

Photographs For A New Century

Third Edition

INDUSTRY



Registered Charity 1094700

The original photographs in this collection were taken as part of the Gloucestershire 2000 Photographic Archive project. The Society initially decided to photograph 100 'sites and monuments' which had some historic interest so that a record would exist of their nature and condition in the year 2000. The photographers were all volunteers and were given a free hand regarding the photographs that they took subject to the above general principle. The range of photographs taken varied from monuments which were already well recognised for their historic relevance, to items which were not especially significant in themselves but had a particular interest. All the monuments or sites photographed could potentially face at least modifications and at worst threats to their continuing existence over time.. The work was coordinated by Ron Beard and ultimately the volunteers produced more than 250 photographs, from which those you can see in this document were chosen.

The intention at the time was to revisit the selected sites at ten-year intervals and take new photographs. Accordingly, this was done in 2010 (second edition), and for this **third edition** in the period 2019 – 2024. The collection now provides a record of any changes that have occurred over the last twenty years and provides a valuable insight into how historic sites of interest in the Dean area are valued and cared for. Unfortunately, for the second and third editions some of those who took the original photographs are no longer with us, so new volunteers were recruited. All are acknowledged underneath their photographs.

The photographs are presented in themed collections, namely Mines & Quarries, Transport, Industry, Agriculture & Forestry, Religion and Other Buildings & Monuments. A complete index to the collection is also available.

You can browse through this document, or each individual site can be accessed via the index below.

Contents

Bilson Gas Works	3
Bright's Corn Mill, Cinderford Bridge	5
Bromley Hill Furnace	7
Cannop Stone Works	9
'Cast House', Cullamore Bridge	11
Cinderford Iron Works Site	13
Darkhill	15
Dean Heritage Centre	17
Drummer Boy Stone	19
Furnace Slag	21
Furnace Workers' Housing, Cinderford	23
Edge Hills Lime Kilns (Green Bottom)	25
Gunns Mill	27
Lower Lydbrook Viaduct and Forge Site	29
Lydbrook Wire Works Site	31
Mitcheldean Brewery (former)	33
Parkend Iron Works Engine House	35
Tan House Newland	37
Tin Workers Cottages, Lydney	39
Watts Factory, Lydney	41
Whitecliff Furnace	43
Vention Lime Kilns	45

Bilson Gas Works



Bilson Gas Works, Cinderford - The gas works were in operation from 1857 to late 1940s, taken over by Cannop Foundry in 1957. Their name can be found on drain inspection covers throughout the Forest and adjacent regions.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO651140

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South east

Date taken - August 2000



Bilson Gas Works - Only the site remained in 2010, the buildings having been demolished.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010



No change since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken 27th February 2020

Bright's Corn Mill, Cinderford Bridge



Bright's Corn Mill, Cinderford Bridge - Thomas Brace converted this former coal drying mill to a cornmill in 1818/19 worked for many years by George Bright until bankrupted in 1904.

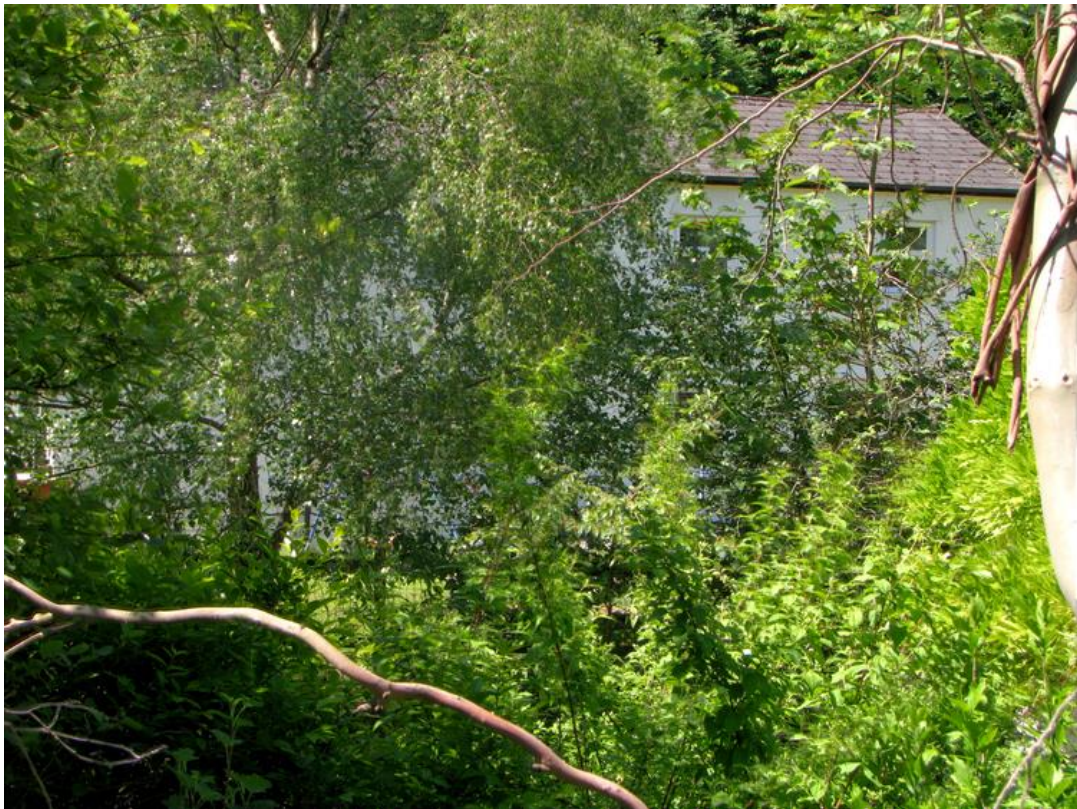
Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO650125

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - West North West

Date taken - July 2000



From this view the building has become almost obscured by foliage.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010



The original view is obscured by vegetation, but this view is virtually the same as the additional view taken in 2010 and shows little change.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 16th September 2021

Bromley Hill Furnace



Bromley Hill (Oakwood) Furnace probably used charcoal mixed with coke for firing. It was operated by the Ebbw Vale Co in the mid nineteenth Century.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO601065

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North West

Date taken - June 2000



The remains still appear a little precarious although not much has changed apart from an increase in vegetation cover.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July2010



Little change apart from increasing vegetation.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13th August 2021

Cannop Stone Works



Cannop Stone Works - Probably in operation for more than 200 years, serves the Bixhead Quarries.
West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO607099
Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - South
Date taken - February 2000



Cannop Stone Works. Since the year 2000 there have been major changes at the Forest of Dean Stone Firms. Considerations of health and safety meant that a great deal of new capital was required to update the works. New owners took over and modifications to buildings and equipment have been made.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - May 2010



The firm are continuing working the Barnhill (Bixhead) quarry and producing finished stonework.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 25th November 2021

'Cast House', Cullamore Bridge



The 'Cast House' Cullamore Bridge - Various used as a foundry, a colour mill (processing ochre from Buckshaft iron mine) and as stables for Lightmoor Colliery.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO650119

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South East

Date taken - July 2000



The 'Cast House'. The character of the building has been retained and the site is much tidier.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - November 2010



The nature of the building has been maintained with some change of use.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 26th January 2023

Cinderford Iron Works Site



Cinderford Iron Works site and former workers' housing - Crawshay's iron works, whose site is to the left of the photograph closed in 1894. Green space to left of foreground house is site of Whitechapel Row, originally stables for iron work's horses.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO690134

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South East

Date taken - May 2000



The view is largely unchanged although taken from a closer distance to avoid being obscured by shrub and tree growth.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



By 2022, some building works. Changed due to vegetation growth.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 14th April 2022

Darkhill



Darkhill opening ceremony - Rob Guest, Jan Wills and Keith Webb at the opening ceremony for the Darkhill site and unveiling of the monument, 2 September 1999

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO590088

View direction - North East

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - September 1999

From this viewpoint the site has become largely hidden by vegetation

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - December 2009





The views show that care has been taken to keep the site clear.

Photographer – R . Beard

Date taken – 23rd February 2023



Dean Heritage Centre



Dean Heritage Centre - At Camp Mill was a King's forge until 1673, rebuilt as a foundry by Samuel Hewlett in early 19th century. Present building erected in 1876 as a corn mill, subsequently leatherboard mill, saw mill and scrap yard until bought in 1981 by Dean Heritage Museum Trust.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO664106

Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - East

Date taken - January 2000



Ten years on the site is tidier but basically unchanged from this viewpoint.

Photographer - J Orr

Date taken - March 2010

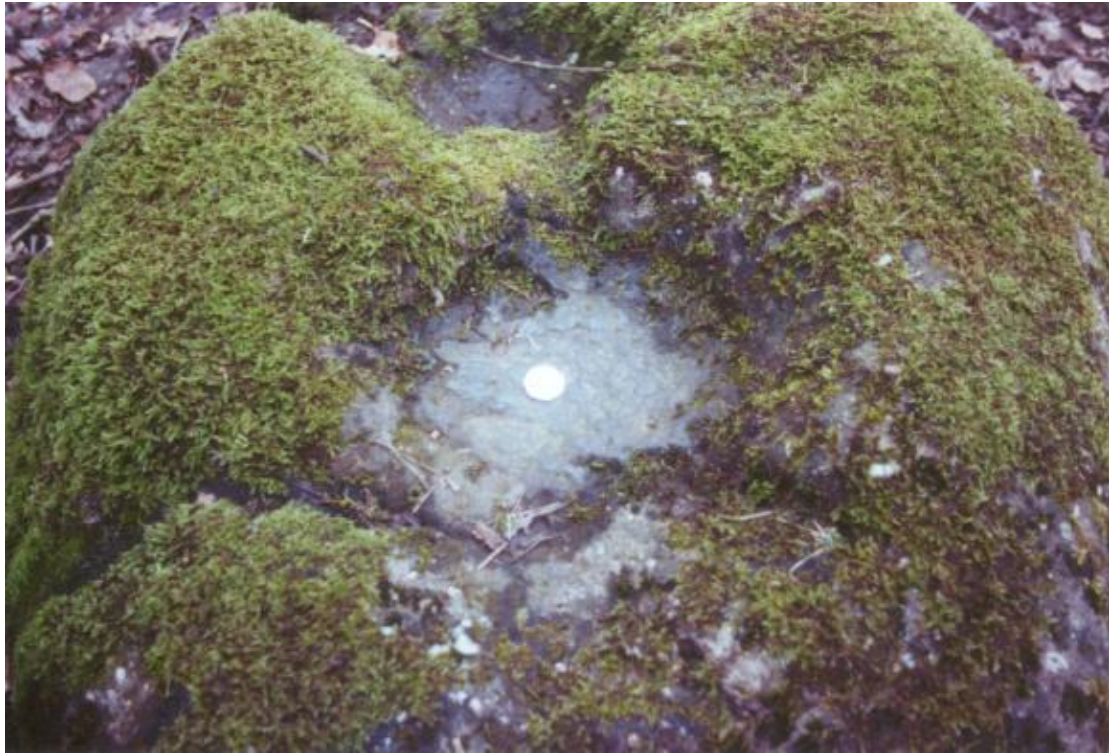


The 2022 photograph shows the extension and improvements since the previous views.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 7th February 2022

Drummer Boy Stone



Drummer Boy Stone - The hollow in this stone is lined with iron slag and may have been used as a receptacle into which to pour molten iron.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO655090

Photographer - B Rye

View direction - South

Date taken - March 2000



Taken from a different angle but shows little change.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - October 2010



Still clearly visible in 2022, needs to be checked occasionally.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 25th February 2022

Furnace Slag



Furnace slag from Cinderford Iron Works.
Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO651131
Photographer - R Beard

View Direction - East
Date taken - May 2000



Still recognisable, although somewhat overgrown.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010



The original sample is obscured by vegetation, but the example (above) is clear.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 27th February 2020

Furnace Workers' Housing, Cinderford



This row of houses was built to accommodate furnace workers for Crawshay's iron works.
Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO651132

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - East

Date taken - May 2000



New fencing and more satellite receiver aerials are the main additions.
Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



Some changes in appearance due to building alterations.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 27th February 2020

Edge Hills Lime Kilns (Green Bottom)



Edge Hills Lime Kilns - A good example of one of the many lime kilns which operated in the Forest of Dean.
Littledean Parish

Camera location - SO667153
Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - North West
Date taken - February 2000



The entire site has become considerably overgrown in the last ten years.
Photographer - M Sullivan
Date taken - July 2010



Vegetation growth continues to obscure more than a small percentage of the original cleared site.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 26th May 2022

Gunns Mill



Gunns Mill - Established by Sir John Winter in 1629, named after William Gunne who lived there earlier. Used for armaments production in the civil war. Described as the finest remaining example of a charcoal blast furnace in the area. Later used as a paper mill. Subject to a preservation order 1968.

Littledean Parish

Camera location - SO675159

View direction - North West

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - June 2000



Shortly after the first photograph was taken Gunns Mill was covered in plastic to protect the fabric until preservation work could be carried out - this is still awaited.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - July 2010



The building remains protected and awaiting further work.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 6th March 2023

Lower Lydbrook Viaduct and Forge Site



Lower Lydbrook, Viaduct Cottage and Viaduct House Site of former Severn and Wye Railway viaduct - The building on the right (partially obscured by trees) is a former mill and is on the site of Lower Lydbrook Forge (c1610 to c1818).

Lydbrook Parish

Camera location - SO595165
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North West
Date taken - August 2000



The more recent photograph shows little change.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - July 2010



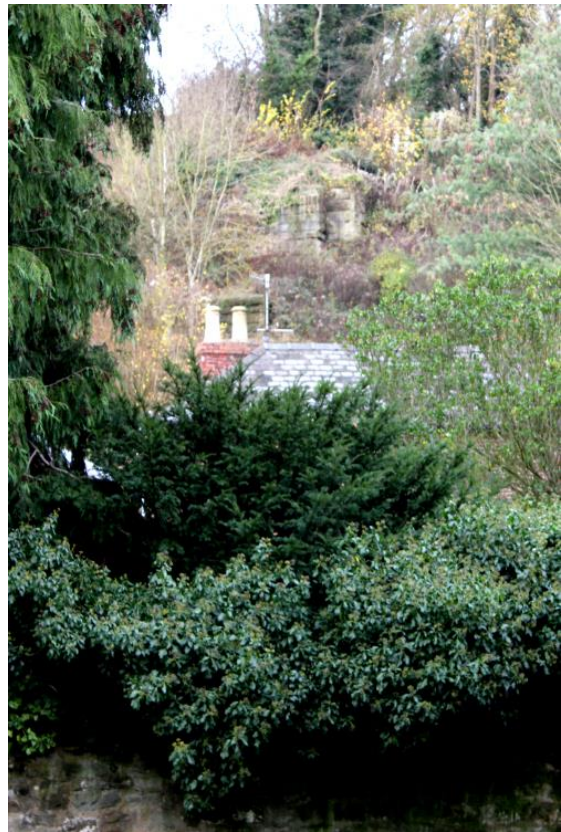
A wider view shows no change since 2010

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken – 14/02/2022



Former viaduct blocks



Viaduct remains can be seen in the distance

Lydbrook Wire Works Site



Lydbrook Wire Works site - Most forge and metal working sites in Lydbrook are now occupied by modern buildings. The wire works were in operation from 1818 to c1895, their barbed wire is reputed to have played an important part in the agricultural history of the American West and the Canadian prairies.

Lydbrook Parish

Camera location - SO600160

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - East

Date taken - August 2000



As might be expected, with the wireworks long gone little has changed apart from increased vegetation. The Anchor Inn which is shown on the c1880 OS 6" map immediately adjacent to the wire works and, no doubt, well frequented by the wire workers, can be seen below.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - November 2011



A different view of the former Lydbrook Wire Works site, showing the former Anchor Inn, taken in 2023

Photographer – M.Sullivan

Date taken – 13th April 2022

Mitcheldean Brewery (former)



Former Mitcheldean Brewery - Built 1868-70 by Wintles Brewery. Used by Rank Xerox from 1941 until 1980 when Mitcheldean Enterprise Workshops (MEWS) was formed.

Mitcheldean Parish

Camera location - SO664186

Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - East

Date taken - June 2000



The site remains largely unaltered since 2000.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - April 2011



No change by 2023. The buildings are still in use and in apparent good repair.

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken- 17th March 2023

Parkend Iron Works Engine House



Parkend Iron Works Engine House - This former engine house was later used as a forestry school and is now being used as a field centre.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO617079

View direction – North

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - January 2000

Little change is evident - the apparent increase in greenery is due to seasonable colour variation.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - May 2010





No change since 2010, still in use as a study centre.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 17th February 2022

Tan House Newland



Tan House, Newland - In 1778 this house was owned by Samuel Simmons, tanyard proprietor, tanning sheds were to the rear.

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO552093

View direction - South East

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2000

Increased foliage has partially obscured this view.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010





The doors and windows have been repainted since 2010, and the building appears to be maintained in good condition.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 19th November 2021

Tin Workers Cottages, Lydney



Tin workers cottages, Lydney - Three storey tinworkers cottages, charge hands' dwellings at the ends, a hotel block for workers in between.

Lydney Parish

Camera location - SO633023

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North North West

Date taken - June 2000



The buildings appear to have been well maintained.

Photographer - K Walker

Date taken - July 2010



Some front door porches modified, otherwise little difference to 2010.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 9th June 2021

Watts Factory, Lydney



Watts factory, Lydney - Former occupiers of this site include Lydney Lower Forge and Lydney Tinplate Works.

Lydney Parish

Camera location - SO633022

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South West

Date taken - June 2000



Apart from the wind blowing the flags little has changed.

Photographer - K Walker

Date taken - July 2010



Recladding of some units and a new sign since 2010 indicates more subdividing of the site and underlines the fact that the Watts Group are as much about property management as anything else in 2021.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 9th June 2021

Whitecliff Furnace



Whitecliff Furnace - Blast Furnaces started by Samuel Botham in 1798, brought David Mushet to the Forest, works abandoned 1816.

Coleford Parish

Camera location - SO569102

View direction - North North West

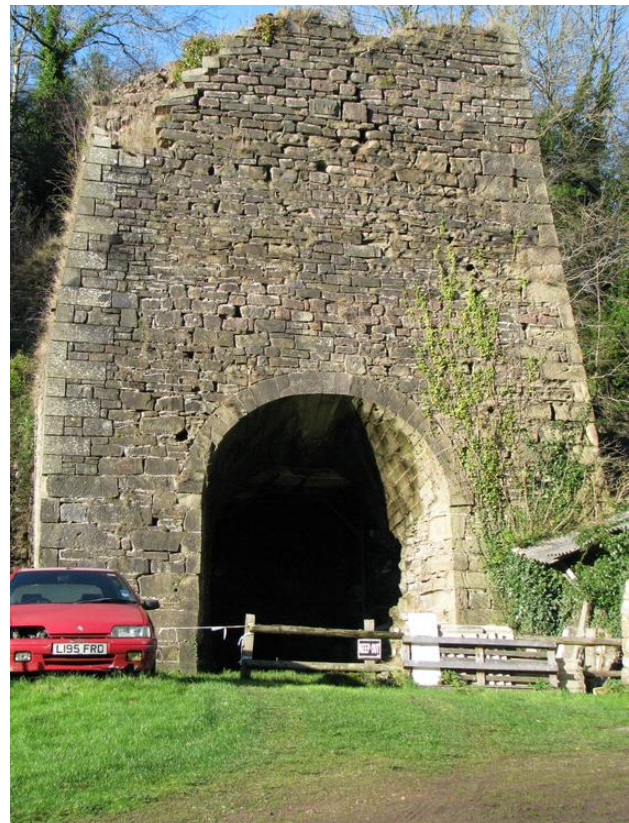
Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - September 1999

Externally the furnace shows little change, but some renovation work has been undertaken and grants have been received to survey the building and there may be further funding to make improvements to the site.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - November 2009





Since 2012 the Forest of Dean Buildings Preservation Trust have undertaken works to conserve the remains of the Furnace, which is of national importance.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13th June 2021

Vention Lime Kilns



Vention Lime Kilns, Lydbrook - Listed and renovated former lime kilns.
Lydbrook Parish

Camera location - SO604168
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South
Date taken - August 2000



The restored kilns remain in excellent condition.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - April 2010



Vegetation 'creep' evident since 2010. The trees immediately behind the kilns will ultimately threaten the structure unless they are dealt with.

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken – 11th February 2022