

Fieldwork issue

Industrial archaeology can be all things to all people but if you are on the organising end of it you will find, in common with almost every other pursuit, sport or pastime, that for every hundred followers there will be 10-15% who take part regularly, and 5-6% who are prepared to work, which is sad but seemingly inevitable. With an aspect of history however, continuity will only be maintained by research and recording. Coach trips, excursions, annual dinners and winter lecture series, of course have their place, but they are peripheral compared with those corner-stones of the discipline, research and recording.

In this issue of the *Bulletin* we take a brief look at how IA tackles these subjects, starting with Stephen Hughes's comment on those aspects of organised AIA recording which result in official recognition and following with examples of MSC supported schemes and those which have been sustained over long periods of time by pure dedication.

The Association for Industrial Archaeology's Fieldwork Awards for 1986.

This was the first year of these awards and the response has been encouraging with ten entries submitted. There was however a notable absence of entries from members of local IA societies. The judges were Keith Falconer, Michael Lewis, Amber Patrick, John Stengelhofen and Stephen Hughes, and they were unanimous in their choice of winners in both the amateur and professional categories.

The winner of the professional award was archaeologist David

Cranstone for overseeing *The Moira Furnace: A Napoleonic Blast Furnace in Leicestershire*, published by the North West Leicestershire District Council in 1985. This report, is notable on several counts. It is most emphatically not a 'dry' excavation report, it faithfully records the standing and underground remains and these are firmly placed in an historical context. The detailed archaeological recording is part of a competent, confident and easily read account in which the structural remains are 'read', for their historical meaning in an extensive interpretative discussion. Dr Marilyn Palmer's historical investigations complements the archaeological sources; and is accompanied by 1837 and 1844 inventories, included as appendices. Other technical specialists have been consulted and the monument is presented in its national context.

David Cranstone, as an informed 'digging' archaeologist specialising in industrial monuments, is helping to establish competent industrial

work alongside the accepted facets of traditional archaeology. The local council should be commended for their initiative in this publication.

The winner of the amateur award was Julian Temple for his *Industrial Archaeology of Aviation in Shropshire*, an unpublished Ironbridge Institute Diploma Dissertation. A polished and well written study in an unusual area of IA which proved to be compelling reading. It is a well-informed general introduction to the subject of aeronautical ground archaeology as opposed to other amateur, and indeed professional, entries where monuments have been examined in isolation without regard for their relative importance. The work was conceived to examine and report on surviving airfield remains and to make recommendations for their future preservation. Original plans survive for many of the structures but a few were 'one-off' designs and the overall distribution of types has been investigated and special structures individually



Moira furnace prior to restoration

surveyed. The gazetter of sites highlights those most worthy of attention.

The remaining entries for the awards all had some points to commend them. They included *The Glass Holes of Spaunton Moor* by John Hemingway and Raymond Hayes, a model report of a fieldwork project carried out in logical steps with clear conclusions. This was the runner-up in the amateur category. Runner-up in the professional class was the *Archaeological Survey and Excavation at Wheal Prosper Tin Stamps, Lanivet, Cornwall,*

Gerrard and Adam Sharpe of the Cornwall Archaeological Unit. This followed Scheduled Monument Consent being given for the removal of these stamps to the Geevor Museum. It was a rescue project suffering from lack of time and manpower in the field as well as lack of time for archival and oral research. However, it was important as a controlled dig on a metal working site with the extreme rarity of stamps in situ.

Another entry from the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, *Pawton Mill, St Breock*, by R Radcliffe and J R Smith, was also hampered by lack of time and resources for archival research but was a good survey, well presented. One of the few MSC sponsored entries was the **Macclesfield Mill Survey** which covered 81 sites and was carried out for the **Macclesfield Sunday School Heritage Centre Silk Museum.**

Other entries in the amateur category, all but one of which were from full time students, included *The Shropshire Canal-Brierley Hill Terminus* by John Moore and *The Deepmoor and Cannock Watermills* by John Wilkinson. A published MA Dissertation from Laurence Ince on *The Neath Abbey Iron Company* was judged as a good business history but with the industrial archaeology section, essentially an introduction to the site. Helen Dewey's *A Study of a 19th Century Water System near Corfe Castle* describes a remarkable private waterworks system on the Dorset Cliffs.

Information sheets on the **1987 AIA Recording Awards** may be obtained from Stephen Hughes, RCAM Wales, Edleston House, Queens Road, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 2HP (0970 4381) to whom entries should also be sent by the end of the year.

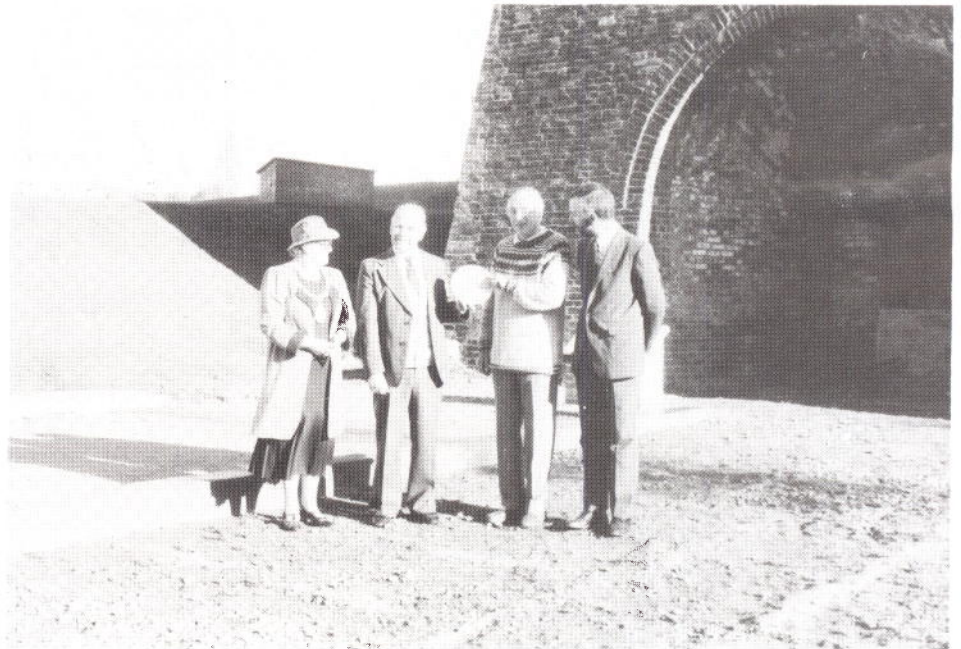
Three Awards for Moira Furnace.

Moira Furnace in Leicestershire will be well known to many members of AIA. It was built between 1804 and 1806 in conjunction with the opening of the Ashby Canal and was intended to exploit local coal and nodular ironstone. Its promoter was Francis Rawdon Hastings, second Earl of Moira, who was deeply in



Above David Cranstone after receiving his award from Dr Angus Buchanan, (left) with Councillor Mrs Smith, Chairman of NWLDC and members of the Moira team. Stephen Hughes is second from the right.

Below Brian Waring receiving his President's Award from Bill Thompson's. Also in the picture are Councillor Smith and Tim Schadla-Hall, Deputy Director of Leicestershire Museum.



debt and hoped to recoup his fortunes by means of his collieries and ironworks as so many of his contemporaries had done. He was unlucky in this, because his coal was good domestic rather than coking coal and the ironstone was very poor. The furnace was in blast twice, from July 1806 to May 1807 and from June 1810 to January 1811. It was probably used once more, since it was not blown out correctly, but was already regarded as redundant by 1816. During the nineteenth century its blowing and casting arches served as coal stores for adjacent cottages built under the charging bridge, and consequently it survived in a remarkably intact state.

In the mid-1970s it came under threat because of the possibility of coal mining beneath the furnace, and the Leicestershire Industrial History Society carried out survey and excavation work as well as documentary research. They kept a watching brief on it until in 1981 North-West Leicestershire District Council acquired this site and proceeded to restore the furnace with the aid of an MSC scheme. It was opened to the public in May 1985 and is now in the care of a very active local group, the Friends of Moira Furnace.

David Cranstone was appointed as site archaeologist in 1984 and carried out excavation work in the casting house area and around the

blowing arches. His work has been written up in a very detailed report published by the District Council in 1985 entitled *The Moira Furnace: a Napoleonic Blast Furnace* in Leicestershire. This was submitted for consideration for the professional section in the first AIA Fieldwork and Recording Award and was awarded first prize. It is a very careful excavation report which attempts to interpret the site in both archaeological and historical terms. David was presented with his certificate in a ceremony at the Furnace during the September 1986 AIA Conference held in Loughborough.

Bill Thompson, the immediate past President of AIA, instituted the President's Award and decided in 1986 to present this to Moira Furnace. He was impressed both by the standard of interpretation on the site and by the enthusiasm and dedication of the Friends of Moira Furnace. This was their second award. The third was as runner up in the Heritage in Britain section of the British Archaeological Awards: the presentations were made at the British Museum in November 1986.

It is good to see a project sponsored by a District Council achieving such awards. North-West Leicestershire District Council are to be congratulated on their foresight in acquiring the site, in appointing an archaeological team to excavate as well as to restore the furnace and in publishing David Cranstone's work. They have also co-operated with Leicestershire Museums, who were responsible for much of the site interpretation, and with the local group who now organise the opening of the furnace during weekends in the summer. Moira Furnace is an excellent example of co-operation between a number of organisations and individuals with the purpose of conserving an important archaeological monument.

Marilyn Palmer

AIA President Marilyn Palmer with more reasons than most to be concerned with the continuation of research and recording, being professionally employed as an historian, has recently written to all affiliated societies to find out how things were going. Of necessity the replies .. and there were twenty-six of them ... have been condensed to a few lines, but they make interesting and thought-provoking reading.

Gloucestershire Industrial Archaeological Society (Amber Patrick). Malthouse, Wightfield Manor Farm, Deerhurst.

Surrey Industrial History Group (Alan Crocker) Recording at several levels: (i) IA guides to areas (ii) detailed guides to individual sites e.g. Chilworth gunpowder site (iii) Recording important items of machinery such as the Fourneyron turbine (iv) encouraging artists to draw important items (v) photographs, but a problem of storing and classifying slides and negatives.

Black Country Society IA Group (Ron Moss). Where recording IA really began! Much has been on a rescue basis, particularly the records of the chainmaking industry. More recently, an in-depth survey of the 'Cannon' factory at Deepfields, Cosely.

Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society (Tim Clarke). Find it difficult to organise co-operative effort in recording, although much individual work which is published in *BIAS Journal*. Have listed local lime kilns and sites where copper slag blocks used in building.

Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society (Ron Martin). A few dedicated members who undertake recording. Try to record in three phases (i) noting site on standard record sheet with brief description and photograph (ii) amplification with further photographs and some historical research (iii) complete measured survey. Feels that members inclined to neglect (i) and prefer doing (ii) Surveys published in *Journal* e.g recent survey of the tramway remains in Offham Chalk Pit.

Peak District Mines Historical Society (G.M. Rose). Are mapping the surface remains of the White Peak, using standard symbols. Information kept in 250 folders, each covering 2 grid squares and also containing 25" map of area covered. These are available for consultation.

Staffordshire Industrial Archaeological Society (Elaine Crabb). Undertake recording as a group, results being published in their *Journal*: the latest is a detailed survey of Colwich Brickworks.

Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society (Derek Manning). Regard themselves primarily as a recording group. Have sent 220 files for processing to the NMR where they are being transferred on to microfiche. Publish results in a *Journal* and have established close links with the Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

Suffolk Industrial Archaeology Society (Steven Worsley). A young and as yet small group, work has

mostly been confined to rescue surveys prior to demolition. Kersey maltings is the only site recorded which still survives.

South Wiltshire Industrial Archaeology Society (Jean Jackson). Publish a series of historical monographs which contain a variable amount of recording work e.g. the Amesbury Turnpike Trust, Floated Water Meadows in the Salisbury Area.

Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society (Sandy Buchanan). Surveys of individual sites published in *Bulletins* e.g. Stapley Silk Factory, Tengore Lime Kilns. Research evenings bring individuals together.

North Western Society for Industrial Archaeology and History (Bill Cooke) Area surveys of Garston, Princes Dock and South Docks and Edge Hill. Gazetteer of sites published, and surveys published both in *Journal* and leaflets. Individual work also undertaken.

Nottinghamshire Industrial Archaeology Society (Don Morley). Listing of sites in the county in districts. Also measured surveys of buildings, often on a rescue basis e.g. Blenheim Maltings. Several malting surveys carried out, also frameshops. Published in *Society Journal*.

Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (Tim Smith). Despite size of membership, only small number of members will undertake recording. A recording group has been established which undertakes training: recently produced report on Coronet St. Destructor in two forms (1) brief supplement to *GLIAS Newsletter* (2) longer reports to be supplied on request to members of society. "It was felt that by this method we would keep the costs down for the Society as a whole but still produce a detailed account for those interested enough to pay for it". Often rescue surveys in a single morning, and rarely measured drawings. Current problems with *Journal* for publishing results. IA classes undertake more detailed work e.g. Regent's Canal Dock.

Cumbrian Industrial History Society (Rob David). Another very young group, they have already recorded Heversham Brickworks near Kendal.

Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group (Geoffrey Starmer). Detailed photographic surveys and meticulous checking of plans already in existence before survey work undertaken. Farm buildings, mills, footwear factories.

Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal Amenity Group (R. Porter). Survey of structures such as lock houses: MSC team involved recently at Dauntsey.

Northern Mine Research Society (Mike Gill). Surface and underground survey of mine sites: material published in *British Mining* monograph series.

NAMHO (Mike Gill). Has produced guidelines on the surveying of mine workings and the production of underground plans and sections. The present one concentrates on underground features, but a subgroup of the Council is producing a detailed code for recording mine sites at the surface. This is partly to determine criteria for assessment when recommending sites for scheduling, listing or preservation.

Southampton University Industrial Archaeology Group (Pam Moore). Have produced detailed gazetteers of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. In depth surveys undertaken at Brownich Farm, also survey of farm buildings.

Manchester Region IA Society (David George). Photographic records cross-referenced with CBA report cards. More detailed surveys e.g. Peak Forest Canal and Tramway, now deposited in Manchester Urban Studies Centre.

In the preceding examples, after the initial impetus from one or two people, the fuel (and often the funding) followed from the infectious enthusiasm of a local society or group. By definition this meant restricted (if regular) meetings and the ever present problem of shortage of money.

As has been mentioned on previous occasions, the emergence of the Manpower Services Commission, with an ability to divert government money to approved projects, gave a new dimension to preservation and investigative problems and in the vast majority of cases has since proved invaluable. When an MSC scheme combines with funding from an independent source the overall result is, predictably, most impressive, and this is certainly the case with the **Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit** and its associated **Nuffield Foundation Survey**.

At the end of 1986 the IGMU published a sixty page booklet entitled *Archaeology in Ironbridge 1985-6*. It is edited by Michael Trueman, has a Foreword by Barrie Trinder and fifteen separate chapters each concerned with a different aspect of fieldwork, research, and recording, with three appendices and twenty-eight figures

/illustrations. It followed several months after the publication of *Coalbrookdale, The Nuffield Survey First Interim Report*, a two hundred and forty page document, which is in effect a archaeological inventory of the Ironbridge Gorge area.

In order to summarise the aims of IGMU and its associated (but entirely independent) Nuffield project, it is as well to quote from Michael Trueman's Introduction

Before 1981, archaeology in the Gorge was carried out piece-meal by a variety of practitioners. In 1978 the Institute of Industrial Archaeology was initiated as a joint venture between the University of Birmingham and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. The Institute organises research and courses to advance understanding of industrial history and archaeology and provide professional skills for recording, conserving and managing industrial monuments and collections.

In 1981, a Youth Opportunities scheme housed within the Museum was created to carry out archaeological work on Museum sites in advance of Museum development. It was replaced a year later by a Community Programme scheme, the work of which evolved to include the archaeology of the Gorge as a whole. In October 1985 an Historic Buildings Recording Team was created in response to the growing threat to standing structures from the deterioration of abandoned buildings and from modernisation. For administrative purposes the two teams now form one Community Programme scheme. It is this scheme which constitutes the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit.

Part of its brief is to define a methodology for carrying out such surveys. The work of the Unit was instrumental in setting out the need for such a project. All future work in the Gorge will benefit from its results.

The Unit has contributed significantly to the Museum's task of presenting to the public some of the historic monuments of the Industrial Revolution at one of its most influential centres. Its situation within a Museum and carrying out work which is almost entirely in a Post-Medieval, industrial context is virtually unique.

This report has a number of aims. It is intended to help team members obtain an overall view of the work in which they are involved. In doing this we hope to contribute a measure of continuity in the face of the rapid change-over of staff from which MSC teams suffer. It is also part of the Unit's formal presentation of results to the Museum, to the public and to other archaeologists. The report is not intended to be a vehicle for detailed accounts of the Unit's work, nor is it a substitute for them. It briefly summarizes work for the past year and points interested readers to more detailed reports and archives.

Michael Trueman

Both volumes are a credit to everyone concerned, our example of the illustrative material showing the kind of results obtained.

Both publications are available for consultation in the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Library and copies of the IGMU report may be obtained from The Senior Supervisor, The

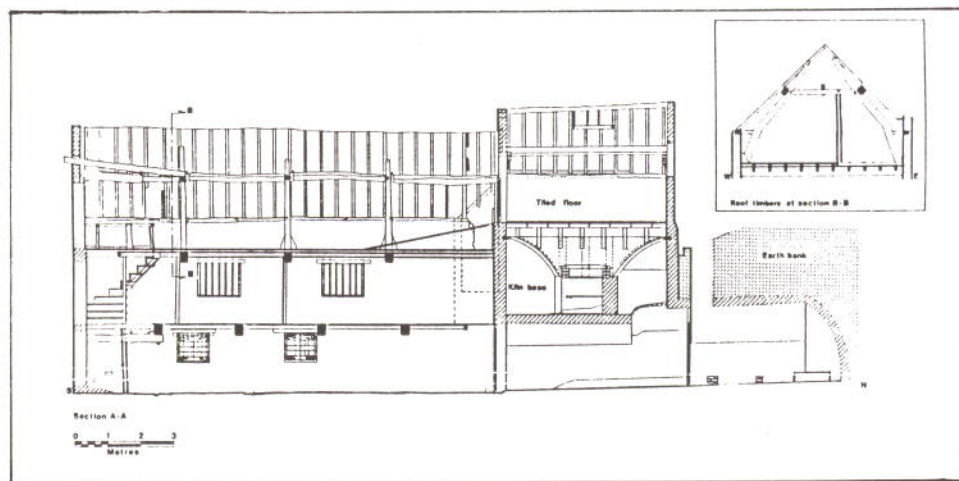


Fig 18 The Swan Inn, Ironbridge (IB86A). Main section through the malthouse and detail of the roof structure. (PY) (AJ, PY)

An important, independent project was begun in 1985 when the Nuffield Foundation agreed to fund two research fellows for a two-year project to compile an archaeological inventory of the Ironbridge Gorge, recording the results on computer.

Archaeology Unit, The Long Warehouse, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7AW. Above all they show what the combination of amateur enthusiasm, professional expertise and MSC/Nuffield Foundation funding can achieve.