

Former mill buildings at Booth Bridge
Earby civil parish, Lancashire:
Archaeological Building Recording



June 2006

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SUMMARY

Archaeological building recording was carried out in May 2006 at two buildings at Booth Bridge, in Earby civil parish, Lancashire (NGR: SD 91354782), for Mr J Hoyle, before their conversion to residential use. One of the buildings was built as a water-powered cotton spinning mill around 1800, possibly on the site of an earlier corn mill, while the other dates from around 1900 when the site had gone over to a bobbin mill. The records made include floor plans, sections and photographs, as well as a written account containing some historical information.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

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A complete set of photographs forms part of the project archive (see Appendix 1)

FORMER MILL BUILDINGS AT BOOTH BRIDGE, EARBY CIVIL PARISH, LANCASHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at two former mill buildings at Booth Bridge, in Earby civil parish, Lancashire, carried out in May 2006. The work was commissioned by the developer Mr J Hoyle, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Pendle Borough Council, for the conversion of the buildings to residential use.
- 1.2 One of the buildings is known as the “Power House” and was probably built as a water-powered cotton spinning mill in the late eighteenth century, but was converted to a bobbin mill in the early nineteenth century. It may have been built on the site of an earlier corn mill but there is very little firm evidence for this. The second building, known as the “Bobbin Mill”, dates from around 1900. Both have been stripped of almost all fixtures relating to their industrial use, having been converted to farm buildings in the mid twentieth century. Records made include floor plans, section drawings and photographs, as well as a written account incorporating historical information.
- 1.3 The recording was carried out in accordance with a proposal approved by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service. This report will be deposited with the client, the planning authority, the County Archaeology Service and the English Heritage National Monuments Record. The project archive will be deposited at the Lancashire Record Office.

2 Location and current use

- 2.1 The buildings stand at NGR: SD 91354782, at Booth Bridge, a minor hamlet which takes its name from the bridge over the Earby Beck, 1km north-east of Earby and 1km south-east of Thornton-in-Craven (Figure 1). Until their recent sale they formed part of Booth Bridge Farm, and stand to the south-east of the farmhouse, on the south side of the lane. Of the two the Bobbin Mill is the western building and the Power House the eastern (Figure 2).
- 2.2 At the time of recording the buildings’ last use was agricultural.

3 Planning background

- 3.1 Neither of the buildings is listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Planning permission has been granted by Pendle Borough Council for the conversion of each to a dwelling (application no: 13/05/0269/P) and condition

no 9 attached to the consent requires that a record and analysis of the buildings be made before development, which this report is intended to fulfil.

4 Historical background and architectural interest

- 4.1 The buildings have previously attracted the attention of local historians and some research has gone on into the site. A corn mill has been assumed to have stood at Booth Bridge in the medieval or early post-medieval period (Parker 1993, 33), and although no clear evidence to indicate the presence of one appears to have been published, water-powered corn mills were frequently adapted to new industries to exploit the considerable investment of existing water supply arrangements, and there is fragmentary archaeological evidence for corn drying and grinding having taken place at Booth Bridge (Gallagher 2004).
- 4.2 The earliest known records of a mill at Booth Bridge are from 1798 when John Broughton of Thornton-in-Craven insured a cotton spinning mill there for the total sum of £250 (Ingle 1997, 190). Ingle also notes that twenty people were employed there in 1803 and that the mill burned down in 1813, to be rebuilt in 1814 with a new 30 foot waterwheel; in 1822 it was run by Richard Green and was still in use for cotton spinning in 1835, when Parker notes that the waterwheel was repaired (Parker 1993, 34).
- 4.3 Cotton spinning became a mechanised process following the invention of the water frame by Richard Arkwright in the late eighteenth century, and he pioneered the development of the factory system in water-powered mills built to house numbers of frames. Around 60 such mills were built between 1771 and 1791, many in the north of England; they typically have a length to width ratio of 2:1, averaging 70 feet by 30 feet (21m by 9m) in plan, with power transmitted to the production areas, usually of three or four storeys, by vertical shafts and bevel gearing (Jones, W 1996, 11).
- 4.4 It is not clear when cotton spinning at Booth Bridge ceased, as historical sources suggest some overlap between spinning and the industry which replaced it in the mid nineteenth century, which was wood-turning and bobbin-making. Although Baines' directory of 1822 lists Richard Green as a cotton spinner of Earby, it also notes John Wilkinson of Booth Bridge as a wood turner, although of course his business may not have used water power. A map of 1825 simply shows "mill" at the site (Figure 3), with two buildings standing on either side of the lane, the south-east one supplied by a goit (Thornton-in-Craven enclosure map).
- 4.5 Many such early cotton spinning mills in the region were abandoned when cotton weaving became a mechanised process from the 1820s onwards, following which larger and generally steam-powered mills were built, which were integrated to produce yarn and finished cloth on the same site (Taylor 2000, 12).

The rapid growth of the local textile industry during the mid nineteenth century did however lead to an increasing demand for timber bobbins and numerous bobbin mills were built to supply the trade, although generally they were sited near sources of timber, such as in the Furness district of Cumbria.

- 4.6 Clear evidence for change comes with the census of 1841, which lists Joseph Wilkinson (age 30) as a bobbin manufacturer, and no cotton spinner is listed at the hamlet. Shortly afterwards, the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile map, surveyed in 1848-50, shows two buildings which are probably the same as those shown in 1825, but in this case named "Booth Bridge Mill (Sawing)" (Figure 4), and in 1851 the census lists Henry Wilkinson (age 55) of Booth Bridge as a master wood turner, employing six men and four apprentices. Although bobbin-making appears to have been the principal activity, and thrived on the rapidly expanding local textile industry, a variety of timber implements were probably made at the site, such as barrows and agricultural tools.
- 4.7 Henry Wilkinson was still resident in 1861 when he was termed a bobbin turner and farmer, and other bobbin turners were also listed at the hamlet in the census for that year, including members of the Holgate family, which appears to have had an association with the mill which lasted into the twentieth century. In 1865 the sale of John Lister Lister Kaye's Craven Estates took place, and the particulars include those of Lot 2: "All that old established bobbin mill, called "Booth Bridge" in Thornton, with the valuable water wheel and goit, houses, warehouse, cottages, shops, orchard, garden, yards, and outbuildings, with all that farm.... now occupied by Mr Henry Wilkinson..." (copy supplied by Beverley Parker, source unknown). The property was bought by J Wilkinson Wasney of Thornton (no relation). Henry Wilkinson was still resident in 1871, described as a timber merchant and farmer of 48 acres, while his son Henry, aged 45, was a bobbin turner, one of only two listed at Booth Bridge. Henry junior was again listed in the 1881 census, as a farmer and wood turner.
- 4.8 Henry Wilkinson died in 1890 and his will mentions a partnership between himself and his brother Vandeleur, who appears to have taken over the business, as the 1891 census names him as resident (aged 56) and describes him as a farmer and bobbin turner. Vandeleur Wilkinson is also documented as having bought a pumping engine and engine bed from the Calf Hall Shed Co in Barnoldswick in 1892 (Gallagher 2004). The 6" to the mile map re-surveyed in that year (Figure 5) shows the site as a "saw mill" with the main building (today's Power House) as an L-shape, and the second building on the north side of the track still standing, but that now known as the Bobbin Mill is not shown.
- 4.9 In the 1901 census members of the Wilkinson family at Booth Bridge still included bobbin makers, as well as timber merchants, and by 1907 the new "Bobbin Mill" had been added to the site, as the OS 1:2500 1909 map shows

(Figure 6), although it may have been built as early as 1893, and an oral source recalls that it dates to around 1885 (Gallagher 2004). The 1909 map is also useful in showing the mill race, then extant although possibly disused.

- 4.10 A photograph probably taken in the early twentieth century (Figure 7; source unknown) shows the site apparently in production: there are large piles of timber to the north of the mill buildings, and while the “Bobbin Mill” is largely as it stands today, the “Power House” has a full length lean-to along its south-east side, and a two storey building and smoking chimney at its south end, indicating either a change to steam power or a drying shed or kiln. Despite the new investment in buildings and plant bobbin manufacturing appears to have ceased around 1912 or 1920, when production moved to Heysham, the better to exploit supplies of cheaper and superior timber imported from overseas; at Booth Bridge the mill had been supplied at least in part with timber from North Ribblesdale. The property was sold in 1914 and after a further change of hands it was acquired by Earby Urban District Council in 1922, who later disposed of it, and subsequently it appears to have become used only for farming.

5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording took place between 17 and 23 May 2006, in accordance with a method statement approved by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service. It involved the production of floor plans and section drawings of both the Bobbin Mill and Power House, showing all significant visible archaeological detail, and employing conventions based on those specified by English Heritage¹. The drawings are based on a survey by ADM Design and were checked for general accuracy.
- 5.2 A photographic record was also made, using a medium format camera with shift and other lenses, and black and white film for the sake of archival permanence. External and internal photographs were taken, in most cases using either a 1m or 2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations as a scale, and their locations are shown on copies of the site and floor plans. The photographs have been printed to a size of 7” x 5”, and a selection are copied in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in bold. A small number of 35mm colour slides was also taken.

¹ English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

6 Site description

General

- 6.1 The two buildings stand approximately 50m west of Earby Beck on gently sloping ground, roughly parallel to each other and orientated so that their long axes run from south-south-west to north-north-east (1). The east building, known as the Power House (3), is at a lower level and stands some 11m apart from the Bobbin Mill (4), the gap now filled by a yard but previously occupied by the mill race or goit and in the early twentieth century by small buildings, as indicated by the 1909 map (Figure 6); the goit is now only faintly visible as a minor earthwork feature to the south of the buildings however (5).

The Power House

- 6.2 The building now known as the Power House was probably built as the cotton spinning mill known to have been in existence in 1798, but at least partly rebuilt in 1814 and adapted to wood-turning and bobbin manufacturing in the mid nineteenth century. It is not known when its present name was coined, but it may have been following the introduction of steam power, probably at the end of the nineteenth century.
- 6.3 The Power House is built of local random sandstone rubble and has a stone slate roof laid in diminishing courses, with stone ridge. It has a very plain character, lacking any ornamentation or embellishment, and has been subject to a great deal of alteration throughout its life, with its post-industrial use as a farm building leaving it with almost no fixtures or fittings to indicate internal arrangements, other than those in the wheel-house at the south end. The building has an unusual plan in that the north gable is set at an angle (6), an aspect not shown on the 1909 OS map (Figure 6), although probably only because of the mapping scale. Its current outline measures up to 16.9m long by 6.8m wide, and its two storeys stand to 4.7m high. These dimensions are rather small for the typical Arkwright-type cotton mills, although the length to width ratio, at 2½:1, is roughly in keeping with the 2:1 cited above.
- 6.4 The building's south-east elevation faces towards the former tail-race from the wheel-house, and a lean-to building had been added along this side in two phases by the early twentieth century, of which only the concrete floor and fragments of the walls remain (7). There are numerous openings in this side: those to the ground floor are much altered and most appear to be secondary, while those at first floor level, comprising a row of nine window openings, regularly spaced for the most part but the majority infilled, appear to be original to the building (8). At ground floor level there is a wide opening to the wheel-

house, under a steel lintel and probably widened or inserted, while to the right is a window in a formerly larger opening. Further north are other areas of infill representing former doorways, all with timber lintels which suggest that they are secondary, and were perhaps inserted to give access into the lean-to running along this elevation.

- 6.5 At the south-west end of the building, the former lean-to is represented by a mortared rubble wall approximately 1.5m high and 5.5m long, with squared quoins indicating its return (10). No features relating to the internal arrangements within this addition survive, apart from the concrete floor, although where this has collapsed the top of the stone arch over the culverted tail-race is visible (12). The early photograph and the 1909 map show the later buildings at this end continuing to the south-west of this point, but there are no standing remains to represent them now. However, the main building's south-west gable contains evidence for them in the inserted and now infilled opening near the right quoin (13). This has two large horizontal blocks of stone which resemble a bearing, but are in fact thought to be the mouth of a furnace, stoked from inside the Power House, and linked to the chimney shown on the early photograph. Another smaller blocked opening in this gable, near the left quoin, is of uncertain purpose.
- 6.6 The south-west gable of the building formerly continued westwards but now ends in a ragged line, close to the full height of the building (14), and this is likely to have stood next to the waterwheel, as a full-height opening, 0.8m wide and immediately adjacent to this end of the building (17), almost certainly marks its position; the wheel was described in the early nineteenth century as having a 30 foot (9.15m) diameter, and a more recent oral source quoted by Gallagher recalls it as being made of cast iron with wooden buckets. At this size, given the position of the axle identified within the wheel-house (see below), it would have projected nearly 3m to the west of the building (Figure 8a).
- 6.7 Other features in this elevation include the wide doorway with stone lintel into the wheel-house, two blocked openings (windows?) at first floor level above it, and paired bolt holes which probably held brackets for a horizontal line shaft within the building, also at first floor level (17). To the left of here, at the current fence line, is another blocked opening which runs for the full height of the building but whose purpose is obscure, and further to the left are three windows, two blocked (16).
- 6.8 The north-east gable, set at an irregular angle to the long walls (18), has a wide doorway under a steel lintel in its centre, believed to have been inserted, and an earlier blocked doorway to its right, with stone jambs but timber lintel. There is also a small blocked opening near the roof-line, perhaps a window but in an unusual position.

- 6.9 The building's interior is of two parts: the wheel-house at the south-west end, and the main area, which are separated by a stone wall, extending only to first floor level (20). The larger area is now undivided and has a concrete floor beneath the present manure, believed to be of post-industrial date. The crude stone pier which supports a failed roof truss is also a secondary feature, which appears to have no other function. The outer walls in this area contain only the same features as are visible externally (ie numerous blocked and secondary openings), although areas of limewash exist, and it is possible that internal divisions were present previously, as suggested by the two tie-beams which have brickwork over, rather than trusses, at the north-east end (23). The early photograph appears to show two chimneys on the ridge at the north end of this building, and these may have been associated with this brickwork. Otherwise, little can be postulated about the former arrangements within this area, other than that originally it would have been used for cotton spinning, with wood-turning and bobbin manufacture being carried out subsequently.
- 6.10 There is more of interest in the wheel-house however, where the bearings for the water-wheel and some associated shafting remain in situ, although the precise arrangements are not fully understood. This area has a wide entrance in the west side (26), two doorways through to the main area to the north (27), and a secondary wide entrance in the east side (29). The floor is now of concrete, with the wheelpit having been infilled.
- 6.11 The waterwheel is believed to have been positioned against the inside face of the building's south-west gable, where its reported 30 foot (9.15m) diameter would have meant that around a third of it projected outside the building. The large stone blocks which act as the pedestal for its axle form a short wall within the wheel-house (30), indicating that the wheel can have been no more than 0.8m wide. This pedestal is stepped in profile (Figure 8), with two slots cut into the top surface at different levels: the lower would have been for the waterwheel, and the upper for the second motion shaft, probably driven by a pit wheel fixed on the waterwheel axle. Both slots are matched by bearings in the outer walls of the wheel-house, that for the waterwheel in the south-west gable and that for the second motion shaft in the cross wall opposite (27;32-35), and all four have a timber pad in place as well as a pair of vertical cotter bolts, the other ends of which are accessible by means of horizontal openings in the wall faces below (33; Figure 8a).
- 6.12 It is likely that the waterwheel arrangement dates from the late eighteenth century cotton mill or perhaps its rebuilding in 1814, but perhaps incorporated earlier elements. In either case, power appears to have been transmitted from the second motion shaft into the ground floor area through the bearing in the cross wall, and via a vertical shaft to the upper floor of the mill, where a

horizontal shaft would have been fastened to the inside of the north-west side, as indicated by the paired bolt holes observed externally. The height of the waterwheel axle relative to present ground level suggests that it would have been a breastshot or undershot arrangement.

- 6.13 Another area of interest within the wheel-house is the group of vertically aligned recesses in the south-west wall (37). The recess at ground floor level appears to have been created by hacking out masonry and has an uncertain purpose, but above it two rectangular openings, now blocked with brickwork on the outside, have square sides. These are reported to have been the means of stoking a furnace in the building beyond, and the blackening around them supports this theory, as there are no bearings on the stones to suggest that alternative purpose. As noted above, the early twentieth century photograph shows a tall chimney in this area and this may indicate a drying shed or kiln, which would have been an important component of the bobbin mill, or possibly indicates the location of a steam engine, perhaps that bought by Vandeleur Wilkinson in 1892, and which would have replaced the waterwheel as the power source for the works.
- 6.14 The first floor or loft within the wheel-house is a relatively modern construction, as indicated by the nature of the joists and their positioning, and the fact that the waterwheel would have rotated through this area; the former opening for it at the corner of the building is still visible from the interior. There do not appear to be any further significant features in this area however.
- 6.15 The building's roof has three king-post trusses, fashioned from square-sawn softwood and with angled struts; these probably date to the 1814 rebuilding. There is some charring to the purlins, perhaps resulting from re-use of timber after the 1813 fire, or caused by later events. As well as the two proper trusses there are two tie-beams with brickwork running to the ridge, closely spaced and of uncertain function (noted above).

The Bobbin Mill

- 6.16 The second building at the site is now known as the Bobbin Mill and dates from around 1900, as discussed above. It is a rectangular, two storey building, also built from random sandstone rubble but with window and doorway dressings bearing strong diagonal tooling. The roof is of stone slate with stone ridge, but with moulded brick gutter brackets along the long elevations (42).
- 6.17 The only ground floor entrance, and a first floor taking-in door, are in the north-east gable (43). Both have monolithic jambs, but the ground floor doorway has been widened and has a steel lintel. Above the first floor doorway is a long stone with grooves cut at regular intervals, which Gallagher has interpreted as a rack

stone from a corn-drying kiln. Openings in the south-east side include three windows to the ground floor and three windows to the first floor, as well as an original, timber-lined slot which no doubt allowed a belt drive to pass into the building (44,45). The power source for this belt drive may have been in the small adjacent building shown on the 1909 map (Figure 6), perhaps a steam engine. The south-west gable and north-west elevation have windows similar to those in the south-east side, although a number have been blocked and a modern lean-to farm shed with breeze block walls has been built against it (46,48).

- 6.18 The interior of the building has been in farm use following the cessation of industrial use and has very few features which indicate its former purpose. The ground floor is of concrete, believed to be secondary, although the first floor frame, which is well-made but now lacks floor boards, is still *in situ* (52,54). Significant features of the ground floor are the fireplace opening at the south-west end (56), the belt-drive slot in the south-east side, and the timber stairs to the first floor. There is a similar lack of indicative features on this upper floor (59), but overhead are three queen-post trusses of bolted, square-sawn softwood, which are characteristic of the period (61).

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 There is circumstantial evidence to suggest that Booth Bridge was the site of a medieval corn mill but this has not been proven by this archaeological recording. The building now known as the Power House was first built in the late eighteenth century as a cotton spinning mill, and was rebuilt in 1814, according to historical evidence, although the extent of rebuilding is not known, and may chiefly have concerned timber floors and the roof structure, rather than the masonry walls. The water-powered cotton mill went out of production between 1814 and the 1840s, with the building being used instead for working timber, principally bobbin manufacture, which remained as a specialised use into the second decade of the twentieth century. During this phase, probably around 1900, the building now known as the “Bobbin Mill” was added, although quite what it was used for is not known. A number of other structures at the site have been demolished, which together with the lack of fixtures within the buildings, leads to an incomplete picture of the former mill.

8 Acknowledgments

- 8.1 The author would like to thank Robert Abel, Beverley Parker and Trevor Tattersall for supplying information used in this report.

9 References

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- Parker, B 1993 *Torentun, The Ancient Parish of Thornton-in-Craven*
- Taylor, S 2000 *Pendle Textile Mills* (English Heritage document)
- Thornton-in-Craven enclosure map, 1825 (*A plan of the parish of Thornton-in-Craven in the County of York describing thereon the allotments set out by the commissioners under the Thornton Inclosure Act*) [Photocopy in Barnoldswick library]

Appendix 1: Contents of the project archive

To be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office, Preston
1 file, containing:

- a copy of the report text & figures
- full set of labelled photographs
- photographic negatives
- 35mm colour slides
- site notes (annotated plans etc)

Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

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47	1	5	Bobbin Mill: south-west gable
46	1	6	Bobbin Mill, from the south-east
44	1	7	Bobbin Mill: south-east elevation
42	1	8	Bobbin Mill, from the north-east
43	1	9	Bobbin Mill: north-east gable
49	1	11	Bobbin Mill, from the north
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	2	3	Same as 2/5
17	2	5	Power House: north-west elevation (right part)
15	2	6	Power House: north-west elevation
16	2	7	Power House: north-west elevation (left part)
8	2	8	The Power House: left part of south-east elevation
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2	2	12	View of the site from the south-east, across Booth Bridge
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45	2	14	Bobbin Mill: detail of window and slot for belt drive in south-east elevation
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53	2	17	Bobbin Mill: interior (ground floor), from the north-west
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23	3	13	Power House: main interior, from the south-west
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41	3	16	Power House: roof trusses, from the north-east
25	3	17	Power House: doorway from main room into wheelhouse, from the north-east
27	3	18	Power House: interior of wheelhouse, showing bearing and doorway into main room, from the

			south
28	4	1	Power House: interior of wheelhouse, from the west
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37	4	4	Power House: inserted recesses in south corner of wheelhouse, perhaps for stoking furnace in now demolished building beyond
30	4	5	Power House: interior of wheelhouse, from the east
26	4	6	Power House: interior of wheelhouse, from the south-east
32	4	7	Power House: opposing bearings across wheelpit, from the north-east, probably for waterwheel axle
31	4	8	Power House: north-west side of wheelpit and bearing at right
33	4	10	Power House: stone blocks to side of wheelpit, carrying two bearings
40	4	11	Power House: loft over wheel-house, from the east
39	4	12	Power House: loft over wheel-house, from the north-east
38	4	13	Power House: loft over wheel-house, from the north-west
1	5	1	View of the site from the east, across the Earby Beck
36	5	2	Power House: bearing in north-east side of wheelhouse
35	5	4	Power House: stone blocks to side of wheelpit, carrying two bearings with cotter bolts
34	5	5	Power House: opposing bearings with cotter bolts, on either side of wheelpit, from the north-east
12	5	6	Arch of tail race culvert visible through concrete floor to east of Power House, from the east
11	5	7	Concrete floor of former lean-to building next to Power House, from the north-east
5	5	8	The Power House (right) & Bobbin Mill (left), from the south, along line of former mill race

LIST OF COLOUR SLIDES

Slide Subject

- 1 View of the site from the south-east, across Booth Bridge
- 2 The Power House (front) & Bobbin Mill (rear), from the south-east
- 3 The Power House (left) & Bobbin Mill (right), from the north
- 4 The Power House, from the east
- 5 The Power House: south-east elevation, with remains of tail race in foreground
- 6 Power House: south-west gable
- 7 The Power House, from the west
- 8 Power House: north-west elevation
- 9 The Power House, from the north
- 10 Power House: main interior, from the north
- 11 Power House: interior of wheelhouse, from the south-east
- 12 Power House: stone blocks to side of wheelpit, carrying two bearings
- 13 Power House: inserted recesses in south corner of wheelhouse
- 14 Bobbin Mill, from the north-east
- 15 Bobbin Mill: south-east elevation
- 16 Bobbin Mill, from the south-east
- 17 Bobbin Mill, from the south-west
- 18 Bobbin Mill, from the north
- 19 Bobbin Mill: north-west elevation
- 20 Bobbin Mill: interior (ground floor), from the south-west

Appendix 2: Method statement

THE BOBBIN MILL AND POWER HOUSE AT BOOTH BRIDGE MILL, THORNTON-IN-CRAVEN / EARBY

METHOD STATEMENT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

Planning permission has been granted for the conversion of two buildings which form part of this former mill complex to residential use, the permission having a condition requiring the making of a detailed record of the buildings.

One building (the west building) is known as the Bobbin Mill and appears to date from the mid to late nineteenth century. It is stone-built and of two storeys, with the interior containing very few historic features, the building having been used as a barn in recent years.

The other building, to the east, is known as the Power House and appears to be an older structure, containing evidence for a former waterwheel, although the interior of the building has been largely altered and the building is largely a shell.

Ingle notes that there was a small cotton mill at Booth Bridge in 1798, with over twenty people employed in 1803, but that the building burnt down in 1813 when it was rebuilt with a 30 foot waterwheel. This would appear to be that building known as the Power House. It was still in use for cotton spinning by 1835 (Ingle, G 1997 *Yorkshire Cotton*, 190). Oral evidence suggests the site was subsequently used for making bobbins, and also for corn grinding, with industrial activity continuing into the twentieth century.

The archaeological recording will include both buildings.

For each building the recording scheme will be similar to that at Souteril Laithe, Trawden, approved by PBC and LCAS in April 2006. The following elements will be included:

- A detailed analysis of the site in order to understand its history and development
- Historical research of local sources to provide background information
- A site plan showing the present arrangement of buildings
- Plans of the two buildings at ground floor and first floor level, although the upper floor plans will be constrained by access difficulties
- A cross section through each building, showing the roof structure
- Drawings to show features associated with the former waterwheel and water supply, and any related power transmission
- A photographic record using orthodox black and white film and a medium format camera, supplemented by colour slides

A single written report will be produced, illustrated with drawings and photographs, and incorporating copies of historic maps etc.

The archive will be deposited at the Lancashire Record Office.

28 April 2006

STEPHEN HAIGH

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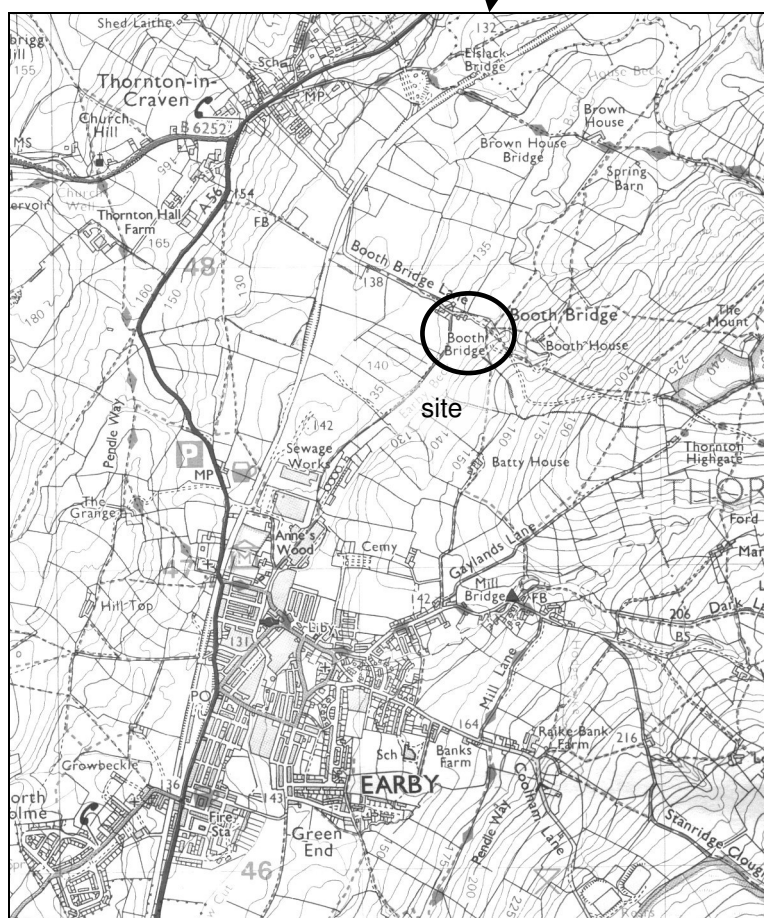
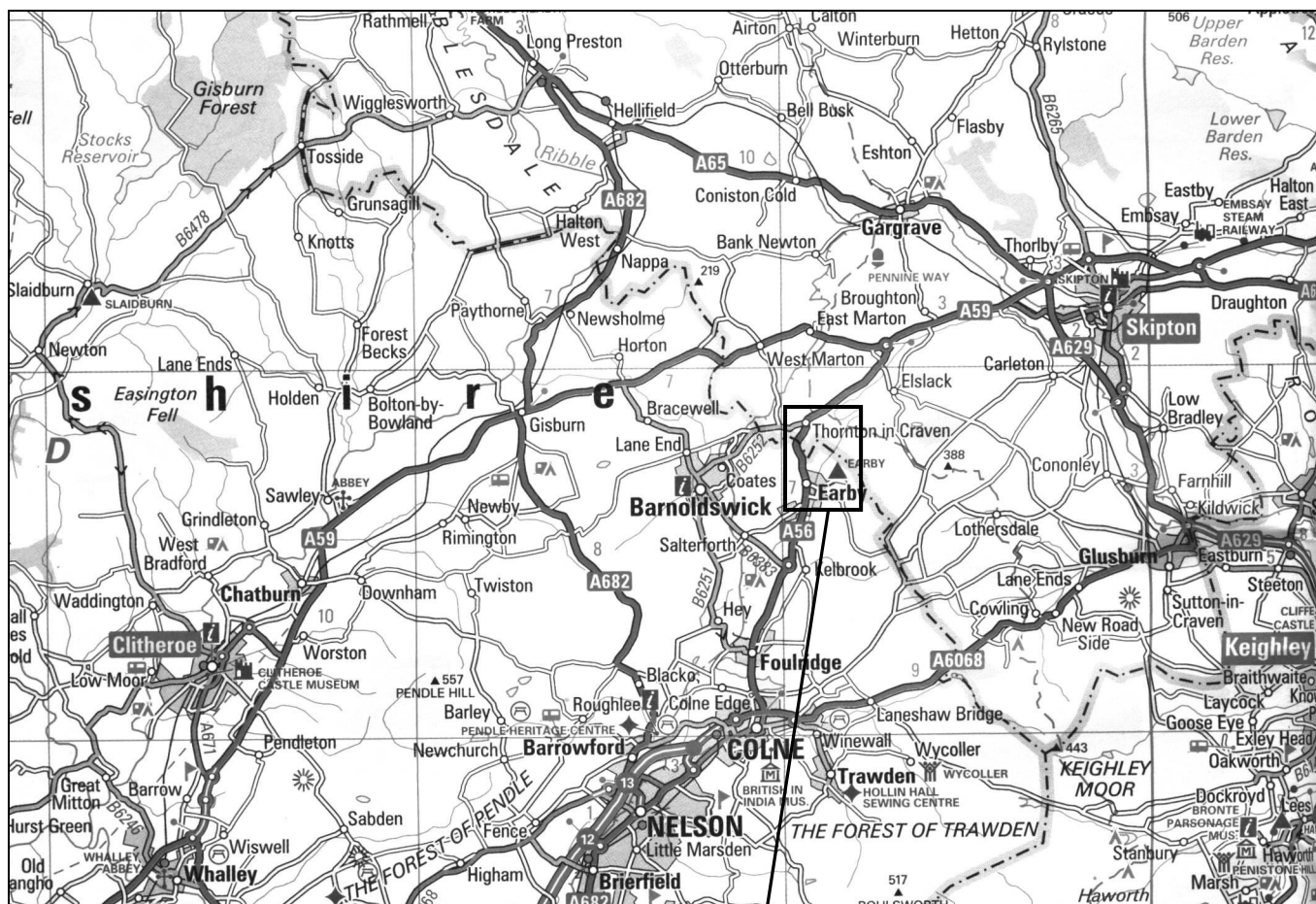


Figure 1: Location maps

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BOOTH BRIDGE LANE

FARMHOUSE
& COTTAGE

FARM BUILDINGS

BOBBIN MILL

POWER HOUSE

BOOTH BRIDGE

TRACK TO EARBY

100m



FORMER MILL BUILDINGS
AT BOOTH BRIDGE
EARBY CIVIL PARISH
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 91354782):
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 2:
SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:500

DATE OF SURVEY: MAY 2006

STEPHEN HAIGH
Buildings Archaeologist

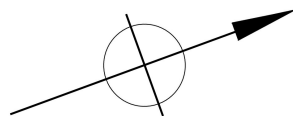
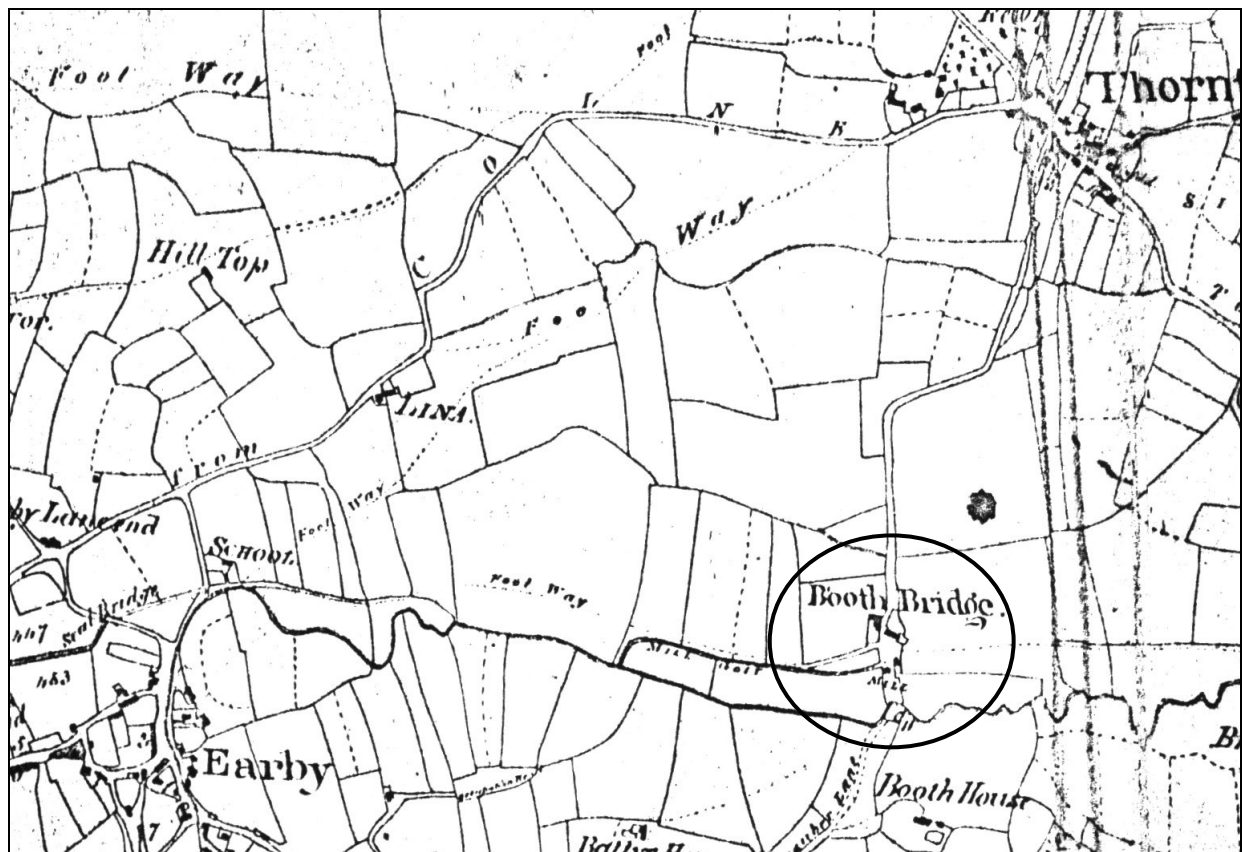


Figure 3: Extract from Thornton-in-Craven enclosure map, 1825

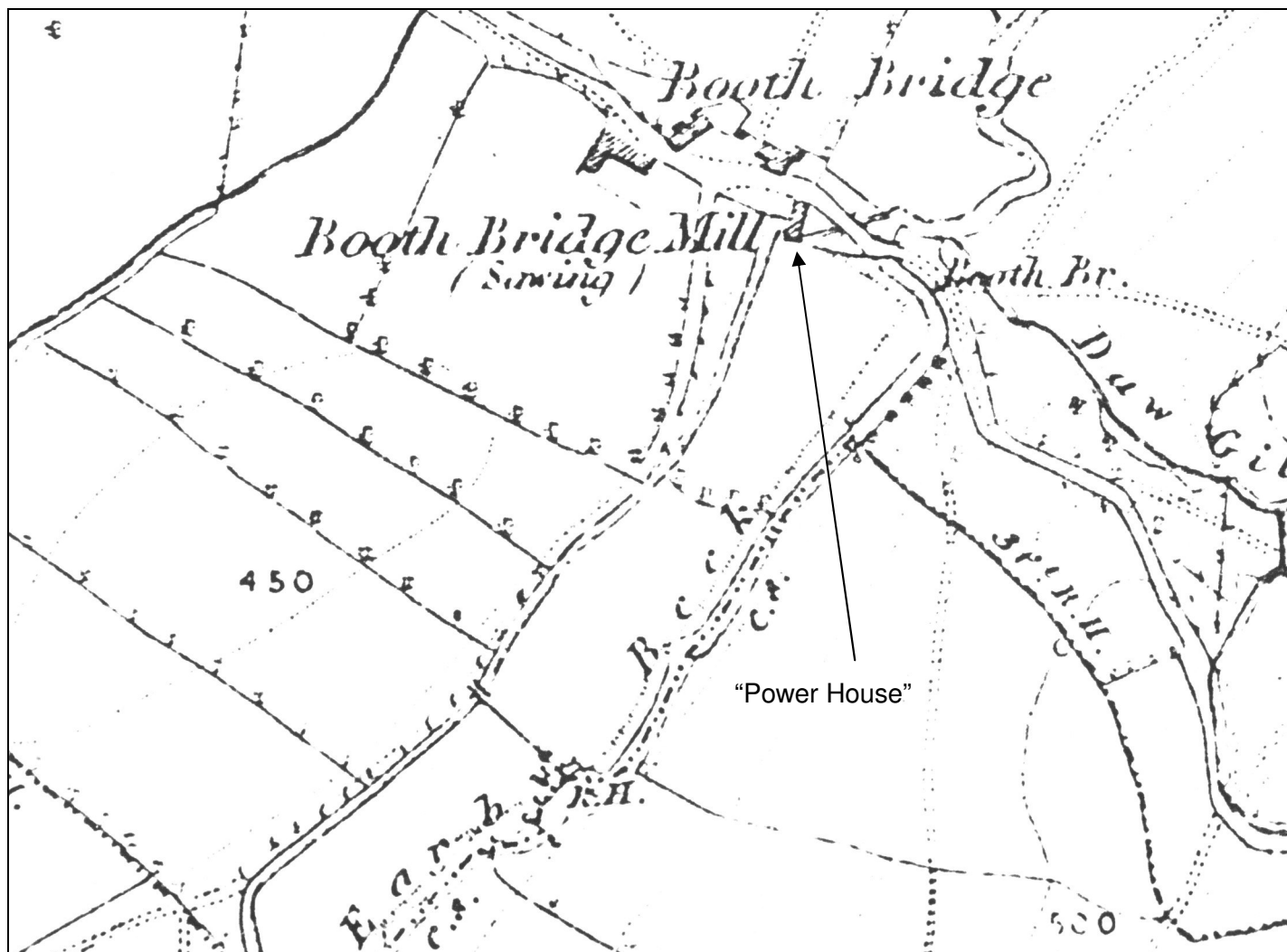


Figure 4: Enlarged extract from Ordnance Survey 1853 6" to mile map (surveyed 1848-50)
Sheet no: Yorkshire (W Riding) 167

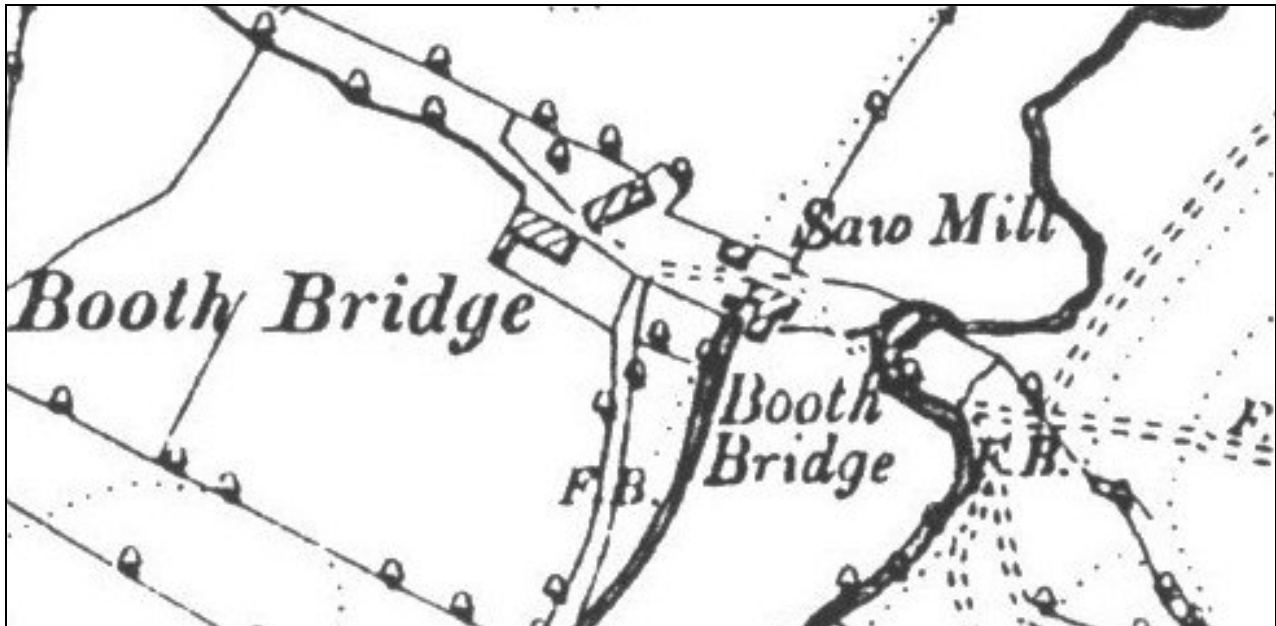
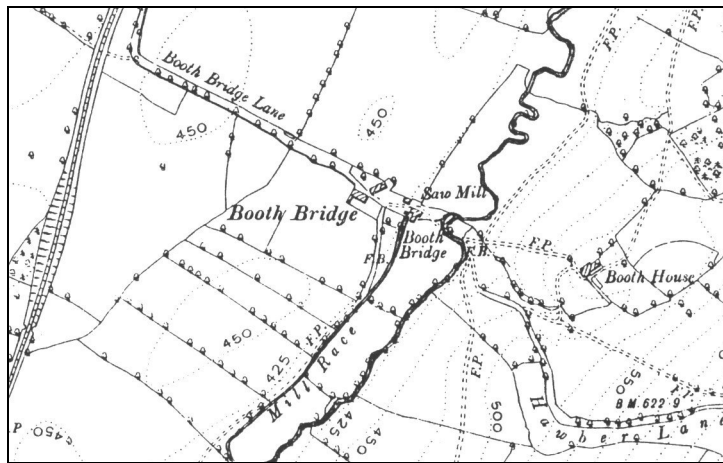


Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1896 6" to mile map (re-surveyed 1892)
Sheet no: Yorkshire (W Riding) 167 SW

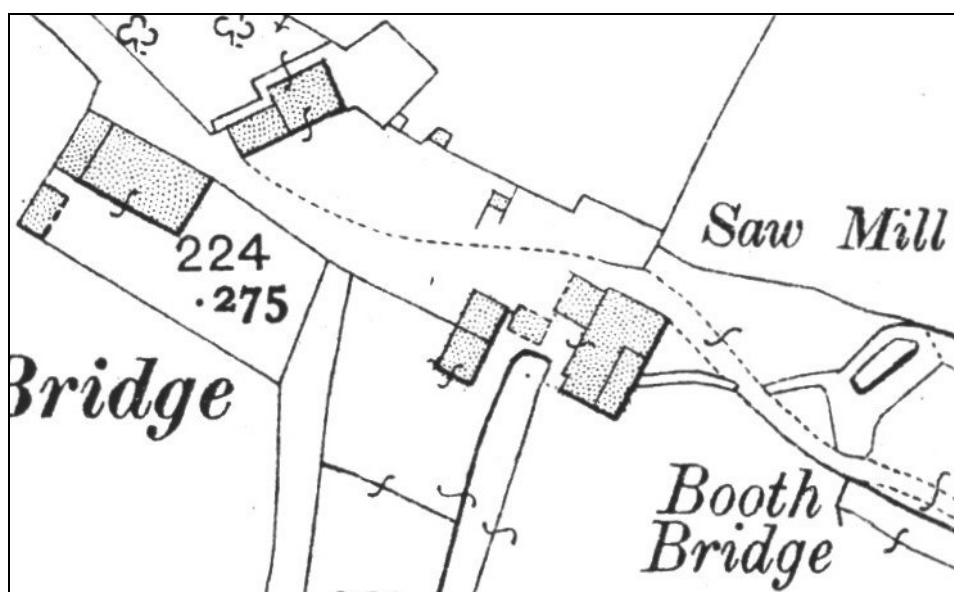
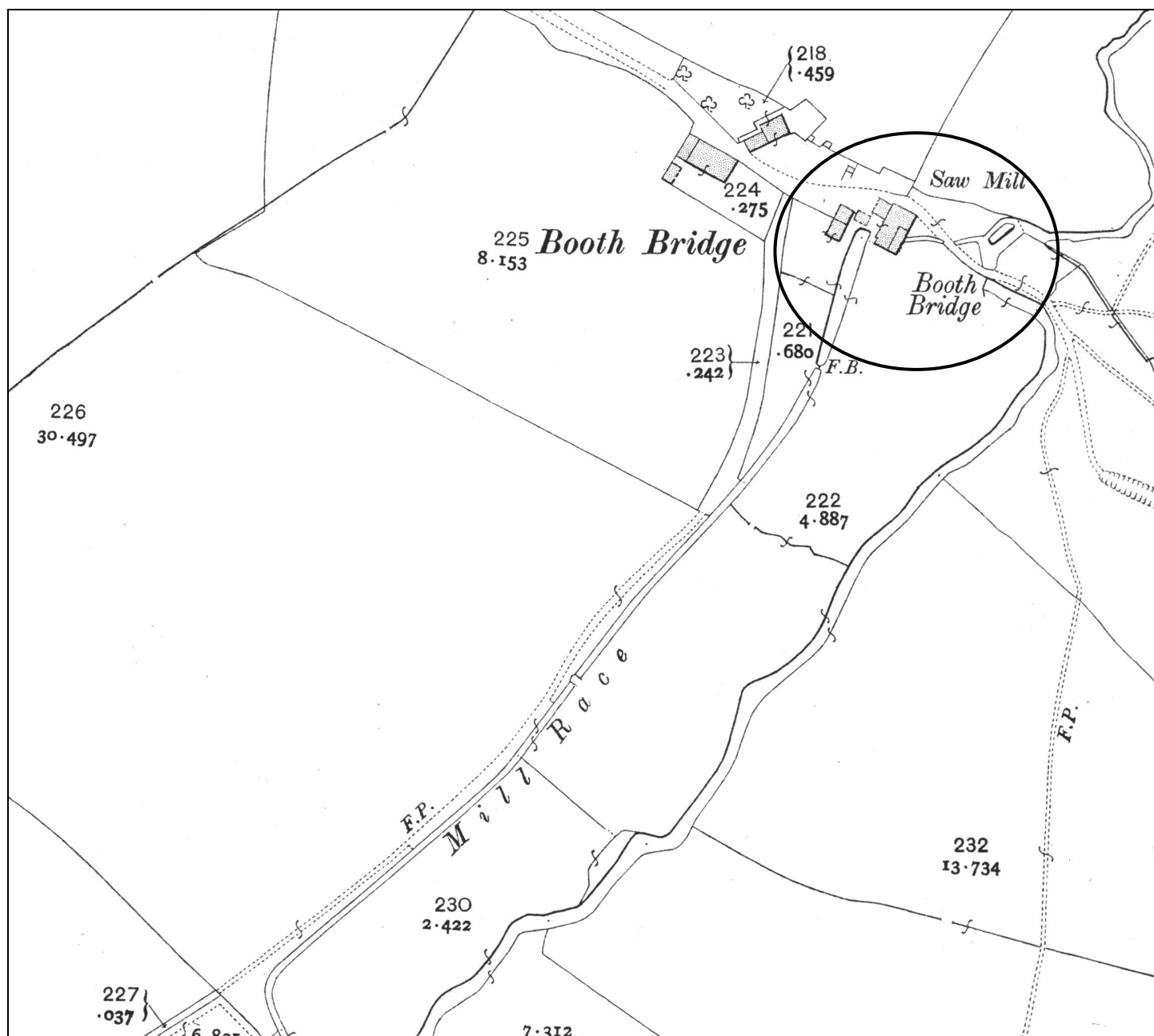


Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1909 1:2500 map (revised 1907)
Sheet no: Yorkshire (W Riding) 167.14

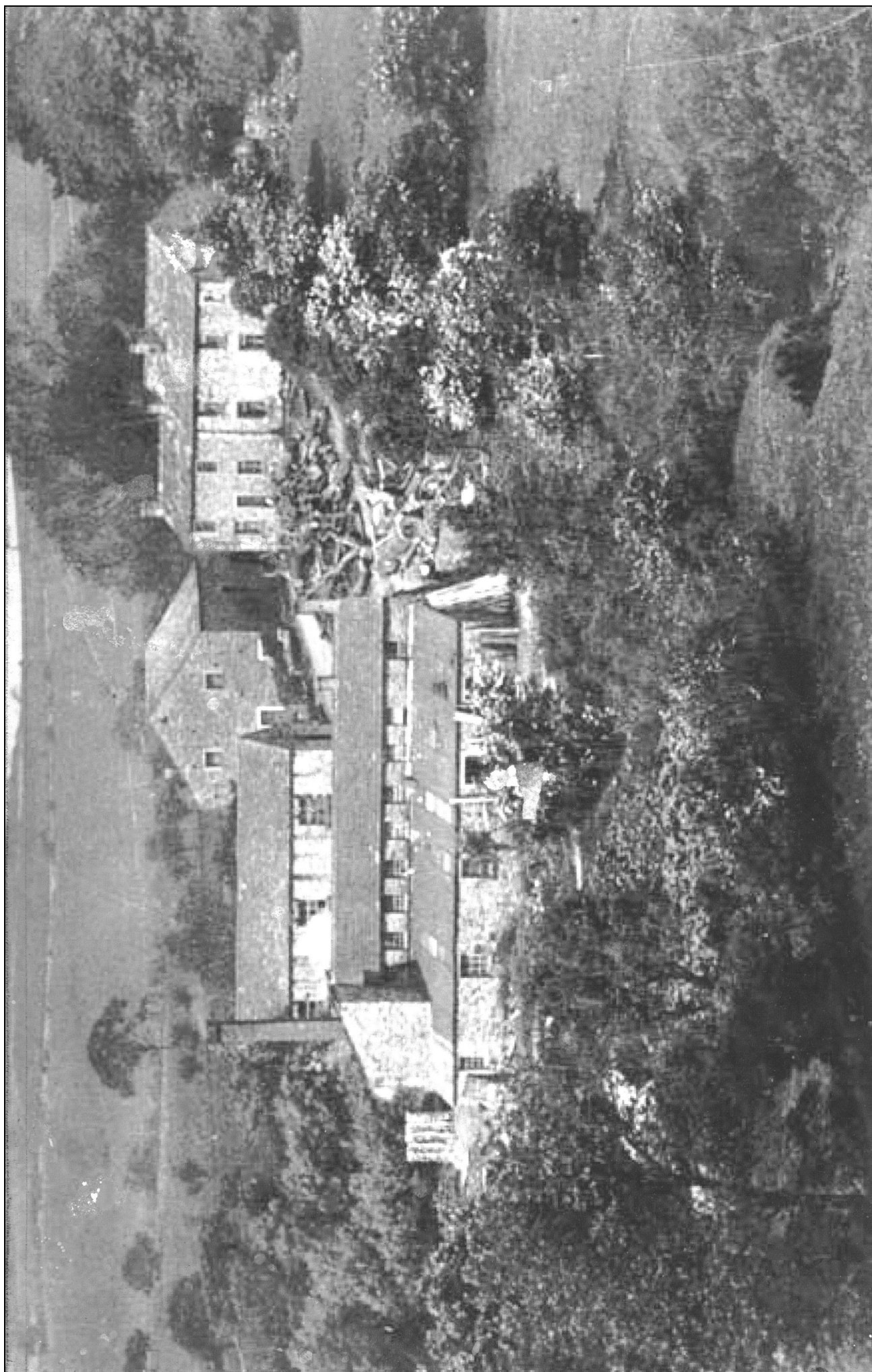


Figure 7: Undated photograph, probably early twentieth century, showing the site from the east. The Power House stands in the foreground, with additions to east and south, and the Bobbin Mill to its rear. Stocks of timber are piled on the ground to the north (photographer and source unknown)