

# ANCIENT IFIELD



The pond was constructed in the late 1560s and Ifield Forge, powered by the pond, was in operation by 1569 as a finery forge for the pig iron produced at nearby Bewbush Furnace. The forge, which was on land owned by the Crown at the time, was destroyed by Sir William Waller's Parliamentarian troops in 1643 during the English Civil War and was not used again. The charred remains of the forge and one of the wheelpits, as well as the sluice for this wheel, were discovered during the 2014/15 works where the new spillway now flows. The area of the second wheelpit was not excavated and it will still be in situ under the modern pathway between the two spillways. The timber framed house on the banks of the pond, known as The Millhouse and until recently a public house, was the iron masters house and is contemporary with the forge.



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