

Metals, Iron, Steel

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BEG

Building Engineering Group

Overview of Presentation

- History
- Iron and Steel history

Definitions

- **Iron**
 - The element
- **Pig Iron**
 - Straight
- **Cast Iron**
 - Contains near maximum Carbon, 4-4.5%
- **Wrought Iron**
 - Iron low carbon content, glassy inclusions
- **Steel**
 - Iron with $< 1\%$ C

Early Ironmaking

- **Earliest Iron 2000 BC India**
- **5th Century BC – Greeks melt iron**
 - **470 BC Agrigentum, Sicily 5''x12''x15 ft!**
- **532 AD St Sophia Constantinople**
 - **Iron tension rods for dome**
- **St Peters / St Pauls Cathedral**
 - **Iron tension chains for domes**
- **Around 1500 – regained melting ability**

Early Ironmaking

- Blacksmith and wrought iron



Early Ironmaking

- **Fuel used was wood (900-1000 C)**
 - Good for bronze, bad for iron
- **Charcoal with bellows got to over 1100**
 - Blast furnace used 1500 acres timber/yr
- **Coal + bellows over 1400**
 - But impurities in coal
- **1709 – bake coal, make coke**
 - Removed sulphur which damaged coal
- **Waterwheel and then steam engines blow air**

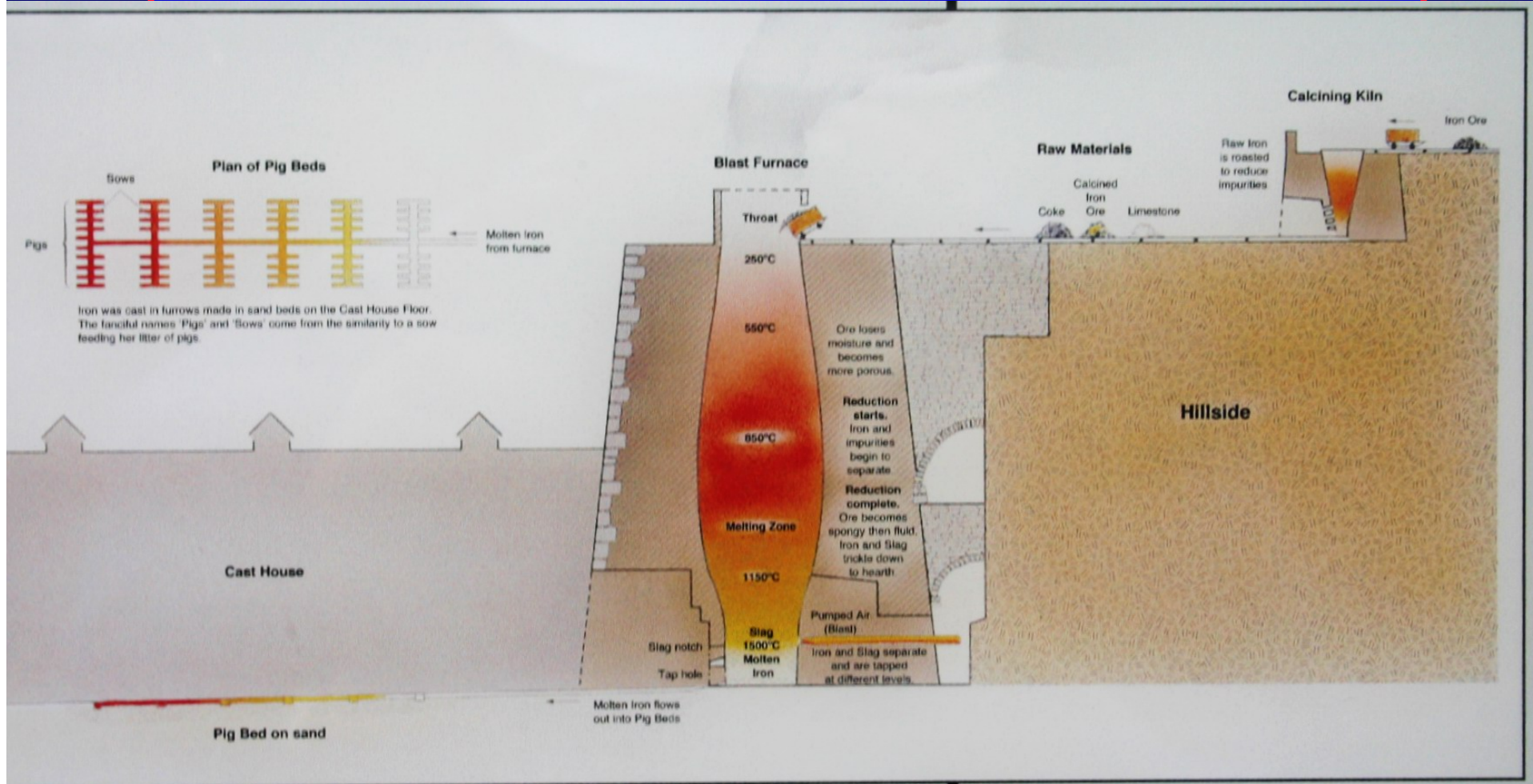






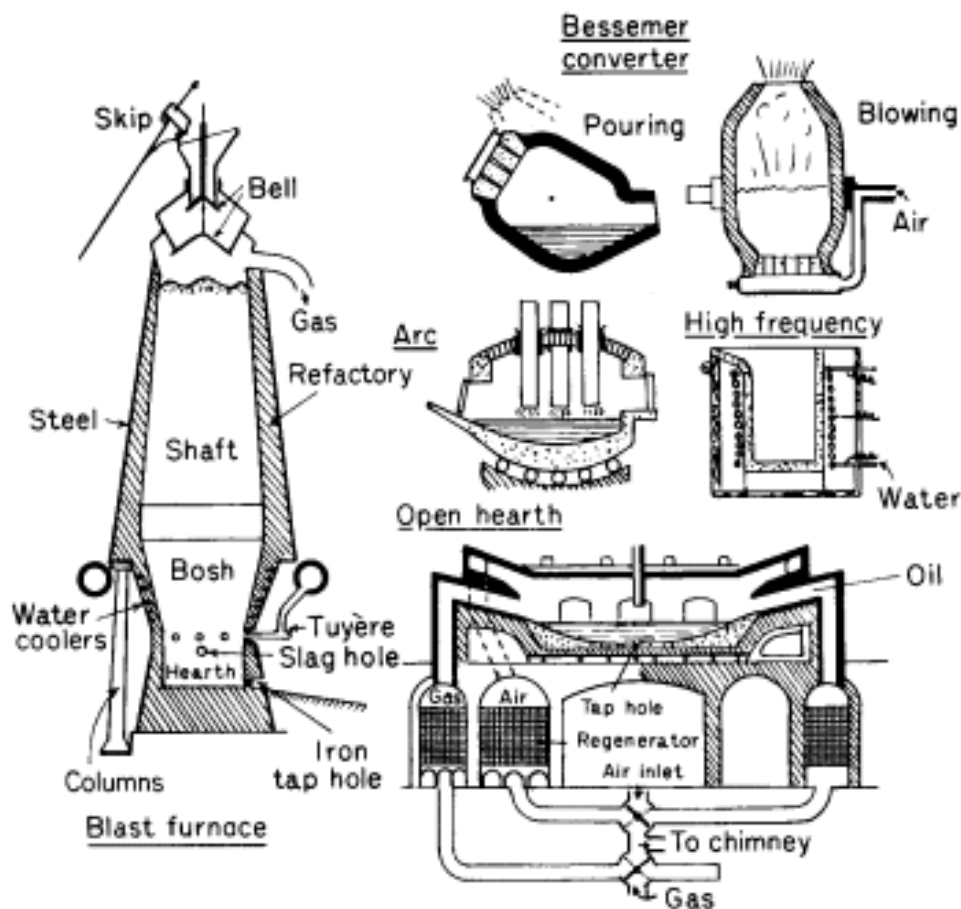
Blaeavon





Bessemer Process

- Converted pig iron to steel



1850-1885

THIS OBELISK HAS BEEN ERECTED
TO HONOUR THE MEMORY OF
SIDNEY GILCHRIST THOMAS
WHO, WITH HIS COUSIN,
PERCY CARLYLE GILCHRIST,
CARRIED OUT THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL
EXPERIMENTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF
PHOSPHORUS FROM MOLTEN IRON
IN A BASIC-LINED BESSEMER CONVERTER
DURING THE PERIOD 1877-8
ON THIS SITE OF THE FORMER
BLAENAVON IRON AND STEEL CO.
THIS INVENTION PIONEERED THE
BASIC BESSEMER OR THOMAS PROCESS AND
OTHER BASIC STEELMAKING PROCESSES
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.





Coalbrook Bridge 1779









INTERNATIONAL HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK

CONWY TUBULAR BRIDGE

ERECTED 1846-48. ORIGINAL CLEAR SPAN 400FT.
STRENGTHENED BY INTERMEDIATE PIERS 1899

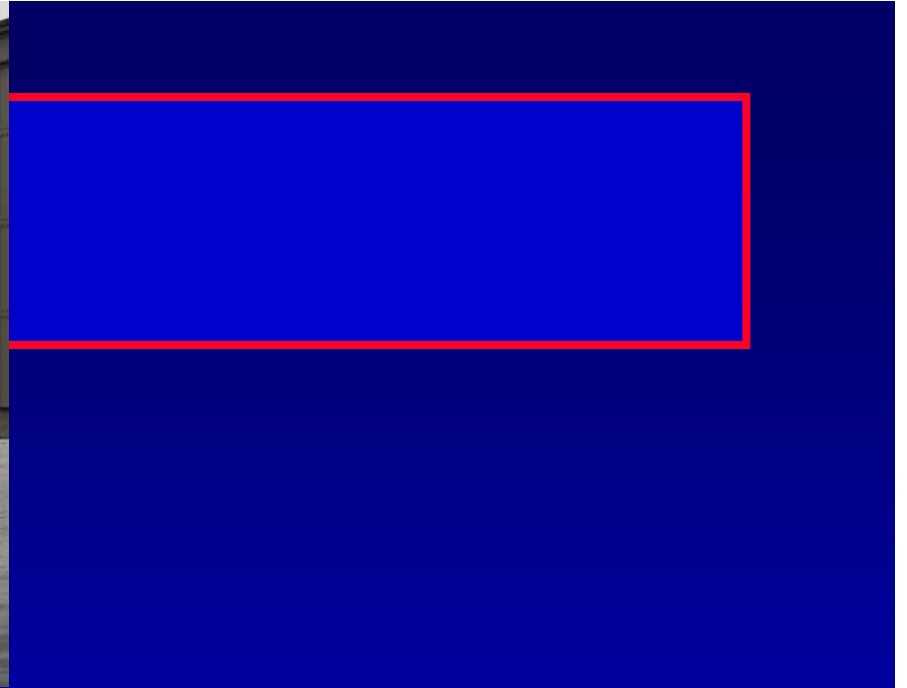
ENGINEERS: R. STEPHENSON (1803-1859), W. FAIRBAIRN (1789-1874),
E. HODGKINSON (1789-1861). ARCHITECT: F. THOMPSON (1808-1895)
CONTRACTOR: WILLIAM EVANS

BUILT FOR THE CHESTER-HOLYHEAD RAILWAY, WHICH PROVIDED RAIL ACCESS
TO THE SEA CROSSING TO IRELAND, THIS BRIDGE WAS A FORERUNNER TO
BRITANNIA BRIDGE OVER THE MENAI STRAIT. CONWY TUBULAR BRIDGE WAS
THE FIRST RAILWAY BRIDGE IN WHICH TRAINS RAN THROUGH THE MAIN
GIRDERS. IT REPRESENTS A PIONEERING USE OF WROUGHT IRON FOR BRIDGES
AND A MAJOR ADVANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOX-SECTION GIRDER
ELEMENTS.



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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
26 JUNE 2003







Menai

INTERNATIONAL HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK

MENAI SUSPENSION BRIDGE

ERECTED 1818-26. HEIGHT 153FT. LENGTH 1388FT. MAIN
SPAN 580FT. DECK STRENGTHENED 1840 & 1893.
IRONWORK REPLACED BY STEEL-WORK & DECK MODIFIED & WIDENED FOR
MODERN TRAFFIC 1939-41

ENGINEERS: T. TELFORD 1818-34, W.A. PROVIS 1818-50,
SIR B. BAKER 1893, SIR A. GIBB & PTNRS 1939-41. MASONRY: J. WILSON

THIS WAS THE MAJOR STRUCTURE ON THE STRATEGIC ROAD CONNECTING
LONDON WITH HOLYHEAD AND BY SEA TO IRELAND. THE BRIDGE WITH
ITS THEN WORLD'S LONGEST SPAN GREATLY ADVANCED SUSPENSION BRIDGE
DEVELOPMENT. THE SMALLER CONWY SUSPENSION BRIDGE (1826)
BUILT WITH IDENTICAL PIONEERING TECHNOLOGY STILL HAS ITS
ORIGINAL IRONWORK.



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Modern steel frame



Welded hot rolled

**Screw fastened
Cold rolled**

**Screw fastened
Cold rolled**

