



WEALDEN IRON RESEARCH GROUP DATABASE



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Found 1 results

Site Name:	Forge Wood	OS Reference:	TQ 6508 2101
Parish:	Brightling	Former Parish:	
Hundred:		District:	Rother
County:	East Sussex	River Basin:	Rother
Site Type:	Bloomery	Period:	Roman, Iron Age
Century:	01	Geology:	Ashdown Beds
Geology notes:			
Earliest Date:	0	Latest Date:	0
Dating evidence:	Six sherds from an everted rim cooking pot; East Sussex ware; late Iron Age to c70-100AD		
Site Description:	The site was situated some way up the east bank of the valley associated with Glazier's Forge pond and on a slight mound, probably artificially produced by a shallow hollow way to the east and the build-up of slag and furnace debris during smelting. There was negligible slag in the hollow way, suggesting that it had developed since the furnace was abandoned.		
Scheduled Monument Number:		HER Reference:	MES21615
Bay Height (m.):		Bay Length (m.):	
Classis Britannica tiles:	No	Samian pottery:	No
Cylindrical slag plugs:	No	Two-finery forge:	No
Excavation?:	Yes		
Excavation Details:	<p>A 3.4m x 1.25m trench was marked-out on the west side of the mound; the longer dimension was aligned approximately N-S. The maximum detector signal strength occurred on top of the mound where a large piece of a bloomery furnace shaft was found. However, slag could be found well down the bank on the west side of the mound, as would be expected. The slag signal cut-off sharply to the north and south; this is unusual as slag is normally spread around, presumably by animals and humans just moving around. The absence of slag to the east is assumed to be due to the later wearing away of the hollow way. Finds from the trench included typical slag that would have been tapped from a Roman shaft furnace, invariably appearing as a planar, dense and smooth slag, occasionally almost shiny and not aerated, although some having a large pocket of air. There were no pieces of this slag having closely-spaced wrinkles. Several pieces of charcoal were recovered from the trench directly W of the furnace structure and well down in the slag.</p> <p>As the trench was being cleared, the sub-soil became visible, showing that it inclined up towards the furnace structure and roughly followed the inclination of the valley-side.</p> <p>The depth of top-soil was measured at 400mm, this seemed deeper than usual, however, it did contain slag and much furnace material.</p> <p>Finds on the top of the mound</p> <p>Two pieces of "rat tailed" runs of slag were noted; these are usually associated with the molten slag flowing directly down from the bloom when still within the furnace and have been seen on several occasions. The size of the rat tails is variable but 6 to 7mm is an average diameter. They are triangular in section having approximate dimensions of 18cm, 16cm and 13cm across the flats and 20cm high.</p> <p>Another surface find was part of a furnace shaft having a height of 24cm and width of 34cm. Unique features of this find are the three distinct layers of slag, although of variable thicknesses, 1.1cm, 0.6cm and 1.6cm, starting at the inside. It would appear that these are not three relinings, but separate deposits of molten slag one</p>		

upon another. A thin layer of furnace lining remains on the outside.

**Description of site
vegetation:**

**Slag Heap Area
(m. sq) :** 300

**Slag heap grade
(Hodgkinson
1999):**

**Persons Involved
in Discovery:** A. Callow & G. Price

**Lab Analysis
Details:** No

**View Lab Analysis
Details:**

References: **Hodgkinson, J. S.** (2007) Field Notes. Wealden Iron, Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group. 2nd series, 27. pp. 3-5
(for this site see page(s) 4-5)

**Persons with
known
connections to
this site:**

Images:
