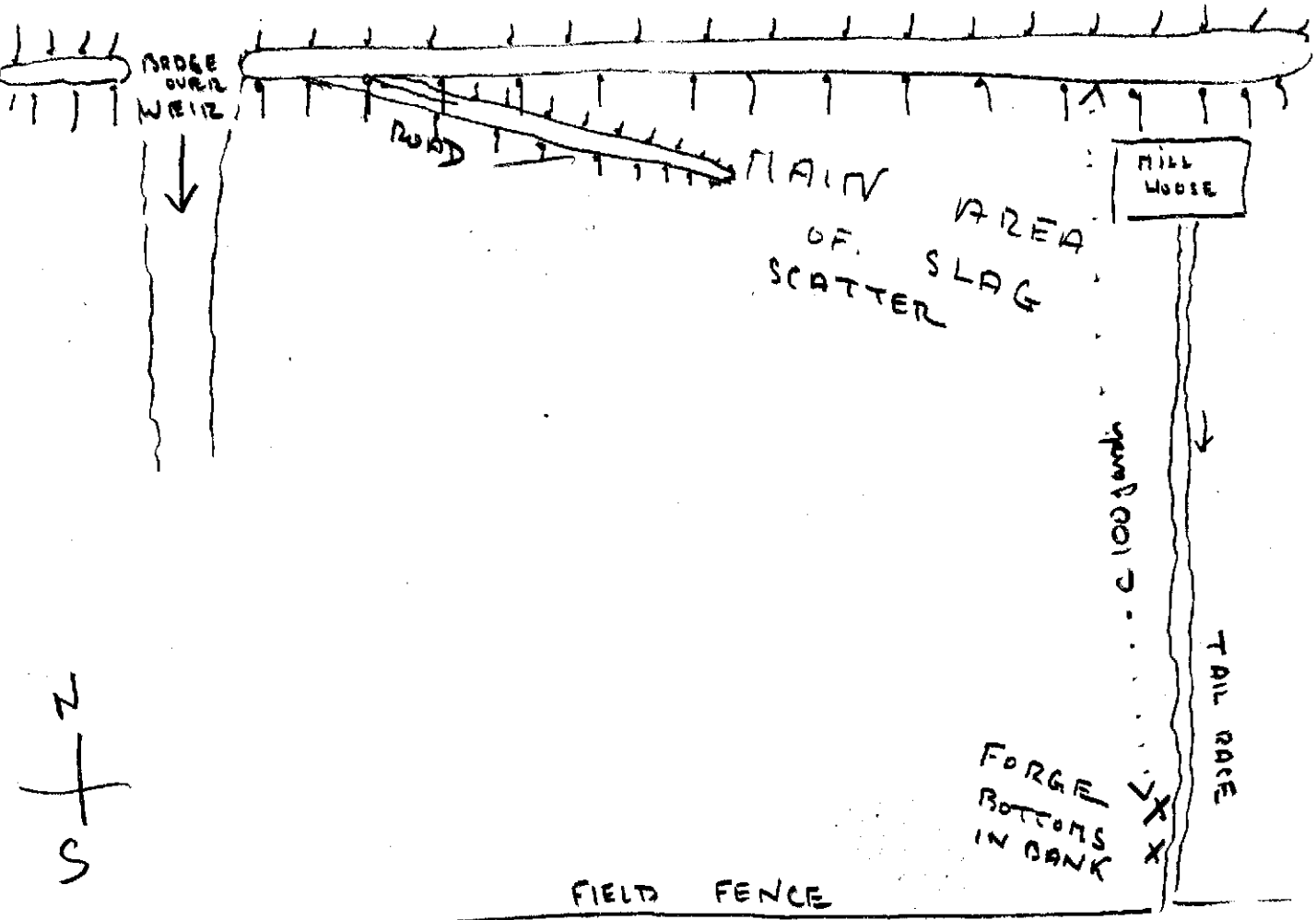
9. Is the site apparently threatened in any way?

No

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

11. Other comments. Mrs. A.C. Hartley has offered to give boring rod to Sumner Arch. Soc. for preservation or where ever it can be conserved and preserved. + action is being taken to implement this. (Now in Army of Clevel Museum, Levee.)

SWAMP



CHIDDINGLY.

Stream Furnace, in this parish, was worked by the Frenches, who were yeomen in the sixteenth century, and gentry in the seventeenth. The latter rank they acquired by their ironworks. The pond, whose waters impelled the machinery still remains and is about 20 acres in extent. The flour mill, the property of the Reeves, occupies the site and here probably stood the mill mentioned in Domesday Book, which was valued, with the miller at 4 shillings per annum.

Great quantities of cinders occur in the woods in the north part of the parish, and among them pottery, presumed to be Roman has been discovered.....

Extracte from

IRON WORKS IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX. Mark Anthony Lower. Sussex Archaeological Collections. Vol. 2 (1849) p.208-9.

1648 lease (KFS/26) shows found at forge. } Page
1655/1664-7 lease shows both.

Elizabeth Doff
Pilley Farm, Churches Green
Dallington, Heathfield
East Sussex TN21 9NX
Tel: Rushlake Green 830397

24th September 1982

Mr. David Crossley,
Dept of Economic & Social History,
University of Sheffield,
Sheffield,
Yorkshire.

Dear Mr. Crossley,

This may be too late for the new Wealden Iron, but Christopher Whittick suggested that I should write to you. I am researching social conditions in the Cuckmere Valley 1660-1750 and so it is of great interest to know how much iron working was still going on in the area.

Chiddingly Stream Furnace & Forge

The well-known lease between Sir Thos. Dyke and John Fuller from Stephen French of 1650 shows this to have been both furnace and forge. Where was the forge? Was the lease renewed after 7 years?

EW3 On 30/4/1663 at Lewes Quarter Sessions Nicholas Messuage of Chiddingly was indicted for not scouring his ditches in Stockars Lane in Chiddingly, leading from his house. Others indicted for the same offence included Stephen French of Lewes (according to the Hearth Tax 1662 he was living in the parish of All Saints in some degree of opulence - 33 hearths) and Robert Homan and John Lewes.

Nicholas Messuage was a member of a long established family of forgers. (This family is being researched by Mrs. B.R. Tupman nee Message of Warbleton.) Nicholas's will ESRO A 31/111 1669 describes him as a Forgerman of Chiddingly, and also requests, "I earnestly desire my good friend John Fuller Esq., of Waldron... to see that my will be fulfilled to whom I give a ring of fifteen shillings price as a testimony of my love." In 1664 he had been an overseer of the poor in Chiddingly. (ESRO PAR 292/9/1).

Stockars Lane in Chiddingly has a field called Forge Field. I enclose extracts from Chiddingly Tithe Map. ESRO TD/E 105 (1839). I cannot see that there was any water available here.

Q1/EW4 On 12th January 1671 Robert Homan of Chiddingly, yeoman was indicted at Lewes Quarter Sessions for carrying two loads of Guns in Ringmer, "which said guns did weigh in excess of 2,000 weight." The same crime had been committed in South Malling, which suggests that the guns were being shipped from Lewes. Others indicted for the same offence were Anthony Sweane of Chiddingly. (His will ESRO A35/32 1678 describes him as yeoman - his name spelt Swaine. Anthony Swaine lived in Chiddingly 1662 and had 12 hearths.) Also indicted John Cole and William Tyler of Framfield (Swaine owned some land in Framfield), also Nicholas Newington of Chiddingly and John Willard & William Chantler, also of Chiddingly - these three carrying only one load of guns.

From which one may conclude than guns were being made in Chiddingly in 1671.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Doff

WIRG Site Visit 22-12-14

Site Stream Farm [Stream Mill]
Chiddingfold. E. Sussex

Members Victor Kellett and John Veysey

Site Information. This site is approached over a sloping farm track between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long. Road surface bumpy but hard - will support x2 wheel drive cars. Parking space very limited, no more than 2/3 cars at a time with arrangement beforehand with residents.

Residents Stream Mill - Helen DENNING
01825 872793
Mill House - Tanya McCRAE
01825 873535

Both residents were welcoming and very interested in the history of the site. They were given WIRG leaflets.

Mrs DENNING gave us a guided tour of the Forge Pond which is now a newly-planted wood by the Woodland Trust.

There is also an interesting feature of a fish-pond constructed with encircling protective ditches to keep chalybeate water, flowing from adjacent land from contaminating the fish-pond water ^{at}

Mrs DENNING has recent photographs of the Forge Pond in full flood in last year's rainy season.

Mrs McCRAE also made us very welcome and showed us the Weir-Pool where masses of metal :- Iron Plates / Ferrous Mass ? exist under water.

Mrs McCRAE's family came from nearby

Michelham Priory

Samples Taken The gardens of both houses are littered with samples of glassy slag - green and grey and Stream Mill has a number of furnace bottoms.

Site Visit Incomplete due to time limitations
Tail races from forge site need examination together with the remains of a raised roadway leaving the forge site towards the SW leading to the public road to E. Hoathley at 552152. There is also a pond site at the rear of Mill House which may have been the site of the Boring House.

Future Visits Both Residents request that unannounced visits by WIRG are avoided and the limitations of 2/3 cars per visit is observed.

And Finally The present house at Stream Mill was built as the Millers House in c. 1885. They have a top millstone in the garden. Mrs DENNING believes the earliest mill on site was in Norman Times [this statement has not been verified]



Sluice gates at Mill Race
St. Leon farm 1982

28th April

MRS L. B. SHARMAN
BIBBY'S BUNGALOW
STATION ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
HAILSHAM, E. SUSSEX
BN27 2EX
0323 847657

~~delivered~~
7.5.70.

Dear Mrs Bloomfield,

I showed the enclosed photograph to Dr. Brian Short and he thought the Wealden Iron Research Group might be interested in it. I took it when I was living at Stream Farm, Chiddingfold - my husband was the cow-man on the farm.

When we first went there, there were three beams left on the sluice gate. When only the one remained I took the photograph. The following week, the river flooded and the whole gate was swept away.

You are welcome to keep the
photograph as I have a duplicate.

Yours sincerely,

Blenda Sharman.