WEALDEN IRON RESEARCH GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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WINTER MEETING

Our Winter meeting was held on 1st February 1997 at St James's Church Hall, Southover, Lewes. The speaker was Peter King, one of our more distant members, from Stourbridge in the West Midlands. He is the author of an article on Ashburnham Furnace in Vol 122 of Sussex Archaeological Collections.

He took as his theme "The Foleys and their Neighbours in the Midlands Iron Industry". His lecture was based on the text of a forthcoming book on the Foley family.

A charcoal-fuelled iron industry had long been established in that area. The earliest records, though scanty, show that the ironmasters were major landowners, in particular the Earl of Leicester and Lord Paget. After this, partnerships were common and ownership changes frequent. When Richard Foley bought his first iron making business and leased his first furnace, therefore, the industry had been established in the area for at least a century. His father had been a nailmaker and Richard expanded the business by buying in and reselling nails in addition to manufacture, before he realised the benefits of creating a fully integrated activity. Prior to this, ironmasters had supplied pig to ironmongers, who were basically the fabricating arm of the industry.

In 1625 Richard Foley expanded his activities by buying Thomas Nye's business and leasing firstly Himley furnace from Lord Dudley and then Cradley. By 1637 he passed his business on to his son Thomas. Thomas acquired many furnaces and forges in the West Midlands. He was succeeded in 1668/9 by his youngest son Philip, who set up slitting mills and thus added to the family fortune. Philip also increased the forge:furnace ratio from 1:1 to 2:1 and even 5:1. It is thought that this may partly have been due to an increase in furnace size. The ratio was later reduced. The Foleys benefitted under the Commonwealth from being given charge of ironworks sequestered from Royalist landowners.

The Foley connection expanded to Madeley in Shropshire in the north and the Forest of Dean in the south and by then were financially successful. Thomas had passed on assets of £69,000 to Philip (plus a few bad debts). He spent £143,000 buying land and still had £70,000 of working capital. Philip's brother Paul had furnaces in the Forest of Dean, managed by Henry Glover, who had married Priscilla Foley.

Paul supplied pig iron to his brother Philip, at high prices, which caused some dissention. At the same time, Sweden lowered its pig iron prices. To make matters worse, their father, Thomas, died, leaving Philip, who was bond holder of his assets, to pay off the bonds. Left with insufficient resources, Philip had to mortgage all the property and reduce the size of his business by selling to Sir Clement Clark and others.

Clearly the brothers made it up, joined forces and went into partnership with John Wheeler and another partner. In 1698 Wheeler withdrew, taking over some of the forges and slitting mills until by 1706 he had taken over the last of the Stour valley works.

Meanwhile, the Jennings family had become the principal ironmasters in Birmingham, though they never reached the magnitude of the Foley empire. Eventually they handed on to the Wharton family.

The Foley business was also changing from the supply of rod and bar to the supply of pig iron. The last of the non-Foley partners was bought out in 1728.

Our thanks to Peter King for his deep and detailed study of one of the large 'ruling families' prior to the Industrial Revolution.

Bill Whiting

500TH ANNIVERSARY

The plaque commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Newbridge ironworks is now in place. It is mounted on a stone plinth about mid-way along the remains of the old bay on the former pondside and carries a diagram of the site, in colour, with brief explanatory notes. Those requiring further information will find a leaflet available at the Ashdown Forest Centre

A short ceremony, attended by members of the WIRG and other interested parties, was held on the site on Saturday 24th December last. Jeremy Hodgkinson, our

Chairman thanked those who had helped, including Mrs Coad of English Heritage, who advised on our application for permission to erect the plaque on this scheduled site, Brigadier Constantine, whose advice and help included lending Ranger Chris Sutton and another staff member to build the plinth and myself as co-ordinator.

Mr Michael Edwards, who officially installed the plaque, has many years of experience of the modern iron industry, as well as close connections with the Ancient Guild of Ironmongers. He gave a short talk in which he put forward a new and very credible theory: that the 15th century Guild of Ironmongers, through their extensive trading with the Continent would have been in close touch with new developments in iron technology. They might well have advised the Crown about the new system and the availability of the skilled workers who came from France to Newbridge. Dot Meades thanked Mr Edwards for his interest and for sparing time from his busy life to be with us on this unique anniversary.

We were blessed with a fine bright, though cold, day for this short ceremony; a festive air was given to the proceedings by a bottle of champagne, kindly donated by Sir Frederick Sowrey and Mr Wilfred Beswick, both past Chairmen of the Sussex Industrial History Society. Then it was back to fieldwork for the more stalwart members of the Group - this time to Lavertye, in search of the Domesday ferraria. DMM

HISTORIC IRONWORKING CENTRE

Towards the end of 1996, members living in parts of Sussex may have seen a short feature in their local newspaper in which a project, to construct a replica of a Wealden furnace and forge, was reported to members of the Wealden District Planning Committee.

The project is the result of invited proposals, drawn up by Jeremy Hodgkinson, to develop part of Horam Manor Farm, near Heathfield, in East Sussex, into a Historic Ironworking Centre. The centre would include a full-size replica of a 16th/17th century charcoal blast furnace, capable of working, with bellows, blowing house, casting house, bridge house, and ore and charcoal sheds, together with a finery forge and hammer. Also planned are a visitor centre, and exhibits demonstrating coppicing, ore mining and bloomery smelting, together with other related activities. The landscape of the estate, which is currently run as a countryside park, has most, if not all, of the features which are typical of the Weald: stream valley, ponds, woodland.

Members of the Field Group may recall visiting Horam Manor on a foray in September 1984. It was also the site of experiments in bloomery smelting carried out by Henry Cleere in the late-1960s. At present the small steering group, on which WIRG is represented, is commissioning a feasibility study from the Ironbridge Institute of Birmingham University. JSH

EDMUND BRINSLEY TEESDALE, CMG, MC, BA, D.Phil.1915 - 1997

With the death of Edmund Teesdale, WIRG has lost a distinguished member, who made a significant contribution to scholarship in his study of gunfounding in the Tudor Weald. Retiring from a career in colonial administration in Hong Kong, his ownership of The Hogge House, Buxted, for over twenty-five years, provided him with an absorbing interest. He published his research into the house's builder and first occupier, Ralph Hogge, in The Queen's Gunstonemaker, in 1984, extending his work to gain a Doctorate from Brighton Polytechnic three years later. With admirable percipience, this was published by the Royal Armouries, as Gunfounding in the Weald in the sixteenth century (1991). Dr Teesdale joined the WIRG committee for two years from 1987, and retained an interest in the affairs of the group, attending summer meetings when distance and failing health permitted. Within the last six months he and his wife had moved to Gloucestershire to be nearer their children and grandchildren. To them we extend our sympathy. JSH

REVIEWS

Hodgkinson, J S The Decline of the Ordnance Trade in the Weald Sussex Archaeological Collections Vol 134 (1996) p155. Congratulations to our Chairman on an interesting and erudite account of the 18th century Wealden iron industry. He explores the factors which influenced its production and the ironmasters and entrepreneurs whose activities contributed both to its spasmodic prosperity and ultimately to its decline towards the end of the century. It is always good to have a specifically Wealden iron article published in SAC which has a wide non-WIRG academic readership. It would be good to have some coverage of this area in the WIRG Bulletin. DMM

Historical Metallurgy Society News, Summer 1996, carries three "iron" items. Irene Schruefer-Kolb is undertaking PhD research centred on the East Midlands, including mining, smelting, smithing and trading, as well as the organisation of Roman iron production in the region and its effects on local society. It will be

interesting to see what parallels and comparisons can be made with the Wealden industry.

There is an appeal from Brian Scott for support to conserve a blast furnace at Creevalea in the Irish Republic, which started production before 1641. Plagued by lack of wood, it was fuelled successively by charcoal, coke, and peat, finally reverting to charcoal at the end of the nineteenth century. It is reported that whilst most buildings have collapsed or been demolished until only foundations or skeletal structures remain, the furnace itself survives in excellent condition.

Is anyone going to Eire? If so, please have a look and send us a report. DMM

HMS also has an account by Amina Chatwin, of her recent visit to the Saugus Ironworks, Massachussets, which has been reconstructed with furnace, fineries, slitting mills and their associated water courses and wheels. An interesting co-incidence occurs, in that capital for the Saugus works was raised in England. Among the shareholders was Thomas Foley, the second son of Richard Foley, the Worcestershire ironmaster mentioned by Mr King at our winter meeting.

Saugus is particularly interesting to us as we contemplate the possibility of our own reconstruction at Horam. Another co-incidence: JSH is about to visit Saugus. Watch this space! DMM

Chatwin, Amina, Into the new Iron Age: Modern British Blacksmiths. 224 pages 440 photographs.. Large softback £22.50 Post free in UK from Coach House Publishing, The Coach House, Parabola Close, Cheltenham, GL50 3AN. The following is part of an enthusiastic review by an active and much respected member of WIRG and HMS.

"The book is in two parts, looking briefly back into the past and the early years of the 20th century, and moving forwards through the founding of the British Artist Blacksmith Association to modern work and its definition. The second part has extended descriptions of the work of 18 modern blacksmiths who have found, or are finding, their own identity within the overall Modern Movement; creating work of our own time. Perhaps the most public of these works, which received extreme media exposure, are the Queen Elizabeth Gates, opened in July 1993, at Hyde Park Corner, South Carriage Drive, London. Made in honour of the Queen Mother, by Giuseppe Lund and Jane Bidgood, they are a profusion of floral and arboreal design in a form that is light and feminine. When the gates were erected - after an emergency extension, at the insistence of the Fire Service, to increase the width between piers by 250mm, Lund and his team spent a month on it - in full public view - heat colouring parts of the metal.

When you open the book the whole effect is gripping, you just do not continue to dip and delve into it, and do not put it down, but go on, and on, and on, marvelling at the creativity of the mainly young - but not exclusively so - artists involved, and the sharp black and white illustrations.

This writer has been involved for over forty-five years in the production of iron, not in the solid state, but in its molten form, for conversion into steel. There is no art in this except in the very high technological state of very high engineering, metallurgical and production standards now being demanded, and met.

That is Art in itself but of a different and complimentary nature. When ironwork is mentioned one first harks back to Tubal Cain, the Excalibur, Wayland Smithy, I K Brunel and so on.

This work opens up a whole new aspect on an ordinary, freely available, natural resource which is totally refreshing. It is highly to be recommended for design workshops, offices - and coffee tables. Charles R Blick

SMELTING REPORT

Our bloomery furnace survived the winter very well, having been carefully insulated with bracken and well covered over. Charcoal has been bought, iron ore dug, carried, broken and twice roasted. All is now ready for smelting. The moment of truth is at hand. Good luck to the smelting group! DMM

FORAY REPORTS

Iridge (October 1996 & March 1997)

The recent acquisition, by East Sussex Record Office, of a map of the Iridge Estate, in Salehurst parish, dated 1637, prompted two forays in the 1996/7 season. Perhaps the most striking revelation of this attractive and well preserved map, has been the complex water management system employed on the estate. No less than 30 ponds had been constructed to provide water for the furnace which operated there in the 17th century; an unprecedented number.

The purpose of the first foray was to trace what survived of this system of ponds, which occupies two valleys. After an initial look at the furnace site, the Field Group split into two parties; one for each valley. Armed with tracings of the 1637 map, and up-to-date Ordnance Survey maps, both parties were soon finding the pond bays remaining, and after a day working slowly towards the heads of the valleys, were able to report that it was possible to identify where a large majority of the ponds

had been. A few small ponds had been inaccessible to the group in the southernmost of the two valleys, but the survival of these was investigated by the writer calling on the owner of Iridge Place, in whose garden they lay, or in two instances, had lain (the alleged dampness of the ground beneath a former tennis court testified to the location of two).

One can only speculate on the use to which some of these ponds may have been put. Fish and wild fowl are obvious, but cannot account for most. There is an indication on the 1637 map that one pond was used for a mill, although it is difficult to see how the interruption to the flow that this would have entailed, could be reconciled with the demand by the furnace for an uninterrupted supply during its campaigns. Also there is the matter of the management of the supply, for the 1637 map shows sluices on each pond, and both the regulation of the flow and the maintenance of the ponds must have occupied a water bailiff full time.

Those who attended the first foray were struck by the wealth of interest which lay in the furnace site itself, and at the end of the day a decision was taken to substitute a survey of Iridge furnace in place of that planned for Burgh Wood forge (where preliminary reconnaisance had shown a disappointing amount of evidence). As in October, there was a good attendance the following March. Each member was asked to explore the site and report on his or her interpretation of features they observed. This led to considerable discussion of the possible layout of the site. Fallen trees - in many cases the result of the 1987 storm (seen then as a disaster but subsequently as rather useful, from an archaeological point of view) - provided interesting evidence of areas of brickwork and stone, enabling the probable location of the furnace stack to be identified. Sources of ore were located on the hills to the north, together with access routes to the site. Samples of ore and brick were taken; the latter revealing a composition which included small pieces of iron ore, and evidence of its use within the upper bosh area of the inner furnace lining.

It is hoped that the results of these two forays can be combined, with other information derived from the estate papers, in a substantial report on what is already being seen as a particularly interesting ironworking landscape. We are most grateful to the owners of the land, in particular Mr and Mrs Richard Barnes of Driftways Farm, and Mr David Pennock of Iridge Place, for allowing access, and to Wilfred and Molly Beswick for examining the brick sample.JSH

The Study Area

The two new bloomery furnace sites north of the Heathfield transmitter, see previous Newsletter No.24, have been successfully trenched to find dateable pottery. At TQ57522257 "Crawlsdown Wood", 2 shards of East Sussex Romano/British pottery were found in one trench although none found in two adjacent trenches. Whilst at TQ58022315 "Herring's Farm", two trenches were dug to reveal 2 shards from each; again East Sussex Romano/British. These finds imply a substantial Roman presence in the area, where apart from two small iron-working sites to the east, very little evidence of Roman occupation has been found.

A further foray close to these sites has revealed nothing apart from 2 charcoal making places and a bay of unknown date at TQ57562254, very close to the first-mentioned bloomery site above, but on another stream. Although the bay still exists on both banks, it does not seem to be in alignment!

The Domesday Ferraria

In Newsletter No.23, an article by Mr. M.J. Leppard discusses the possible whereabouts of the Domesday ferraria in East Grinstead. Stated simply, it is probably on the north bank of the River Medway east of Forest Row. A first foray to the area around Tablehurst Farm was made after the plaque opening ceremony at Newbridge Furnace. The first field investigated, TQ43083535 "Barn Field", revealed bloomery slag in small quantities wherever we looked; this makes it difficult to decide whether it has been dumped there or has just been disturbed by ploughing (for 900 years); perhaps further visits after future ploughing might reveal a focal smelting point.

To the north, "Mine Pit Wood" was investigated at TQ43403575, here 4 large- and several small-diameter pits are to be seen, the latter several feet deep; perhaps not back-filled after use. In "Spanden Wood" to the west at TQ42953580, more mine pits were found, one very large and many small ones. All the mine pits were situated just above the Wadhurst Clay/Ashdown Sand junction. This has turned out to be a very successful initial foray although no dating evidence was found.

B.K. Herbert

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Wild boar

Mrs Anne Dalton has sent in a newspaper cutting from The Courier, January 31, 1997, about wild boar. Following the near-hurricane of October 1987 when two boar are believed to have escaped from a farm, they have spread through forests in Kent and have also been seen in East Sussex. This was not the only escape and it was reported that numbers are increasing. Mrs Dalton suggests that foraying WIRGers should be warned to be vigilant, as boar may attack if they have young or if they feel cornered or frightened. The best policy is to give them a wide berth.

Bow Bells

Mr M J Leppard writes as follows:-

"The so-called 'Bow Bells' cast-iron mileposts along the A22 are well known and have been listed, discussed and illustrated in a survey in Sussex Industrial History (1), where a date before c.1810 is suggested for them. Nothing seems to be known about their manufacture or considered in the literature about the Wealden iron industry but it is not improbable that the relevant turnpike trusts would have commissioned a local supplier and manufacturer. They may therefore be deemed appropriate for mention in this Newsletter.

In 1992 in an article in the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society's Newsletter (2) I drew attention to the number of known replicas: a modern cast-iron one in Tunbridge Wells Museum and one proposed for Hailsham, both mentioned in the survey, a plaster or cement one painted on a projection outside 61 High Street, East Grinstead, which suddenly appeared in the 1960s and was removed as bogus at the instance of Mr I D Margary, and a wooden and plaster one given to East Grinstead Town Museum in 1989 in a police clear-out of unclaimed lost property, having been found in a garden at Ashurst Wood.

Puzzlement at the provenance of the latter has now been resolved. In July 1995 Mr Basil Thompson of Otley in Yorkshire, but until May 1974 a resident of Ashurst Wood, remarked in his covering letter with a donation to East Grinstead Town Museum that he has in his garden a replica of the 30 mile stone that he made. No doubt he made the one now in the Museum at the same time.

(1) No 5 (Winter 9172-73), pp 3-8

(2) No 73 (Jan 1992), pp 10f.

NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

Wealden District - Pays de Bray Links

A project to develop cultural links between Wealden District, in East Sussex, and the Pays de Bray, in Seine-Maritime, with which it is twinned, resulted in a small group paying a brief exploratory visit to France recently. The group, which consisted of Ashley Brown and Alison Nott, of Wealden, together with Brian Awty and the writer, spent two days based at Neufchatel-en-Bray meeting local people and visiting ironworking sites. The idea is to promote the development of exhibitions, leaflets and the interpretation of historic sites, as a means of engendering cross-Channel 'cultural tourism.' Among the sites visited was the furnace at Glinet, which is in process of excavation (see below). Many of the inhabitants of Bray are unaware of their ironmaking heritage (as I suspect many residents of the Weald are), and we were witness to the unusual spectacle of an English historian enlightening the French in aspects of their own history.

JSH

Excavations at Glinet Furnace

Excavations have been taking place at the post-Medieval blast furnace site at Glinet, in the Compainville commune of the Departement of Seine-Maritime, in Haute Normandie. The work, which has been directed over three seasons, by Mme. Danielle Arribet-Deroin, has revealed the base of the stone stack of approximately trapezoidal plan, measuring about 6.5m by 5m, and probably dating from the late-16th or early-17th century. Also evident were the foundations of the bellows, and post holes suggesting that a wooden framework had supported at least part of the furnace structure, especially around the furnace pillar, between the casting and blowing arches; an area of apparent instability. The hearth had not been removed, and part of a 'bear' of slag remained in situ. Of interest was the use of tile, laid in courses, in the construction of the inner lining of the stack. The site remains under temporary cover in hope of a further season this year.

Adrian Duggin, who worked at Robertsbridge in the 1540s, and at Ifield thirty years later, gave his birthplace as Compainville, and may have worked at Glinet.

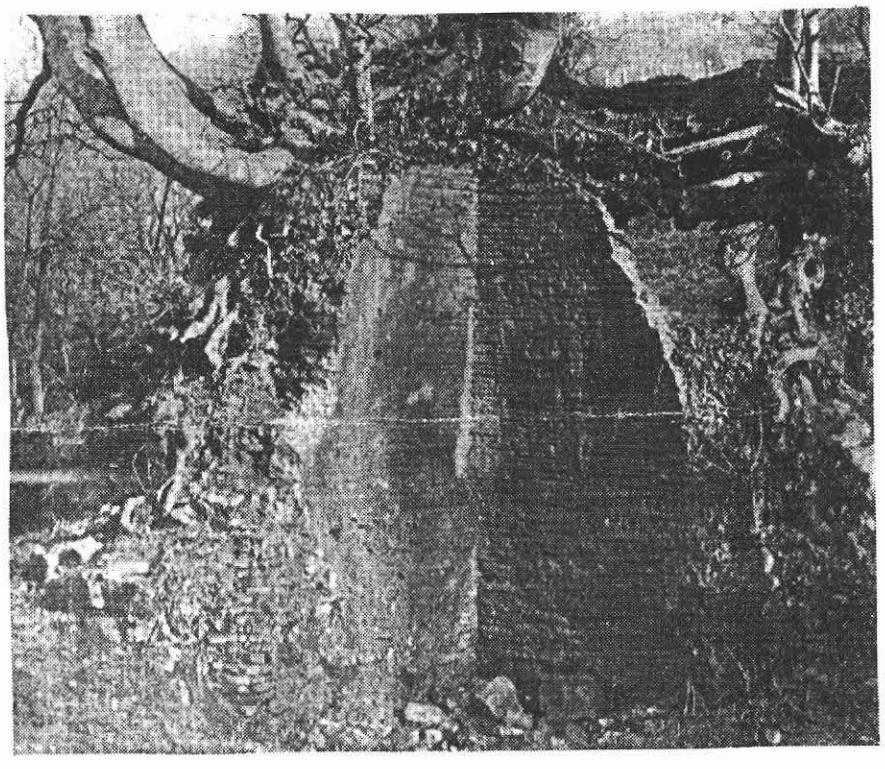
SH

Angelton iron furnace

Remains of a 16 C blast furnace in South Wales

The following account is based on an interesting article by Keith E Morgan, which was passed on to us by Dr Tim Smith. Mr Morgan recently retired as Section Engineer British Steel Trostre. He is a member of the Kenfig Historical Society and Editor of the Society's Newsletter.

The remains of Angelton iron furnace stand near a bend of the River Ogmore, one and a quarter miles almost due west of Coity Castle. The furnace is believed to have been one of a number of ironworks owned in the 1580s by the Sidneys of Coity Castle, who already had established ironworks in the Weald. In 1584 Robert Sidney, later to become the Earl of Leicester, married Barbara Gamage, the heiress of Coity and thus acquired large estates in south Glamorgan.



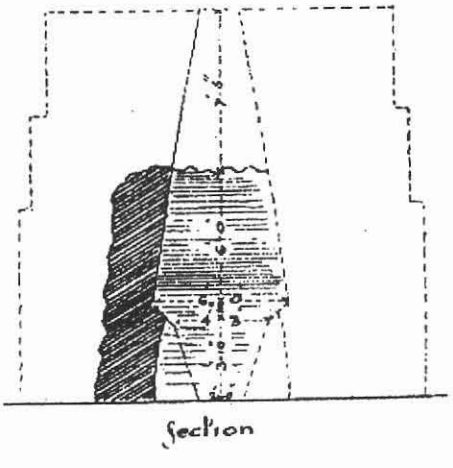
Angelton blast furnace photographed in 1895 by members of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society

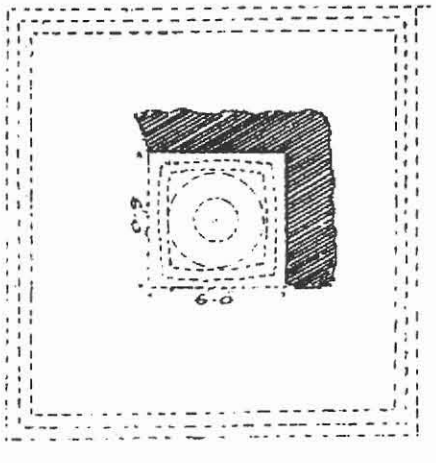
At this time, blast furnaces were fuelled with charcoal. The quantities of wood needed for charcoal by the Wealden furnaces and forges caused shortages and price rises. There were local petitions to close down some of the furnaces and attempts to restrict the supply of wood used by the Wealden furnaces. These circumstances may have contributed to the Sidneys' decision to extend their iron-smelting operations to Glamorgan. Not only were their new Welsh estates thickly wooded and rich in timber for charcoal burning, they were also ideal for ironmaking, having a good supply of haematite ore in fissures close to the surface.

There are strong indications that it was Angleton ironworks that is referred to in an Indenture dated 25 August 1589. The Sidney undertakings were very productive and prosperous and we learn from the Penshurst Papers that a great deal of the iron produced was shipped from ports along the Glamorgan coast. This is confirmed in the 'Welsh Port Books, 1550-1603' from which the following entry is quoted as an example:

On 19 November 1601, 'The Trynitye of Aberthaw' under its Master John Hopkins, shipped from Newton (now Porthcawl) to Minehead for a Merchant named Evan ap Ievan, a Cargo of '30 packs wool, 2 dikers leather and 2 ton of iron'.

A record of the ironworks as it stood in ruins was made in 1895 by Members of the Archaeological Section of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society during a field walk. The photograph reproduced here was taken by a member of the party as well as a sketch made.





Side and plan view of furnace recorded in 1895

The original height of the furnace was estimated at 13 foot 6 inches rising from a 6 foot square base which tapered to a 3 foot square at the top. The wall thickness near the foundation of the ruin was of the order of 3 foot 9 inches. The structure was cased in old red sandstone, pure and free from marl, and because of the regularity of the course of its 1¼" blocks, it was thought at that time to be of Roman origin. However, these blocks were in an excellent state of preservation and the discovery in the 1950's of a quarry in the vicinity containing small blocks of evenly laid sandstone, lead to the conclusion that the furnace was unlikely to be of Roman age.

Not long before the walk was made by the Cardiff Naturalists' Society in 1895, a Mr William Morgan of Corbett Road, Cardiff, had written in the 'Western Mail' about a visit that he had previously paid to the Angelton Blast Furnace. To quote:-

'When here, many years ago, the hearth of the furnace was intact, - it was a square hearth, - not round, as they are now made, - and also part of the bosh. My object in visiting the place was to ascertain what kind of iron ore the old people used, - it was currently reported at the time that the Llantrisant hermatite [sic] extended across the Llynvi Valley, and the old people worked this hermatite for their furnace. Failing to find iron, I turned my attention to the slag, or cinder heap, about 100 tons, which stands in front of the ancient furnace.

In the slag heap I found pieces of charcoal, but no coke or coal, from which fact I concluded they used as a fuel charcoal only. I took a fair sample of the slag and submitted it to analysis, which gave the following results:-

	%
Silica	51.42
Alumina	18.85
Lime	13.64
Magnesia	1.66
Protoxide of Iron	7.62
(= 5.93 Metallic Iron)	
Constituents not estimated	6.81
	100.00

We thus find that alumina stands in proportion to the silica as one part of alumina to 2.80 of silica, while the hermatite ore of Llantrisant stands as 1 of alumina to 47 of silica. Therefore, it was not hermatite ore they used. An average of thirteen samples of the Welsh clay bands gave the proportion of alumina as 1 to 2.43 of silica, showing clearly that it was the clay band ore from the coal measures that was used. The next thing to be noticed in this analysis is the large quantity, 1.66% of magnesia, showing that it was not mountain limestone, as is now used as a flux in smelting iron, but lias limestone, obtained from Bridgend quarries. Again, the cinder was grey, such as we may expect from the production of a No4 mottled iron, but the large quantity of iron it contained, 5.93%, showed that their process of smelting was very imperfect and extravagant, such a cinder from a blast furnace of the present day would not contain more than a half per cent (0.5%) of iron'.

A very interesting article which not only provides a wealth of information on the Angelton Blast Furnace, but it also gives a comparison with the process of iron making that was being carried out in the area at the turn of the 19th century, century.

Sadly, in the 100 years since the Naturalists Society made their walk, much of the furnace has fallen, the remaining walls standing only about 18" (0.5m) high. In 1993, following petitioning by the author, Ogwr Borough Council purchased the site to incorporate it in a heritage trail centred on the iron industry. The long term safeguarding and interpretation of the remains of what was once a truly remarkable relic of the sixteenth century furnace at Angelton, will now be the responsibility of the new Bridgend County Borough Council.

Finding the Site

The Angelton Iron Works is located at OS grid ref SS 905821. Leave the M4 at Junction 36, the Sarn Park interchange, and follow the A4061 south towards Bridgend. Almost immediately after leaving the interchange, turn right after passing Sainsbury's Super Store and take the unclassified road signposted Pen-y-Cae to the base of hill. Passing under the railway bridge, follow the Public Footpath due south along the bank of river for just under half a mile. The site of the iron works is on the right of the footpath underneath a sycamore tree and almost abreast of Glanrhyd (was Angelton) Hospital on the opposite bank of the river.

SITE WATCH - KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR LOCAL SITES

No reports this month - let's hope that no news is good news

NOTICES

19th July 1997 WIRG AGM. Members will receive a letter with full details nearer the time.

26th April 1997 Council for British Archaeology South East, Spring Meeting and Annual General Meeting, will take place at Fishbourne Roman Palace, Salthill Road, Fishbourne, near Chichester, W Sussex in the Education Workshop room.

AGM at 2.00pm, followed by lectures on Fishbourne by David Rudkin and Ernest Black. Interval at 4.00pm followed by Questions and Discussion. Meeting will close at 5.00pm

18th October 1997 Kent Archaeologica Society Conference: Aspects of Medieval Life in Kent, to be held at The Angel Centre, Tonbridge, starting at 10.30. Lectures will be given on Gatehouses in Kent (Dr D F Renn), Faversham and Medieval Town Houses in Kent (Ms S Pearson), Excavations in Medieval Dover (Mr K Parfitt) and Iron Making in the Medieval Weald (Mr J S Hodgkinson) Adm £5.00 by ticket obtainable from Dunelm House, Main Road, Icklesham Winchelsea, E Sussex TN36 4AR or at the door (please enclose sae)

PUBLICATIONS

A reminder that some interesting and useful publications are for sale from WIRG. They are available from Mr B K Herbert, 1 Stirling Way, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 3HG. In the following list, two prices are given. The first relates to sales by post and the second to sales at meetings.

Bedwin O. The Excavations of a Late 16th/Early 17th C Gun Casting Furnace at Maynards Gate, Crowborough, Sussex, 1975-1976 £1.80, £1.50.

Tebbutt C F. A Middle-Saxon Iron Smelting Furnace Site at Millbrook, Ashdown Forest, Sussex £1.50, £1.20.

Herbert B K. The Fieldwalker's Guide and an Introduction to the Iron Industries of the Weald £3.90, £3.50

Woodrow C E, Herbert B K, & Smart C. The History of Watermills, the Wealden Iron Industry, and Geology of the South-East. 3rd updated edition ££2.30, £2.00

Smith R D & Brown R R Bombards, Mons Meg and her Sisters. A description of early wrought iron cannon Royal Armouries Monograph No 2 £6.70. £6.00

Brown Ruth Rhynas Identifying 18th Century Trunnion Marks on British Iron Guns; a discussion £0.80, £0.50

Awty Brian G Parson Levett and English Cannon Founding 0.80, 0.50

Riden, Philip A Gazetteer of Charcoal-fired Blast Furnaces in use since 1660, 2nd ed £11.00, £10.00

Cleere H & Crossley D The Iron Industry of the Weald £28.00, £24.95. Members' price: £19.50, £16.50

Old Series Wealden Iron Bulletins: Vols 1,9,11,13,14,15,16 £0.40, Free.

New Series Wealden Iron Bulletins:
Vols 1 to 11 (1981-1991) £1.40, £1.00
Vols 12 to 16 (1992 to 1996) £1.90, £1.00
Note: Vols 5,10 & 15 have an index.

Editor's note

Many thanks to members for their interest, suggestions and contributions. Do keep writing and sending in anything related to Wealden iron which you think others might find interesting. Don't forget the site watch when you are out and about in the countryside this summer and for those going abroad, do look out for overseas connections with the Weald. Wealden-made cannon, for example, turn up in the most surprising places. Such observations all help to complete the research into production and trade that the WIRG was set up to undertake.