

Dallington Time Traveller Detectives - Heritage Project

Brightling class have been uncovering the secrets of Dallington Forest and finding out how they link to the High Weald - an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that surrounds the village.

To find clues they:

- studied maps of Dallington past and present and looked for names that told of its past
- read information from walking guides to village websites
- navigated the Historic England website to find out about some local historic buildings
- learnt about the High Weald from Rachel, the High Weald partnership's Education Officer.
- created dramatic tableaux to bring all the information together

Then they went on a welly walk to the Dallington Forest and to find clues to its past from 135 million years ago to the WW2. They thought how life might have been for people like the charcoal burners who used to live and work in the Dallington Forest. They used charcoal to draw the woodland and listened to the Charcoal Burner poem by A.A. Milne.

All that inspired them to write an account of a day in the life of a charcoal burner and create pictures of the special High Weald landscape.

The class then collaged a strip of forest on an ancient estate map of Dallington forest and used it as a background for some of their fantastic work.

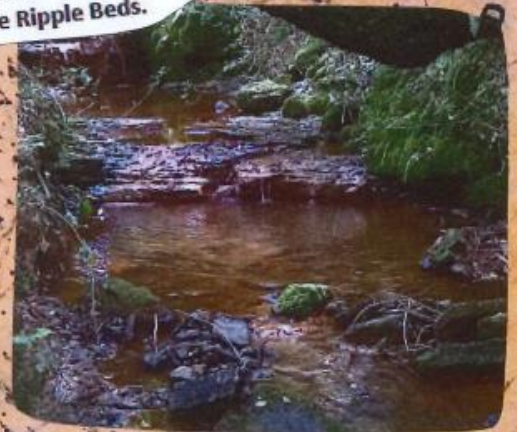
These much-treasured woodlands are also living history books, with features such as medieval boundary banks, charcoal hearths, and old coppice stools - clues that tell us how woodland was used and relied upon in centuries past.

Dallington Forest Walk

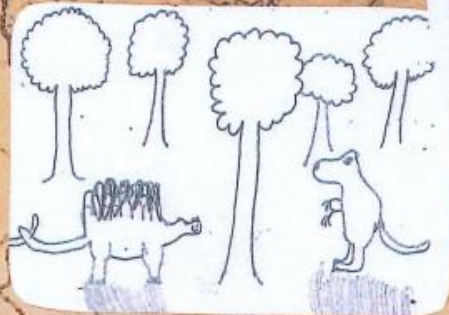


135 million years ago the Sandstone rock made rippled beds in Dallington forest.

If you look carefully below the waterfall at the side of the stream just below your feet you may see the exposed fossilised Sandstone Ripple Beds.



135 million years ago in the Cretaceous period when dinosaurs roamed



135 million years ago High Weald began to form



Ancient Routeways

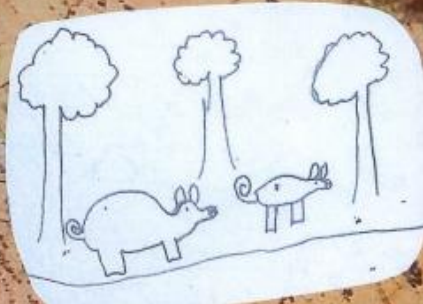
As far back as the Neolithic period (c.4300 - 1400BC) farmers from the Downs and coastal plains would drive their pigs into the woods each year to fatten them on acorns and beech mast.

5th Century Saxon farmer walked their pigs in the forest.

On the way back he roams across an Anglo-Saxon pig farmer. "Havent rode across any dragons, have you?" The pig farmer asked. "I hope not." ~~The pig~~ The charcoal burner jokes. "No, no." He says more seriously.



Middle of the 5th century - The Saxon routeway was coated by drovers around now.

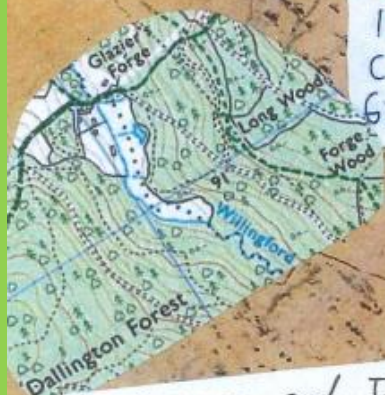


"Glaziers Forge Cottage"

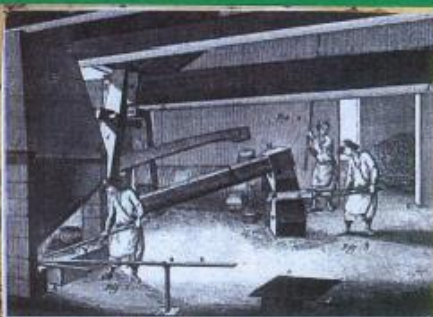


This cottage was associated with Glaziers Forge. In 1662-65 Henry Jarman, hammerman, was assessed under the Hearth Tax at two flues for this property.

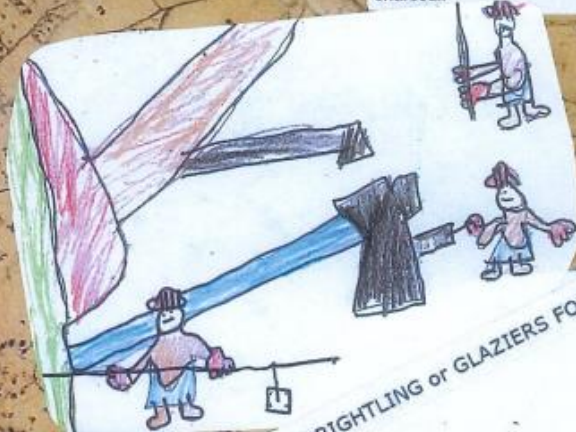
1662 Henry Jarman the hammerman lived in Glaziers cottage next to Glaziers Forge



1600 or earlier
glaziers forge deep in
dallington forest made
iron objects from pig iron
from robertsbridge furnace
such as cannon balls,



Hearth (left) and trip hammer (centre) in a fire forge. In the back room (right) is a large pile of charcoal.



"BRIGHTLING or GLAZIERS FORGE (& FURNACE?)

1662 Henry Jarman the hammerman worked at glaziers forge.



Its 9:30 pm and I can see the stars
shining and bats swooping. As I was guarding
the charcoal burner, I heard strange and
terrifying noises. I saw the moon rising
from the woods.



1600s

most of Dallington forest
and woodland we visited
around the grill streams
is ancient woodland

Waking up, the charcoal has the best welcome
Birds singing, the frosty trees, bare and leafless
swinging in the breeze.

17th and 18th Centuries
much of Dallington forest
was given over to
Hornbeam



The things I could tell.
I would wake up, sun dazzling, birds singing and woodpeckers
making the sound of a galloping horse.

When I watch the charcoal
every day I hear rabbits telling my name
and say "good morning" or "beautiful morning".



18th Century Some
ancient trees are
250 years old now.



The Charcoal burner

Every day I wake up The rabbits greet me "good morning," and the birds tweet "Hello!" All is. After I wake up I start walking to the charcoal burner and start burning away. I also have have some people helping me maybe about 2013 ether way it's fine. Fact is you don't know charcoal is made from wood.

Here and further down the ghyll, if you look carefully at the opposite side, you might spot a number of horizontal flattened areas. These are the remains of 'charcoal hearths'.

in the 17th and 18th Centuries

Much of dellington forest was given out to hornburn castle for charcoal-making to feed the fire needed for heating the work of delving the



Nowadays the charcoal burner has vanished from this part of the world and only a few fading photographs remain to tell us of this ancient native industry, although a movement is afoot to erect a charcoal factory in Sussex.



Early morning and the sun is just making up. The charcoal burner shakes on the fire. It is a lonely lonely life out in the open forest all by himself.

Medieval Landscape

The High Weald looks much the same today as it did in the 14th century: gently rolling hills, irregular-shaped fields, small, scattered settlements and wooded areas. These features give the area its unique character.



The tickle of the wind on his feet.
A felt life was bland, quiet, lonely and deathly of boredom
The shivers scared, nervous.
With only the charcoal burner to keep me company and toast

The charcoal burner wakes up every cold bare
morning he sees trees slaying, rigging rabbits
in the frost ingested grass of the woods.

