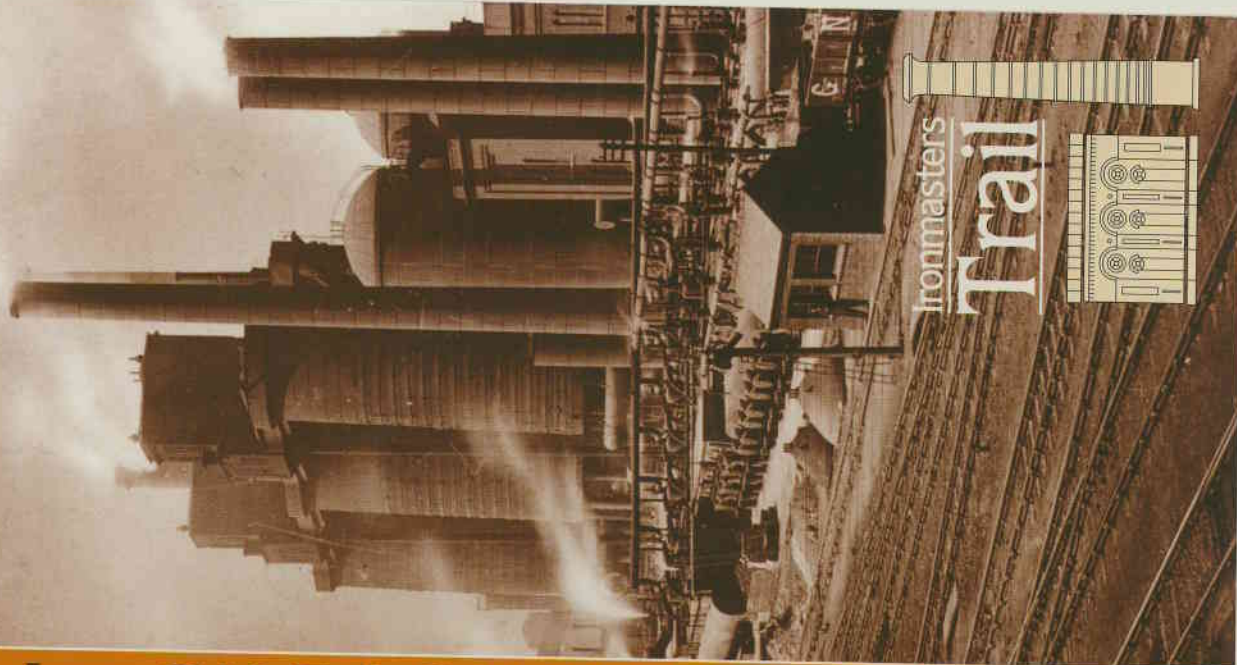
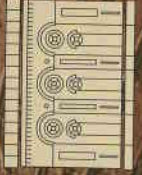


The Industrial Archaeology of Middlesbrough



Ironmasters
Trail



THE IRONMASTERS' TRAIL

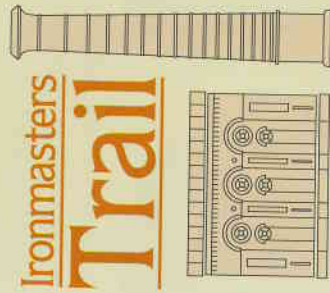
If you would like more information about the industrial history of Middlesbrough, please contact:

Tees Archaeology, Sir William Gray House, Clarence Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8BT
Tel: 01429 523 455

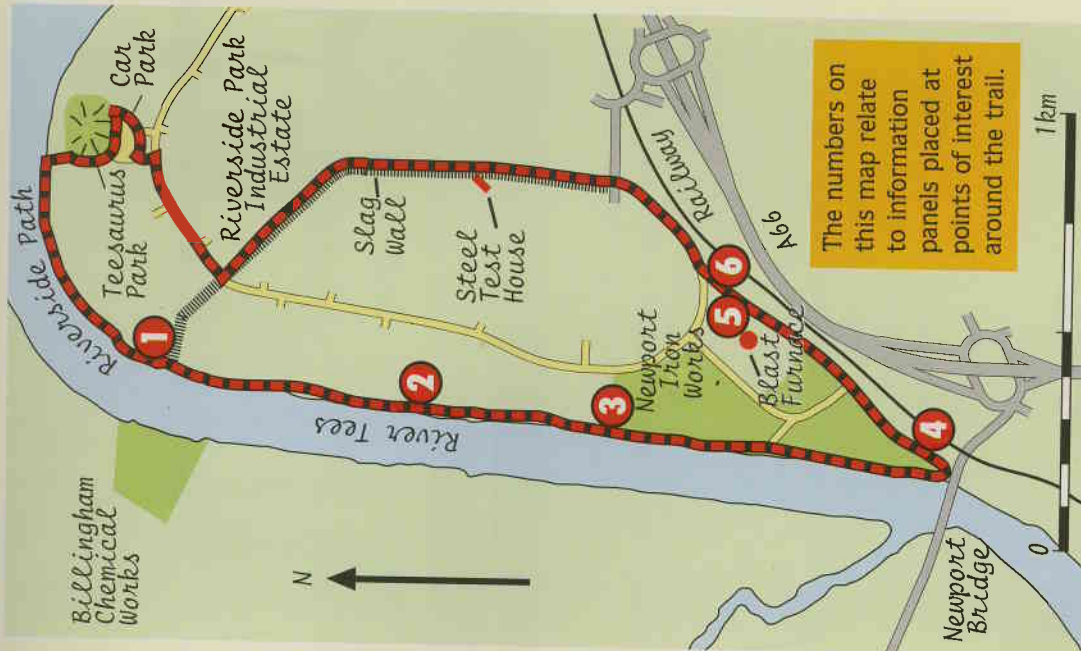
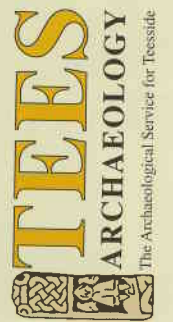
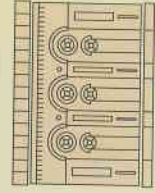
Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society
Tel: 01287 632 035

The Dorman Museum, Park Road South, Middlesbrough TS5 6LA
Tel: 01642 813 781

Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, Stewart Park, Marton, Middlesbrough TS7 8AT
Tel: 01642 813 781



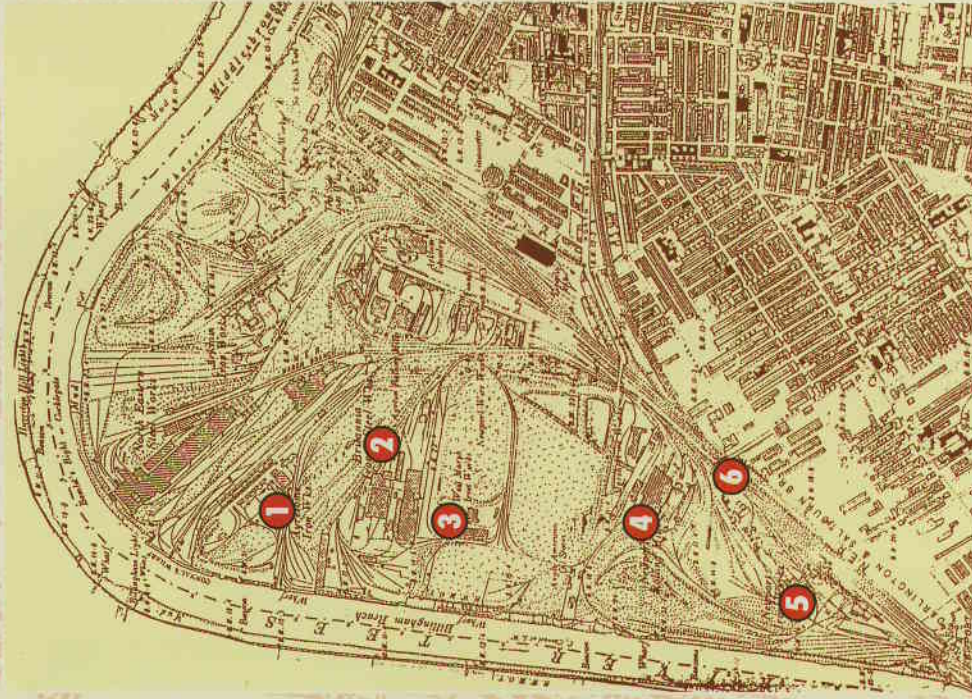
CLEVELAND INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



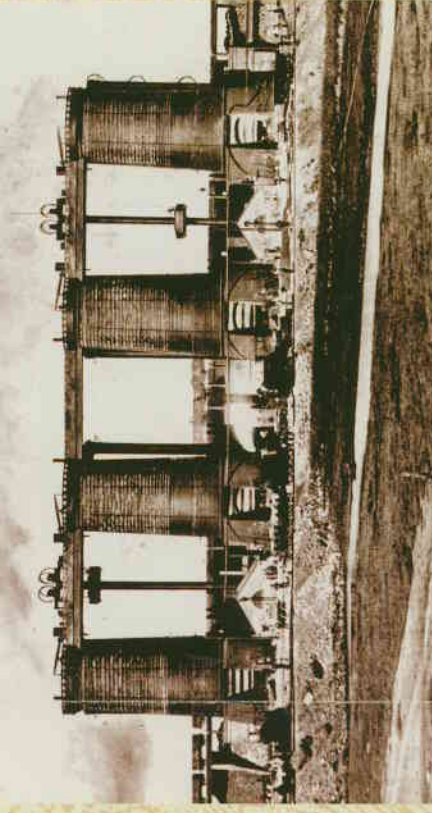
The numbers on this map relate to information panels placed at points of interest around the trail.

The Ironmasters' Trail is accessible to wheel chair users and those with push chairs by following the Riverside path from Teesaurus Park for about 600 metres. The path is a mixture of mown grass and compacted dolomite and is relatively flat. However there is one steep slope. Allow 1 1/2 - 2 hours to walk the complete circuit. A shorter route, around the Southwest Ironmasters' Park, can be reached from Newport Bridge down a flight of steps.

Until about 130 years ago the river bank to the south of the Tees was a salt marsh with its surface level some 20 feet lower than at present. The 'West Marsh', as it was called, was incorporated into the new town of Middlesbrough by the Middlesbrough Improvement and Extension Act of 1866 for the purpose of encouraging industry. The Ironmasters' District, as it is now called, became one of the three major concentrations of iron making plant on the banks of the Tees, along with Grangetown and Port Clarence.



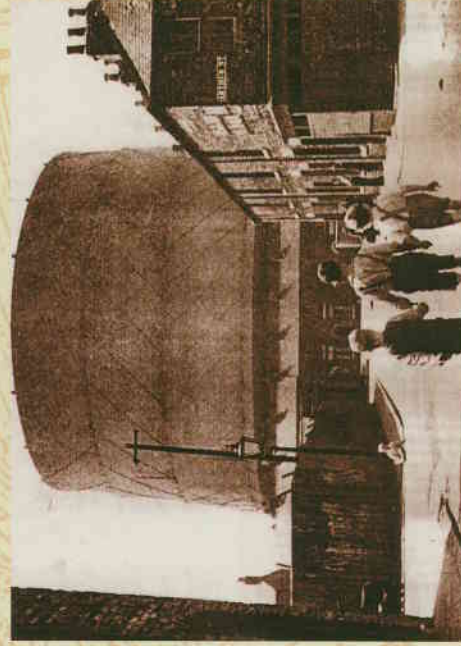
The map on the left shows the Ironmasters' District as it was in 1895. The Ayresome Ironworks (1), a large blast furnace plant built between 1870 and 1872 by Gjers, Mills and Co., had four blast furnaces, the scale of which can be judged by looking for the workmen posed in front of the furnace (right) and on the hoist platform.



South of Ayresome was the Britannia Ironworks (2), built by Bernhard Samuelson as the biggest puddling furnace plant ever laid out at one time. It had 120 puddling furnaces with the necessary forges and rolling mills.

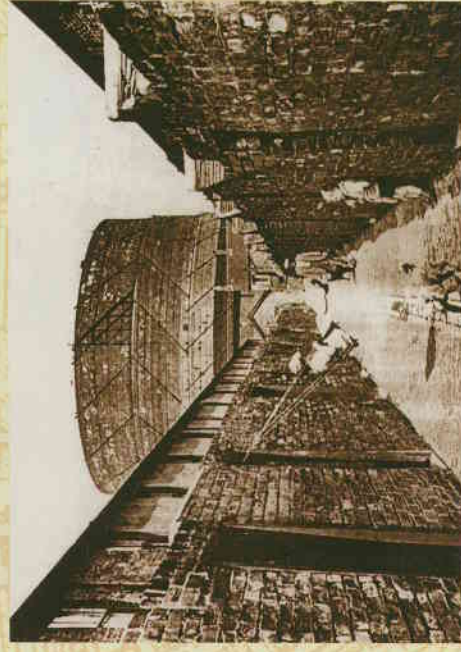
Beyond, lies the West Marsh Ironworks (3) and Newport Rolling Mills (4), both with puddling furnaces. Near to where the Newport Bridge now stands were the Newport blast furnaces, built by Bernhard Samuelson in the early 1870s and later part of the Dorman Long group.

The foundations of the three 'New Side' blast furnaces (5) of the Newport Ironworks, built in 1874, may seem quite large but they are, in fact, a small relic of the original furnace structure which towered above this level.



Frederick Street

The Railway Bridge (6) gave access from the crowded criss-cross of streets of the Cannon Street area to the Ironmasters' District. Earlier this century hundreds of workmen rode their bicycles across this bridge for each and every shift. There was a vivid contrast between the domestic lives of the women and children in the Cannon Street area and the working lives of the men on the other side of the railway line in the dirty and dangerous heavy industry of the Ironmasters' District.



Between Carter Street and Unthank Street