Wealden Iron

First Series No 1
Spring 1969

Bulletin of the
Wealden Iron
Research Group

NO. 1 SPRING 1969

Convenor's Notes

The Group got under way in April 1968 with a meeting at Brighton attended by about 80 people. The Joint Conveners, Henry Cleere and David Crossley, explained the aims and objectives of the Group (these are reprinted in this issue of the Bulletin), and a start was made in setting up local sections.

Since that time, work has been concentrated in the field of excavation; short reports about Henry Cleere's Roman excavation at Bardown and David Crossley's post-medieval excavations at Panningridge and Chingley are included in this Bulletin.

Useful contact has been made with the Archaeological Branch of the Ordnance Survey. Their record cards have been made available to the Group and have been photocopied; sets of relevant cards will be sent shortly to local sections.

Many sections have made a start with field exploration, and the need is being felt for a standard site questionnaire; one has been prepared in draft form and a copy is enclosed in this Bulletin; members' comments would be greatly appreciated. Copies of the final version will be circulated in June or July.

A certain amount of surveying equipment has been purchased with the grant from the Carnegie (UK) Trust. This includes a level, ranging poles, tapes, etc.; the Group also owns a Megger null-balance resistivity meter. This equipment is being stored at Little Bardown, Stonegate, Wadhurst, and is available on loan to local sections, who should contact Henry Cleere at Stonegate (tel. Ticehurst 420 weekends only).

Finally, the Conveners are only too aware that many members have been anxiously awaiting this Bulletin. A number of unexpected calls on their time have delayed its completion, but they hope notwithstanding, to maintain the original intention of a yearly production, with circulation of material of immediate interest on an ad-hoc basis between issues.

EXCAVATIONS

Bardown

Excavation continued at the Bardown Roman industrial site at Wadhurst, Sussex (Nat. Grid Ref. TQ 663 294) from 29 July to 18 August 1968, and for two subsequent weekends.

Digging was concentrated in part of the presumed 'industrial' area of the site, immediately above the area investigated in 1967. An area 50ft square was cleared mechanically to a depth of 1ft, and this was followed by manual excavation. Unfortunately. loss of time due to bad weather and an unexpected depth of archaeological layers prevented the full excavation of the whole area down to the natural Ashdown Sand: in total about 40% of the area was fully excavated.

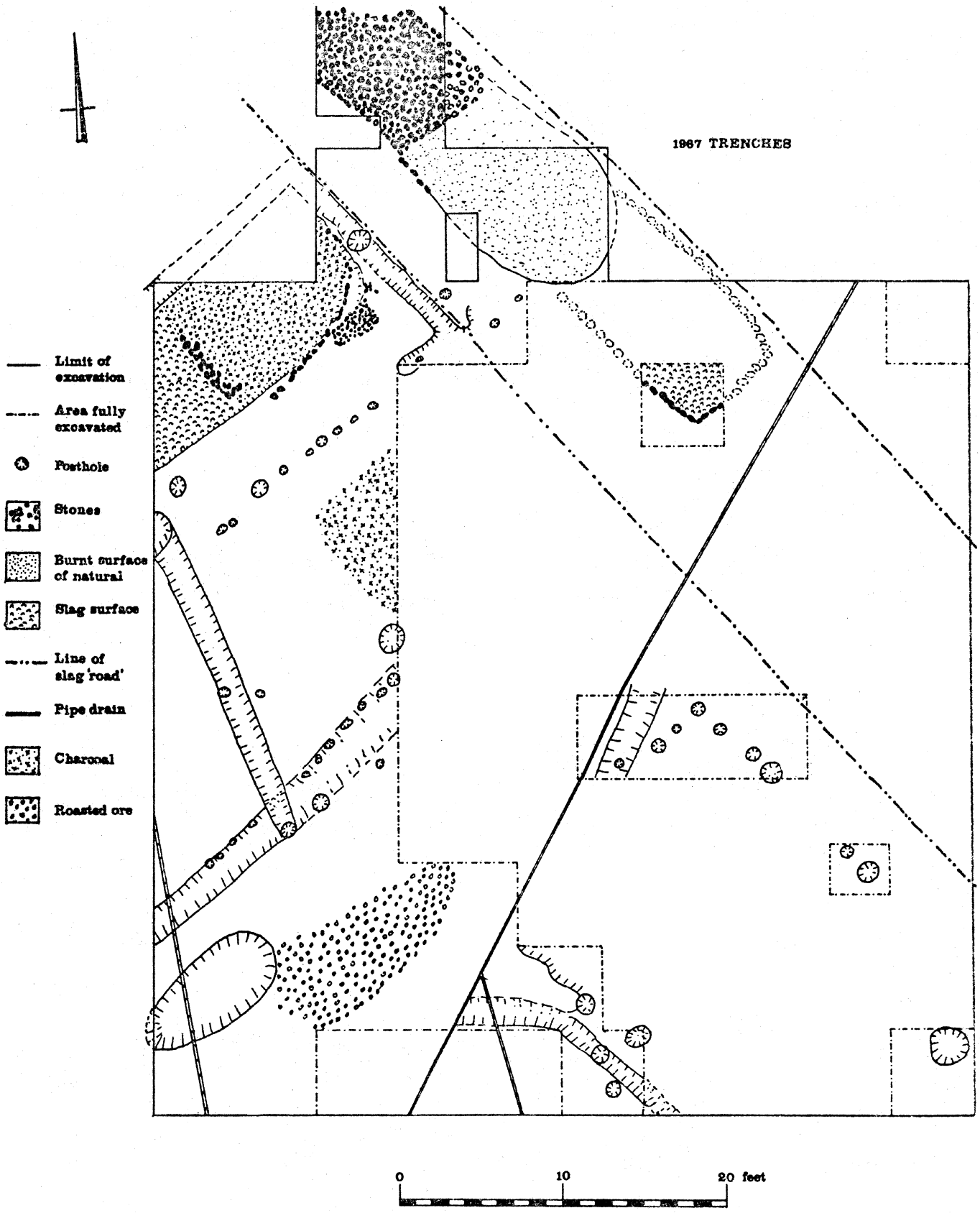
The slag and stone metalled road found in 1967 running down towards the large refuse bank was traced for a further 40ft. In association and alignment with its earlier stone-built phase there were found postholes and sleeper-beam trenches, which formed part of a substantial timber-framed building of mid-2nd century date. This building appeared to have been used as a workshop. It had a floor of clay, overlaid in two areas by thick dumps of charcoal. An area edged with stones had been exposed to fairly high temperatures, and has been interpreted as a forging hearth; the adjacent area was roughly cobbled with stones and slag.

This building was also associated with the area of heavy burning about 10ft in diameter found in 1967. It seems reasonable, in view of 1968 finds, to interpret the latter as a permanent charcoal-burning hearth. Charcoal made in this area would have been stocked in the workshop building, for use on the forging hearth, and also in the ore-roasting furnace (discovered in 1962) which lay outside the workshop. Considerable debris in the form of roasted ore particles was found in this area in 1968.

The next phase of development in this area involved the successive remetallings of the road surface with slag. At some point during these remetallings, the building was either demolished or fell down (there is no evidence destruction by fire) since later slag and rubbish spreads overlie the postholes nearest to the road. During this period, the ore-roasting furnace continued in use.

A second building lying further to the east (only partially excavated) had a history and structure similar to the first. Since only a small area of the interior was excavated fully, it was impossible to determine its purpose, although an associated latrine pit may indicate a domestic use.

By the first half of the 3rd century, the whole area was being used as a rubbish dump; a layer of rubbish at least 1ft thick was found over the entire trench. From the finds in this layer, which were considerable, it would appear to have been in use well into the latter part of the 3rd century; a single sherd of New Forest ware implies a terminal date several decades later than had been assumed previously. The inference to be drawn is that industrial activities had either ceased or been transferred elsewhere by about AD 220, but that occupation of the settlement continued. At some time towards the end of the 3rd century the refuse area appears to have been resettled, since a small domestic hearth was found on the surface of this layer. This was associated with a stone alignment running across the site, which may have formed part of a building, of which one or two postholes were traced.



Bardown 1968

One of the most interesting features of the rubbish spread was the fact that no fewer than 22 tiles bearing the CL BR stamp of the Classis Britannica (British Fleet) were found in this area. Hitherto, only three stamped tiles had, been found at Bardown, one in 1950 and two in 1965. The large number of stamped tiles found in 1968 in this late phase of the site may indicate a change of ownership or control in the early 3rd century.

Other finds during the 1968 campaign included a bronze-melting crucible, two bronze fibulae (one inlaid with red enamel), several pieces of lead including a pattern used for the manufacture of cast bronze keys, a number of coins (all except one of bronze and therefore illegible, owing to the soil conditions on the site, which promote very severe corrosion of bronze coinage alloys), a considerable amount of glass, and an iron shovel, believed to be of Roman date.

An area outside the first building referred to above proved on the last day of the excavation to contain a number of very large sandstone blocks. These are reminiscent of the large blocks connected with the late Roman smelting furnace at Minepit Wood, Withyham. It is proposed to excavate this area more thoroughly in 1969.

Holbeanwood

Excavation at a site at Holbeanwood, Wallcrouch, Wadhurst, about a mile to the north of the Bardown site and connected with it by an ancient track, in October and November produced at least four iron-smelting furnaces. These appear to have been free-standing furnaces, built of clay, with an internal diameter of 12-18in. The few pottery sherds found are similar to Bardown material. Postholes indicate that the group of furnaces were inside a building of some kind, which explains the fact that two at least had been substantially rebuilt on the same site.

The discovery of this outlier suggests that, as ore and wood supplies in the immediate vicinity of the main settlement became exhausted, small working sites were set up on or near the ore beds, the workers continuing to live at the main settlement. It also explains the abandonment of the early industrial buildings observed at the main site during the 1968 dig and referred to above. It is likely that a number of other outlying working sites of this kind exist around Bardown; the pattern of field boundaries and ponds indicate that this is very likely.

HENRY CLEERE

Panningridge

The Background

Documents in the De l'Isle and Dudley Collection show that Panningridge (Nat. Grid Ref. TQ 687 175) was built in 1542 for Sir William Sidney to smelt the ores of the Ashburn Valley, mined in the area now known as Pannelridge Wood. Pig iron was carried, probably along the existing hollow way towards Netherfield, to be converted into wrought iron at the finery forge at Robertsbridge. Between 1542 and 1546 this forge was also supplied by a furnace near Robertsbridge, built in 1541, but this fell into disuse during 1546 and Panningridge was the sole supplier until 1563. After 1563 less is known of the furnace; in that year the Sidneys relinquished the lease of the site, and thereafter it was run by William Relfe and Bartholomew Jeffrey, two ironmasters with widespread local interests

in the industry. The length of their tenure is not known, and by 1574 the site was in the hands of John Ashburnham, who is also recorded as holding it in 1588. Whether it was still in use at these dates is uncertain, but by 1611 its existence seems to have been no more than a local memory.

Excavations 1968

Fieldwork and trial trenching in 1964 and 1967 established the site of the furnace, which lies close to the west end of a dam. now breached, across the Ashburn valley. A wooded area of about 1½ acres on the down-stream side of the dam is covered with slag dumps and is severely waterlogged. The only traces of watercourses associated with the furnace are two channels, one at either end of the dam, which, using as a parallel the furnace site at Sheffield Park, Fletching, appear to have been overflow spillways for the pond.

The plan in 1968 was to extend the trial cuttings made in 1967 at the base of what may be a charging ramp close to the west end of the dam. Unfortunately heavy and prolonged rain in June and July made it impossible for a mechanical excavator to enter the site to remove the overburden of silt and so a restricted area had to be dealt with, entirely by hand, although greatly aided by an engine-driven spoil winch.

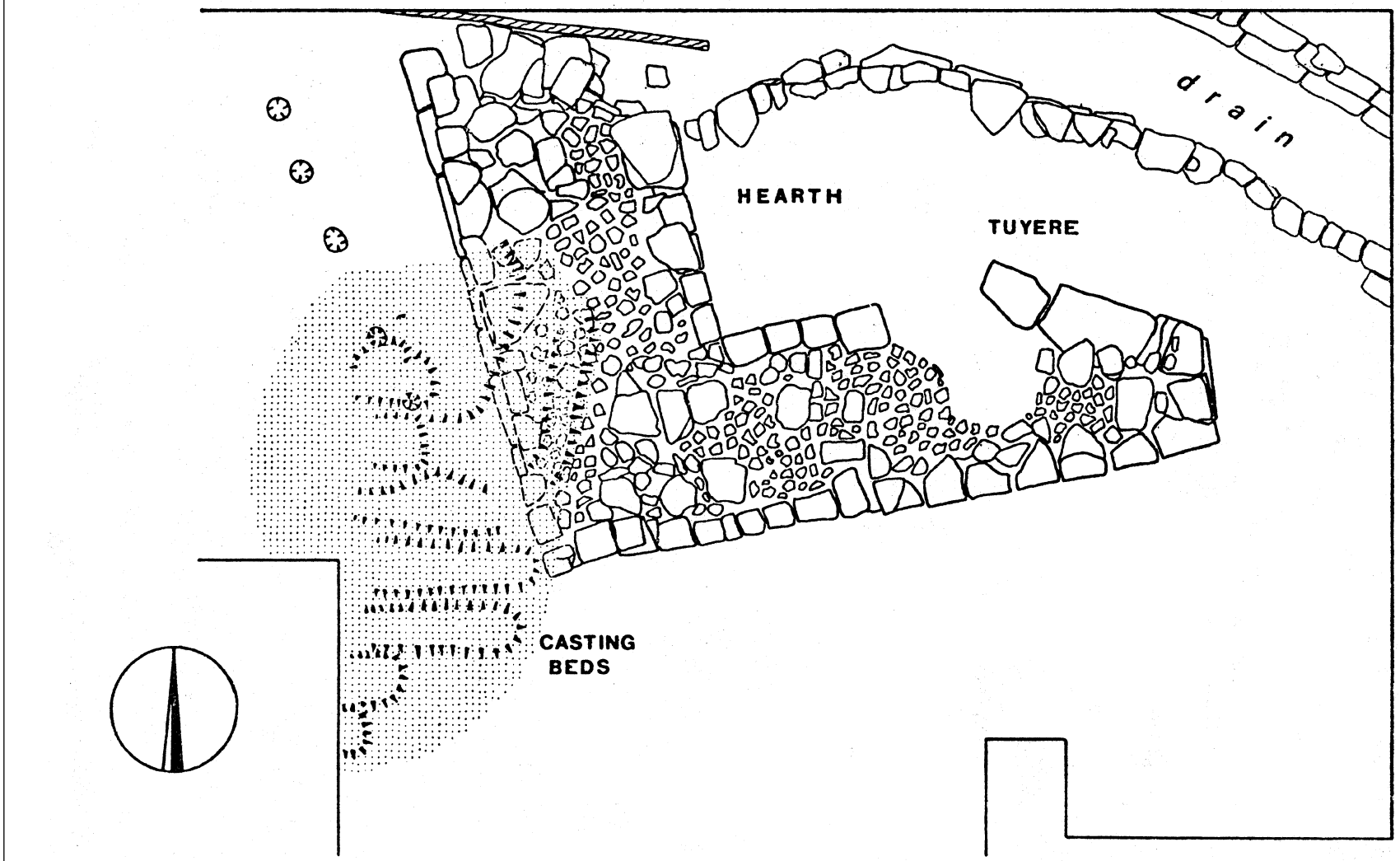
The excavation yielded the plan of the southern side of the furnace. The foundations of the south wall were intact; much of the west end, together with the working platform and the site of the forehearth, had survived, with the hard sand of the pig beds into which the molten iron had been run. It appeared that in the last campaigns pigs 4ft x 6in x 6in had been cast. The west end of the furnace had been largely destroyed by an open water course which had been dug through the structure soon after its abandonment; however, the south side of the tuyere was clear, and its presence on the opposite wall to the taphole is of major interest and completely at variance with surviving 17th century furnaces such as Rockley. The north wall of the furnace probably lay just outside the area of this year's excavation,but is unlikely to have survived the building of the water channel. The hearth had been removed from the furnace, but much of the internal stonework of the south and west sides of the furnace tower, against which the hearth would have been built, had survived.

After abandonment and robbing of the upper stonework, no doubt by the Ashburnhams to build their own furnace, the site appears to have been levelled and clay deposited. This appeared as a distinct platform of reddened clay and its use as an ore-roasting platform may be suggested. The clay seems to have been deposited at much the same time as the construction of the water course, roughly built of furnace stones.

The entire site was covered with silt and slag, some of which appeared to have been levelled and consolidated as a platform sealing the red clay. No pottery was found to suggest that this deposit dated from later than the early 17th century.

Future work has two clear aims, to check whether any traces of the north wall of the furnace survived the construction of the later water course, and to locate and examine the water channels serving the bellows' water wheel. Thus, area excavation to the north and to the west of the 1968 cuttings will be required, and it is hoped to carry out some of this work in the summer of 1969, (August 11 — September 6).

Thanks are due to the owner of the site, Mr J. Spencer Wills, for permission to excavate; to the tenants, Messrs W. and G. Rudman, for their continued help and interest, and in particular for allowing the cuttings to be fenced and left open until next season; to Mrs J. Stiles for her indefatigable help



PANNINGRIDGE FURNACE

1968

with local arrangements; to Messrs Bush, Morse, and Welling, the agents for the Estate, for their interest and cooperation; to the Knoop Fund of Sheffield University and the Sussex Archaeological Society for financial support; and the Twenty-Seven Foundation for assistance with transport. I must thank particularly all those volunteers who helped to make this season such a success, despite weather and conditions worse than any of them had ever encountered before; to those who provided accommodation and who were made only too aware of the conditions on the site, our particular gratitude and apologies are due.

D.W. CROSSLEY

Chingley

A scheme is under consideration to dam the River Bewl, near Old Forge Farm, Lamberhurst, in order to create a reservoir for the provision of water for the Medway towns. This proposal threatens two ironmaking sites, the late 16th century blast furnace at TQ 684 327 and the 17th century finery forge at TQ 682 335.

Excavations began in August, 1968 with the aid of a grant from the Ministry of Public Building and Works through the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology to attempt the precise location of these sites as a preliminary to full-scale excavation.

The Furnace

Only brief testing of this site was possible in the available time; the dam crossing the Bewl valley at 684 327 may now be accepted as belonging to the furnace. A limited area downstream from the surviving bank is covered with blast-furnace slag, and tests disclosed building debris in a small part of the south-east corner.

The Forge

Test trenching confirmed that the site-lies to the south end of a marshy strip running parallel to the Bewl between 682 335 and 683 337.

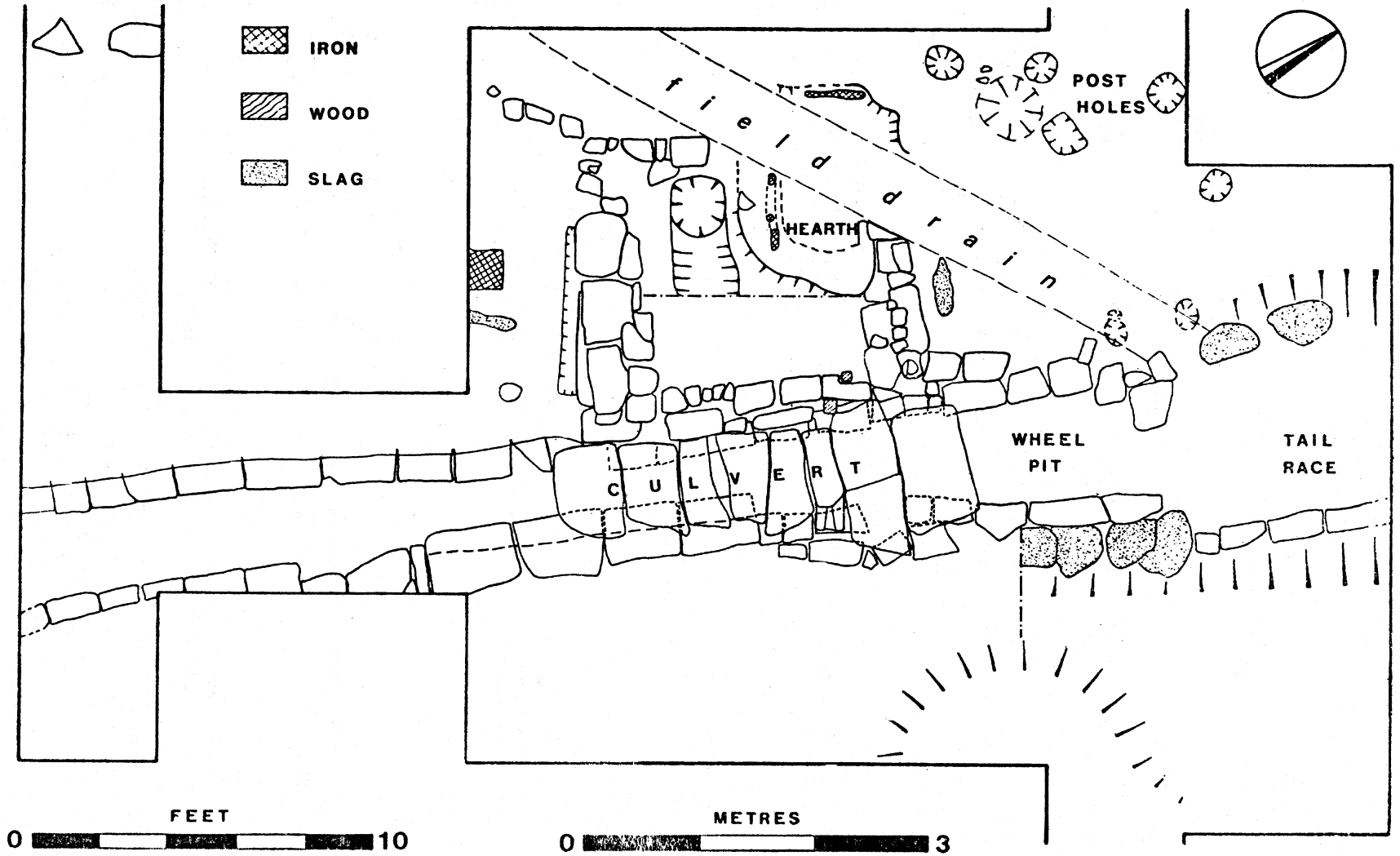
The hill slope to the east, although covered by deposits of cinder and charcoal, did not appear to have been built upon and the meadow to the west was the site of scattered tips of cinder.

The main test trench across the marsh disclosed a deep channel running beneath an accumulation of silt and humus. This cutting was extended southwards and a partially culverted stone-lined channel, part of a building containing a hearth, and a complex of postholes were stripped. The site had been damaged by stone field drains, one built on the capping stones of the culvert, another cutting through the furnace.

The hearth lay against the north wall of a stone building which had been rebuilt on at least two occasions; it had been lined with iron plates in the way mentioned in contemporary descriptions of forges and fragments of two of these survived. The position of the tuyere could be estimated, halfway along the back wall of the furnace. Whether the hearth was used as a finery or a chafery is not yet clear. Whilst superficially it resembles a finery, excavation of others on the site may allow overall comparisons to be made showing detail differences between the two types.

A group of postholes lay outside the north wall of the hearth building, in significant relationship both to this and an unculverted portion of the main water course. It appears that upright timbers had supported the

CHINGLEY FORGE KENT



19·8

bellows, for which an undershot wheel in the adjacent channel provided power.

Future work on the site will be devoted to establishing the scale on which operations took place, to be judged from the number of finery and chafery hearths, the type of hammer, and the character of the water supply. This last-named is a particular problem, for a machine-dug section of a slight bank across the valley failed to reveal clear indications of a dam, making use of a leet from higher up the Bewl seem the more likely.

Further excavations are planned for Easter and Summer 1969.

Thanks are due to Mr Christopher Hussey, owner of Scotney Castle Estate, for permission to excavate; to Mr G.D. Veitch, tenant of Bewl Bridge Farm, for practical help on numerous occasions; to the Estate's agents, Messrs Langridge and Freeman, for their interest and cooperation; to all those volunteers who helped to make the excavation a success; to the Ministry of Public Building and Works for financial help; to the Twenty-Seven Foundation and the Knoop Fund of the University of Sheffield for assistance with transport; and to those who provided accommodation for volunteers.

P. W. CROSSLEY
D. ASHURST

Beauport Park

Since a first visit was paid two years ago, much of the limited time spent at Beauport Park has been used in surveying and mapping the whole considerable area of the site. The only visible sign of any working was the remains of the slag heap. Though much of this was removed in the 1870s for roadmaking, the heap is still so big (about 130 yards long) that much of it remains to be excavated. Test trenches have helped to define the whole area, the nearest mine pit, and (with the help of divining rods) the track running to it.

No habitation area has so far been found, but the wide variety of potsherds, including Samian, some pieces of glass, and various types of tile all suggest that some building must be somewhere nearby. Among the 70 pieces of tile found, no fewer than five bear the CL BR stamp. The discovery of this stamp makes Beauport Park yet another inland site which seems to have been under the control of the British Fleet.

Some of the most interesting finds are pieces of hard-baked clay of unusual shape and pattern, which may suggest that they are portions of ironmaking furnaces; pieces of tuyere have also been found. Since 1870 seven coins have been found at Beauport, covering a period from Domitian to Commodus.

The whole picture of this very overgrown and undisturbed site is gradually becoming clearer, and it would seem that the site has much to reveal concerning the whole business of ironmaking. This winter it is hoped to make a full analysis of the pottery so far discovered.

A. G. BRODRIBB

Preliminary survey of the Iron Industry of the Western Weald

Geological Influence

If the sites quoted by Straker[1] are plotted on a map of South-East England, an area of low site density is apparent between the better known areas of the Central Weald and another, centred on Haslemere, in the western part of this geological structure. Considering an area bounded by the Downs and a line of longitude passing through Horsham, we find that, of the 24 known sites of bloomery, furnace and forge, three are situated on the Folkestone Beds, one on the Sandgate Beds, and three on the Hythe Series. The remaining seventeen are located on the Weald Clay. Highly ferruginous rocks and bands of concretions occur in the Folkestone Beds, some limonitic sand in the Sandgate Beds, and some thin bands of ironstone, of variable thickness, in the Hythe strata. No direct evidence exists of the use of the material to be found in these strata for smelting and, indeed, Topley[2] comments that this material is unsuitable for iron production because of its high silica content. The most obvious reason for the siting in the region of the outcrops of these strata is to take advantage of topography in the use of water power.

Straker (op.cit., p.104) inclines to the view that the industry in this area obtained its raw material from the Weald Clay. His reasoning is based on place names, but direct proof has been obtained during the recent survey of the Haslemere region by the Geological Survey[3].The most heavily worked area is contained in a narrow S-shaped strip, not more than 200 yards wide, commencing from a point in the north just 1 mile S.E. of Hambledon (Vann Copse) to follow the escarpment of the Hythe strata round Haslemere and Fernhurst and fade out 2 miles to the south of the last-named. The extension eastwards from the northern and southern limits is uncertain, but a small patch on the Colnbrook Common, 21 miles north of Petworth, may possibly belong to the same bed, as also the ore referred to in the documents quoted by Straker (op.cit., p.425) and Kenyon.[4] An extensive area in the West Chiltington-Broadford Bridge region has been definitely certified[5] as belonging to this horizon. In the north the old workings at Tilehurst Farm[6] are also in this horizon, but those at Charlwood Place (Telvet Copse) are in the upper of two seams located at least 100ft below the Small Paludina Limestone (Charlwood Stone) and would appear to be related to the worked areas around Bolney and Ansty in the south.[5]

It is pointed out in the paper quoted above[5] that the ore, clay ironstone, mined in this strip is derived from the complex series of beds above the Large Paludina Limestone of the Weald Clay (except where noted above) and is not to be confused with the cemented gravels (puddingstone or shrave) occur ring in patches on the Weald Clay, and stated by Topley[2] to have been used for smelting. Topley quotes as his authority for this a statement by Martin[7]. However, Martin is referring to a coarse ‘iron rag” and is careful to map the outcrop of this particular iron rag, which he considers to have been used for this purpose. The outcrop passes close to the vicinity of the sources quoted by Straker and Kenyon (v.i.) and had been traced continuously from Lickfold to Henfield. The present author has collected samples of the clay ironstone and iron rag from the same stream at Gatewick Farm (090 211) and confirmed Martin’s statement that the iron rag is the lower horizon. It would appear that Topley has misread Martin’s “occasional beds of clay-ironstone” for the puddingstone, of which an extensive tract is located between the outcrops of the ironstone and iron rag in the Willetts Farm-Gatewick Farm-Gay Street region. It is true that the worked areas of clay ironstone are sparse in this southern region, as noted above.

That the industry of the western Weald derived its raw material exclusively from the clay ironstone has not been proved, and Martin's iron rag cannot be rejected, on the basis of the inferred objection of its high silica content, until it has been shown conclusively that it is impossible to produce iron from s such an ore by primitive means. To date, only one attempt to reproduce the conditions in the direct process has been made in the UK, and this only with high-grade ore suitable for both processes.[8] Current researches in the present author's laboratory are aimed at evaluating high-silica ores from the various strata in the western Weald. In this connection also it is well to bear in mind five points. These are:

1. The carstone found at the Iron Age camp at Hascombe[9]
2. The puddingstone found at the Early Iron camp in Piper's Copse, Kirdford.[10] Although there appears to be no evidence that this material had been worked on the site.[11]
3. The puddingstone used at the medieval bloomery at Thundersfield Castle, near Horley[12]
4. A reference by Straker (op.cit., p.450) to traditional ore sources on Weavers Down. Again a coarse iron rag.
5. A piece of bloomery cinder, in the present author's possession, containing recognisable pieces of chert. From an unknown site in the Gay Street area (v.i.)

Straker is of the opinion that the extension of the Wealden iron industry into West Sussex was a late development, possibly due to pressure of demand on works established in the central Weald, but he does not treat its decline as showing any special features. Worssam[3] claims that exhaustion of the local reserves of ore played an important part and draws on geological evidence for support. He also quotes Kenyon as noting that the pits at Gospel Green were becoming exhausted by 1610 with subsequent dwindling production ceasing by 1627. Hence, it may be concluded that the source and nature of the ore used for iron production, coupled with the technical problems that have been faced and overcome during both the bloomery and the blast furnaces eras),are particularly important to our understanding of the iron industry of the western Weald.

P.J. OVENDEN,

References

1. E. Straker: "Wealden Iron" G. Bell and Sons,. London, 1931 (reprinted by Cedric Chivers, 1968).
2. W. Topley: Mem. Geol. Survey, U.K., 1875.
3. B.C. Worssam: Proc. Geol. Assoc., 1964, **75**, 529.
4. G.H. Kenyon: S.N.Q., 1952, **13**, Nos. 11 and 12.
5. R.G. Thurrell: Private communication, September 1968.
6. H.G. Dines and F.H. Edmunds: Mem. Geol. Survey, U.K., 1933.
7. P.J. Martin: Ibid., 1828.
8. E.J. Wynne and R.F. Tylecote: J. Iron Steel Inst., 1958, **190**, 339.
9. S.E. Winbolt: Surrey Arch. Coll., 1932, **40**, 78.
10. S.E.-Winbolt: Sussex Arch. Coll., 1936, **77**, 244.
11. G.H. Kenyon: Private communication, July 1968.
12. E. Hart and S.E. Winbolt: Surrey Arch. Coll. 1937, **45**, 147

Notes and News

1969 Excavations

The Bardown, Chingley and Panningridge excavations will continue.

Bardown	August 4-23
Chingley	July 17 — August 11
Panningridge	August 16 — September 6

Volunteers will be welcomed by the directors, and full details will be enclosed with, this Bulletin.

There is a particular problem over accommodation for volunteers coming from a distance. In the past the greatest difficulty has been found in placing people in the areas concerned (Lamberhurst, Wadhurst, Stonegate, Ticehurst, Dallington and Ashburnham) and Mr Cleere and Mr Crossley would appreciate suggestions and offers from members and others. Volunteers on excavations do, of course, pay for accommodation.

Addresses for further information.

H. F. Cleere, Little Bardown, Stonegate, Wadhurst
(Ticehurst 420) — weekends

D. W. Crossley, Department of Economic History, The University, Sheffield, S10 2TN (Sheffield 78555 ext.206).

Contributions from members

Members are reminded that this is their Bulletin. Local section conveners are invited to send details of their work, requests for help, etc., for publication. Any member can send short contributions for publication; at the present stage it is not envisaged that these should repeat material that is being supplied to the Conveners through the medium of the questionnaires, but rather additional information of interest that they have gleaned. in the course of their work.

Contributions should be sent to Henry Cleere at The Iron and Steel Institute, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

Serial	Straker	Site Name	N.G.R.	Apparent Function
1	214	Warren Furnace	TQ 350 390	Furnace
2	217	Woodcock Hammer or Wire Mill	TQ 368 418	Forge
3	218	Cinderhill, Blindley Heath	TQ 359 458	Bloomery
4	218	Smith Hook	TQ 464 436	Bloomery
5	218	Bough Beech	TQ 481 475	Furnace
6	219	Cinderhill, Penshurst	TQ 533 459	Bloomery
7	219	Barden	TQ 548 424	Furnace
8	220	Tudeley	TQ 620 450	Bloomery
9	220	Newefrith	TQ 601 441	Bloomery
10	222	Vauxhall	TQ 592 440	Furnace
11	222	Old Forge, Southboro'	TQ 594 428	Forge
12	222	Rats Castle	TQ 606 462	Forge
13	223	Cinder Mead, Basing Farm	TQ 434 396	Bloomery
14	223	Beeches Farm	TQ 433 413	Bloomery
15	224	Dry Hill Camp	TQ 433 416	
16	224	Scarlets (formerly Scalehurst)	TQ 455 400	Furnace
17	224	Scarlets (formerly Scalehurst)		Forge
18	226	Cowden – the lower furnace	TQ 454 399	Furnace
19	328	Beechenwood	TQ 453 423	Bloomery
20	228	Birchenwood	TQ 454 414	Bloomery
21	228	Waystrode	TQ 458 406	Bloomery
22	229	Bower	TQ 440 383	Forge
23	229	Cansiron	TQ 453 382	Forge
24	229	Cansiron	TQ 453 382	?Furnace
25	230	Black Field, Beeches Farm	TQ 459 382	Bloomery
26	230	Castle Hill, Holtye	TQ 463 390	Bloomery
27	231	Blowers Hill or Mount Noddy	TQ 476 416	Bloomery
28	231	Ashurst	TQ 509 393	Furnace
29	231	Ashurst	TQ 507 403	Forge
30	233	Ridge Hill	TQ 369 359	Bloomery
31	236	Gravetye	TQ 366 342	Furnace
32	236	Mill Place	TQ 373 349	Furnace
33	238	Stone, East Grinstead (submerged by reservoir)	TQ 383 342	Furnace
34	239	Standen	TQ 392 357	Bloomery
35	239	Walesbeach	TQ 393 344	Roman Bloomery
36	240	Stonefield	TQ 397 342	Bloomery or burning site
37	241	Brambletye	TQ 417 357	Forge
38	241	Parrock	TQ 456 356	Furnace
39	241	Parrock		Forge
40	244	Hartfield	TQ 474 363	Forge
41	247	Steel, Pippingford	TQ 450 316	Furnace
42	247	Steel, Pippingford		Forge
43	248	Newbridge	TQ 457 328	Furnace
44	251	Cotchford Forge	TQ 470 348	Furnace
45	251	Cotchford Forge		Forge
46	252	Hammer Mead, Cotchford	TQ 471 343	Bloomery or burning site
47	252	Crowborough Warren	TQ 494 319	Furnace
48	253	Grubs Farm	TQ 499 328	Bloomery
49	253	Withyham or Stonelands	TQ 510 367	Furnace
50	253	Withyham or Stonelands		Forge
51	254	Poundfield, Crowborough	TQ 533 308	Bloomery or burning site
59	254	Maynards Gate	TQ 540 298	Furnace
60	255	Rochester Forest	TQ 545 302	Burning site
54	256	Chart Farm, Rotherfield	TQ 558 304	Bloomery
55	256	Cowford	TQ 558 320	Furnace
56	257	Orznash	TQ 530 224?	Bloomeries
			TQ 530 334	
			TQ 524 338	

Serial	Straker	Site Name	N.G.R.	Apparent Function
57	257	Eridge Furnace	TQ 563 350	Furnace
58	257	Eridge Forge	TQ 559 350	Forge
59	260	Furnace Fields	TQ 532 347	Ore burning place or bloomery
60	260	Birchden	TQ 530 353	Forge
61	262	Hamsell	TQ 538 344	Furnace
62	263	Steel Cross, Crowborough.	TQ 522 318	Bloomery
63	264	Benhall	TQ 608 376	Forge
64	264	Melhill?	TQ 612 380	Forge
65	264	Brechers' Forge or Marriott's Croft	TQ 626 384	Forge
66	267	Dorndale, Durmedale now Dundle	TQ 628 384	Forge
67	268	Tollslye, Bayham Park	TQ 633 371	Furnace
68	268	Bayham	TQ 643 366	Forge
69	269	Lamberhurst or Gloucester Furnace	TQ 661 359	Furnace
70	269	Lamberhurst	TQ 661 361	Forge
71	273	Early Farm	TQ 598 325	Bloomery or burning site
72	274	Colegrove Wood	TQ 587 331	Bloomery
73	275	Henly (Bunklaw or Brinklaw)	TQ 600 337	Furnace?
74	275	Henly (Bunklaw or Brinklaw)	TQ 600 337	Forge
75	275	Riverhall	TQ 600 336	Furnace
76	275	Riverhall.	TQ 604 334	Forge
77	276	Chingley Furnace	TQ 684 327	Furnace
78	277	Chingley Forge	TQ 681 334	Forge
79	278	Brookland Forge	TQ 617 348	Forge
80	278	Verredge Forge	TQ 623 352	Forge
81	280	Horsmonden	TQ 694 412	Furnace
82	281	Matfield	TQ 643 426	?
83	282	Bedgebury Furnace	TQ 739 347	Furnace
84	282	Bedgebury Forge	TQ 728 358	Forge
85	282	Hammer Mill, Biddenden	TQ 821 383	Forge
86	284	Argos Hill	TQ 565 274	Bloomery
87	285	Meeres Farm	TQ 568 247	Bloomery
88	285	Old Mill	TQ 587 244	Furnace
89	286	Moat Mill	TQ 593 251	Forge
90	287	Bungehurst	TQ 600 243	Furnace
91	287	Broadhurst	TQ 630 240	Furnace
92	288	Sandyden Gill	TQ 585 311	Bloomery
93	288	Coushopley	TQ 604 300	Furnace
94	288	Wenbons	TQ 633 295	Bloomery
95	289	Scrag Oak or Snape	TQ 626 303	Furnace
96	290	Snape Mine	TQ 630 303	Mine
97	292	Mayfield	TQ 593 282	Furnace
98	294	Hawksden	TQ 620 627	Forge
99	295	Bibleham	TQ 640 266	Forge
100	296	Bardown	TQ 663 293	Roman Bloomery
101	296	East Lymden	TQ 677 290	Furnace
102	297	Hammerden	TQ 658 271	Bloomery
103	297	Shoyswell	TQ 684 270	Bloomery
104	297	Darfold (Etchingham Furnace)	TQ 701 200	Furnace
105	298	Etchingham Forge	TQ 699 267	Forge
106	298	Pashley	TQ 709 296	Furnace
107	299	Cinderburgh, Etchingham	TQ 721 276	Bloomery
108	300	Bugsell	TQ 723 256	Forge
109	300	Furnace Gill, Burwash	TQ 647 238	Bloomery

Serial	Straker	Site Name	N.G.R.	Apparent Function
110	301	Brightling or Glaziers' Forge	TQ 649 212	Furnace
111	301	Brightling or Glaziers' Forge		Forge
112	303	Burwash Forge	TQ 663 235	Forge
113	306	Socknersh	TQ 698 232	Furnace
114	308	Darvel	TQ 708 206	Furnace
115	310	Robertsbridge Abbey Furnace	TQ 752 231	Furnace
116	310	Robertsbridge Abbey Forge	TQ 756 236	Forge
117	318	New Pond	TQ 756 222	Bloomery
118	319	Shoreham Farm	TQ 787 241	Bloomery
119	319	Colliers Green	TQ 793 231	Bloomery
120	320	Ewhurst or Northiam	TQ 817 244	Furnace
121	320	Iridge	TQ 749 276	Furnace
122	320	Frith	TQ 736 325	Furnace
123	321	Hawkhurst Furnace Mill	TQ 774 313	Furnace
124	323	Rowenden Layne	TQ 855 303	Bloomery
125	325	Beech	TQ 728 165	Furnace
126	326	Mountfield	TQ 750 196	Furnace
127	326	Mountfield		Forge
128	327	Netherfield	unidentified	Furnace
129	327	Footlands	TQ 770 207	Bloomery
130	328	Hodesdale	TQ 748 181	Forge
131	329	Oaklands Park, near Sedlescombe	TQ 785 175	Bloomery
132	330	Beaufort Park	TQ 786 155	Bloomery
133	338	Baldslow Place	TQ 798 143	Bloomery
134	338	Platnix	TQ 802 169	Bloomery
135	331	Westfield Forge	TQ 814 173	Forge
136	339	Fairlight	TQ 862 131	Bloomery
137	340	Coghurst	TQ 838 135	Bloomery
138	340	Northwood, Guestling	TQ 842 160	Bloomery
139	340	Icklesham — Telegraph Mill	TQ 870 160	Bloomery
140	340	Icklesham — Place Farm		Bloomery
141	341	Loneham Farm	TQ 814 198	Bloomery
142	341	Brede	TQ 800 192	Furnace
143	344	Pickdick	TQ 846 183	Bloomery
144	344	Ellenwhorne	TQ 798 214	Bloomery
145	345	Chitcombe	TQ 814 211	Bloomery
146	348	Conster Manor Farm	TQ 827 219	Bloomery
147	348	Beckley Furnace (destroyed?)	TQ 800 192	Furnace
148	348	Beckley Furnace		Forge
149	349	Roughter Wood	TQ 866 195	Bloomery
150	350	Blacklands, Hastings	TQ 817 108	?Bloomery
151	350	Battle Park	TQ 743 145	?Furnace or forge
152	351	Peppering Bye	TQ 743 140	Bloomery
153	351	Forewood	TQ 754 130	Bloomery
154	352	Crowhurst	TQ 757 121	Furnace
155	352	Crowhurst		Forge
156	352	Rackwell Gill, Crowhurst	TQ 762 122	?Forge
157	353	Crowhurst Park	TQ 769 136	Bloomery
158	354	Sidley	TQ 744 092	Bloomery
159	354	Potmans	TQ 725 117	Forge
160	356	Buckholt	TQ 746 113	Furnace
161	356	Buckholt		Forge
162	357	Buckholt South	TQ 746 103	Bloomery
163	358	Bynes Farm	TQ 758 110	Bloomery
164	359	Warbleton Priory	TQ 643 180	Forge
165	360	Summertree Farm	TQ 635 162	Bloomery
166	360	Batsford Furnace	TQ 631 153/	Furnace
167	360	Batsford Furnace	TQ 629 154	Forge?

Serial	Straker	Site Name	N.G.R.	Apparent Function
168	361	Herrings	TQ 664 173	Bloomery
169	361	Pagden Wood	TQ 663 170	Bloomery
170	361	Peartree, Warbleton	TQ 656 152	Bloomery
171	362	Thorndale	TQ 670 168	Bloomery
172	362	Panningridge	TQ 687 175	Furnace
173	364	Ashburnham (or Dallington)	TQ 685 171	Furnace
174	364	Ashburnham (Upper) .	TQ 687 160	Forge
175	371	Kitchenham (Ashburnham, Lower)	TQ 686 172	Forge
176	372	Barnhorne	TQ 701 074	Bloomery
177	373	Cross in Hand	TQ 571 211	Bloomery
178	373	Little London	TQ 569 201	Bloomery
179	374	Browndown	TQ 604 198	Bloomery
180	374	Heathfield	TQ 598 187	Furnace
181	377	Woodman's Furnace	TQ 605 175	Furnace
182	378	Steel Forge	TQ 604 169	Forge
183	379	Markly or Rushlake Green	TQ 625 188	Furnace
184	380	Cralle or Cowbeech	TQ 611 151	Furnace
185	380	Cralle or Cowbeech		Forge
186	380	Grove Hill, Hellingly	TQ 603 145	Bloomery
187	381	Waldron	TQ 565 179	Furnace
188	382	Scallow Bridge	TQ 538 176	Bloomery
189	383	Knowle Wood	TQ 567 165	Bloomery
190	383	Marle Green, Hore Beech	TQ 586 167	Bloomery
191	383	Cindergill (Maygarland)	TQ 574 159	Bloomery
192	384	Stream Furnace, Chiddingly	TQ 555 156	Furnace
193	384	Stream Furnace, Chiddingly		Forge
194	386	Streele Farm (Twitts)	TQ 557 270	Bloomery
195	387	Limney Farm	TQ 559 275	Bloomery
196	387	Huggetts Furnace	TQ 531 260	Furnace
197	388	Little Forge	TQ 513 259	Forge
198	389	Morphews	TQ 508 254	Bloomery
199	389	Howbourne	TQ 514 250	Forge
200	390	Howbourne	TQ 517 249	Bloomery
201	390	Iron Plat, Buxted	TQ 499 242	Furnace
202	391	Spood Farm	TQ 540 223	Bloomery
203	391	Pounsley	TQ 526 218	Furnace
204	392	Tickerage	TQ 515 211	Furnace
205	392	Tickerage		Forge
206	392	Little Streele	TQ 503 214	Bloomery
207	393	Framfield	TQ 499 206	Bloomery
208	393	New Place, Framfield	TQ 508 194	Furnace
209	394	Oldlands	TQ 476 271	Furnace
210	395	Oldlands	TQ 475 275	Bloomery
211	397	Hendall	TQ 471 258	Furnace
212	398	Boring Wheel Mill	TQ 456 264	Boring Mill
213	398	Old Forge (Marshalls)	TQ 458 257	Furnace
214	398	Old Forge (Marshalls)		Forge
215	400	Lower Marshalls	TQ 451 239	Forge
216	400	Maresfield Powder Mills	TQ 460 227	Furnace
217	400	Maresfield Powder Mills		Forge
218	404	Slaugham	TQ 249 280	Furnace
219	404	Blackfold	TQ 274 294	Furnace
220	405	Holmsted, Gaston's Bridge	TQ 283 274	Forge
221	407	Strudgate	TQ 329 323	Furnace
222	408	Chittingly Manor Farm	TQ 346 318	Furnace
223	408	Ardingly	TQ 332 290	Forge
224	409	Cinderhill, Horsted Keynes	TQ 380 333	Bloomery
225	410	Horsted Keynes	TQ 377 284	Furnace
226	411	Freshfield	TQ 386 246	Forge
227	412	Sheffield	TQ 415 257	Furnace
228	412	Sheffield	TQ 404 238	Forge

Serial	Straker	Site Name	N.G.R.	Apparent Function
229	415	Fletching	TQ 424 229	Forge
230	416	Cuckfield	TQ 304 230	Furnace
231	416	Cuckfield	TQ 300 235	Forge
232	417	Gosden	TQ 229 251	Furnace
233	418	Knepp	TQ 164 211	Furnace
234	418	Shipley	TQ 148 208	Forge
235	420	Imbhams	SU 931 329	Furnace
236	421	West End	SU 939 344	Furnace
237	412	Burningfold	TQ 004 338	Furnace
238	422	Burningfold		Forge
239	423	Ebernoe	SU 975 277	Furnace
240	423	Roundwick	SU 992 287	Furnace
241	424	Barkfold	TQ 029 269	Furnace
242	425	Barkfold	TQ 029 259	Forge.
243	425	Pallingham	TQ 035 212	Furnace
244	426	North Park, Fernhurst	SU 878 283	Furnace
245	428	Frith	SU 955 309	Furnace
246	429	Shillinglee	SU 971 308	Furnace
247	429	Mitchellpark Farm	SU 976 297	Forge
248	430	Chithurst	SU 846 235	Forge
249	430	Burton	SU 979 180	Forge
250	431	Lurgashall	SU 941 263	Bloomery
251	432	Rogate	SU 803 225	Forge
252	433	St. Leonards	TQ 211 293	Furnace & Forge
253	433	St. Leonards	TQ 219 289	Forge
254	441	Warnham	TQ 168 323	Furnace
255	442	Roffey	TQ 204 334	Bloomery
256	443	Dedisham, Rudgwick	TQ 107 333	Furnace
257	443	Dedisham, Rudgwick	TQ 105 329	Forge
258	445	Abinger Hammer (Shere)	TQ 098 473	Forge
259	446	Vachery	TQ 062 369	Forge
260	447	Horsebane Hammer, Thursley	SU 915 401	Forge
261	447	Horsebane Hammer, Thursley		Furnace
262	448	Shottermill	SU 888 325	Forge
263	449	Rophole	SU 875 327	Forge
264	450	Stanford	SU 816 349	Furnace
265	450	Stanford		Forge
266	451	Ewood	TQ 200 446	Furnace
267	455	Leigh	TQ 222 461	Forge
268	456	Cinderfield, Horley	TQ 275 451	Bloomery
269	457	South Park, Blechingley	TQ 333 481	Bloomery
270	458	Stumbleholm	TQ 231 371	Bloomery
271	458	Bewbush	TQ 239 356	Furnace
272	460	Ifield Mill	TQ 245 364	Forge
273	460	Worth Forest	TQ 290 335	Furnace
274	465	Tilgate	TQ 284 355	Furnace
275	466	Blackwater Green	TQ 291 362	Forge
276	467	Rowfant Mill	TQ 316 373	Forge
277	468	Tinsley	TQ 292 396	Forge
278	468	Cindery Seventeen	TQ 272 384	Bloomery

Bloomeries (from O.S. cards, not recorded by Straker)

279	Banstead	TQ 236 537
280	Thundersfield	TQ 300 425
281	Sheffield Green	TQ 405 241
282	Little Horstead	TQ 447 179
283	Colman's Hatch	TQ 459 336
284	Streater's Farm	TQ 468 284
285	Blacknest-Tollwood, Jarvis Brook	TQ 527 300
286	Brickhurst	TQ 589 277
287	Stonegate	TQ 667 275
288	Hazards Green	TQ 680 124
289	Cindery Field, Benenden	TQ 775 329
290	Coghurst	TQ 839 136
291	Newman's Farm	TQ 860 195
292	Verdley Wood, Fernhurst indet, slag	SU 90 x 26 x
293	Petworth undefined	SU 980 220
294	Wassell Forge, Kirdford	SU 981 281
295	Plaistow, slag, undefined	TQ 027 319
296	Stomlet Furnace, Maresfield	TQ 40x 30x
297	Newick Wood, Heathfield	TQ 599 235
298	Westfield (cinder)	TQ 782 166
299	Crowhurst, Brake Coppice Forge	TQ 770 128
300	Coneyhurst Gill, Cranleigh/Ewhurst, Pondbay for ? Furnace	TQ 082 403
301	Coneyhurst Gill, Cranleigh/Ewhurst, Pondbay ? Forge	TQ 083 404
302	Friday St. Wotton Forge	TQ 128 457
	Pondbay	TQ 127 451
303	Frillinghurst Wood Pondbay	SU 932 341
304	Prinkham Farm, Cowden, Forge	TQ 494 408

Wealden Iron Research Group: Aims and Objectives

The Wealden Iron Research Group has been set up in order to promote further research into the history of the iron industry of the Weald of Kent and Sussex. The ultimate intention is to publish a survey and history of the industry.

The following notes have been prepared, following the inaugural meeting, held at Brighton on 20 April 1968, which was attended by about 70 people.

A research programme has been set up, covering a ten-year period. The programme includes the following work:

1. Surveying of known sites
2. Exploration to find new sites
3. Records searching
4. Selected excavation.

1. Surveying of known sites

The main source is “Wealden Iron” by Ernest Straker (published 1931 reprinted 1967), with additional information available in county archaeological journals, etc. Most of these sites have been visited in recent years by the Archaeological Division of the Ordnance Survey, whose records are being made available to the Group.

It is proposed that every site should be visited by a member of the Group, who will be provided with such details of the site as are available. Members will be asked to complete a questionnaire relating to the site, which will be sent to one of the Joint Conveners in order that the relevant information may be entered on the central punched-card records. It is hoped that specimens of slag, pottery, etc. will be collected to assist interpretation. The Joint Conveners will be able, on the basis of the reports and specimens, to advise local groups on further work and investigation that may be required.

A central equipment store will be maintained in Wadhurst, including surveying material (levels, tapes, resistivity meter, etc.). This will be available to local sections who wish to carry out more extensive surveys.

2. Exploration

Local sections will be responsible for systematic exploration in their areas. Evidence from place and field names should be followed up; here the comments of local farmers will be very valuable, since they will have observed slag, charcoal, etc., when ploughing.

Indirect evidence from concentrations of ore pits, hammer ponds, bays, sections of Roman road metalled with iron slag, etc., is worthy of study; it may often indicate the location of a hitherto unknown site. The beds of small wealden rivers also repay exploration; many of the earlier sites appear to have been built near these rivers, as a source of water, and rubbish was often tipped into them. They also probably represent the routes taken by early ore prospectors.

Building and agricultural operations should be observed, since these frequently yield evidence that may be available for only a limited period. Particular attention should be paid to advance information of threats to sites so that rescue excavations may be organized in co-operation with the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

3. Records searching

Those members whose interest lies more in the field of local history and records than in field work can render very valuable help by studying records in public libraries, the County Record Offices at Maidstone, Lewes, and Chichester, and elsewhere. It is hoped that they will become associated with local sections and direct their studies to a particular area. Fruitful sources of information are Tithe Awards, and wills, conveyances, etc., in family estate papers.

4. Excavation

The Roman site at Bardown (Wadhurst) and the 16th century furnace at Panningridge (Robertsbridge) have been in the course of excavation for several years, and these excavations will continue. The Group has been invited by the Ministry of Public Building and Works to undertake the rescue excavation of a post-medieval site that is to disappear as a result of the Bewl Valley reservoir scheme.

In addition, it is planned to carry out selective excavation of at least two more sites as part of the ten-year programme. These will probably be at one or the coastal Roman sites and at a medieval unpowered bloomery. The choice of suitable sites will be facilitated by the field survey.

Details of excavations will be circulated to all members of the Group. It is hoped that members will be able to take part in these excavations and to assist in obtaining volunteer diggers. Training in excavation and surveying techniques and the identification of materials and structures associated with ironworking will be offered at these excavations.

Organization

The Joint Conveners of the Group are Mr H.F. Cleere, FSA, and Mr D.W. Crossley, who will be responsible for the prehistoric and Roman periods and the medieval and post-medieval periods respectively.

Their addresses are:

H.F. Cleere — The Iron and Steel Institute, 4, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.l.

D.W. Crossley, Department of Economic History, The University, Sheffield, S1O 2TN.

The official address of the Group is 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1. (telephone 01-730 0061). Mr Cleere can be contacted at weekends at Little Bardown, Stonegate, Wadhurst, Sussex (telephone Ticehurst 420), which will be the location of the equipment store.

Mr D.S. Butler, 63, Mackie Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex, covers liaison with the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Study Group.

Local Sections

The following have agreed to act as conveners of local sections:

Ardingly	C.F.R. Potter, Esq., Mertens House, Ardingly College,, Haywards Heath, Sussex.
Battle	G. Brodribb, Esq., Hydneye House, Baldslow, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.
Cranbrook	Mrs M.C. Lebon, Limes, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent.
Dallington	Mrs J. Stiles, Herrings, Dallington, Heathfield, Sussex.
Edenbridge	B.M. Steel, Esq., 32, Ridgeway, Edenbridge, Kent.
Heathfield	J. Pettitt, Esq., 42, Silverdale Road, Earley, Reading, Berks.
Petworth	P.J. Ovenden, Esq., Department of Chemistry, University of Southampton, Hants.
Robertsbridge	D. Martin, Esq.,* 16, Langham Road, Robertsbridge, Sussex.
Surrey	J. Docherty, Esq., Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey.
Wadhurst,	H.F. Cleere, Esq., Little Bardown, Stonegate, Wadhurst, Sussex.

Members are requested to contact the nearest local organizer for further information about activities in their area. It is recognized that the whole of the Weald is not covered by these sections, and it is hoped that those who feel that their own areas are not adequately covered will initiate local activities.

It should be emphasized that the Wealden Iron Research Group is a co-operative effort, and its success or otherwise depends on the enthusiasm and skill of the local sections. The Joint Conveners can offer specialized knowledge and advice, and will undertake the assembly and analysis of the data, but the work to be carried out (and any publication that may result from it) will be the Group's corporate responsibility and its memorial.

It is recognised that some of the local sections and individuals are already in the course of carrying out local surveys, which are of interest to the Group. It is hoped that those responsible will not feel inhibited from publishing these independently and in advance of the Group's major report; the publication of such studies could only benefit the Group by arousing interest in its activities.

A Newsletter reporting progress will be sent to all members twice yearly. This will summarize results obtained from field surveys and excavations.

The Group will meet as a whole at least once and possibly twice yearly, when local sections will be asked to report progress and there will be opportunities for exchange of information and experience.

Opportunities for training in excavation techniques will be offered to members at the Bardown and Panningridge excavations, details will be circulated in the Newsletter. Training courses in field surveying and the use of specialized equipment will also be arranged from time to time.

H.F.C. D.W.C.

Draft Site Questionnaire

In order that information may be easily recoverable from the Group's records, it seems desirable to have site notes presented in a certain order. Below is suggested a scheme which covers most needs. There will obviously be sites for which more or less information is available, but if the general sequence could be adhered to, entry on master cards would be eased.

The conveners and local group secretaries have a supply of questionnaire blanks, based on this scheme.

1. Field-work

A Site (accepted name, derived from Straker or other source — state which)
National Grid Reference

B Accessibility

C Owner (and tenant, if let)

D Main Features visible on the ground (state particularly if these differ from published descriptions)

E Are there any contemporary houses in the vicinity?

F Has the site been re-used (e.g. corn mill)?

G Surface finds
- Iron
- Ore
- Slags/Cinders (what type? If sampled, where kept)
- Pottery
- Other

H Has any excavation (published or unpublished) ever taken place?

I Is the site threatened in any way

J Relevant place-names (fields, woods, etc.) in the area

K Other relevant information.

2. Documentary

A Bibliography:
Published references to documentary sources:

B Do you know of anyone who has worked on such sources?

C Was the site ever part of a large estate?
Are archives from such an estate deposited accessibly?
What dates do they cover?

D Do Parish Registers survive for the locality? (Do they refer to occupations?)

E Have collections of Wills for the area (a) been published
(b) been collected
at the appropriate County Record Office?

F Are Views of Frankpledge preserved at the appropriate County Record Office?

G Persons known to have owned, leased or worked the site (with dates and maximum details).

H Supplementary Information

Weald Iron Sites

Master serial number list

In order to facilitate recording, the following list of site numbers has been drawn up (refer to pages 13-18). The first 278 are taken, in order, from Straker, and the remainder come from Ordnance Survey records. More will be added as found, and annual or more frequent supplements circulated.

Where Straker suggested that a site might have had a dual function two serial numbers have been allocated.

The grid references are suggested positions, derived largely from the field cards of the Ordnance Survey's Archaeology Division. However, not all sites have yet been covered in this way, and underlined references are derived only from Straker's maps and Latitude/Longitude references. Thus while all sites' locations need verification the latter group are in particular need of identification; with some there will be little difficulty, but particularly with small bloomeries care may be needed to identify what Straker actually saw, avoiding confusion with cinder patches revealed by the deeper ploughing practiced since his explorations.

The verification of references is thus important, and it would be helpful if this could be done as soon as convenient, perhaps as the weather improves over the early summer.

Excavations: Summer 1969

Work will continue at the 16th and 17th century sites at Chingley (Lamberhurst) and Panningridge (Dallington). Help is urgently needed.

CHINGLEY Rescue excavation at a late-16th-century blast furnace and 17th-century forge both threatened by the Bewl Reservoir scheme.

Work will continue from July 17th until August 11th: addresses of local accommodation are available, and subsidies towards expenses can be made(£1 per day for those staying, and transport costs for occasional volunteers).

Location: TQ 682 336 (O.S. 1" map: Eastbourne); reached via Bewl Bridge Lane (Cousley Wood-Bewl Bridge), not via Chingley or Chingley Manor.

PANNINGRIDGE The site of the blast furnace built in 1542 by Sir William Sidney is now threatened by a drainage scheme, and the urgency of work has increased. It is hoped to explore the wheel-pit and bellows area, between August 16th and September 6th.

Location: TQ 687 175, reached via Lakehurst Lane, from the Woods Corner-Ponts Green-Ashburnham road.

The following may be found useful:

R.F. Tylecote, Metallurgy in Archaeology, 1962, pp.300-7
H.R. Schubert, History of the British Iron and Steel Industry to 1775, 1957, pp.157 sq.
E. Straker, Wealden Iron, 1931 (repr. 1967)
D.W. Crossley, "The Management of a 16th-century Ironworks", Econ.Hist.Review **XIX** (1967) pp.273-288.

If you are interested in helping, or can pass this information to any person or school group who might be able to assist, please write, giving details of the suitable dates, to me at the Department of Economic History, The University, Sheffield, S10 2TN.

Relationships with Other Bodies

The Group is associated with several other organizations. Mr Cleere represents the Group on the Research Committee of the Sussex Archaeological Society (Research Committee No. 11b of the Council for British Archaeology).

The Group is also a member of the Kent Archaeological Research Groups' Council (KARGC). This Council publishes a quarterly Kent Archaeological Review, and copies of the last two issues (February and May 1969) may be obtained from Mr Cleere at The Iron and Steel Institute, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, price. 2/- each, plus 1/- postage.

The Sussex Industrial Archaeology Study Group is a very active group, with whom the Wealden Iron Research Group has established good contacts. It has been agreed that the Industrial Archaeology Study Group should pass over to the Wealden Iron Research Group details of any remains connected with ironmaking and ironworking for its records, and it is hoped that members of the latter will report to the industrial archaeologists any non-ironmaking finds that it has. Mr David Butler of 63 Mackie Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex, is a member of both groups, and will be acting as liaison: any non-ironmaking finds should be reported to him for transmission to the Industrial Archaeology Study Group.

The Sussex Industrial Archaeology Study Group is proposing to publish a new journal, to be known as "Sussex Industrial History": the first issue will be appearing in the spring of 1970. Further details may be obtained from John Farrant, Arts Building, The University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN.

Exhibition at Bateman's

An exhibition entitled "The Wealden Ironmasters" has been mounted at Bateman's, Burwash, the former' home of Rudyard Kipling, now the property of The National Trust. This is a survey of the industry from Roman times until the decline of the industry in the seventeenth century, and is illustrated with maps, photographs, arid objects found on wealden sites. Members are encouraged to pay a visit to the exhibition which gives a very graphic, if concise, picture of the industry in its heyday.

It is intended to hold a meeting of the Group at Bateman's during the year, at which the Joint conveners will have an opportunity to report the considerable progress that has been made since the Group was set up. This will be phased to coincide if possible with one or more of the excavations being organized this summer. Further details will be sent out to members in due course.