



# NEWSLETTER 45 SPRING 2007

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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

It is with great regret that Dot Meades has had to relinquish her role as Newsletter Editor after eleven and a half years. We are hugely in her debt for the splendid work she has done. Jeremy Hodgkinson has taken over as Acting Editor for this issue.

## HON TREASURER

Ashley Brown will be stepping down as Hon Treasurer at the AGM in July. The Committee would be delighted to hear from any member who would be willing to take on this position. The Group's finances are not complicated. Responsibilities include maintaining Income and Expenditure accounts, presenting the accounts for annual independent examination, dealing with members' queries, and attending committee meetings (four a year). Please contact a member of the committee if you are able to help (see list on page 9).

## WEALDEN IRON BULLETIN 27

Articles for inclusion in this year's Bulletin should be submitted to the Editor, David Crossley, by 31 March (see page 9 for contact information).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Excavations at Little Furnace Wood

Excavations will conclude this Spring. The last two weekends will be 21-22 April and 5-6 May 2007. Details from Jeremy Hodgkinson.

### Field Mill Iron Day

25th March 2007 (see page 9 for details)

### Evening Classes

'The Iron Industry of the Weald'; tutor: Jeremy Hodgkinson; Thomas Bennett Community College, Crawley; Thursday evenings; 7-9pm; 10 weeks starting September 2007; details from 01293 523811.

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

In recognition of his many years as Secretary to the Field Group, the Committee has voted unanimously to grant Honorary Membership to Hugh Sawyer. Since moving from the Weald, Hugh has lived in Basingstoke, but despite this and being too far away to be able to take part in the activities of the Field Group, he carried out the task of notifying members of the details of forays with great diligence.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2006

*Last year's Annual Report should have been included with Newsletter 44. We apologise for its omission and it is reproduced here:.*

The Group has been represented on the Ashdown Forest Training Area Conservation Committee, by Dot Meades, and on the Sussex Archaeology Forum, by Jeremy Hodgkinson.

The 2005 AGM was held on Saturday 23rd July at Westham Village Hall, Sussex where members heard Jonathan Coad give an illustrated talk on the Architecture of Royal Dockyards and Ordnance Yards. The afternoon visit was to Pevensey Castle ably led by Dot Meades who has had a long association with the Castle. The Winter meeting took place on 28th January 2006 in Nutley and members were treated to an illustrated talk by Jeremy Hodgkinson and Tim Smith on the Group's recent visit to explore sites relating to the iron industry in the Walloon region of Belgium.

Excavations have continued on the 2nd century ironworking site at Little Furnace Wood, Mayfield, for two pairs of weekends in the Autumn and the Spring. Work has concentrated on the uncovering of a further ore-roasting area, adjoining the one already excavated. A radiocarbon date on charcoal found in the first roasting area gave a broad date of 2nd century AD, similar to the date for the smelting furnace. A series of test pits have given indications of sub-surface features, and these have been followed up with a number of test trenches, none of which has yielded anything of significance. Environmental samples have been taken. To the west of the smelting furnace a deep feature is being explored; a man-made cleft in the sandstone bed rock was filled with furnace debris, but its original purpose is not yet clear. It may have been the result of sandstone extraction. At one end of this feature, remains suggesting a possible second furnace have been uncovered and await further investigation in the Autumn, when work resumes.

The Field Group met in early September and planned a full programme of forays. As October was occupied with continuing excavations at Little Furnace Wood the first foray took place in November to Hendall Wood – three small excavations took place on two bloomery sites which yielded a base rim sherd of East Sussex ware together with another small sherd – both of which have been dated to around the 1st to 3rd century AD. The December foray to Queenstock Furnace, Buxted, proved inconclusive. Snow nearly caused the cancellation of the January visit to

Cullinghurst Wood, Blackham, but this was reinstated when two people arrived at the site. A trackway and a new bloomery site plus a pile of roasted ore were found. The February foray was fieldwalking to the north of Mayfield in the parish of Rotherfield – two definite bloomery sites and two potential ones were found. The March foray was a return visit to Iping and Trotton – no slag was found but some minepits on the edge of the Weald Clay were identified. April saw the group return to the area which was the subject of the February foray to the north of the parish of Rotherfield – one bloomery site was confirmed and another was also found with the potential for dating evidence. The final foray of the season held in May was once again hosted by Dot and Tony Meades when members of the Field Group met informally to discuss the season's forays. Some large pieces of furnace slag with a single hole in them, possibly made by the tuyere blast were displayed. Full details of the forays are well documented in the Newsletter and Bulletin. Our grateful thanks are due to Hugh Sawyer, secretary of the Field Group and also to those who made all the arrangements for the forays.

The Experimental Smelting team has been active again this past year, continuing their programme of iron-making at the site at Pippingford. The team is looking in to the health and safety aspects of the site and it is anticipated that various changes will be made. It is looking into the possibility of replicating the Little Furnace Wood domed type furnace to better understand how it worked and how it produced iron. The Group is indebted to Alan Morriss for allowing the team to occupy a small enclosed piece of land on the Pippingford Estate.

The Group continues to support and co-operate with other interested organisations and has given its support to the Woodland Trusts' plans to acquire the southern part of Guestling Wood. The Leigh & District Historical Society in Kent has an exciting project to survey and conserve the Gunpowder Mills and a letter has been sent supporting the application for lottery funding. The Group has kept in close touch with the County Council's archaeological consultants especially with regard to any potential threat to iron working sites such as the Great Surries bloomery site. Money towards the conservation of Westall's book of Robertsbridge and one of the Fuller family's Heathfield bill-books was donated to the East Sussex archives department. Work continues on the Ashburnham Furnace Conservation project especially with regard to a comprehensive survey. A landscape archaeology survey of Bedgebury Pinetum and Forest is being undertaken by the Friends of Bedgebury Pinetum funded by the Local Heritage Initiative and we are most grateful to David Brown taking part in this project and making sure that the iron-working aspects are given their due importance.

I am grateful to David Crossley for his continuing editorship of the Bulletin, and to Dot Meades, who

produces the two newsletters each year. I urge members to contribute to either or both of these publications. Assistance in writing articles may be had from the respective editors, or from committee members. I am also grateful to David Brown for seeing the newsletter through its printing.

The committee keeps the Group's website under regular review. Members should check the



**The recently consolidated masonry of the boring mill wheel pit at Ashburnham**

website regularly, if they are able to, as improvements are continually being made. Suggestions for new features will be most welcome, and can be communicated to the committee, or by email to the Webmaster. My thanks to Tony Singleton for his work in that capacity.

To all the members of the committee I offer my thanks for their continued interest and commitment; in particular, Brian Herbert who devotes so much time to the Group, whether in organising forays, maintaining our stock of publications or playing a leading role in the experimental smelting programme. Finally, I am continually in the debt of Jeremy Hodgkinson, vice-chairman, Ashley Brown, treasurer, and Ann Callow, secretary, all of whom can be relied upon to be at the end of a telephone, and keep the wheels of the administration of the group oiled and running smoothly. Of course the rest of the committee are equally supportive and I am very thankful to them all. Ann has decided to relinquish her post as secretary after five years and David Brown will take on this important role at the 2006 AGM. I am most grateful to Ann for all her help and support especially in my first year as chairman. Brian Awty has indicated his wish to step down as President and I am very pleased to report that Dot Meades has agreed to take on this role.

**Shiela Broomfield F.S.A July 2006**

## A 17TH CENTURY ARMORIAL FIREBACK

The fireback illustrated below is known from several examples, mostly in western Surrey and adjacent areas. Examples have been seen by the author in Haslemere Museum (where there are three), Guildford Museum, The Victoria & Albert Museum in



London, and at Petworth House. It has also been illustrated in several articles about firebacks. The arms are those of the Francis (or Franceis) family of Derbyshire, the blazon of which is: Argent a Chevron gules between three eagles displayed of the same; and the crest - which is normally a falcon rising. Or, in its beak a vine-branch, fructed, Proper - in this instance is an eagle, mounted on a crowned knight's helm. The fireback, which measures 685mm wide by 740mm high, bears the date 1606 and the initials, E F. It is evident that the pattern for the fireback was carved onto a panel constructed from six vertical planks battened together, the joins between the planks being clearly visible on good castings.

While it is often rather fanciful to ascribe identities to initials on firebacks, there is some circumstantial evidence as to the identity of EF on this fireback. For a Derbyshire family to be celebrated on a fireback commonly found in south-east England is unusual, but less so when it is appreciated that Sir Edward Francis (1580-1640), a scion of that family, served as seneschal to Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland, at Petworth, in the period when the fireback was presumably cast. In fact, Sir Edward's position was of particular importance because it was in 1606, the date on the fireback, that he had to take over control of the Petworth estate when the earl, his master, was imprisoned in the Tower of London for seventeen years, having been implicated in the Gunpowder Plot. A fireback also exists at Petworth, which bears the initials HN and the date 1620, which may have been cast to celebrate the earl's release

from the Tower. Part of Sir Edward's remit as seneschal would have included supervision of the estate's ironworks, and it is a reasonable conjecture that the original castings of this fireback may have been made at Frith furnace, Northchapel. (See Lord Leconfield, *Petworth Manor in the Seventeenth Century*, Oxford 1954).

JSH

## USE OF HANDHELD GPS FOR SURVEY

*The following abstracted report on a workshop conducted by the Dartmoor Tin Research Group on the use of hand held GPS for the accurate location of sites identifies a systematic error of about 10m when converting lat/long coordinates to National grid coordinates using the instrument's built in software. An alternative conversion program available on-line is proposed to overcome this error.*

Bob (Bruce) explained the principle of the GPS determination of position and once again reviewed the various sources of error inherent in the method and in the conversion to National Grid Coordinates. He explained a number of mysterious acronyms - WAAS and EGNOS (satellite systems for improving the accuracy of simple handheld GPS); WGS84 e and ETRS89 (ways of defining latitude and 0 longitude and height on an earth which differs significantly from a perfect uniform sphere - used in your GPS); OSTNO2 and 1 OSGM02 (transformations to convert GPS R lat/long and height to National Grid a coordinates and height above sea level); and GALILEO (a planned European replacement for the United States' GPS, but with improved accuracy).

We have become fairly familiar with the random errors of about 3m, due mostly to instrument limitations and variability in ionosphere conditions. What has been more puzzling is the systematic offset (in the south of England) of about 10m, (reversing to -15m in the north) observed by a number of us between GPS grid coordinates and the coordinates of the same object on an OS map. Further investigations seem to have got to the root of the problem. On the internet there is a list of all trig points with accurate positions in lat/long and in grid coordinates (<http://www.36haroldstreet.freemove.co.uk/trigpoints.htm>), and also an appropriate online programme called 'Grid in Quest' to convert between the two, downloadable from <http://www.qgsl.com/software/download.php>. The GPS readings at trig points were correct, to within the random error, if displayed in lat/long, but had the systematic error if displayed in grid coordinates. The conclusion is that the hand held GPS uses an imprecise conversion from lat/long. For many purposes this doesn't matter. If maximum agreement with an OS map is required, output the GPS positions as lat/long and use the online programme to convert to grid coordinates.

Acknowledgement to DTRG and Bill Radcliffe who researched the web sites.

TIM SMITH

## FEATURES FOUND ON FORAYS

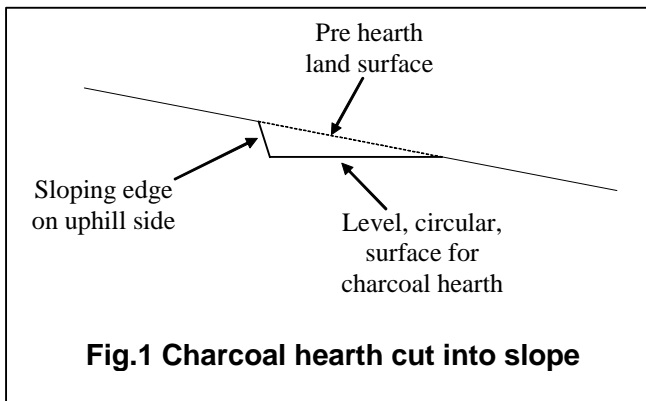
It is hoped to expand the archaeological features noted on forays to include charcoal platforms, sawpits and ditch and bank boundaries.

### Charcoal Platforms

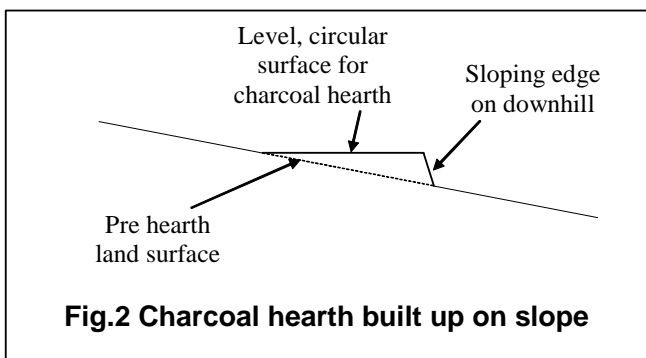
These are relatively easily identified: -

- A level area, roughly circular, somewhat larger than the charcoal hearth.
- Hearth diameter 3 to 6m.
- The hearth having a dark soil made up of charcoal fines, perhaps 30 to 100-mm deep. Some hearths seem to have a lighter soil; this may be due to it having been abandoned well into the past, Roman, and many years of leaf mould becoming mixed in.
- Some metal detectors are able to pick-up a signal of the hearth area because iron oxides in the soil have become roasted when the hearth was hot.

It is usual to find charcoal platforms on naturally sloping ground within the woodland. This would



allow some drainage, but in this woodland, many are on clay. However, it should be remembered that much old woodland is now cultivated and the evidence lost, although patches of darker soil may still



be seen after ploughing.

There are two ways to make a level platform in woodland: cut a platform into the slope, which results in a bank on the upslope side (Fig.1); or build a platform onto the slope, so that a bank will be formed

on the downslope side (Fig.2). The former are more usual.

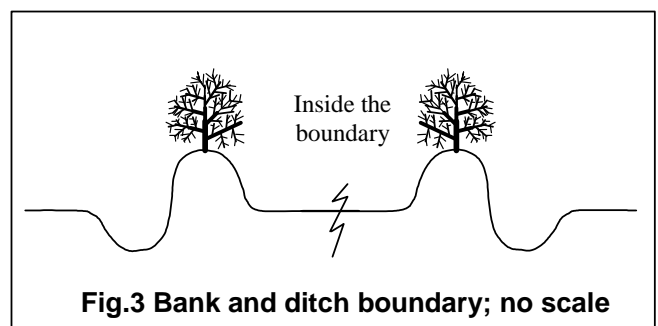
### Saw Pits

Saw pits are rectangular holes dug into the ground to enable two sawyers to operate, 5-ft long, say, cross-cut saw; one sawyer in the pit to pull the saw down and the other standing on the log to lift the saw up. The pits were probably about 6 to 8-ft long, 2 to 3-ft wide and 5 to 6-ft deep. Saw pits are to be found in isolated woodland, and also carpenters workshops in villages where they were used for making furniture, tools and coffins. In the latter situation they were usually brick-lined with sawn-timber sides to take the weight of the tree being sawn. In woodland it is expected that the pit would be rather more primitive, with rough-hewn timbers along the side. Saw pits are not easy to identify because there is so little left, just a degraded depression. There are many parcels of woodland having the name "Sawpit", often associated with "Shaw" or "Copse".

- The pits would be few and far between in a piece of woodland.
- The pits would be towards the bottom of any sloping land; dragging trees uphill is hard work.
- Sawpits might be near a track for easy removal of products, (but (2) would be much more important).
- The two sides of the pit would (in the past) have been level.
- The volume of the hole (now) should be equal to the volume of the pit (then).
- The soil removed to make the pit would have been used to level-out the surrounding working area.
- A gentle slope down to the sawpit would enable the tree to be positioned over the pit more easily.

### Ditch and Bank Boundaries

From Saxon times onwards owners of many woodlands were required to provide a barrier at the edge of the wood to help prevent the ingress of livestock from surrounding pastures and the unauthorised removal of underwood and timber from the wood. This barrier had to be in the form of a bank surmounted by a fence or vegetation, often pollarded or laid. To construct the bank the owner dug soil from within the boundary creating a ditch. The ditch was



therefore dug on the outside of the wood bank increasing the effective height of the bank from the outside. These ditches and banks were often maintained until quite recently, but most have been neglected for 200 years or more have tended to degrade into a linear undulation, which can be difficult to detect. The vegetation, if not maintained, becomes gappy and growth is limited by the absence of light. Their existence, particularly if sinuous, is an indication of an old wood boundary and provides evidence for the longevity of the wood itself.

BRIAN HERBERT

## RECENT FORAYS

### Stile House Farm, Rotherfield October 2006

A dig was organised to see if the bloomery site found in 2005 in the woodland, between TQ 5796 3036 & TQ 5798 3044, could be dated. Initially, a couple of small holes were dug at the centre of the above map references, in the woodland and close to the stream, Fig.1. From the small amount of slag found, and mostly on the surface, it was decided that the real furnace site was either very small, or further away in

was operating, several such boulders littered the working area; an area such as visualised here has never been seen during our fieldwalking in the Weald. It cannot be said whether this boulder-strewn area has been filled-in or has been naturally covered over at some time since the furnace operated.

One piece of blast furnace slag was found. To the N, at the crossroads, there is much green slag around the fields at Tanyard Farm. No tap slag was seen but there were many pieces of slag with wood markings. Some slag had a very knobbly surface. The furnace map reference, in the field, is TQ58013040. A piece of shaft-furnace wall, about 300 x 300-mm, was found at the top of the slaggy area at about 300-mm depth, lying horizontal and out of context. It had a thin covering of once-molten slag on the concave side, and a sandy, furnace-building material on the outside. It was just about possible to tell which way up the molten slag had run, but it was impossible to decide at what height in the furnace it came from. At about the position of this piece of wall, the sub-soil colour was somewhat heat-reddened, which may be the base of the furnace; no exploration was undertaken. This piece of wall has been reburied at 11.6-m from the fence line with a 200-mm diameter rock adjacent and further up the hill. A section through the sub-soil, near the furnace, shows there to be: approx. 150-mm depth of top soil, which included some slag; then approx. 150-mm of slag/soil/sandstone; below which was undisturbed white clay/

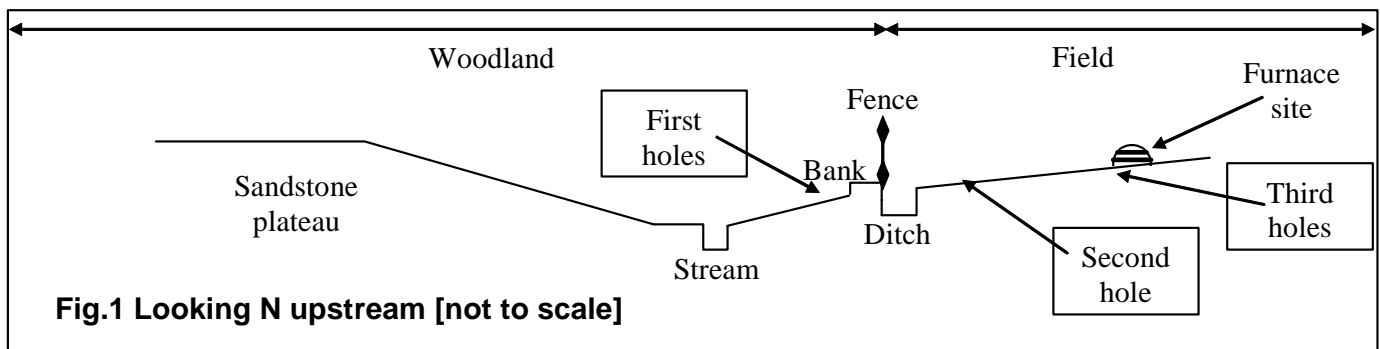


Fig.1 Looking N upstream [not to scale]

the field adjacent to the east, which had not been searched. The OS 6 in. map c.1880 shows the wood extending east of the stream up to the present fence.

In the field, a semicircle of slag was detected with the metal detector. A hole was dug about 2m from the fence, but still there was very little slag. It was then argued that the iron-workers would only throw their waste slag downhill, thus making the furnace near to the highest point of the detected slag. Here another hole was dug, but there was only a marginal increase in density of slag. Yet another hole was dug close by, with the same result, however. A large, isolated, sandstone boulder was uncovered, with slag/soil reaching about 500mm down from the boulder's top.

After probing around the area, it was realised that there were probably many more boulders in this area of field, which is at the top of the Ashdown Sand, and there is much evidence of the massive sandstone outcrop on the opposite stream bank, but just below the surface. It was visualised that when the furnace

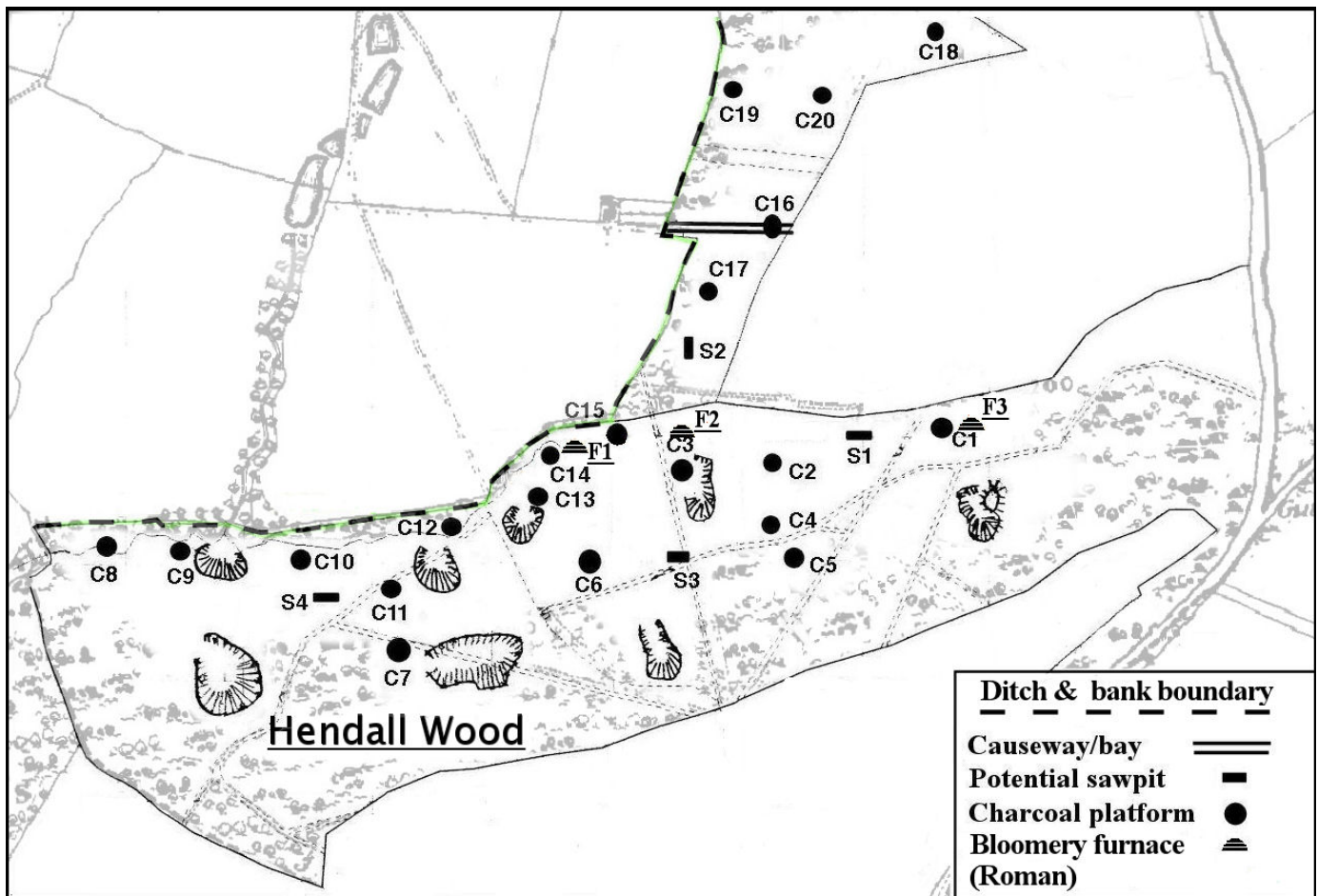
fine sand.

An area of 30 mine pits was located, centred on TQ 5797 3056 and extending in a NE-SW direction for about 100m. Missed on the first foray, they were all to be seen just in the woodland.

BRIAN HERBERT

### ASHBURNHAM CAULDRON (see Newsletter 44)

John Wallace, of Ashburnham Furnace, phoned the editor to say that an elderly resident of Ashburnham, who remembers the brickworks, told him that the cauldron was used there. The brickworks, which were moved there from nearer the forge in 1840, were located in a field west of the former Forge pond, just below Court Lodge Farm, where the cauldron is kept. Descriptions of the brickworks in *Sussex Industrial History*, vols. 1 (1970-1) and 11 (1981) make no mention of the cauldron.



**Hendall Wood: Features noted during fieldwork 2005-6**

Image produced from the [www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk) service with permission of Landmark Information Group Ltd. and Ordnance Survey

### **Hendall Wood, Maresfield November 2006**

WIRG was re-invited by the owners, Mr and Mrs Duncan Ferns, to revisit Hendall Wood, Maresfield, (TQ 477248), to look at some pits, numerous charcoal platforms, potential saw-pits and dig a third bloomery furnace site; the previous two sites have already produced late-Iron Age or Romano-British pottery. We also hoped to walk the remainder of Duncan's stream as well as the one coming from the north owned by Mr Fairclough. A further stream from the north was also discovered at TQ 2491 4740, where it entered the property, but this was not explored.

There are eight pits in Hendall Wood, all towards the top of the Wadhurst clay, whilst some about the Tunbridge Wells Sand (to the south), all in an unusual situation for finding iron ore, but not impossible. Of the many pits to be found, one, at least, was bound to be mine pit, but there is no simple way of finding what is a minepit or how to date them. However, one (the east-most pit) has a typically shallow pool of very black water. Beside this pit, there is an unnaturally high mound of soil with a flat top, perhaps suitable for a building in the past?

The locations of the three bloomeries are, in order of discovery: TQ 4731 2490, on the south bank of the

stream; TQ 4739 2492 on the NE corner bank where the two streams meet; and TQ 4759 2494; toward to top of the steep north bank. Of this last site, the trench opened up was about half way up the bank and midway along the slaggy area. There was not a great thickness of slag on the bank which is not surprising as it is very steep and much of the slag will have finished up in the stream. As in the case of the second of the bloomeries in the wood there was no tap slag and no cylindrical slag 'plugs' 10-20mm diam. There were two pieces of pottery, both of which have been dated to early in the Romano-British period.

The land by the stream from the north is owned by Mr A Fairclough, who originally owned Hendall Farm. The foray started where this stream fed into the Hendall Wood stream at TQ 4772 2501. The geology changes approximately along the faulted Hendall Wood stream, with Wadhurst Clay to the south and Ashdown Sand to the north. The Wadhurst Clay valley was shallow and wet, whereas the Ashdown Sand was much dryer, with steeper banks starting at stream level.

Two trackways were seen, one coming in from the east and leading down to the stream. Beyond this the opposite bank seemed too steep for it to continue. The second trackway crossed the stream on an earthen causeway (so reducing the slope) that may

have been used to store water for a hydraulic ram (perhaps for Keepers Cottage). Two water taps in a small, brick enclosure (2 x 2 bricks) were noted. A plastic pipe has been buried within the causeway. This trackway lead, from the east, towards Keepers Cottage, and their rubbish dump was noted, high on the west side of the valley beside the track. Just north of the dump there was an enclosure, probably modern, consisting of three sides of an earthen bank some 1 to 2 feet high. Further on the valley levelled out, with some disturbance and dumped concrete rubbish. Five charcoal platforms were found associated with this valley/stream, and one potential sawpit. There was no iron-working activity, of any sort, to be seen in this valley. One charcoal platform, C16, had been cut through by the track. No further iron working sites were found further to the west along the Hendall Wood stream.

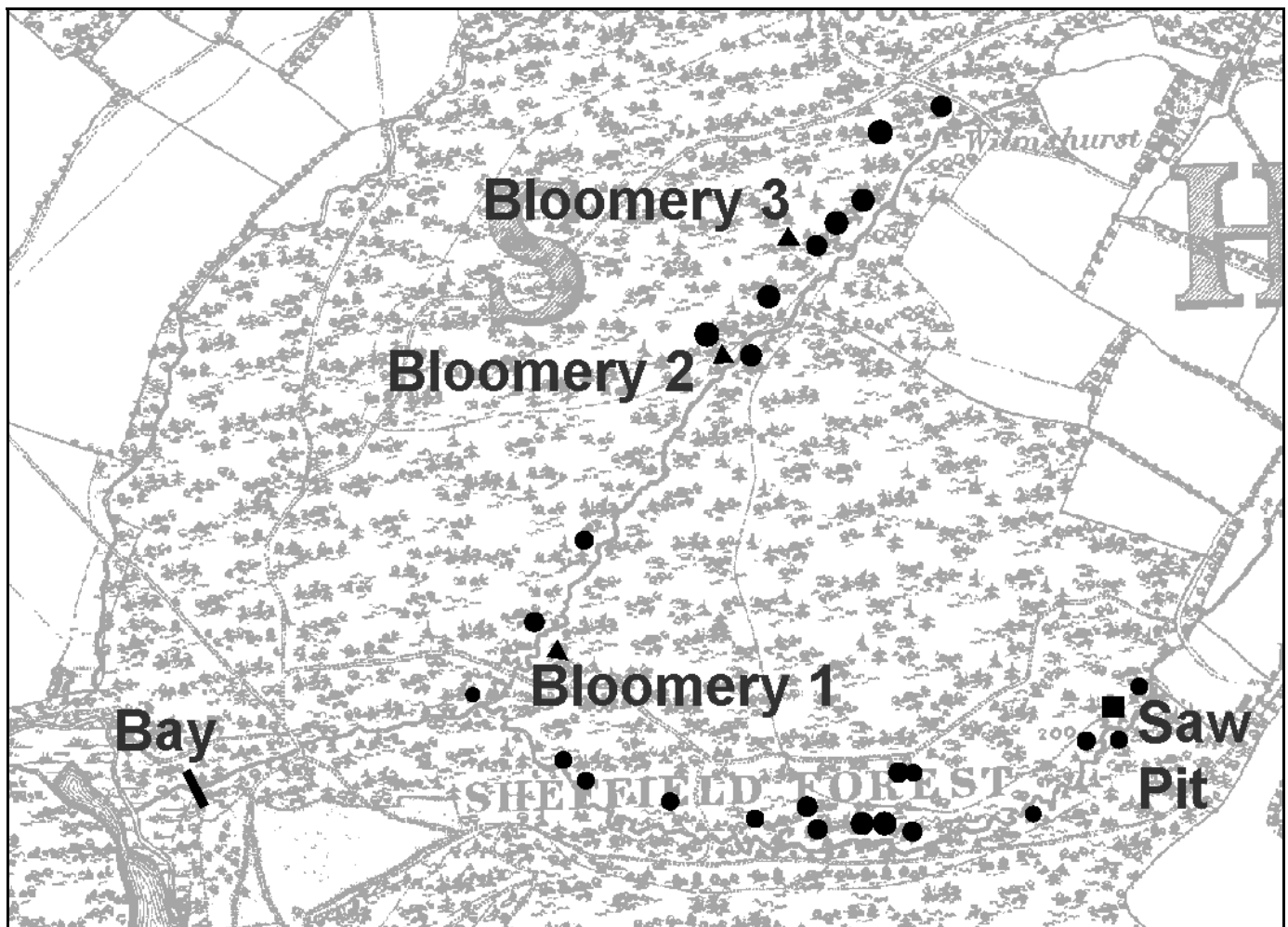
Another, smaller, stream joined the Hendall Wood stream at TQ 2491 4740. This probably started at a pit near the Weald Way footpath, marked 'collects' on the map. Although this pit is on the Ashdown Sand, it may be a source of iron ore.

BRIAN HERBERT

### Sheffield Forest, Fletching December 2006

As part of a multi-disciplinary project on the River Ouse basin, WIRG has been asked to employ its knowledge and understanding of relict water management features to inform an ecological study of some of the Ouse headwaters. The study is based on the premise that certain botanical species can act in a water-retaining role, and that flood conditions that have been experienced in the recent past (e.g. Autumn 2000) further downstream could be alleviated in the future by the selective use of such species. WIRG has been asked to examine the headwaters that form part of the study and identify any water management features that could have influenced past use of the respective stream valleys.

Members of the Field Group were able to walk the two tributaries of a stream that flows from the east into the tail end of Sheffield Mill Pond. As a former furnace pond, it might have been expected that some evidence of storage ponds would be encountered. This was the case at TQ 4161 2623, where a low bay was noted crossing the stream about 75m upstream from the tail of the pond.



**Sheffield Forest: Features noted December 2006 (circles = charcoal platforms)**

Image produced from the [www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk) service with permission of Landmark Information Group Ltd. and Ordnance Survey

From the bay, members walked upstream, following the southerly tributary from where the stream divided. The course of this has been dictated by the geology, following as it does a major fault where the Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand to the south has slipped down against the Ashdown Sand. The valley was distinctly asymmetrical in profile, with a steep bank and valley side to the south, and a gentler slope to the north. No other water features were noted along the course of the stream.

Doubling back to the confluence of the two streams, members then followed the more northerly of the tributaries which flows down from the north east. Tracing its course entirely across Ashdown Sand, the profile was more symmetrical. Three bloomery sites were discovered along its route. The first, at TQ 4196 2636, was on the south side of the stream, and took the typical form of a spread of slag on the top of the bank with a scatter down the slope towards the stream. Slag covered a triangular area of about 60m<sup>2</sup> in a fan-shaped spread. The second site encountered lay on the north bank of the stream at TQ 4212 2663. At this site, slag covered a rectangular area of about 300m<sup>2</sup>. Although the slag had been derived from smelting, samples recovered indicated that the slag had flowed downwards, suggesting the possibility that the furnace from which it was derived had a slag pit. The third site was similarly located on the north bank of the stream, at TQ 4218 2671. A roughly rectangular spread of slag extended for some 50m<sup>2</sup>. A fragment of slag-impregnated furnace lining was discovered on the reverse, baked clay side of which was a clear impression of a wooden stick. Judging from the direction of flow of the slag on the surface of the fragment, the stick would have been placed vertically suggesting that it might have formed part of a framework onto which the clay structure of the furnace walls might have been fixed.

The absence of any other geological source of ore for these three bloomery sites strongly suggests that the ore was derived from clay horizons within the Ashdown Sand.

Throughout the area of Sheffield Forest that was explored, there was ample evidence of the forest having been used for charcoal burning (not surprising, given the proximity of Sheffield furnace). Several cut platforms were identified, some with distinctly stained soil. In some instances the charcoal staining was revealed several centimetres below the surface, and the depth to which the charcoal fines have leached down into the topsoil may be a measure of the age of such platforms. One site of a former sawpit was also identified.

JSH

### **AN ABSENCE OF BLOOMERY SITES**

A personal foray, in 2005, to the area north of Bodiam produced two areas of ore digging but no sign of bloomery furnace sites. A further opportunity has since arisen to investigate a small area northeast of Salehurst, around Haiselman's Farm at TQ 755252, and some 2 miles the east of Bodiam. Once again, the area was geologically suitable for iron ore and there

were many open-cast pits in the area, just into the Wadhurst Clay from the Ashdown Sand. However, not one piece of bloomery furnace slag could be found, although a return visit may be made. The reason for these pits may be that much of the farmland here once belonged to the Iridge estate that operated their blast furnace at TQ 749277.

BRIAN HERBERT

### **ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL RAILINGS**

A short section of the railings that were made to surround St Paul's Cathedral, in London, following its rebuilding after the Great Fire, has been returned to WIRG. The pieces of ironwork, which were given to the group by the owner of Haxted Mill, near Edenbridge, in 1998, have been on display at Old Horam Manor Farm, which agreed to accommodate them while WIRG had no suitable space of its own. The railings are not in the best of condition and consideration will be given to suitable conservation.

The contractor for the supply of the railings was Richard Jones, but it is generally believed that the work was carried out under the direction of Samuel Gott, who owned the furnace at Lamberhurst. The order comprised over 11,000 individual pieces of ironwork, including 12 gates. The price charged for the railings in 1714 was a massive £56 per ton; more than four times the charge for iron ordnance. This resulted, in part, from the combination of wrought and cast iron used in their manufacture. The use of threaded components is of particular interest, and deserves closer study to work out how they were assembled, as they may well represent one of the more complex pieces of ironwork made at the time.



**Part of the surviving railings bordering St Paul's churchyard, London**

**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	<b>1.50</b>
A Middle-Saxon Iron Smelting Furnace Site at Millbrook, Ashdown Forest, Sussex, C.F. Tebbutt.		1.60	<b>1.20</b>
The Fieldwalker's Guide and an Introduction to the Iron Industries of the Weald, B.K. Herbert.		4.00	<b>3.50</b>
Guns Carried on East Indiamen, 1600 – 1800, Ruth Rhynas Brown.		0.80	<b>0.50</b>
Identifying 18th. Century Trunnion Marks on British Iron Guns; a discussion, Ruth Rhynas Brown,		0.80	<b>0.50</b>
Parson Levett and English Cannon Founding, Brian G. Awty.		1.30	<b>1.00</b>
Metallurgical Analysis of Ferrous Alloy Produced in a Primitive Furnace. R. C. D. Sampson & B. K. Herbert.		5.00	<b>4.00</b>
Fernhurst Furnace. Chichester District Archaeology No. 2, J. Magilton (ed.).		13:70	<b>12:00</b>
The Iron Industry of the Weald, H. Cleere & D. Crossley (1995). [shop-soiled copy]		20.50	<b>16.50</b>
CD of Series 1 Wealden Iron Bulletins, Vols. 1 to 17, with searchable index.		6.00	<b>5.00</b>
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Index for Wealden Iron, Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group 1 <sup>st</sup> ser. Vols 1-17 and 2 <sup>nd</sup> ser. 1-20		2.50	<b>2.00</b>
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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 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. Line drawings and monochrome photographs can be accepted. Digital images need to be at least as big as their expected published size, ideally at 300 dpi or more.

**IFIELD MILL IRON DAY**

**25th March 2007**  
**Ifield Mill, off Hyde Drive, Crawley**  
**10am – 2pm**  
Former Forge site, later converted to a Corn Mill  
Exhibition Site Tours  
WIRG in association with Crawley Museum Society