

*Industrial Archaeology Review. Vol. XV. No 2
Spring 1993 208-210.*

The Minera Halvans Site

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Summary

North west of Bersham is the important lead mining area of Minera, one of the largest producers of lead ore in Britain towards the end of the nineteenth century. The whole mine sett has recently been the subject of a vast reclamation project designed to bury toxic waste. Wrexham Maelor Borough Council employed an archaeologist, Bill Slater, to keep a watching brief and many of the surviving archaeological remains around the City Shaft engine house have been consolidated.

On the opposite side of the road from City Shaft is the Minera Halvans site, an area of ore dressing plant constructed in the 1870s especially for the treatment of mine waste dump material. This was cleared in the summer

of 1988 and a year later Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust were commissioned by the Borough Council to produce a measured survey and photographic record of the site before it was back-filled to protect the structural remains from the elements. The measured plan of the site indicates the use of steam-driven crushers, jigs and a good series of round buddles, including several centre head buddles on the Cornish pattern, for the treatment of slimes. This was one of the few ore dressing floors to be completely cleared and it is hoped that some consolidation work will be carried out in the future so that the site may be re-opened for public display.

The archive prepared for Clwyd-Powys



Plate 1 General view of the Halvans Site, showing the wooden jig bases, conduits and round buddles in the distance.

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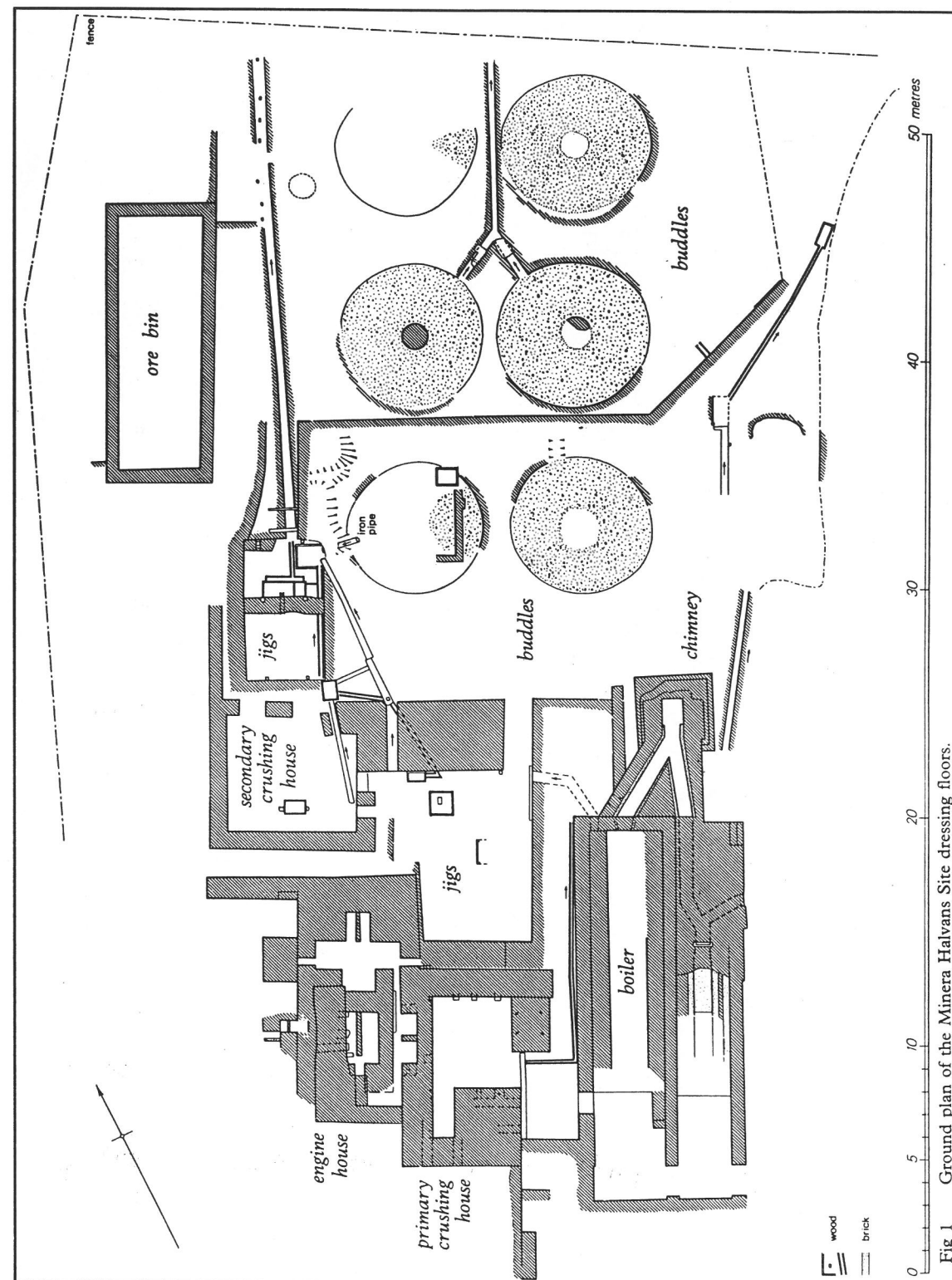


Fig 1 Ground plan of the Minera Halvans Site dressing floors.



Plate 2 Partly excavated jig bases.

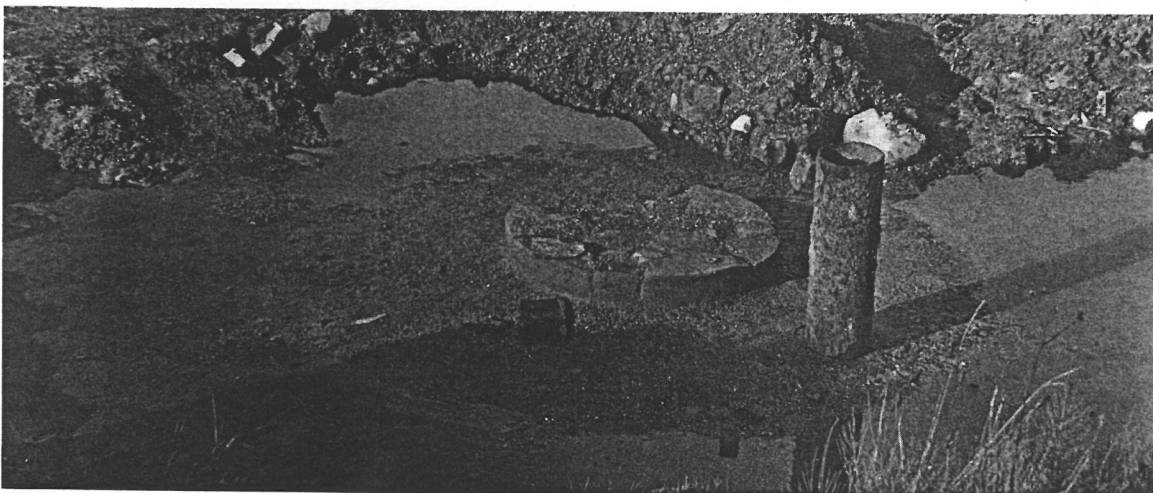


Plate 3 Remains of centre head buddle.

Archaeological Trust incorporates the ground plan, two profiles across the site and a full photographic record in both black and white and colour. Copies of the archive are held both by the Trust and Wrexham Maelor Museum Service.

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