



NEWSLETTER 47 SPRING 2008

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WINTER MEETING 2008

SIMON STEVENS

Excavations of Medieval Ironworking on the ASDA site in Crawley

Simon Stevens, senior archaeologist with Archaeology South-East, has considerable experience of unearthing the remains of medieval iron works in Crawley, and his well-illustrated talk included some necessary background to the ASDA dig. As one of the few urban locations in the Weald where major residential and commercial development is regularly undertaken, Crawley offers an all too rare opportunity to get below the surface of a Wealden town. Contrary to superficial appearances the town has an ancient origin, with its first market charter granted in 1202. There are a few surviving medieval buildings in the High Street but little was known about the town's connection with iron making until the 1970s, when excavations of the Iron Age and Roman site at Broadfield were carried out. Nearly twenty more years were to pass before a hint of Crawley's medieval ironworking past began to be revealed.

Simon's involvement in Crawley began at the former Post Office, opposite the ASDA site, where redevelopment uncovered evidence that iron had been smelted nearby. The piecemeal nature of urban archaeology and the tendering system that operates for excavation work has meant that other units have been involved in unlocking Crawley's past. The inser-



Excavations at Kiln Mead, Crawley, 1998 (S. Stevens)

tion of an inner relief road produced more evidence of iron working, but it was at the northern end of the High Street, Simon told us, that he next encountered iron slag in a series of pits on the Kiln Mead development. Again, this turned out to be opposite a site where even more evidence was to be discovered – the Leisure complex site, which was the subject of our Winter Meeting talk in 2001. As a result of this earlier work, Simon had speculated that the main area for smelting in Crawley in the Middle Ages had been away from the central High Street area, which had been reserved for quasi-domestic forging and secondary working. However, he had revised this opinion as a result of the excavations on the ASDA site, which lay at the southern end of the street, in the centre of what had been the residential area of medieval Crawley. The ASDA site produced a large quantity of iron



A slag-filled pit on the ASDA site, Crawley, 2003 (S. Stevens)

slag, predominantly from the smelting phase, and including the remains of a small bloomery furnace which dated to 1040-1260AD. In plan the hearth looked strikingly like one excavated at Broadfield, but which dated to about 1000 years earlier. As in the

case with other medieval iron working sites in Crawley plenty of waste material was found but hardly any remains of actual hearths. Finding the furnaces where all this slag was produced must be a priority in further investigations in the town.

Members' comments and questions included some speculation as to the precise sources of the large quantities of iron that were being produced in the Weald in the 13th century, with Crawley being a strong contender. The lack of redevelopment in most of the towns in the Weald precluded the sort of investigation that has taken place in Crawley, but medieval references to numbers of smiths working in places like Lindfield and Wadhurst suggested that those places may have been similarly active in the period.

JSH

WIRG ON CAMERA

WIRG has provided subject matter for a number of television and radio programmes over the years, mainly for programmes of local interest. In the latest, WIRG is to be the subject of part of a television programme focussing on people and groups who preserve rural traditions or delve into the countryside's past. Filming took place last November, over two days, covering a smelt and a foray. Several WIRG members were interviewed and shooting took place at a couple of other locations associated with the iron industry – Cowden churchyard (where there are some iron memorials) and Newbridge; Henry Cleere was also interviewed. The programme, made by Eye Film & Television, will be part of the series entitled *Country Lives* and will be broadcast by Meridian sometime in 2008.

In January, during the Field Group's foray along a stream valley north-west of Colestock Crossroads, Hartfield, members were filmed for the High Weald AONB unit's website. A series of interviews with people who work or derive pleasure from activities in the Weald is being assembled for on-line viewing. The High Weald Unit's website already includes a couple of video sequences relating to iron. Go to www.highweald.org and look for Multi-media Library on the home page.

JSH

ARCHAEO-MAGNETIC DATING AT LITTLE FURNACE WOOD

Excavations at Little Furnace Wood finished in the Spring of 2007, but it had been hoped that more accurate dates might be obtained of the site, especially as the sequence of operation of the main features on the site would give a better idea of the way the site was used in Roman times. Radiocarbon dates had been obtained for the first furnace excavated and the ore-roasting hearth, but both dates were of such inaccuracy (the range in both instances was in the region



Attaching plastic marker discs to Furnace 1

of 150 years) that a broadly second-century date was all that could be concluded. A more accurate method of dating is by archeomagnetism. In a nutshell, iron oxide particles in clay naturally orientate themselves to the direction of magnetic north, which moves over the course of time. When clay is heated the orientation of the iron oxide particles becomes fixed at the direction of magnetic north at the time of heating. This can be measured, using a magnetometer, and by comparison with a graph compiled from measured sites of known date, the date of the feature can be arrived at, sometimes with considerable accuracy. Such dating has been carried out on other iron sites in the Weald, including Smythford bloomery, Worth, and Millbrook Saxon bloomery, Hartfield. It is an expensive process and would have stretched WIRG's resources were it not for the intervention of the East Sussex County Archaeologist, Casper Johnson, who persuaded English Heritage to carry out the work as



Recording the orientation of samples on Furnace 1

part of another on-going project. In the event, the work was sub-contracted, by EH, to the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MOLAS) and Geo-Quest Associates.

Mark Burch and Cathy Drew from MOLAS spent a couple of very cold days at the site, during the week before Christmas, taking samples from three features: the two furnaces and the ore-roasting

hearth. The sampling procedure comprises several stages. After the state of the feature from which the samples will be taken is assessed, about 15 cylindrical plastic markers are glued firmly to the burnt part of the feature and the top surface of the markers levelled before the glue sets (although the cold weather made that take rather longer than normal). A theodolite is positioned near the feature and the position of magnetic north established using a sophisticated attachment. Then the precise angle between magnetic north and the marker is measured with the theodolite and a line drawn on the marker, together with the number and orientation of the marker. Finally, the marker and the sample of the feature to which it has been attached are carefully prised off and packed away. The samples were sent for analysis to Professor Mark Noel, in the Isle of Man.

The results of the analyses are as follows: Furnace 1 – 40-60AD; ore-roasting hearth – not dated (the data obtained could not be grouped to give a reliable result); Furnace 2 – 60-220AD or 270-460AD.

The result for Furnace 1 is in stark contrast to the radiocarbon date obtained, which was 125-215AD for charcoal found in the bottom of the furnace. The uncertainty of the date of the second furnace may be resolved when the result of radiocarbon dating for that feature is received. Further interpretation of these results will be included when the excavation report is published in due course.

JSH

FORAY NOTES

A Second Foray along the Penhurst to Ashburnham Leat October 2007

After the first foray to investigate the Penhurst to Ashburnham leat, and starting at the Ashburnham furnace end, see Newsletter No. 46, Autumn 2007, it was decided to next look at the Penhurst furnace end as it might enable WIRG to decide in which direction the water once flowed. Two streams meet at the furnace site and undoubtedly a bay was built to store both their waters to drive the furnace bellows. The site has been destroyed by a water pumping station and the bay to be seen on the site may, or may not, be the original, and there are no known plans of the site.

It was soon discovered that the stream from the west had been dammed for a pond (now dry) and water taken off, south, for the start of the leat... except that the leat could also be seen on the far side of the dry pond, which when followed was found to continue towards the other stream from the east. The final sign of the leat was found close to a bridge carrying a track, from the road, into the woodland. Although the ground is much disturbed here it is certain that the stream would have been dammed somewhere close by to form a pond at the very start the leat. So, the leat contained water from both streams at Pen-

hurst furnace... except that the furnace must have been out of use because the leat would have been in the furnace pond area.

On following the leat south, it passed under the road and into a field, where it is not now visible until it reaches the woodland on the far side and where it immediately has to negotiate two very small side streams. Beyond this, the leat is easily visible in the woodland, but is again lost in the next, long field. After negotiating another small side stream, it passes into Hazlebridge Gill.

This gill is much the deepest along the leat's course and could not easily be negotiated without digging the leat up the valley... but not really uphill as the leat must still flow downhill! In fact, the leat is dug some 200m up the valley and the same distance back down on the opposite bank. Where the leat crossed the stream, it probably passed along the top of a 3m high causeway; this saved a considerable amount of extra leat-digging up the valley.

On coming out of Hazlebridge gill the leat seemed to turn sharp right into a field and along the south side of a hedge. Some way across the field the leat's course becomes a bit indistinct, especially as there is a geological fault on the probable course, and it will be necessary for this length of leat to be re-assessed on the next foray. Nevertheless, the leat again becomes distinct some way into the gill called Ten Acre Wood.

Again, the leat crossed the stream on a causeway or a bay, some 250m up the gill, and it was again visible on the opposite bank making its way down the gill, but this was where the permissions for the foray finished.

As with the first leat foray, a preliminary account of this foray (5 text pages and two maps) is available from the author (see back page for contact details).

Brian Herbert

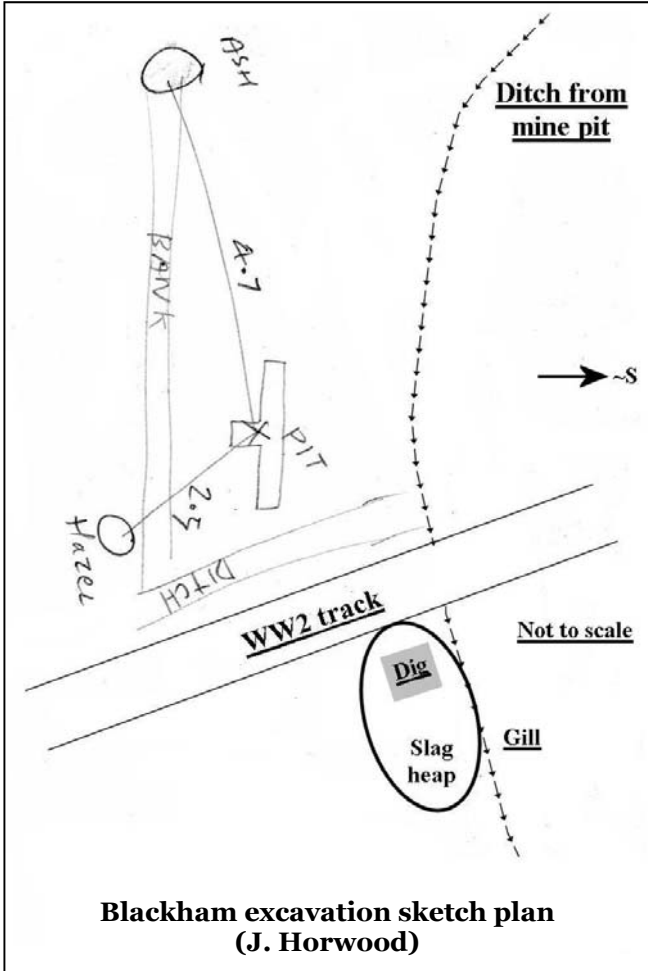
Another dating dig to find pottery on a bloomery site at Blackham, Sussex November 2007

This was yet another dig in the Blackham area of Hartfield to date a bloomery site by recovering pottery from the slag heap. The only other dated bloomery found in the area was carbon dated to around 500BC but is, as yet, unconfirmed by other means. Also with us was a film crew from Eye Film & TV, of Norwich, who had been commissioned by Meridian TV to make some programmes for the *Country Lives* series.

An early start allowed time for a rather long walk to the site through the autumn woodland; it took 45 minutes to reach the dig site rather than the usual 10 minutes. However, this did allow much picturesque filming of members and their wellington boots! A quick overview of the site was undertaken, complete with the metal detector showing the two areas of interest; the slag heap to the west and an area of

roasted ore to the east, on opposite sides of a track-way and locally spoken of as being built during the Second World War. It was noted that the slagheap existed only on the N bank of the gill.

The metal detector was used to determine the best places to dig, with the slag heap starting as a 1 x 1m square area, and the area of roasted ore with a 1 x 3m trench approximately E-W. It was emphasised



that we really wanted dateable material - either pottery or coins, as carbon 14 dating is expensive at over £150 per dated sample, and the charcoal has to be found sealed deep within the slagheap.

The general layout of the digs is shown above.

Digging the slag heap proved to be hard work as it was well packed down and almost solid slag. Because the slag heap was located on the edge of a steeply sloping gill, the length of the trench naturally extended as digging progressed; at the end it was 1m deep and 2m long. As dusk approached, the trench was back-filled on top of logs so that it could be rediscovered when digging was renewed on another occasion.

No pottery was found. The slag was all tap slag and cinder, and none of the drip slag found further down the valley. Some of it was a glassy (green & black), suggesting very high temperatures, but not indicative of a particular period. It is noted that on a previous foray some, 100m downstream, glassy slag

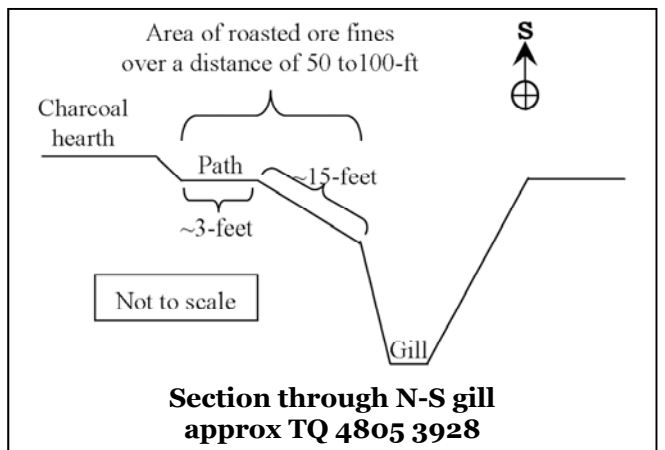


**View up the side of the gill to the slag heap
(looking east)**

was also found; however, it was concluded that this slag had been brought in, possibly to build up a track.

The area of roasted ore may have been either a roasting pit or just an ore store ready for charging the furnace. If the latter, it means that the ore had been roasted elsewhere. The E-W trench revealed mostly roasted ore fines with the occasional piece of roasted ore, all these pieces containing a high density of Cyrena shells. It is not always easy to tell, before roasting, whether the ore contains shells, but after roasting, it is more friable. Maybe it was discarded as no clay ironstone ore has been found either roasted or unroasted (so far). It should be noted that if this shelly ore had been used, the slag produced in the bloomery furnace would have been more viscous and difficult to tap due to the lime in the shells, i.e. calcium carbonate (CaCO₃).

Unfortunately, the only feature seen within



the trench was a dark soil-stain at the, lower, W end; nothing else could be seen on scraping down to the subsoil. Nevertheless, there remained a large, untouched area of fines, and so a N-S cross trench was dug half way along the E-W trench. The S side trench produced the same ore fines but the N trench produced a much darker soil that seemed to be dipping downwards to the N; suggesting the edge of a pit. As time had run out the trenches were backfilled, although a piece of card was used as a marker in the potentially interesting N trench. There are many mine pits to the south in Cullinghurst Wood.

It is interesting that there are so many roasted ore fines, and they all seem to be almost cubic and up to 3mm in size. The smelting team do not get this amount of fines nor this shape, after roasting. It is likely that these cubes represent the remains of the friable 'box' that surrounds some nodules of ore.

As the day wound down another area was re-investigated where a vast area of roasted ore fines had previously been noted, see diagram below. Nothing on this scale has been seen in the Weald, and it would be interesting to determine in what period it was produced, considering the size of the area, it could only be Roman bloomery or mediaeval blast furnace period.

If this site is proven as ore roasting, then it will be 4th such site, three of which have been discovered with the aid of a metal detector.

The area of interest seems to be free of vegetation, so, is the ground poisoned?

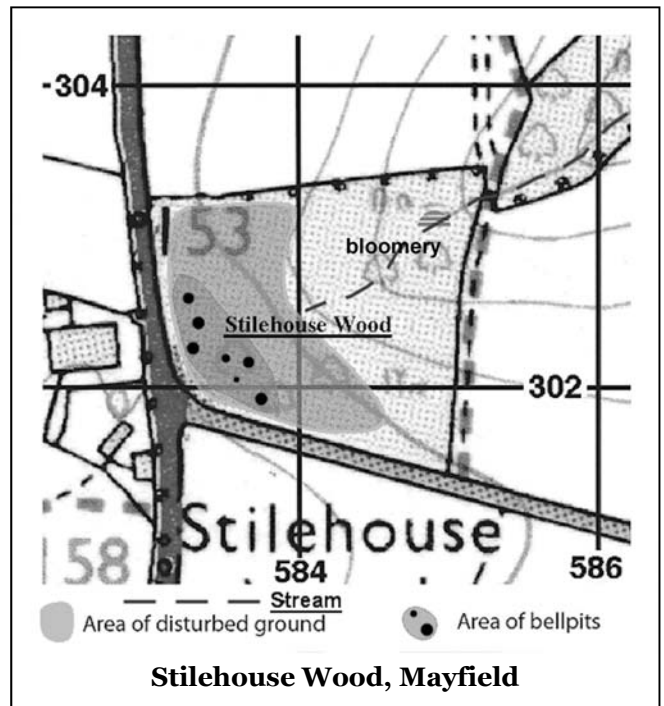
Brian Herbert

Foray to Rotherfield, east of Stile House Farm December 2007

The foray started in Stilehouse Wood where a bloomery site (TQ 5845 3026) had been discovered by Charles Cattell (see map). Fred Tebbutt organised a dig in about 1978 which was recorded in *Wealden Iron, 1st ser.*, **13**, 1978, pp 8-10. Romano-British pottery was found amongst the slag. The site covers about 1ha, and is much as Fred Tebbutt described in his report, although there really is minimal slag on the LHS side of the stream.

Most of the woodland was well turned over with many humps and hollows, as shown on the map, probably because it has been dug for iron ore in the lower levels of a thin layer of Wadhurst Clay. Towards the east end of the wood and in the slaggy area, the massive Ashdown sandstone is just visible in the infant stream. This sandstone seems to match the large slab of sandstone found last year (TQ 5799 2940) in the woodland to the W of the bloomery furnace site then being dug; although there must be an E to W dip in the geology.

The stream was followed, eastwards, and at TQ 5959 3050 a few pieces of slag were found about



0.6m up on the RHS bank, but no sign of a bloomery site, however, some pieces of slag were also found high up in the field on the right hand bank. Within the woodland, on the LHS bank, a charcoal platform was found (TQ 5901 3061). The new auger was used to take a sample which David Brown took home, but noted that recent wood-burning has taken place nearby.

The stream then flowed into a former pond, believed to have stored water for Coushopley furnace. No spillway was observed for this pond, however a leat seems to have diverted some of the water from the stream above the pond, rejoining the stream below it at TQ 5917 3061. The purpose of this leat is not clear.

At TQ 5960 3058, where another stream comes from the N, there are signs of another bay that would have held back this water, and also water from the stream that we were following. This is thought to be a second pen pond for Coushopley blast furnace (TQ 6041 3020).

There is also another possible bay just to the west. It was seen on the LHS bank of the stream that we were following and would probably have continued across to the RHS bank....but only have held back water from the stream that we were following. A second charcoal platform was discovered along with two pieces of roasted ore, but as so little was found it was probably accidentally roasted under the charcoal hearth.

Brian Herbert

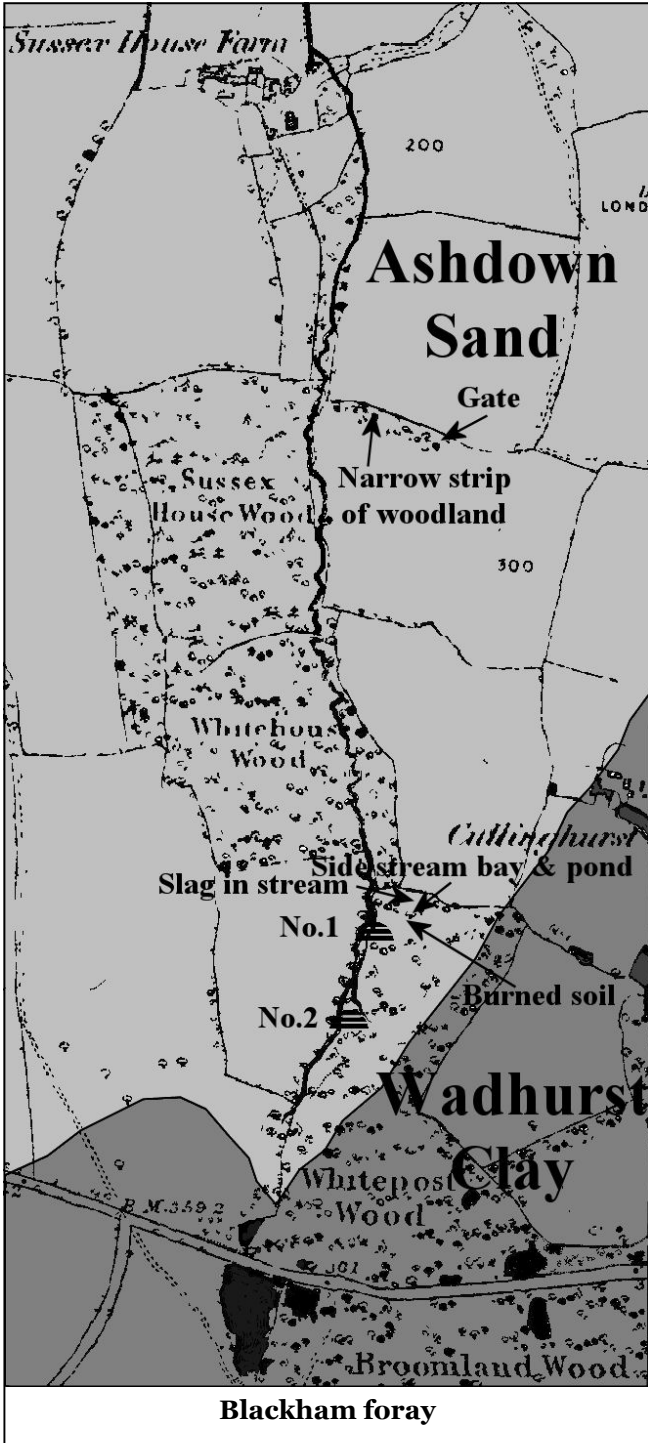
WEALDEN IRON BULLETIN 28

Articles for inclusion in this year's Bulletin should be submitted to the Editor, David Crossley, by 31 March (see back page for contact details)

**A Foray to Blackham area, Sussex; west of the B2026 Edenbridge road
January 2008**

The foray started from Sussex House Farm (TQ 4703 4008) although it was expected that any bloomery sites would be found further south, closer to the source of iron ore.

The first sign of iron working activity was at the north end of Whitepost Wood, some 100m up a



Blackham foray

side stream on the RHS bank of the main stream (TQ 4723 3934). Although a small quantity of bloomery slag was found in the stream, no slag could be found on either bank. Just to the south of the slag, and on a

N-S raised bank, an area about 2m in diameter gave quite a strong metal detector response, rather excessive for a charcoal platform, although one piece of charcoal was discovered. Unfortunately, there was no charcoal platform; and there was no sign of any slag either, however, the soil was dark and very crumbly, as if fired at one time. It may have been an ore roasting site; but we did not have a magnet to check this.

A short distance further up this side stream was a bay that once allowed a very small pond to form (TQ 4723 3934). An odd feature on the downstream side of the bay was a narrow length of track consisting of broken pieces of sandstone, but no use could be discovered.

On returning to the main stream the first bloomery furnace site was soon discovered just over the brow on RHS bank (TQ 4719 3929). It was roughly 5m in diameter. There was very little slag in the stream, probably due to it being held back by large tree roots. Some way further upstream a second bloomery furnace site was found (TQ 4718 3922), a little larger at 8 x 9m. Once again, just over the brow of the RHS bank.

A definite charcoal platform was discovered at (TQ47183920), high up between on the RHS bank between the stream and a gully.

Continuing up stream, some small mine pits were first seen (where the ore would have been won from shallow pits), culminating in a long and deeper E-W pit parallel to the A264 Tunbridge Wells road (TQ 4715 3903), possibly formed from the re-working of earlier shaft pits.

On the return journey, an unusually narrow strip of woodland was noticed to the E of the stream (TQ 4715 3980), this is shown on the 19th century map although not on modern maps. It is too wide for a green lane, but towards the east end, it tapers into a hedge, although there is a gate to the north. No explanation is given.

Brian Herbert

**Foray to Hollybush Wood and Funnells Wood, Fletching
February 2008**

As part of its continuing support for the University of Sussex's Ouse Valley Project, the Field Group walked streams in Hollybush Wood and Funnells Wood to identify water management features that may have influenced the ecology of the woodlands. The streams, which are part of the upper Ouse, had already been walked by a team of botanists to identify the plant species growing in the gills – our role was to supplement that survey with any additional information. Success on the first of these forays in 2006, when three bloomeries were discovered in Sheffield Forest, had given us hope that subsequent forays might be as productive. Here we were close to the area of that foray, on the same geology – Ashdown Sand. Our interest in iron, however, was subservient to the purpose of the foray, so it was with some satisfaction that two pond bays were identified in Holly-

bush Wood, at TQ 4381 2735 and TQ 4366 2720. Neither offered any clue as to their purpose. No evidence of ironworking was found.

JSH

'AN IRON MINE'

Cleere and Crossley follow earlier writers in using the term 'iron mine' for the subject of a dispute between Agnes de Malameins and Isabel de Aldham in the East Grinstead area in 1263 (*The Iron Industry of the Weald*, 1995, p.92). An endnote gives the references for the original source, presumably in Latin. Since 'iron mine' gives a misleading impression of the extractive technique used in the Weald, one might have expected the Latin original to be quoted. I wonder if it is my old friend *ferraria* and, if so, if it is the same one as Domesday itemises in the Hundred of East Grinstead (*WIRG Newsletters* 44, p.5, & 46, p.5.).

M. J. Leppard

THE 'EUROPA' FIREBACK

In Volume 23 of the Sussex Archaeological Collections, S. Evershed described a pictorial fireback which had been deposited in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. He recorded its ownership over the preceding 20 years to when it had belonged to a blacksmith in West Grinstead. Writing in 1871, and drawing parallels be-

tween the supposed subject of the fireback and the conclusion of the Franco-Prussian war, Evershed proceeded to interpret the scene as the rape of Europa. In Greek mythology, Europa was the daughter of Agenor and Telephassa. Zeus fell in love with Europa and, disguising himself as a magnificent white bull among a herd of her father's cattle, which he had persuaded Hermes to drive towards where she walked, insinuated himself into her affections by his uncharacteristic bovine gentleness. Europa climbed on Zeus's back, whereupon he swam away with her, fetching up on the shore of Crete where he turned himself into an eagle and raped her. She subsequently bore him three sons, among them Minos.

The scene depicted on the fireback, however, bears no relation to the mythological tale. We see a man and a woman in the dress of the mid-17th century, processing through a garden, the woman's train carried by a child, a parasol carried aloft by a servant, and a horse following the party. The word 'EUROPA' at the bottom of the central panel is the only indication that the scene might have any connection with the legend. Typical of the 'Dutch' style of fireback, the central pictorial panel lies within a beaded edging of 'Palladian' shape. Within moulded edging, an outer frame of hanging flowers and fruit significantly includes pomegranates, a symbol of fertility. The plate is surmounted by a pair of sea serpents, at the top of which was probably a cockle or scallop shell, but that has broken off. At the base a cartouche bears initials which may be LH. The same central panel can be seen on a fireback in the Slade Mitford collection at Petworth House, although it is in a different frame, and has neither the word 'EUROPA' nor the initials. Other firebacks there, with different central panels, have the same frame and initials, the central panels and frames being interchangeable.

GRATE-BACK OF SUSSEX IRON IN THE BRIGHTON MUSEUM.



ENGRAVED IN AQUAFORTIS, AND PRESENTED BY S. EVERSLED ESQ.



Most firebacks in the 'Dutch' style portray either classical or biblical scenes, or were illustrated with the representations of virtues or other allegorical figures made popular in the *Iconologia* published in the early 17th century by Cesare Ripa. The Europa fireback is unusual in that it takes as its subject a contemporary painting. The website of the Haardplatenmuseum, Klarenbeek, in the Netherlands*, has provided the source of the scene depicted on this fireback. It is derived from a picture, painted by Matthias Czwiczek, of the Princess Luise Henriette of Orange-Nassau (1627-67) and her husband, the Elector Friedrich Wilhelm of Brandenburg, Duke of Prussia (1620-88), shortly after their marriage in 1641. Friedrich Wilhelm, known as the *Grosse Kurfürst*, or Great Elector, was a skilful ruler who succeeded to his dukedom at a critical period towards the end of the Thirty Years' War. His marriage to Luise Henriette was seen as forging an important bond between two European dynasties, so perhaps it was as a symbol of Europe emerging from the chaos of a long conflict that the painting of the couple was given allegorical significance.

The fireback has remained property of Brighton Corporation and can be seen at Preston Manor, Brighton.

JSH

*www.brascamp.com/haardplaten.htm

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

B. G. Awty, 'The development and Dissemination of the Walloon Method of Ironworking', *Technology and Culture*, 48, 4 (Oct 2007), 783-803.

The history of the development of the Walloon method of ironmaking is crucial for our understanding of the origins of ironmaking in the Weald. In this paper, the European origins of ironmaking in the Weald and, consequently, in England are set out.

The Walloon method takes its name from the French-speaking, southern part of what is now Belgium, the area where it developed. It is characterised by the two-stage production of bar iron using the blast furnace and then the finery forge. Blast furnaces seem to have been developed from lead furnaces, and of significance was that they incorporated a hearth extended forward to increase the amount of molten iron and to allow its removal with a ladle as well as tapping directly into moulds. Cast iron has to be 'fined' to convert it to wrought iron and this process was carried out in a forge. Early forges in the Meuse-Rhine region consisted of a single hearth necessitating alternate fining and smithing, and only modest output. Where the Walloon forge differed was in the use of two hearths – finery and chafery - or even three hearths (with an extra finery) so that operations could be speeded up and larger quantities of iron could managed at a time.

Brian Awty cites evidence of early furnaces ca-

pable of producing cast iron in both Sweden and the Ruhr valley of north Germany in the late 13th century. A marriage between the ruling families of Sweden and Namur opened the possibility of the spread of ironmaking technology from the former to the latter. In 1345 seven forges, apparently with their associated blast furnaces, were set up near Namur by its ruler, Willem I. German workers were attracted to these works and their names are associated with forges in this area throughout the remainder of the century. It is in this area, at Marches les Dames, just east of Namur, that a two-hearth forge is mentioned in 1345.

Hand in hand with the spread of the larger forges was the development of bigger and more powerful forge hammers. Crucial to the development of these was a suitably robust framework to support the mechanism. The key was the drome beam that overflew the hammer assembly, which was wedged into place beneath it. These structures were demountable, allowing hammer assemblages to be moved to new sites when necessary. A surviving English example is at Wortley Top forge, north of Sheffield.

Although two-hearth forges had been mentioned as early as the mid 14th century it was not for a further century that reference was made to a finery, at the forge at Vaux in the Duchy of Bar on the southern borders of Wallonia. From other evidence it seems that a number of the forges near Namur were also using the Walloon technology by this time. One of them, at Ermeton, was occupied by Jehan Hanozet; another was the works at Jausse, established in 1450. Within a year, Henri the Feron and Pierre the Fondeur had gone from there to set up works at Le Becquet in the Pays de Bray in Picardy. By 1517 Hanozet's kinsman, the finer Jakes Hunnisset, had arrived in the Weald.

The description that Brian Awty has assembled is detailed and meticulous. It needs re-reading to grasp all the intricate connections, but his argument is thorough and entirely convincing.

JSH

Comité pour la Sidérurgie Ancienne (CPSA) de l'Union Internationale des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques (UISPP)

*The CPSA is an international body concerned with the study of early ironworking. It was set up, and has been maintained, by Professor Radomir Pleiner, whose book, **Iron in Archaeology: The European Bloomery Smelters** (Archeologicky Ustav av CR, Praha 2000) is essential reading (in English) for anyone interested in the European dimension of early ironworking. Professor Pleiner has retired but his work is being carried on. The following letter has been received and is reprinted here should any member wish to express an interest. Contact the Editor for a full copy of the letter and the relevant pro-forma.*

Dear Colleague,

At the Early Ironworking in Europe II Conference, held at Plas Tan y Bwlch in September 2007, it was proposed that a refurbished CPSA website should be set up. With the support of Professor Thilo Rehren, Institute of Archaeology, University College, London, it will be attached to the UCL website and it is being designed by Dr Xander Veldhuijzen who has experience of web design, including sites for the Institute. It is hoped that the new website will be up and running within the next few months.

At the Plas Tan y Bwlch meeting it was agreed that the website would carry on the work of the *Communications* produced with such success by Professor Radomir Pleiner in Prague to act as an information source for those interested in ferrous archaeometallurgy. It was proposed that the site would contain a brief outline of the CPSA's aims and activities, abstracts and news of conferences, excavations, exhibitions, courses and publications, with a running bibliography and perhaps a glossary. It is hoped to have a list of members with their e-mail addresses. It would also be excellent to recruit new corresponding members from around the world who might periodically send news in about activities and publications in their area. The effectiveness of the site will depend upon the co-operation and participation of ferrous archaeometallurgists world-wide and we hope that it will be both an essential resource for everyone interested in the subject and also a source of information for archaeologists and others with interests in early technology.

This email is to let you know about the website development. An essential first step is to update the list of members. If you would like your name to be added to the list, it will be very helpful if you could complete the brief attached pro-forma and return it to cpsa.uispp@gmail.com. If you are also able to send a list of recent (post-2000) publications (or abstracts), these could be included in the website. It is possible to include PDF files. News of excavations, conferences and so on would also be welcome.

Could you please copy this e-mail to any of your colleagues who might also be interested in early iron technology and archaeology.

Janet Lang: Honorary Secretary, CPSA

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to WIRG

Judith Akhurst - Littlehampton
 Merv Allen - Horley
 Gerald Baker - Hindhead
 Mr A. L. Boxall - Southsea

Barry Cosham - Tunbridge Wells
 Harry Cunningham - Etchingham
 Claire Denman - Crawley
 David Eaves - Etchingham
 Peter Ellis - Billericay
 James Lockwood - Tunbridge Wells
 Laura McParland - Weybridge
 Andrew Ratcliffe - Mayfield
 Graham Reeve - Hassocks
 Simon Stevens - Newick
 Mr P. Stevenson - London
 Peter Webberley - Waterlooville
 Ronald Wilton - Headcorn

THE KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL (KAFS) offers courses and field trips on practical archaeology to anyone interested in archaeology and its related disciplines.

March 8th & 9th, Field Walking and Historic Map Analysis

This weekend course explains how to recognise and record artefacts found within the plough soil.

Easter March 21st to 30th Investigation of the Roman cemetery at Syndale Park, Faversham

Our second season of field work and excavation at Syndale Park.

April 19th & 20th, How to Identify Flints

A course on the identification of flint. We will explain the technology used to produce prehistoric tools from all periods.

May 17th & 18th, Roman Roads in Kent

A practical course dealing with how archaeologists investigate to prove the existence and route of Roman roads in Kent.

May Bank Holiday, May 24th, 25th, 26th, Introduction to Archaeology A practical three-day Bank Holiday course on the newly discovered important Roman settlement at Blacklands near Faversham.

June 14th, 15th, Landscape Archaeology

During the course of the weekend we will trace, investigate, and record a new site in the very best traditions of Time-Team.

June 28th, 29th, Surveying for Archaeologists

Many methods from the correct use of the basic optical site levels to laser technology will be taught by Ges Moody from the Trust for Thanet Archaeology and Paul Wilkinson.

July 12th, 13th, Prehistoric Kent

An introduction to the archaeology and pottery of ancient Kent.

August 23rd to September 7th, Excavation at Blacklands

We will spend part of the summer investigating and recording this wonderful Roman complex, which may be a lost Roman town, in a genuine course of discovery.

October 18th, 19th, Archaeological Drawing

A beginner's course on drawing archaeological artefacts.

To Book and for more details of field trips, a full course list and KAFS membership, see our web-site: www.kafs.co.uk or e-mail info@kafs.co.uk
 Or write to KAFS, **School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP** Tel: 01795

WIRG TREASURER

Shiela Broomfield has been carrying out the dual role of Chairman and Hon. Treasurer this year.

WIRG needs another member to carry out the role of Treasurer.

Please give this your consideration, and contact the Chairman if you would like further details (contact info in next column)

EVENING CLASSES

The Iron Industry of the Weald

Tutor: Jeremy Hodgkinson
University Centre, Havelock Road, Hastings
Thursdays 7-9pm; 10 weeks starting September 2008
Details from University of Sussex; 01273 678527

Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

Open Days 2008

Following the success of their Open Days last year, this year's have been planned for
**Saturday 13th September
and Sunday 14th September**

For further details see
www.fernhurstsociety.org.uk/furnace.html

WIRG CONTACTS

Chairman & Hon. Treasurer: Shiela Broomfield, 8, Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9HD

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Hon. Secretary & Field Group Secretary: David Brown, 2, West Street Farm Cottages, Maynards Green, Heathfield, Sussex, TN21 0DG

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for your contributions and please keep them coming. Newsletters are published in March and November each year. Items for publication, normally not exceeding 500 words, should be received by February 14 and October 14, respectively, for inclusion in the forthcoming issue. Please send by email preferably, by floppy disc or CD, or hard copy; I can work with most PC formats. Monochrome line drawings and photographs can be accepted. Digital images need to be at least as big as their expected published size, ideally at 300 dpi or more.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

	PRICE	BY POST (UK)	<u>AT MEETINGS</u>
Excavations of a Late 16th./Early 17th. C. Gun Casting Furnace at Maynards's Gate, Crowborough, Sussex, 1975-1976, O. Bedwin.		1.90	1.50
A Middle-Saxon Iron Smelting Furnace Site at Millbrook, Ashdown Forest, Sussex, C.F. Tebbutt.		1.60	1.20
The Fieldwalker's Guide and an Introduction to the Iron Industries of the Weald, B.K. Herbert.		4.00	3.50
Guns Carried on East Indiamen, 1600 – 1800, Ruth Rhynas Brown.		0.80	0.50
Identifying 18th. Century Trunnion Marks on British Iron Guns; a discussion, Ruth Rhynas Brown,		0.80	0.50
Parson Levett and English Cannon Founding, Brian G. Awty.		1.30	1.00
Metallurgical Analysis of Ferrous Alloy Produced in a Primitive Furnace. R. C. D. Sampson & B. K. Herbert.		5.00	4.00
Fernhurst Furnace. Chichester District Archaeology No. 2, J. Magilton (ed.).		13.70	12.00
CD of Series 1 <i>Wealden Iron</i> Bulletins, Vols. 1 to 17, with searchable index.		6.00	5.00
<i>Second series Bulletins:</i> -			
Volumes 1 to 16 (1981 to 1996)		1.50	1.00
Volumes 17 to 27 (1997 to 2007)		2.00	1.50
Note: Vols. 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 have 5-volume cumulative indexes. Vols 21 onwards are separately indexed			
Index for <i>Wealden Iron</i> , Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group 1st ser. Vols 1-17 and 2nd ser. 1-20		2.50	2.00

Publications are available from the Publications Officer, Brian Herbert (see Contact List above)