



THE TORRS, NEW MILLS

Derbyshire

Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment



Oxford Archaeology North

December 2003

United Utilities Ltd

Issue No: 2003-04/141

OA North Job No: L9208

NGR: SK 001852

Document Title: THE TORRS, NEW MILLS, DERBYSHIRE
Document Type: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
Client Name: United Utilities Ltd

Issue Number: 2003-2004/141
OA Job Number: L9208

National Grid Reference: NGR: SK 001852

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Document File Location Alison/Projects/9208torrs/9208torrs2.doc

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SUMMARY

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) during April 2003 of the area of The Torrs, New Mills, Derbyshire (SK 001852). The work was required as part of a pre-planning appraisal of the site prior to proposed redevelopment by United Utilities. The assessment consisted of a survey of available documentary and cartographic sources, both primary and secondary, an examination of the results of any previous archaeological investigations, and reference to the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Further information about the wider history of New Mills was also gathered to provide a more general historical context in which to place the information relating to the study area.

The study area is situated within a conservation area known as The Torrs, positioned on the flat bottom of a deep natural gorge which runs through the centre of New Mills. The water power potential of the gorge brought about a wave of new industry in the late eighteenth century, with the introduction of fifteen mills producing cotton and printing within the New Mills area. The ruins of Torr Mill sit on the south bank of the river Goyt and the west bank of the river Sett. The proposed development area lies in an approximately rectangular area, c40m by 250m, within the upstanding remains of the mill. Trees presently cover part of the site, but attention should be made of earlier buildings that may survive within the study area.

Torr Mill was built c1790s for the Schofield family, as a water-powered cotton spinning operation, and was expanded substantially during the mid-nineteenth century in order to accommodate steam power. The mill ceased to operate as a cotton mill in 1904, when it was converted to spin linen yarn. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1912, by which time it was occupied by fustian cutters.

The assessment did not identify a large number of potential archaeological sites within the study area; indeed only two are recorded in the SMR. All of the sites identified are post-medieval in date, often very late, and mostly consist of mills, sluice gates, railway and road bridges associated with Torr Mill. No earlier sites were identified, although remains of almost all periods have been discovered in the wider environs. Cartographic evidence suggests that the area has not been developed since the clearance of the 1974 Torrs scheme.

As a result of the assessment recommendations, the development may seriously damage the mill foundations. It is recommended that, assuming the route of the pipeline cannot be altered to avoid these, they are appropriately surveyed, evaluated, excavated and recorded prior to the pipeline being constructed and that a permanent presence watching brief be maintained during construction

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank United Utilities for commissioning the assessment. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Derbyshire County Record Office, Gill Stroud of the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record office, the staff of the local studies libraries in Matlock and New Mills, and to Derek Brumhead and the staff at the New Mills Heritage Centre for their helpfulness and guidance. The desk-based assessment was undertaken by Sean McPhillips, who also wrote the report, the illustrations by Emma Carter and Mark Tidmarsh, and Alison Plummer managed the project. The report was edited by Alison Plummer and Ian Miller.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Following a pre-planning enquiry by United Utilities Ltd regarding the sewerage improvements at the Torrs, New Mills, Derbyshire, the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist (DCC) recommended that a programme of archaeological desk-based assessment should be carried out, in order to inform the planning process. OA North submitted a Project Design (*Appendix 1*). Following the acceptance of the design by DCC and United Utilities Ltd, the work was undertaken in April 2003.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment concentrated on the extent of the proposed development, presently covered by The Torrs (Fig 1), with further background information gathered for the more general environs. It consisted of a search of both primary and secondary sources, held principally in the County Record Office in Matlock (CRO(M)). The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for Derbyshire, held in Matlock, was also consulted, although few sites were recorded within the study area. All of the sites identified within the study area were compiled in a gazetteer (*Appendix 3*), consisting of a grid reference, and brief details of the site. Further background research was undertaken at the local studies libraries in Matlock and New Mills, and the New Mills Heritage Centre.
- 1.1.3 The results of the assessment are presented in the form of a short report outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the study area's archaeological potential, and the likely impact that the development will have on it.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 OA North submitted a Project Design (*Appendix 2*) in response to a request by United Utilities Ltd for an archaeological desk-based assessment of The Torrs as part of a pre-planning application for improved sewerage system improvements of the site. OA North was then commissioned by United Utilities Ltd to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project design. Only the area now covered by the ruins of Torr Mill and the immediate vicinity (within a 1/2 kilometre radius) was investigated in any detail, concentrating on any known phases of alteration, building and redevelopment of buildings and other structures on the site (Fig 2).

2.2.2 *Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)*: the Derbyshire SMR, held in Matlock, is a database of all archaeological sites within the county, and is maintained by the County Council. A brief consultation with the SMR revealed eight recorded sites within the study area.

2.2.3 *County Record Office Matlock (CRO(M))*: the CRO was visited primarily to consult any original documents relating to the study area, particularly the relevant maps. An investigation of historic maps is able to give an indication of the development of the landscape within the study area (map regression analysis), in addition to illustrating changes in this part of New Mills. In particular, maps relating to tithe, railways, and canals were consulted to assess the level of post-medieval development within the study area.

2.2.4 *Local Studies Library, Matlock*: further records were consulted in Matlock, mainly secondary sources.

2.2.5 *Local Studies Library, New Mills*: estate plans and background research was conducted in New Mills.

2.2.6 *New Mills Heritage Centre*: background research and secondary sources were consulted.

2.3 GAZETTEER OF SITES

2.3.1 A gazetteer of sites of archaeological interest identified within the study area was compiled (*Appendix 3*), and included a brief note of the nature of the site, its national grid reference, and source. The position of each site is depicted on Figure 2.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC 1990) and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the County Record Office (Matlock) on completion of the project, and a copy of the report will be deposited in the Derbyshire County SMR in Matlock.

3. RESULTS

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 A carboniferous limestone plateau occupies much of north-west Derbyshire encompassing an open landscape, interrupted only by outlying hills standing above the plateau level. The plateau is almost encircled by a horseshoe shaped stretch of land formed of grit, sandstone, and shale (Whitaker 1974). The formation of these conglomerates are absent in the southern margin of the limestone. East and south of the gritstone uplands are the lower ground of coal measures. The physical characteristic of this region is determined by the stratigraphy of shales and sandstones throughout the coal bearing sequence. The alternating layers of rock dips eastwards resulting in a distinct north-south grain to the landscape (Wolverson Cope 1976). Ridges of sandstone form the high ground with shale floored valleys in between.
- 3.1.2 New Mills sits astride the river Goyt at its confluence with the river Sett; both rivers being deeply incised into a wooded sandstone gorge approximately 30m deep, known as the Torrs. For centuries the region was one of pastoral farming with cattle and sheep, oats and barley, supplemented by domestic wool and linen (Brumhead 2002).

3.2 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- 3.2.1 The historical background consists almost entirely of information from secondary sources. Direct references to the study area, and even to New Mills itself, do not really occur until the post-medieval period, and for this reason the historical background is fairly generalised until this point.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistory:** there is no evidence for any prehistoric activity around New Mills.
- 3.2.3 **Roman:** the area covered by the town of New Mills has produced no Roman remains.
- 3.2.4 **Medieval:** New Mills is almost entirely a product of the industrial revolution; there was no evidence of nucleated settlement in the pre-industrial New Mills region other than the ancient villages of Hayfield and Chapel-en-le-Firth (Fig 1).
- 3.2.5 During the Middle Ages, the area formed part of the Royal Forest of the High Peak in which the Manor of Thornsett contained seven hamlets along the river Sett on its course from Kinder Scout to the River Goyt (Anthony 1955). The name New Mill derived from a manorial corn mill situated in the hamlet of Ollersett in the Peak Forest, which Bunting stated was built '*some time prior to 1500*' (Bunting 1940). However, according to Samuel Lewis in his 1831 account, its origins derive from the 1730s: '*until this time the inhabitants of the hamlets ground their corn at a mill in Hayfield, but after the division of the seven hamlets a century ago, a new mill was erected at Ollersett, hence the name New Mills*' (Bryant 1990). The nucleus of houses which built up around

the 'New Mill' subsequently gave its name to the district, eventually changing to New Mills.

- 3.2.6 The wollen trade flourished throughout Derbyshire since the thirteenth century. Since the amounts of wool produced in the area was considerable, much of it was subsequently exported or sold at fairs (Page 1970). By the seventeenth century wool was bought from the farmers and sold to spinners and weavers, a tradition that was exercised in Yorkshire and other northern counties (*ibid*).
- 3.2.7 Coal and iron ore was mined in the area from the twelfth century until the seventeenth century, when this activity began to decline.
- 3.2.8 By the middle to late sixteenth century, the rural economy of the area had been well established. Probate records show that the farmers did not rely on a single economy, such as sheep farming, but began to rely on domestic, family run textile operations (Lee *et al* 1990). The people made their living mainly from agriculture
- 3.2.9 **Post-medieval:** in 1740 the area was divided; three hamlets remained attached to Hayfield, and four, Beard, Ollersett, Thornsett and Whitle, formed a separate township (Bryant 1990). During this time agriculture in these regions began to give way to the rapidly developing cotton industry. This is demonstrated by Arkwright's initiative at nearby Cromford in 1771, whom took advantage of the water power available there and improved the preparation of cotton prior to spinning by means of his 'water frame'. Arkwright's methods began the advent of water powered mills and the beginning of new factory-based industries in isolated regions.
- 3.2.10 No primary documentation has been found for the introduction of cotton spinning in rural workshops during the late eighteenth century in the New Mills area, although in 1789 Pilkington recorded that '*A considerable quantity of cotton is spun upon hand machines or wheels in the north-west part of the county*' (Brumhead 1997). The workshops used equipment such as spinning jennies and carding machines which did not require too much capital, and employed horse powered capstans. The transition into water powered machinery would have a lasting effect upon the rural economy.
- 3.2.11 The factory system grew out of workshops within a rural type industry, a condition which led it to be labelled proto-industry (Clarkson 1985). Evidence for these workshops in New Mills are found in the Land Tax Assessments from 1778-1832 (DRO), which lists that by 1796 there were 15 cotton mills in the New Mills area. The first cotton mill was established in the area in 1785, and was owned by Thomas Beard a woollen manufacturer. Beard Mill represented the evolution of the woollen trade to the cotton trade in the late eighteenth century, and may have signalled the end of wool production in farms (Brumhead 2002). New Mills at this time was at the edge of an area encompassing Ashton, Oldham, and Stockport that specialised in small-scale mill and workshop cotton spinning, but brought in wool spinning for the first

time. The developing industry no longer needed to rely on outsiders for mill-produced yarn (King 1979).

- 3.2.12 The new factory mills based on water power were built in the Torrs, a natural gorge running through the town. The Torrs were particularly suitable for mill construction, with rocky waterfalls and cascades in the beds of the rivers (Brumhead 2002). This allowed the construction of weirs, and the provision of a steady supply of water. The sides of the gorge also provided a readily available source of sandstone for buildings.
- 3.2.13 In 1788 Torr Vale and Rock Mill commenced working as cotton mills on either side of the river Goyt, but difficulties of access and cramped sites, meant that the cotton industry in the Torrs was a marginal activity. Subsequently, the mills suffered closures, changes of ownership and function. Barnes Mill, for instance, was converted from a paper mill to a cotton mill, and then became an iron foundry. By 1819 there were eight cotton spinning mills, two calico printworks and two bleachworks (Brumhead 1996b). Trade in the cotton industry grew steadily in the first half of the nineteenth century, but by 1871 production in Derbyshire had largely declined due to the cotton famine (Page 1970).
- 3.2.14 Steam power brought about rebuilding of the mills in the 1840s. Cotton manufacturers in the area were discouraged by the expense of purchasing and installing steam engines, the large amounts of coal required and the difficulties of access. The water wheels were not taken out of use as they proved more economical when production levels were low (Brumhead 1997). If the water level was low the water wheel and steam engine were coupled. The Torr Mill chimney with its date stone of 1846 represents these changes.
- 3.2.15 By the early nineteenth century the growth of the cotton factory industry resulted in the development of new towns, and as such the development of New Mills grew. The new town spread up the valley and over the field of Torr Top estate, and consequently turnpike roads were constructed as a result of the demand for improved communication. The earliest road to reach New Mills was a branch road from Stockport in 1806, which ran across the Torr Top estate, and has since become Market Street. In 1833, an Act of Parliament allowed long stretches of new roads to be constructed to the south and east of New Mills. Albion Road included a new bridge over the Peak Forest Canal, and the first high level bridge over the River Goyt near Torr Mill. The opening of the high level Union Road bridge in 1884, joined Albion Road to New Mills, creating a major stimulus in the economic growth of commerce to the town.

4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, notably maps and other records, as well as secondary sources and reports from archaeological interventions.

4.2 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD (SMR)

4.2.1 There are ten sites recorded by the SMR within the study area (Sites **01**, **02**, and **10** to **16**), as shown in Figure 2 and listed in the gazetteer (*Appendix 3*). A further seven sites are recorded outside the study area (Sites **03** to **08**), and are also listed in *Appendix 3*. There were no listed buildings present within the study area.

4.2.2 The sites relate to late post-medieval activity, certainly not the earliest activity on the site.

4.3 COUNTY RECORD OFFICE (MATLOCK)

4.3.1 Primary documents and secondary sources lodged with the County Record Office (CRO) in Matlock were consulted to provide further information about buildings identified on the maps, but did not provide any additional sites. Only a limited number of early maps of New Mills exist, the earliest of which is Burdett's map of Derbyshire, published in 1767 (Fig 3). This shows New Mills in its original form, and Torr Top.

4.3.2 A useful source is Brown's 1793 plan of the Derbyshire Peak Forest Canal (CRO). Part of this plan shows a cluster of three buildings marked as Torr Mills, and Wyatts Mill to the west (Fig 4).

4.3.3 An estate plan of Torr Mill in 1828 similarly shows Torr Mill as two buildings, and three cottages (Fig 5).

4.3.4 The New Mill Tithe Award Plan of 1841 illustrates the position of nine buildings. Torr Mill is indicated as Plot 296, and is marked number '3' on the east side of the river Goyt (Fig 6).

4.3.5 The Ordnance Survey 1st Edn 15":1 mile map (1880) provides the first detailed survey of the town (Fig 10). Torr Mill (Site **01**) is marked as a cotton spinning mill, and its position on the converging banks of the rivers Goyt and Sett is shown clearly. Other mills marked in the locality include Rock Mill (Site **14**), shown as a paper mill, Barnes Mill (Site **15**), shown on the map as the disused Midlands Iron works, and a cottage lies to the south-east of Torr Mill of what could be the remains of Ned Mill (Site **10**). A sluice gate (Site **09**) lying near to Ned Mill cottage controlled the flow of water taken from the river along a leat to Torr Mill (Plate 3).

- 4.3.6 The Ordnance Survey 2nd Edn 15":1 mile map (1899) depicts Torr Mill as a cotton mill, and also shows Torr Vale Mill (Site **02**) as a cotton mill. Rock Mill is marked as 'disused'.
- 4.3.7 The Ordnance Survey 3rd Edn 6":1 mile map (1924) indicates Torr Mill and Rock Mill as ruins (Fig 12), whilst the Ordnance Survey map of 1985 marks the site as 'The Torrs'.

4.4 OTHER SOURCES

- 4.4.1 Derek Brumhead from the New Mills Heritage Centre provided plans and insurance documents unearthed from a trunk at the New Mills town hall. These include an 1856 water management plan of Torr Mill (Fig 7), and an associated water management document from the same year.
- 4.4.2 In addition, a plan of the mill from 1892 depicting extended mill buildings (Fig 8), and insurance documents from the same year were recovered. The plan illustrates the ground plan in shape and room usage, comprising three adjoining buildings in location to the rivers Goyt and Kinder (Sett) (Fig 13). No cottages are shown on this plan.

4.5 SECONDARY SOURCES

- 4.5.1 No new sites of archaeological interest were identified within the study area through reference to secondary sources, although further information was gained about sites identified through cartographic sources.

5. HISTORY OF TORR MILL

- 5.1 Torr Mill is situated on a flat area of the sandstone gorge, at the confluence of the rivers Goyt and Sett. East of the mill lies Union Road Bridge, built in 1884, and to the south lies a weir with a sluice gate. The river Sett at this point is crossed by Albion Road Bridge (Fig 2).
- 5.2 Little is known of the origins of the mill, but records indicate that the mill was built for the Schofield family around the 1790s (Brumhead 1996a). Factory mills of this period generally had fairly small dimensions, frequently no bigger than a barn, demonstrating the gradual industrial change from cottage style economy to the requirements of bigger premises met by demand and use of resources.
- 5.3 Torr Mill in 1828 consisted of two mill buildings. The larger, which contained the water wheel, measured 28 yards by 15 yards, and the other 15 yards by 8 yards (New Mills Local History Society). The width of the larger mill would accommodate spinning mules, confirmed by Crompton in his 1811 survey, in which he gives 2,808 spindles in Schofield's mill, twelve mules of 216 spindles and two mules of 108 spindles (Chapman 1967). When the tithe map was produced in 1841, the mill was of the same size.
- 5.4 By 1841 the mill was owned by John Schofield of Liverpool whom held the freehold of the factory and cottages (CRO) The business remained in the Schofield family until 1912 and was leased to a variety of occupiers. The first known occupier of the mill was Samuel Schofield, a cotton spinner, whom lived in a cottage on the site in 1808. Other records indicate that the properties, which included the mill and three mill workers cottages, was initially rented out to John Sheldon for the sum of £50 per annum (CRO).
- 5.5 After a destructive fire in 1838, John Schofield leased the mill to John Roberts in 1841. During the 1840s the mill was significantly extended to five storeys in height, to accommodate the transition to steam power. A chimney representing these changes is clearly depicted in a photograph taken during the construction of Union Road Bridge (Plate1).
- 5.6 The mill was originally horse and water powered, but in 1846 the mill was using steam power in tandem with the water wheel when the river flow was at its slowest particularly in the summer months. This change in mill power source was commemorated by a plaque placed on the chimney celebrating the advent of steam power, with the installation of engine machinery. The 1856 document states that the mill was '*worked chiefly by water power conveyed from the River Goyt*' (Insurance document c/o Derek Brumhead).
- 5.7 Other occupiers of the mill included, Hibbert and Alcock, two cotton manufacturers at Little Hayfield, who leased the mill from 1857 until 1864, and Ashton Bros who left the mill in 1871.

- 5.8 In 1873, a public meeting was held to launch Torr Mill Spinning Co. as a co-operative venture. At this meeting John Schofield promised to sell Torr Mills and engine at a fixed price (Symonds 1991). By 1875 the co-operative venture retained capital of £12,000 and loans of £5000 (*ibid*), but during the 1880s the co-operative money was withdrawn.
- 5.9 The construction of the Union Road Bridge allowed direct means of communications between the portion of New Mills situated in Derby and that rising locality known as Newtown in the County of Cheshire (Brumhead 1994). Mr Walmsley, the bridge contractor, was threatened with an injunction from the Torr Mills Co. for damaging mill property caused by the blocking up of the river (Symonds 1991).
- 5.10 Near the end of the 1890s, the Torr Mill Spinning Co. ceased operating as a co-operative cotton mill, and in 1904 the Linetow Yarn Co. Ltd. used the mill to spin linen yarn.
- 5.11 The mill changed hands again in 1911, and was occupied by Warburton and Arrowsmith, a firm of fustian cutters. Shortly afterwards, in 1912, the mill suffered a second fire and was burned down. The ferocity of the fire was quoted as '*the largest conflagration seen in New Mills*' (*ibid*). After the fire, the mill was never re-opened. At the time the building was still owned by the Schofield family and was reputedly worth several thousand pounds.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

- 6.1.1 **Prehistoric and Roman:** no remains of Prehistoric or Roman date were identified within the study area, although they are known from the more general environs. It is conceivable that they could yet be discovered within the study area, although it is impossible to realistically assess this element of the resource.
- 6.1.2 **Early Medieval and Medieval:** no remains of medieval date were identified within the study area, although they are known from the more general environs. It is conceivable that they could yet be discovered within the study area, although it is impossible to realistically assess this element of the resource.
- 6.1.3 **Post-Medieval:** the archaeological resource within the study area pertains largely to the post-medieval period, and it seems likely that the proposed development presents a severe threat to this resource. The desk-based assessment has demonstrated that Torr Mill has a long history, although there is surprisingly little information available within the primary and secondary sources to provide a detailed chronological account of its development. In particular, the extent of modifications to the building during its conversion from water to steam power are unknown. This transition represents an important step in the evolution of the textile industry, and any site with a potential to furnish information on this transition should be regarded as significant. It is clear, moreover, that the ground disturbance generated during the proposed development would irradicate evidence for the character and extent of the multi-phased mill.

6.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 6.2.1 Without access to more detailed proposals of the new development, it is difficult to assess the impact on any surviving sub-surface archaeological remains. It seems likely, however, that the impact will be serious, and that any surviving deposits of archaeological significance will be very adversely affected by it.
- 6.2.2 The area with the highest archaeological potential is that on the north edge of the study area on the south bank of the river Goyt. This area forms the majority of the centre of the study area at risk from development. The remaining areas should not be excluded, however, as their archaeological potential is as yet unknown and would be worth considering.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1.1 The basis for the agreed recommendations are the result of consultation and liaison with the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist, and the results of this assessment.
- 7.1.2 In the first instance, it is recommended that a Royal Commission for the Historic Monuments of England Level II standard survey (RCHME 1996) should be conducted upon areas of standing remains at Torr Mill prior to any development work
- 7.1.3 It is further recommended that elements of the mill are investigated through archaeological investigation, which would help to determine the remains and extent of the original mill, and evaluate the later phases of the mill. The position of any such trenches such be carefully targetted so as to provide maximum information on the chronological development of the site. The results of excavation would greatly enhance the desk-top assessment, which cannot necessarily be relied on to provide total coverage of the study area due to the vagaries of record deposition.
- 7.1.4 Additionally, an archaeological watching brief should be conducted on all ground disturbance undertaken on future development on the site.

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8.1.2 *New Mills Heritage Centre*

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Extract of Plan of Torr Mill 1856

Plan of Torr Mill 1892

Lancashire Insurance Company Document 1892

Extract of Room Insurance Document 1892

8.1.3 *New Mills Local History Society*

A Plan of Property (Torr Mill) Situate in the County of Derby Belonging to John Schofield, 1828

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8.1.4 *Other Sources*

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ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map

Figure 2: Study area showing gazetteer sites

Figure 3: Extract of Burdett's map of Derbyshire, 1767

Figure 4: Extract of 1793 Peak Forest Canal

Figure 5: Estate plan of Torr Mill, 1828 (New Mills Local History Society)

Figure 6: New Mill Tithe award, 1841

Figure 7: Plan of Torr Mill water management, 1856 (New Mills Heritage Centre)

Figure 8: Plan of Torr Mill, 1892 (New Mills Heritage Centre)

Figure 9: Extract of Room Insurance Document, detailing use of rooms in Torr Mill, 1892 (New Mills Heritage Centre)

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Figure 11: Ordnance Survey Map, 1896

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Figure 13: Map of the mills of New Mills (Symonds, 1983)

Figure 14: Table of dimensions of cotton mills in the New Mills area (Brumhead 1997)

PLATES

Plate 1: Union Road Bridge (Site **12**) 1884, showing Torr Mill in the background

Plate 2: Drawing of Torr Mill, post-1884 (Symonds 1977)

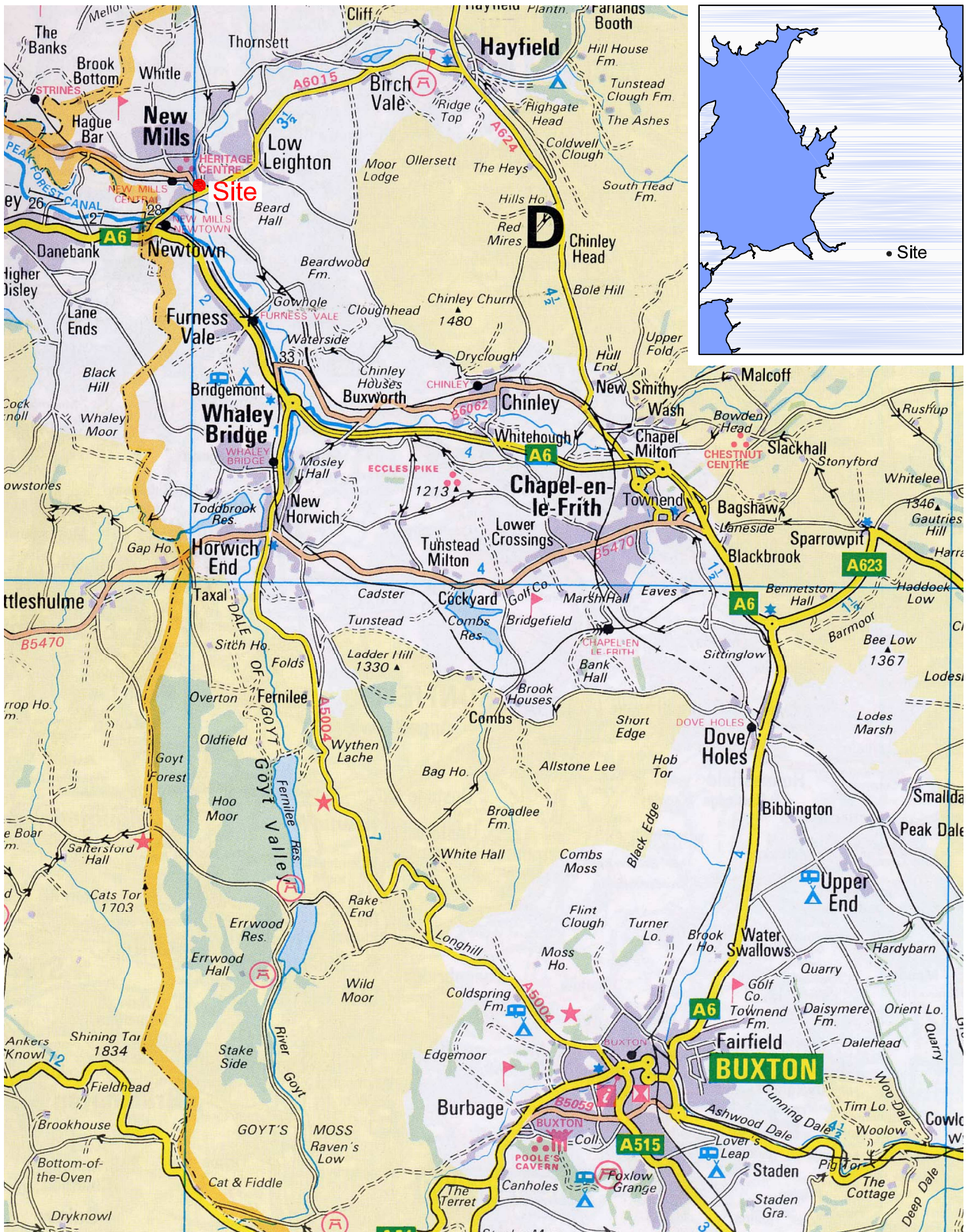
Plate 3: Sluice gate and leat (Site **09**) near 'Ned Mill'

Plate 4: Railway viaduct (Site **12**) and Torr Mill in foreground

Plate 5: Torr Mill, pre-1912

Plate 6: Fire at Torr Mill in 1912

Plate 7: Remains of Torr Mill after the fire of 1912



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:25000
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0 2000
 metres

Figure 1: Location map

based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10000
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- 00 Gazeteer sites
- ▨ Study area

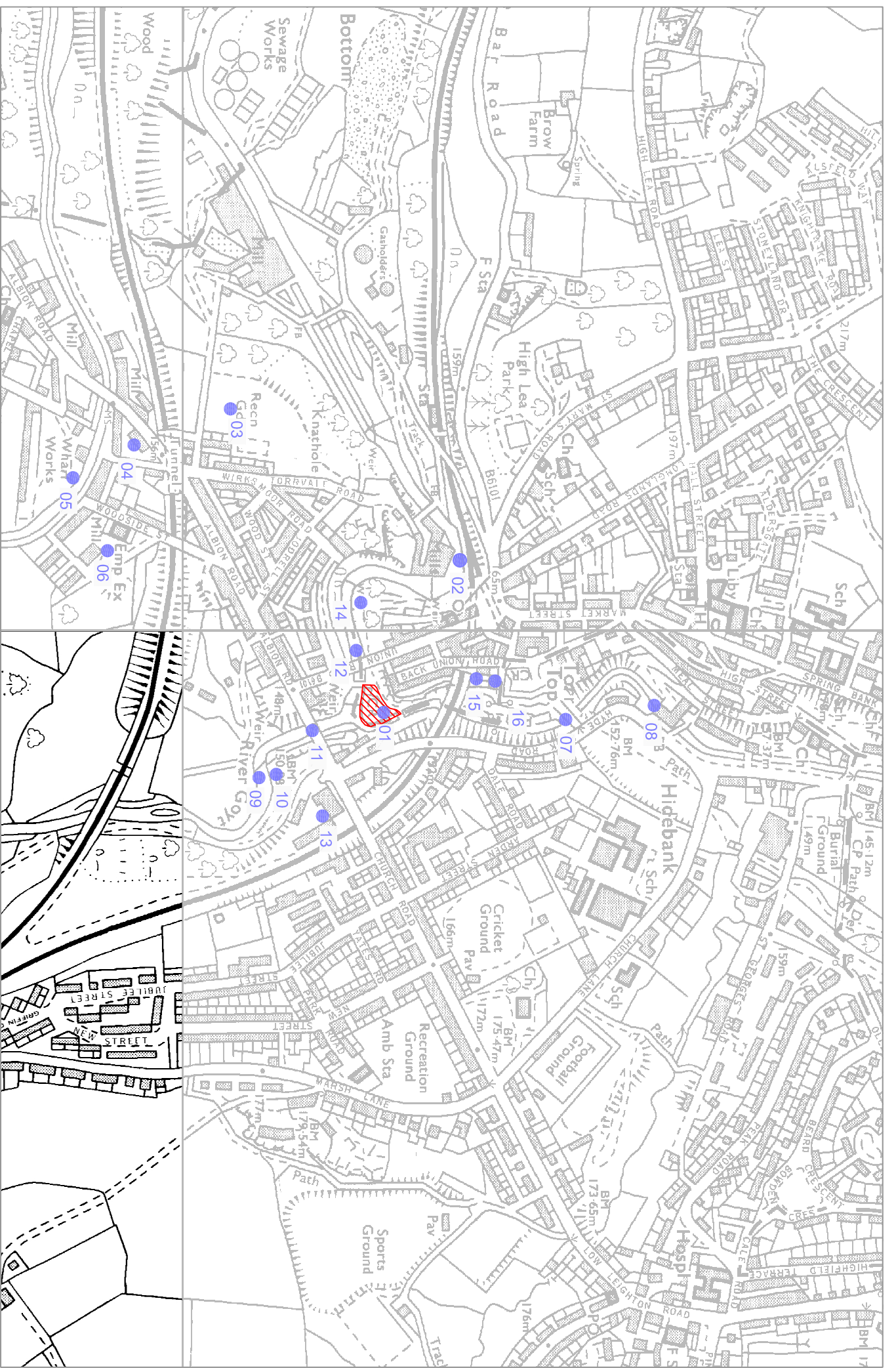


Figure 2 : Study area showing gazeteer sites

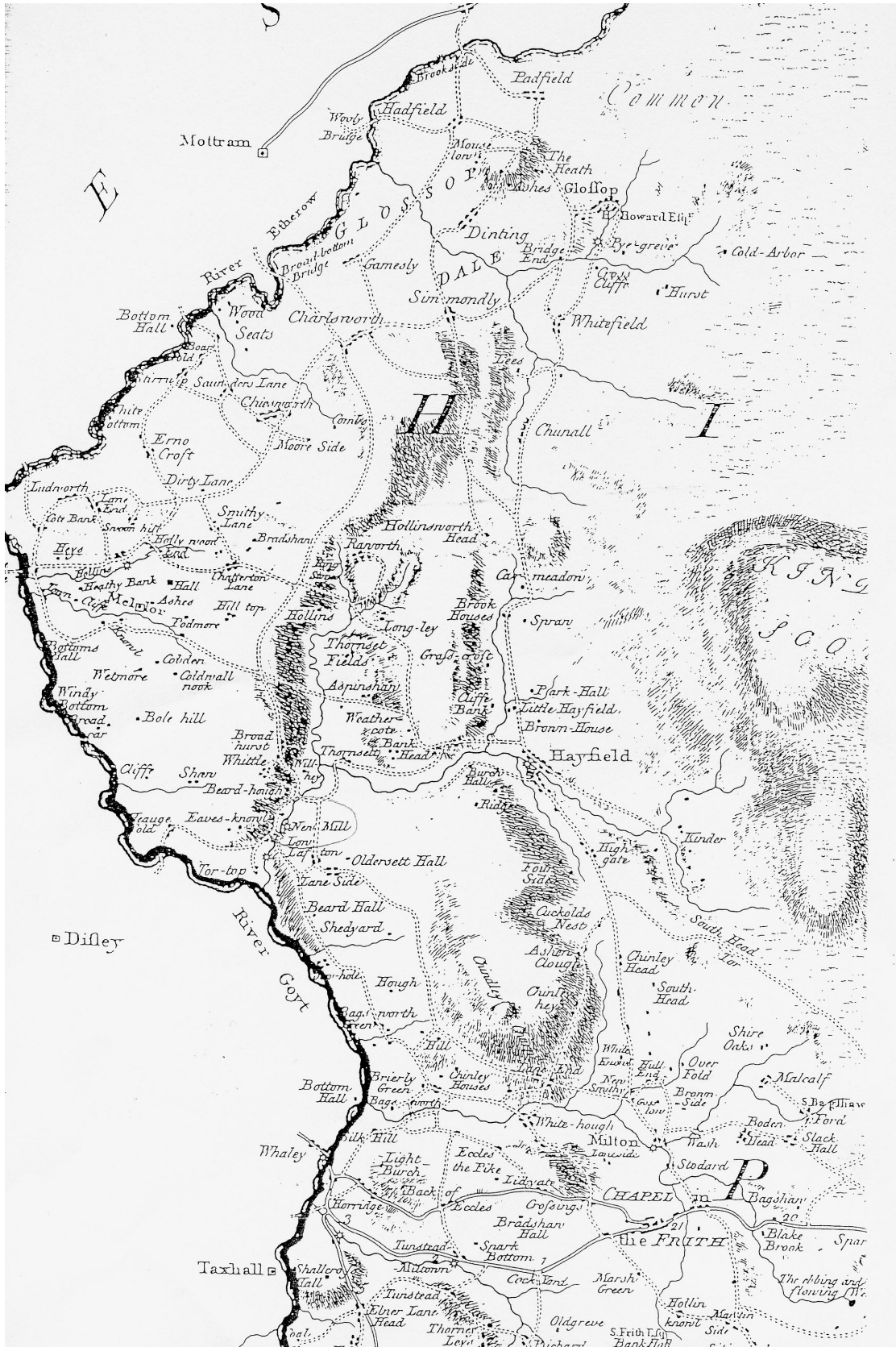


Figure 3: Extract of Burdetts Map of Derbyshire 1767

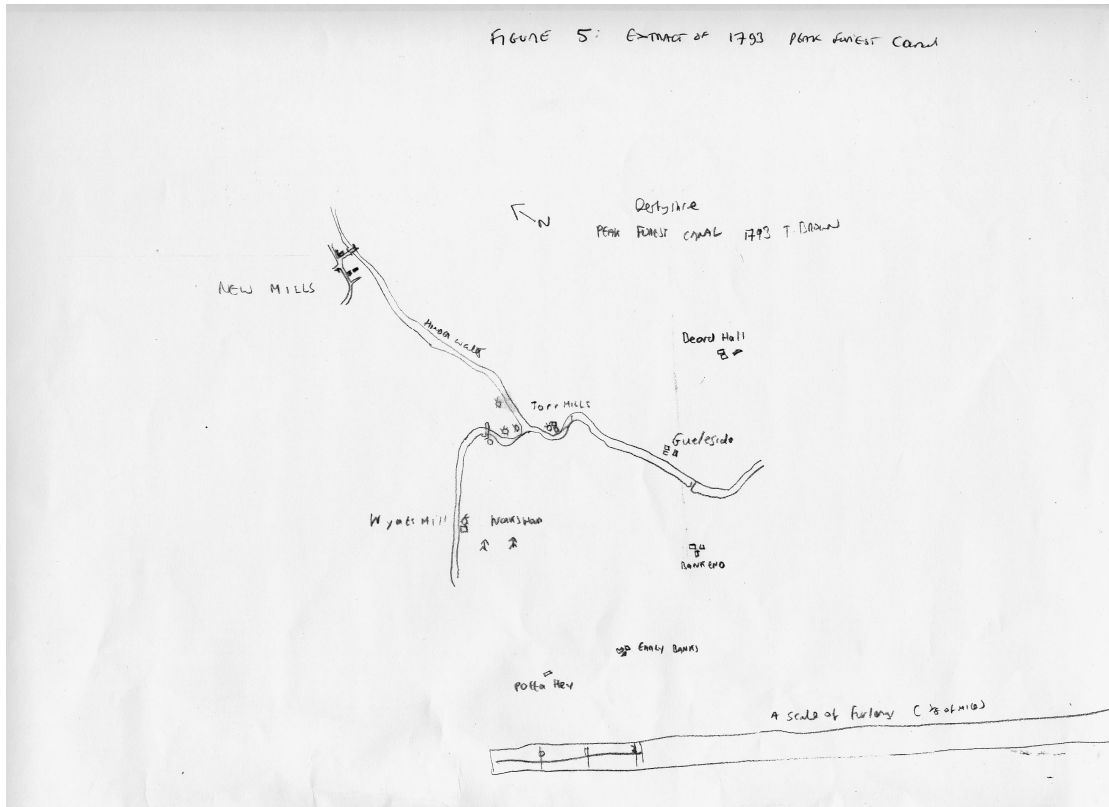


Figure 4: Extract of 1793 Peak Forest Canal

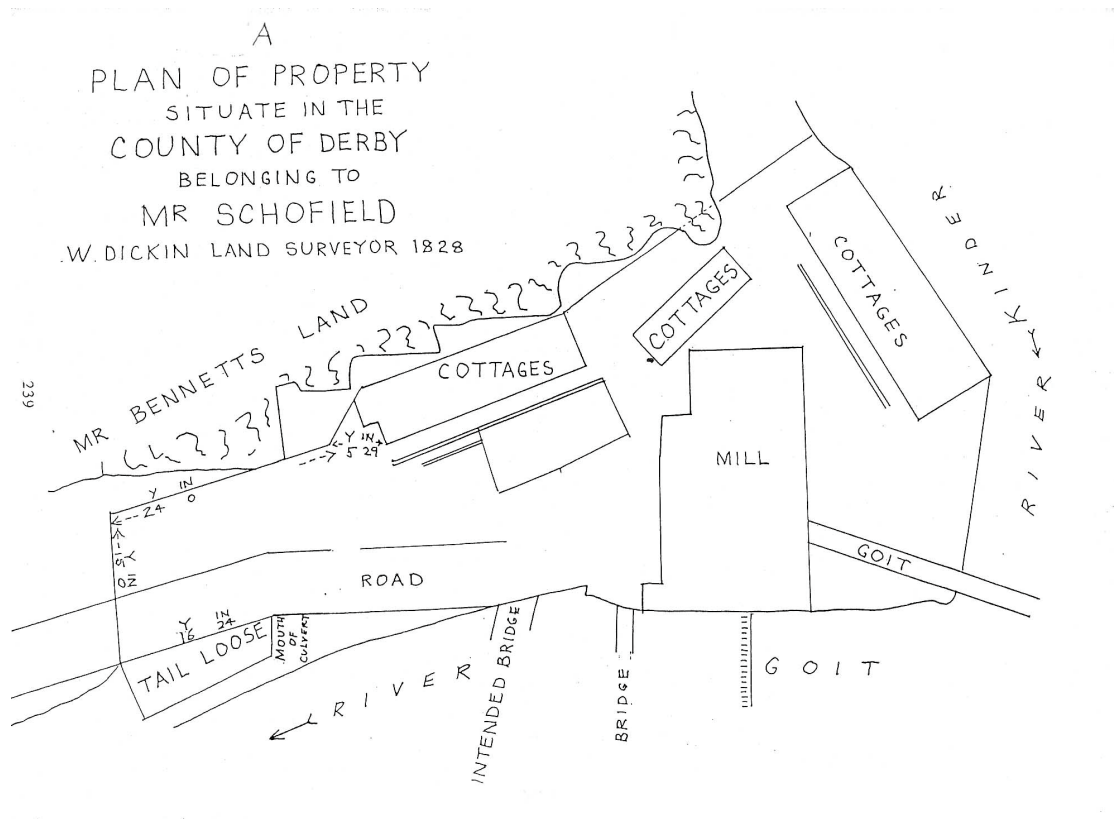


Figure 5: Estate plan of Torr Mill 1828

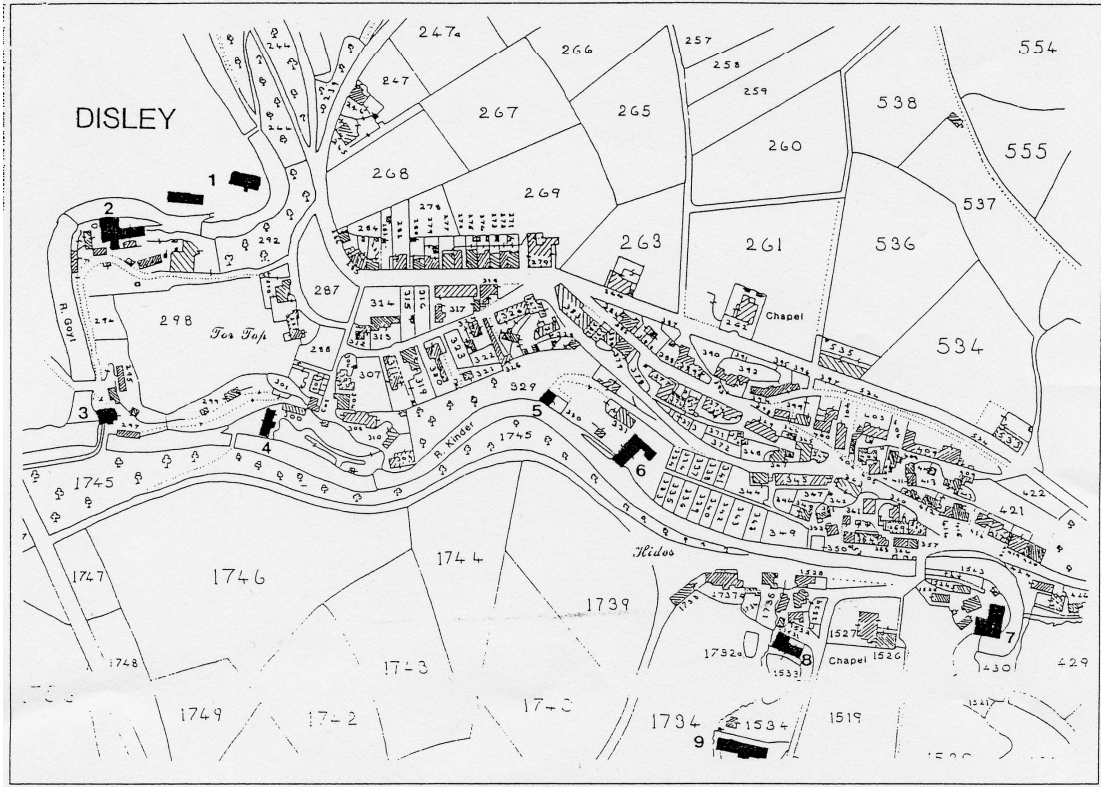


Figure 6: New Mills Tithe Award, 1841

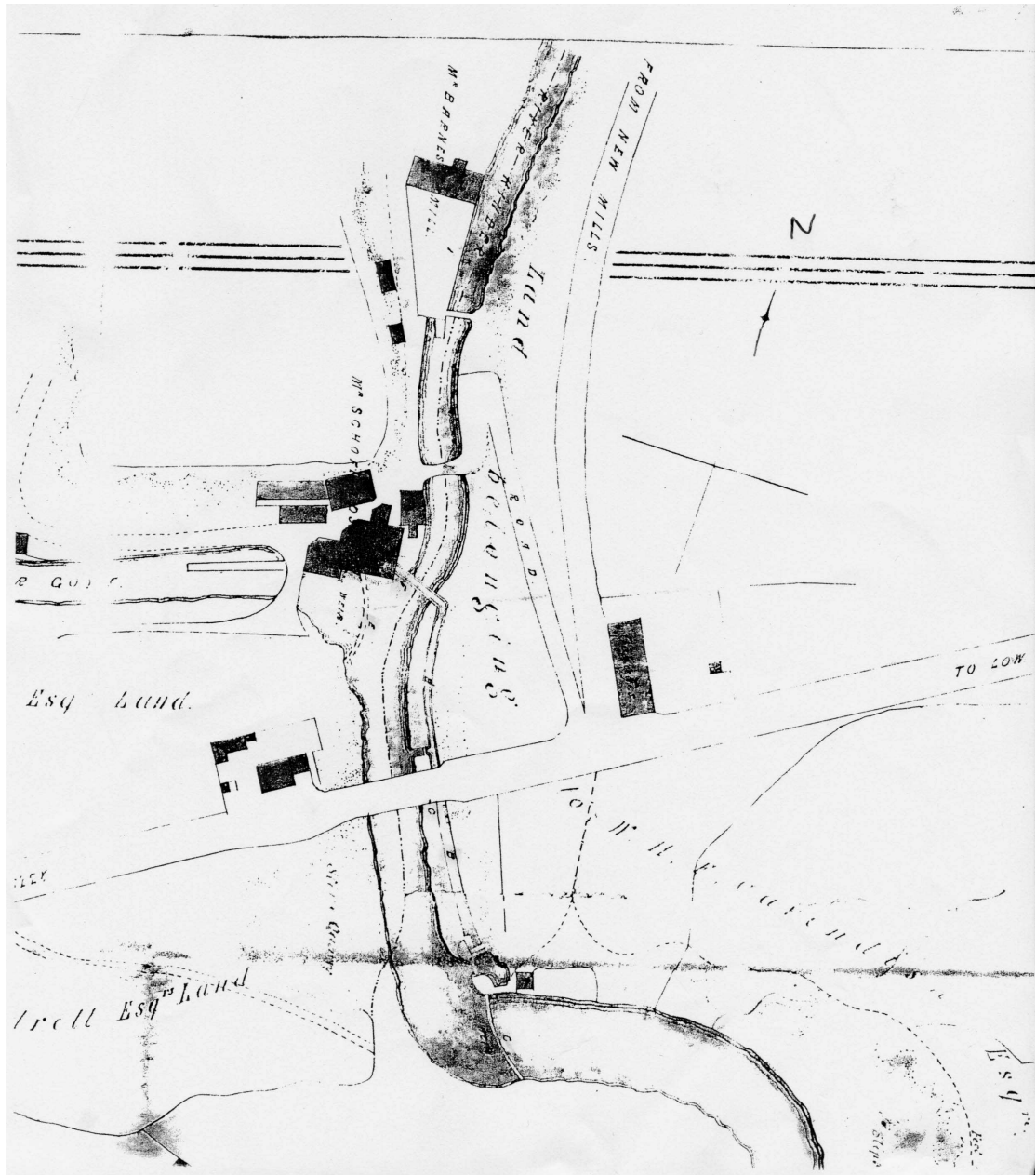


Figure 7: Plan of Torr Mill water management, 1856 (New Mills Heritage Centre)

Memo: Said Buildings form part of Premises known as Torr Mills, situate at New Mills, aforesaid.

Yarn Plug etc 10%

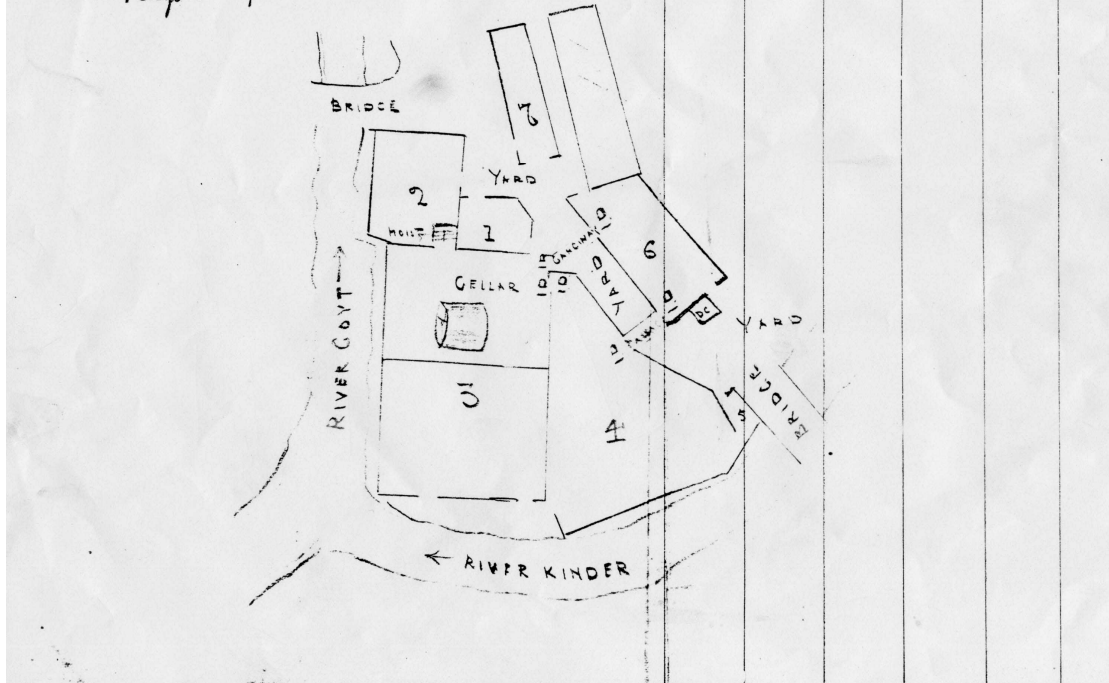


Figure 8: Plan of Torr Mill, 1892 (New Mills Heritage Centre)

MILLS
Messrs The New Cotton Spinning Co Ltd, of Torr Mills, New Mills, in the County of Derby, Cotton Spinners.

	On the Building	On the Machinery (mounted and in use, not Millwright's work, and on all movable utensils therein.	On the Stock of Cotton, in Trust or on Commission, for which the Assured is responsible (in its process of manufacture, and in its manufactured state), and other Materials in Trust therein.	On Millwright's work and Machinery, unfinished, dismounted, or otherwise not in use therein.	On Steam-engines in the Engine-houses thereof, in equal proportions.	On the Boilers and Apparatus belonging thereto, in its Boiler-house
The Building 4 stories cellar and attic in height marked No 2 on plan of premises lodged with this Office, used as Yarn Warehouse, Watchhouse, Office, Store room, and for Roving having a non-fireproof hoist through the floors.		680	400 650			
The Building 4 stories and cellar in height marked No 3 on plan used as Water Wheel House and Yarn Store in cellar and for Mule Spinning over.		1100	800			
The Shed marked No 4 on plan used for Carding and Drawing and communicating with No 3 by double iron doors.		520 580	175 75			
The ground story of Building 4 stories in height marked No 5 on plan used as Blowing Room.	30	100	100			
The three upper stories of said Building No 5 on plan used as Cotton in Bale and Hand Mixing Rooms.			500 615			

Figure 9: Extract of Room Insurance Document, detailing use of rooms in Torr Mill, 1892

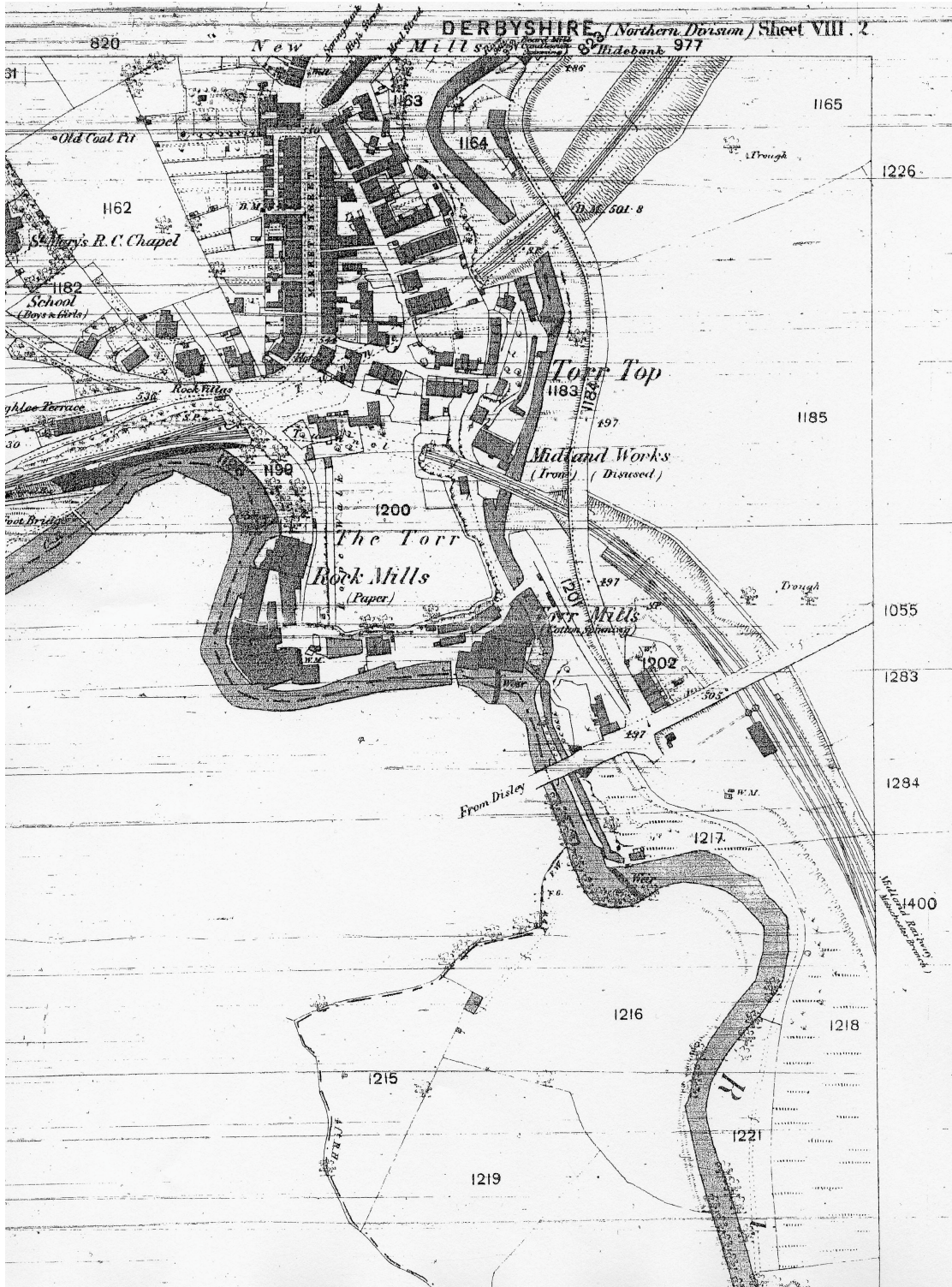


Figure 10: Ordnance Survey Map 1880

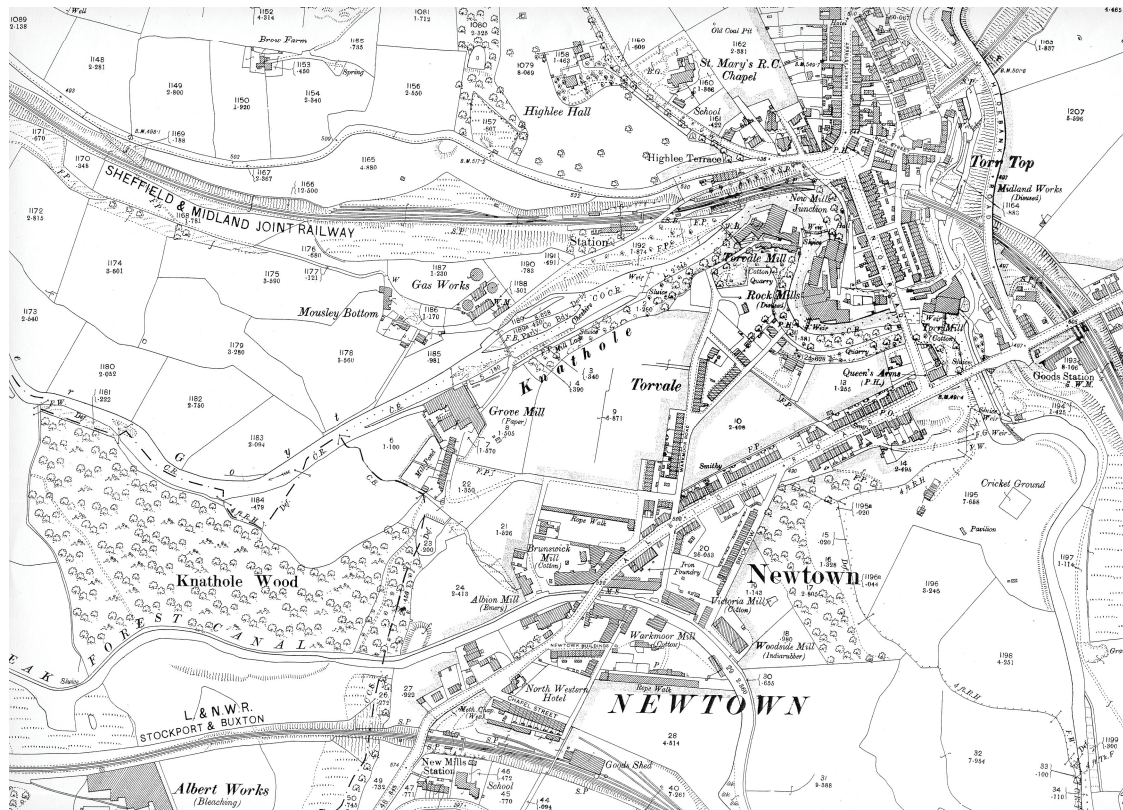


Figure 11: Ordnance Survey Map, 1896



Figure 12: Ordnance Survey Map, 1924

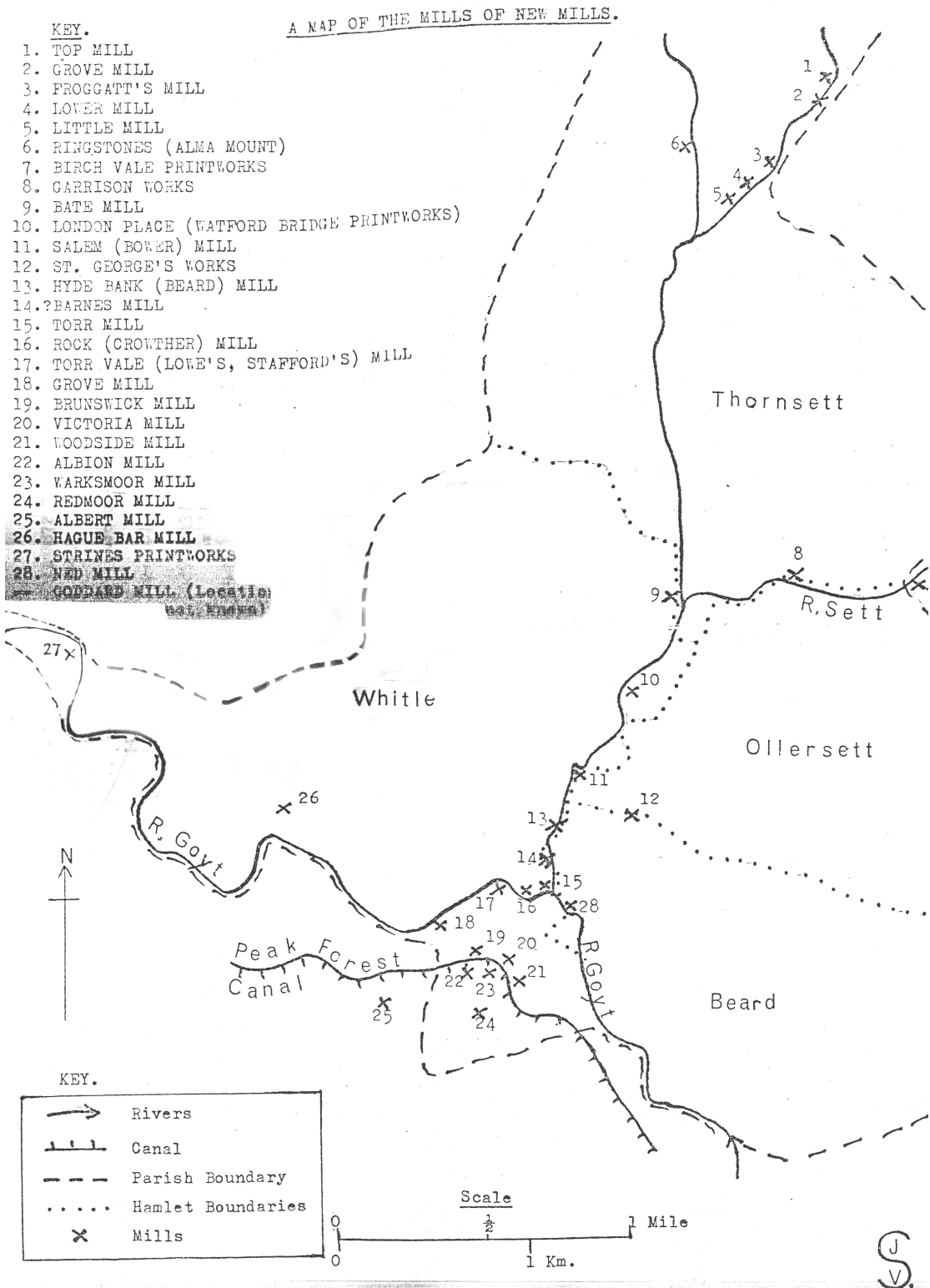


Figure 13: Map of the mills of New Mills (Symonds 1983)

Location	Advertisement (date)	Dimensions (yards)	Storeys
Beard	MM 27.8. 1799	21 x 8	5
Wyatts	MM 29.4.1800	25 x 10	4
Crowther	SA 22.11.1822	24 x 11	
Ringstones, (Rowarth)	SA 26.11.1823	12½ x 9	3
Rowarth	SA 18.1.1828	16 x 11	3
Schofield's	(Plan) 1799	28 x 15	
	(Plan)	15 x 8	
Rock Mill	SA 27.2.1830	24 x 11	
Little Mill (Rowarth)	SA 3.10.1835	10½ x 5½	3 rooms
Non loc	SA 17.4.1840	12 x 8	
Beard	SA 3.12.1858	24 x 14	4

Figure 14: Table of dimensions of cotton mills in the New Mills area (Brumhead 1997)

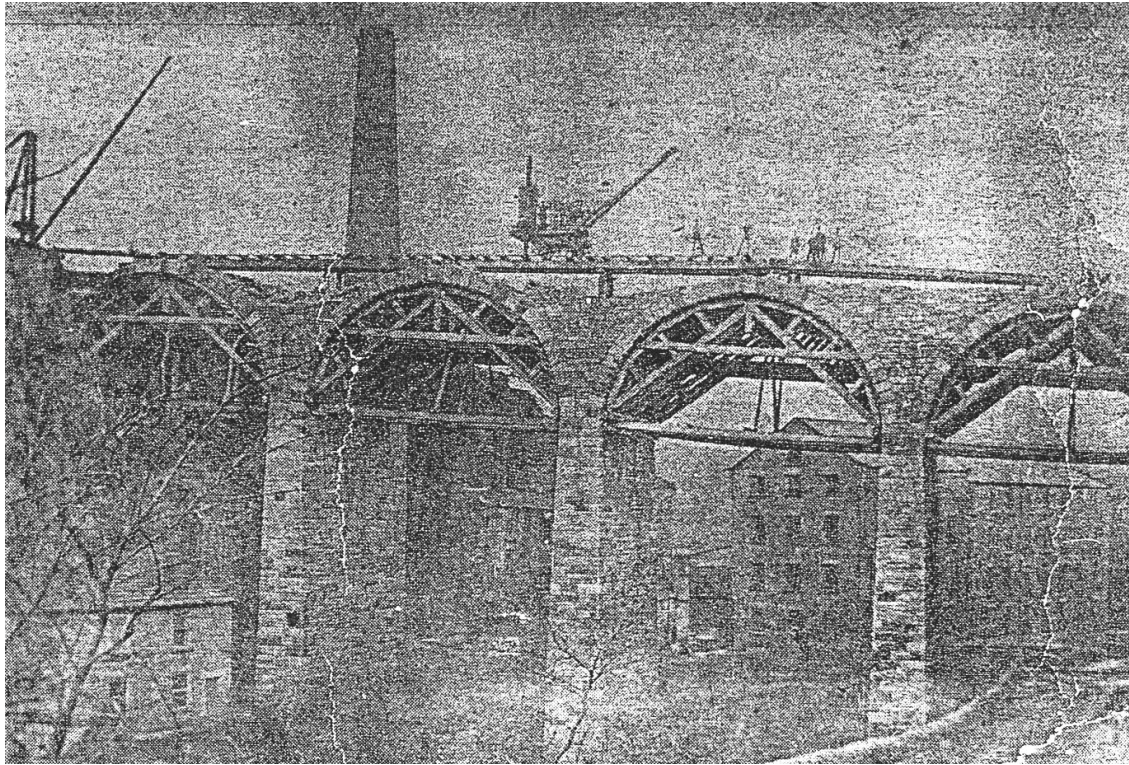


Plate 1: Union Road Bridge (Site 12) 1884, showing Torr Mill in the background

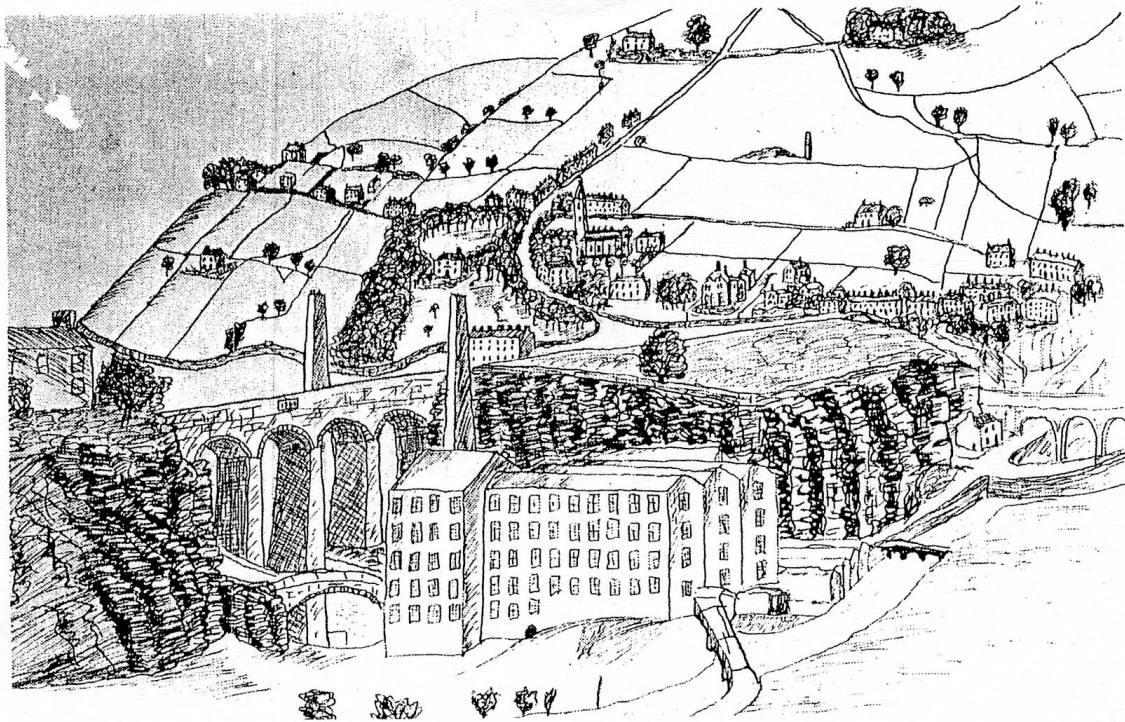


Plate 2: Drawing of Torr Mill, post-1884 (Symonds 1977)

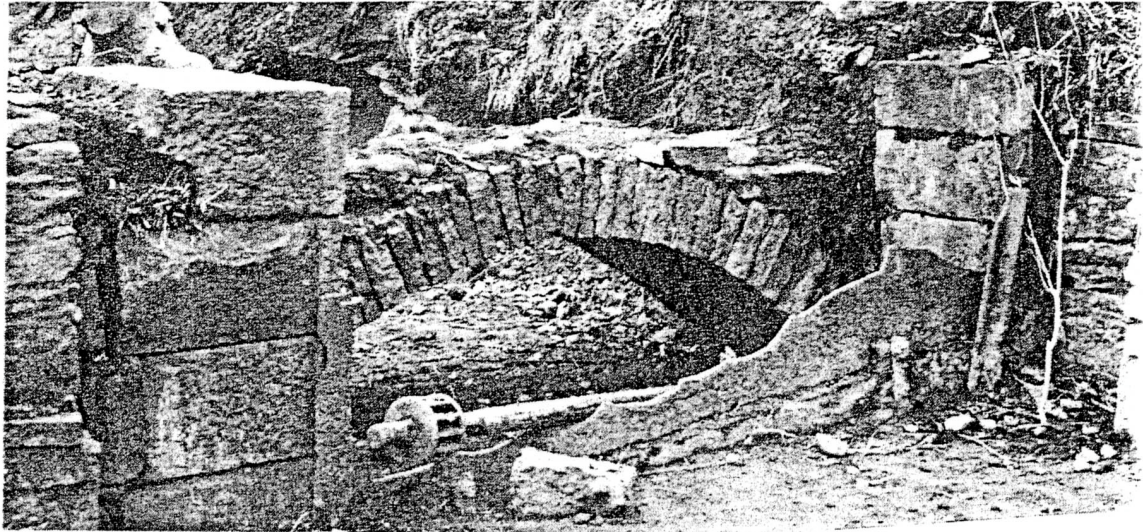


Plate 3: Sluice gate and leat (Site 09) near 'Ned Mill'



Plate 4: Railway viaduct (Site 12) and Torr Mill in the foreground



Plate 5: Torr Mill, pre-1912



Plate 6: Fire at Torr Mill in 1912



Plate 7: Remains of Torr Mill after the fire of 1912

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford
Archaeology
North

February 2003

THE TORRS, NEW MILLS, DERBYSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT

PROJECT DESIGN

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request by United Utilities for an archaeological desk-based assessment in advance of sewerage improvements at the Torrs, New Mills, Derbyshire.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 United Utilities (hereafter the client) propose sewerage improvements at the Torrs, New Mills, Derbyshire. The Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist (DCC) has advised that a desk-based assessment should be carried out prior to the proposed works being undertaken. This project design should be submitted to the DCC for approval.
- 1.2 The site of the proposed sewerage improvements works lies within a conservation area and is thought to be the site of an eighteenth century mill.
- 1.3 OA North has considerable experience of the assessment, evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 20 years. Watching briefs, evaluations and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. In recent years, OA North has undertaken similar types of work in many parts of the North West.
- 1.4 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, **registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide an accurate archaeological assessment of the designated area within its broader context.
- 2.2 A written report will assess the significance of the data generated by the desk-based assessment within a local and regional context.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 3.1.1 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the time scale of the project. The emphasis of the search is to indicate potential archaeological remains rather than to relate a detailed history of the site.
- 3.1.2 ***Documentary and Cartographic Material:*** this work will comprise a rapid desk-based survey of the existing resource. It will include an appraisal of the data in the Derbyshire SMR, appropriate sections of County histories, early maps (printed and manuscript), and such primary documentation (tithe and

estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available. Particular attention will be paid to field and place names recorded on early cartographic sources relating to estate and parish boundaries, field boundaries, woodlands and routes, as these often provide important evidence of archaeological activity and transformation of the historic landscape. All available published and unpublished documentary sources will also be examined and assessed. The Derbyshire Record Office (Matlock) will also be consulted, as will the relevant Local Studies Library. Local museum archives will be consulted as appropriate.

- 3.1.3 **Aerial Photography:** any relevant photographic material held by Derbyshire County Council will also be studied. This may indicate the range and survival of archaeological and structural features in the designated area no longer visible at ground level.
- 3.1.4 **Physical Environment:** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken in order to set the archaeological features in context. Any engineering and/or borehole data relating to the site will also be examined.

3.2 ARCHIVE/REPORT

- 3.2.1 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. OA North conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Derbyshire SMR (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum. Wherever possible, OA North recommends the deposition of such material in a local museum approved by the Museums and Galleries Commission, and would make appropriate arrangements with the designated museum at the outset of the project for the proper labelling, packaging, and accessioning of all material recovered.
- 3.2.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and a further one copy submitted to the Derbyshire SMR within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the

programme detailed above. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

3.2.3 This report will identify areas of defined archaeology. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the identified archaeology within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, and plans. This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on 3.5" disk (IBM compatible format), if required.

3.2.4 *Confidentiality:* all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

4 PROJECT MONITORING

4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the DCC Archaeologist, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

5 WORK TIMETABLE

5.1 OA North could commence the assessment within two weeks of receipt of written notification from the client.

5.2 The desk-based assessment is expected to take in the region of seven days to complete.

5.3 The client report will be completed within eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork, although a shorter deadline can be negotiated if necessary.

6 STAFFING

6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Alison Plummer BSc (Hons)** (OA North senior project manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

6.2 The desktop study, and the assessment report will be carried out by **Daniel Elsworth MA** (OA North Project Supervisor) who has a great deal of experience in the undertaking of documentary assessments.

7 INSURANCE

7.1 OAN has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

APPENDIX 2: SITE GAZETTEER

Site name	Torr Mill
Site number	01
NGR	SJ0010 3852
SMR No	10734-DR439
Site type	Cotton mill
Period	Post-medieval
Source	SMR; Ordnance Survey 1899; Fowkes 1984, Symonds 1991; Brumhead 1997

Description

The earliest record of the mill was located on a map of the Peak Forest Canal drawn in 1794, but was not named. Torr Mill (also known as Torr Top Mill), was probably built around this time for the Schofield family, as a water powered mill. After a fire in 1838, the mill was rebuilt, presumably by John Schofield, whom owned and occupied a cotton mill and yard on the site in 1841. The mill was reconstructed for the installation of steam power in 1846. The building ceased functioning as a cotton mill in the 1890s and was later occupied in 1904 by a firm of linen yarn spinners. In 1912 the five-storey building burned down and was never re-opened. A small section of preserved wall remains, close to the confluence of the rivers Sett and Goyt.

Assessment

The site lies within the proposed development area and will be affected by it.

Site name	Torr Vale Mill
Site number	02
NGR	SJ9200 8588
SMR No	10735-DR7682
Site type	Cotton mill
Period	Post-medieval
Source	SMR; Ordnance Survey 1899, Fowkes 1984, RCHME 1997

Description

Four storey gritstone mill, built for water powered cotton spinning in the 1790s, remodelled between 1860 and 1879 incorporating significant structures from the original mill, with the advent of steam power. The mill has been in continuous operation since. A RCHME survey in 1997 commented that Torr Vale Mill may be the longest period of continuous use of a cotton mill site in England still in use by the cotton industry.

Assessment

The site lies outside of the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name	Canal Foundry
Site number	03
NGR	SJ7400 8562
SMR No	10733-DR59

Site type	Foundry
Period	Post-medieval
Source	Fowkes 1984
Description	

Two storey roofed listed building, with modern additions.

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name	Brunswick Mill
Site number	04
NGR	SJ9970.8490
SMR No	10731-DR58
Site type	Cotton mill
Period	Post-medieval
Source	SMR; Ordnance Survey 1899, Fowkes 1984
Description	

Three to four storey building dated to 1883, situated on the banks of the Peak Forest Canal. Formerly built as a cotton mill, it is presently used as a sweet factory.

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name	Peak Forest Canal
Site number	05
NGR	SJ8400 8535 multiple centre site
SMR No	14930-DR516
Site type	Canal
Period	Post-medieval
Source	SMR; T Brown's Plan of Peak Forest Canal 1793, Ordnance Survey 1899, Fowkes 1984
Description	

In 1794, the Peak Forest Canal Company constructed a canal to link the Ashton-under-Lyne Canal with the Buxton limestone area.

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name	Peak Forest Canal Warehouse
Site number	06
NGR	SJ9500 8542
SMR No	10709-DR56
Site type	Warehouse
Period	Post-medieval
Source	SMR; Index; 1601, 1601, NDAT

Description

Peak Forest Canal Warehouse

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name Torrs Railway Bridge and Tunnel

Site number 07

NGR SK0012 8550 centre

SMR No 10736-DR440

Site type Railway Bridge and Tunnel

Period Post-medieval

Source SMR; Fowkes 1984

Description

Gritstone tunnel and railway bridge on line of former Grand Central/Midland Railway, Hayfield branch. Now on Sett Valley trail

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name The Torrs, Hyde Bank Mill

Site number 08

NGR SK0009 8562

SMR No 10737-DR441

Site type Cotton Mill

Period Post-medieval

Source SMR; Ollersett Waterworks map of New Mills 1830, Fowkes 1984, Ordnance Survey 1899

Description

The four-storey gritstone building mill straddled the river Sett. The site was thought to have been used as a corn mill dating to 1767. Formerly known as Beard mill in 1789, and identified as the first cotton factory in New Mills. Destroyed by fire in 1832, known as Sidebottom and Ridgways cotton mill in 1846, later redeveloped in 1879 as a candlewick mill. It is now occupied by light industries.

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name Sluice gate

Site number 09

NGR SK0018 8509

SMR No -

Site type Sluice gate

Period Post-medieval

Source Brumhead 1987

Description

Situated near a bend on the river Goyt. Remains of an iron sluice gate that controlled the flow of water along a leat to Torr Mill.

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name Ned Mill

Site number 10

NGR SK0017 8512

SMR No -

Site type Cottage

Period Post-medieval

Source Symonds 1983, Brumhead 1987

Description

There is no evidence that the cottage was a site for a mill. Now demolished, the site is adjacent to a preserved sluice gate (Site 10).

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name Church Road Bridge

Site number 11

NGR SK0013 8517

SMR No -

Site type Road Bridge

Period Post-medieval

Source Brumhead 1987

Description

Two-tiered, stone built arched bridge, built over the Torrs in 1835.

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name Union Road Bridge

Site number 12

NGR SK 0040 8578

SMR No -

Site type Viaduct

Period Post-medieval

Source Ordnance Survey 1899, Anthony 1954-1955, Brumhead 1987, Brumhead 1994,

Description

Built in 1884 across the fields of Torr Top estate, to link Newtown and New Mills

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name	Railway goods warehouse
Site number	13
NGR	SK0024 8518
SMR No	-
Site type	Warehouse
Period	Post-medieval
Source	Ordnance Survey 1880, Ordnance Survey 1899, Ordnance Survey 1984

Description

In continuous use as a goods warehouse until the present day

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name	Rock Mill
Site number	14
NGR	SK0000 8524
SMR No	-
Site type	Cotton mill
Period	Post-medieval
Source	New Mills town map 1841, Ordnance Survey 1880, Ordnance Survey 1899

Description

Also known as Crowder or Crowther mill. Built in 1788 as a cotton mill, and owned by the Crowder family. By the 1880s the mill was producing paper. In 1882 the building was destroyed by fire.

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name	Barnes Mill
Site number	15
NGR	SK0008 8527
SMR No	-
Site type	Cotton mill
Period	Post- medieval
Source	Symonds 1977

Description

Ruins.

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.

Site name	Torr Top Cottages
Site number	16
NGR	SK 0020 8595
SMR No	-
Site type	Cottages
Period	Post-medieval
Source	SMR

Description

Three mid-18th century Grade II listed properties, with 20th century alterations, currently unoccupied.

Assessment

The site lies outside the proposed development area and will not be affected by it.



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