

**MAP**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE Ltd.**

**Howsham Mill  
Howsham  
York  
North Yorkshire**

**SE 73003 62796**

**MAP 10.94.2012**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**


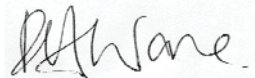
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<b>Report Prepared By</b> 	<b>Report Authorised By</b> 
<b>Date:</b> <b>30/05/2013</b>	<b>Date:</b> <b>30/05/2013</b>

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

***Non-technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. during the restoration work at Howsham Mill, Howsham, York, North Yorkshire (SE 7340 6315) between July 2012 and May 2012.*

*The work involved monitoring the structural renovations and all associated groundworks. A photographic record was undertaken of the Mill during and after the renovation work. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded during the groundworks.*

*The report includes plates form photographs taken during the renovation work undertaken by volunteers between 2004 and 2012.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was undertaken between July 2012 and May 2013 by MAP Archaeological, Practice Ltd. at Howsham Mill, Howsham, York, North Yorkshire (SE 73003 62796). The archaeological work was undertaken in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the Planning Application Consent (Planning Applications: 07/00063/FUL, 05/01223/LBC & 05/01222/FUL).
- 1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to provide an appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be

affected by the development, in accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012).

- 1.3 The site code for the project was MAP 10.94.2012.
- 1.4 All work was funded by The Renewable Heritage Trust.
- 1.5 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

## **2. Site Description**

- 2.1 The site is located at Howsham Mill, Howsham, York (Fig. 1). The Mill is located on the east side of the River Derwent, west of Howsham Hall and village, on flat ground north of the lock (Fig. 2.).
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Bishampton 1 association. Deep fine loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging associated with welldrained fine and coarse loamy soils in an undulating landscape. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy soils. (Mackney 1984).

## **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 3.1 The medieval village of Howsham is located to the south of Howsham Hall, visible as earthworks comprising of track-ways and hut platforms, which appear to be running towards the hall. Howsham belonged to Kirkham Abbey until the Dissolution. Kirkham Abbey's holdings were granted by Edward VI to Thomas, Earl of Rutland. His grandson, Edward sold the manor of Howsham to Thomas Bamburgh in 1573. From 1573, the estate never changed hands by sale until 1948, passing instead through a succession of daughters to the Wentworth, Cholmley, Fane, Grimes, and Strickland.

- 3.2 The landscape around Howsham Hall is a Registered Park and Garden – No GD4182 and the Hall is a Grade I Listed Building. The south front of Howsham Hall was built around 1610 for Sir William Bamburg, whose arms are depicted over the entrance. The two-storey facade has full-height canted bays to either end with a central frontispiece. The frontispiece has two paired Ionic columns and Corinthian columns with a central window. The south front is dominated by fenestration: the central frontispiece is flanked by two windows on either side and by two large fenestrated canted bays. The style of the hall was influenced by the Slingsby castle, built by John Smythson. “Howsham’s amazing spread of glass is very much in the Smythson manner” (Girouard 1983, 199). The east side of the Hall, remodelled by Sir John Wentworth in the early eighteenth century, his crest and the date 1709 are marked on the lead downpipes. This facade has six bays with large sash windows, with a nineteenth century extension to the north. The west side of the Hall is irregular and has mullion and transom windows. The hall was used as a school, opening in 1958 and operational until Howsham Hall was sold leading to these most recent developments of the building and grounds ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk))
- 3.3 A series of enclosed formal gardens were laid out between 1689 and 1720 but were removed by 1776, by which time the grounds had been extended into parkland. This Landscape Park was laid out by Lancelot Brown and partly covers the archaeological remains of a medieval village and earlier eighteenth century formal gardens.
- 3.4 The stable block was built in 1775 and is attributed to John Carr and is a Grade II Listed Building. The stable block is built of brick and has a hipped roof of Westmorland slate. The west front has a central block housing the main entrance, now blocked, and has on its pyramidal roof a clock tower with open lantern and cupola.

3.5 The western part of the park was called The Holms, and was a disused water meadow. A public footpath runs from Howsham Bridge north-westwards to a small island situated in the River Derwent, in the west corner of the park. On the island is Howsham Mill, which was constructed in 1755, attributed to the architect John Carr. The mill was built in Gothic Revival style to act as a folly or eye-catcher within the park landscape.

3.6 The mill is a Grade II Listed Building and described as:-

Mill. c1755 for the Cholmleys of Howsham Hall (qv), possibly by John Carr, under influence of William Kent and Batty Langley, with additional building probably C19. Limestone ashlar facing to brick. Square on plan with lower building formerly housing metal wheel to west. 2 storeys, with 3 main elevations symmetrical, and single-storey wheelhouse. Plain chamfered plinth and continuous band approximately 12 feet above ground level. Ogee-arched recess with architrave flanked by pointed windows under square labels, each with blind quatrefoil above. Eaves band. Former pyramidal roof and crocketed finials absent at time of resurvey. Wheelhouse has wide elliptical arch to left. Ruinous at time of resurvey.

3.7 The mill was powered by a waterwheel and milled grist and grain. The mill ceased working in 1947 and fell into disrepair in the 1960's.

3.8 Plate 1 shows Howsham Mill as a derelict structure, before the start of the Restoration Project. An Introduction to Howsham Watermill, gives a detailed description of the structure prior to the restoration and several years of restoration work was undertaken between 2004 and 2012 detailed in Plates 1 to 28. The condition of the Interior of the Mill was recorded on Plates 2 to 20. Exposed surfaces, structures and features during work undertaken during the Restoration Project are recorded in Plates 21-28. The first phase of the restoration was completed in 2007 with the installation of a hydro-electric plant.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

4.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological work are to determine by means of archaeological observation the presence and nature of archaeological deposits and structures and by targeted archaeological

excavation the character, extent and nature of the archaeological remains within the development area.

- 4.2 To locate, recover, identify, assess and conserve (as appropriate) any archaeological artefacts exposed during the course of the excavation.
- 4.3 Where appropriate, to undertake a post-excavation assessment after completion of fieldwork and site archive to assess the potential for further analysis and publication as appropriate.

## **5. Methodology**

- 5.1 The monitored groundworks consisted of the ground reduction both inside and on the exterior of Howsham Watermill. All groundworks were carried out under archaeological supervision. A Structural Watching Brief recorded the mill's standing structure during the renovations.
- 5.2 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 2011).
- 5.3 All deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 5.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the recording brief on digital format camera.

## **6. Results**

- 6.1 The work undertaken between 2004 and 2012 is recorded on Plates 1-28). The first site visit in July 2012 recorded the standing structure of the mill at that time (PIs. 22-46) and work on the interior of the mill (PI. 47).

6.2 Details of the exposed wheel pit and remains of the water wheel were noted in November 2012 (Pls. 48-50).

6.3 An area of ground reduction was observed in May 2012 (Pls. 51-54). Photographs were taken of fully restored mill (Pls. 55-60).

## **7. Conclusions**

7.1 The Archaeological Watching Brief only identified topsoil and natural deposits within the area affected by the groundworks.

7.2 The photographic record of the mill's restoration shows the building change from ruin to be restored to its former glory. Stephen Pickering and his staff have done a sympathetic restoration with great attention to detail.

## 8. References

Girouard, M. 1983 Robert Smythson & the Elizabethan Country House. Yale University Press.

Mackney, D. 1984 Soils of England and Wales-Sheet 1, Northern England.

MAP 2010 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip and Record, Howsham Hall, Howsham, York, YO60 7PH SE 7340 6315

[www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)



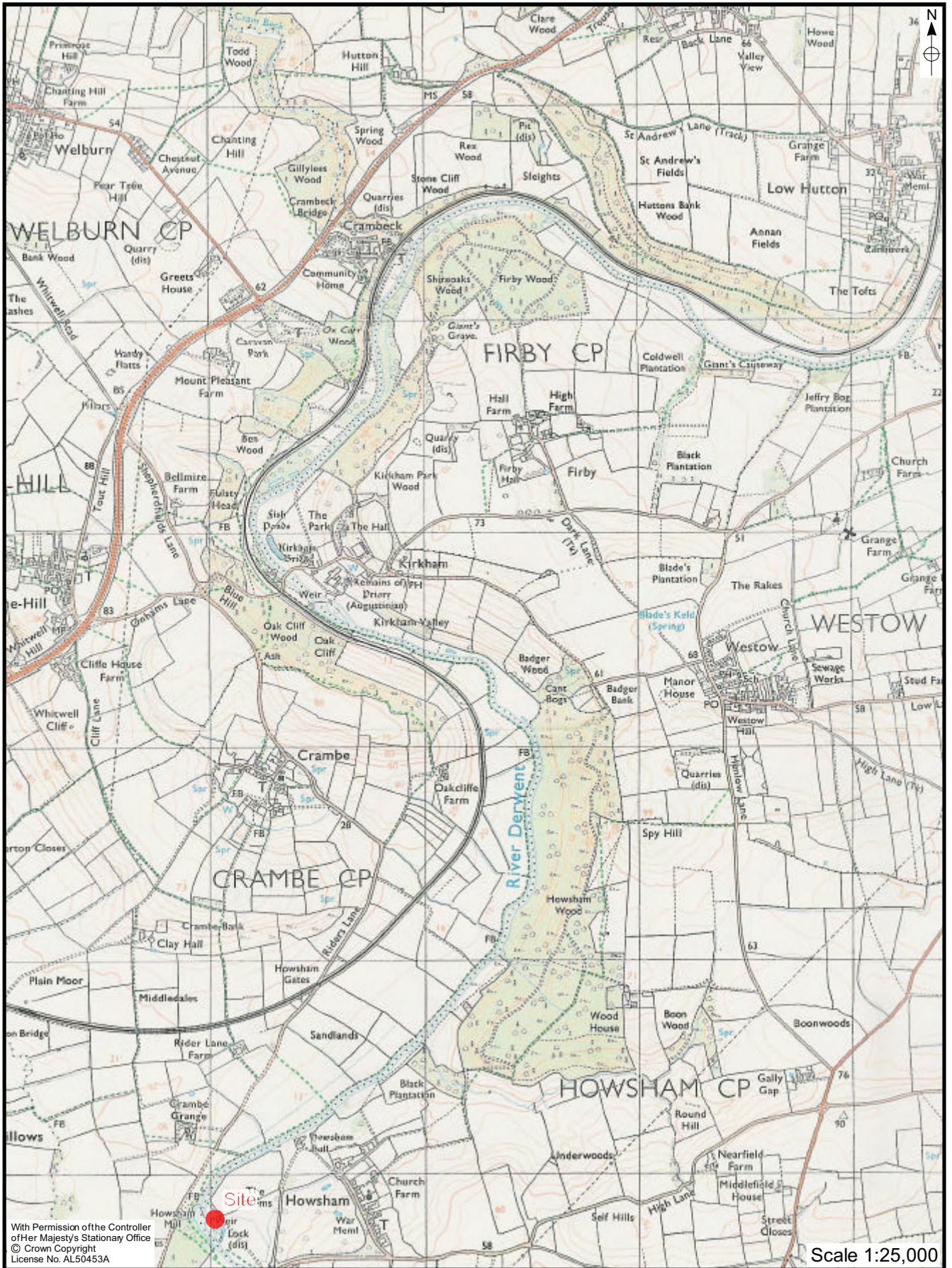


Figure 1. Site Location



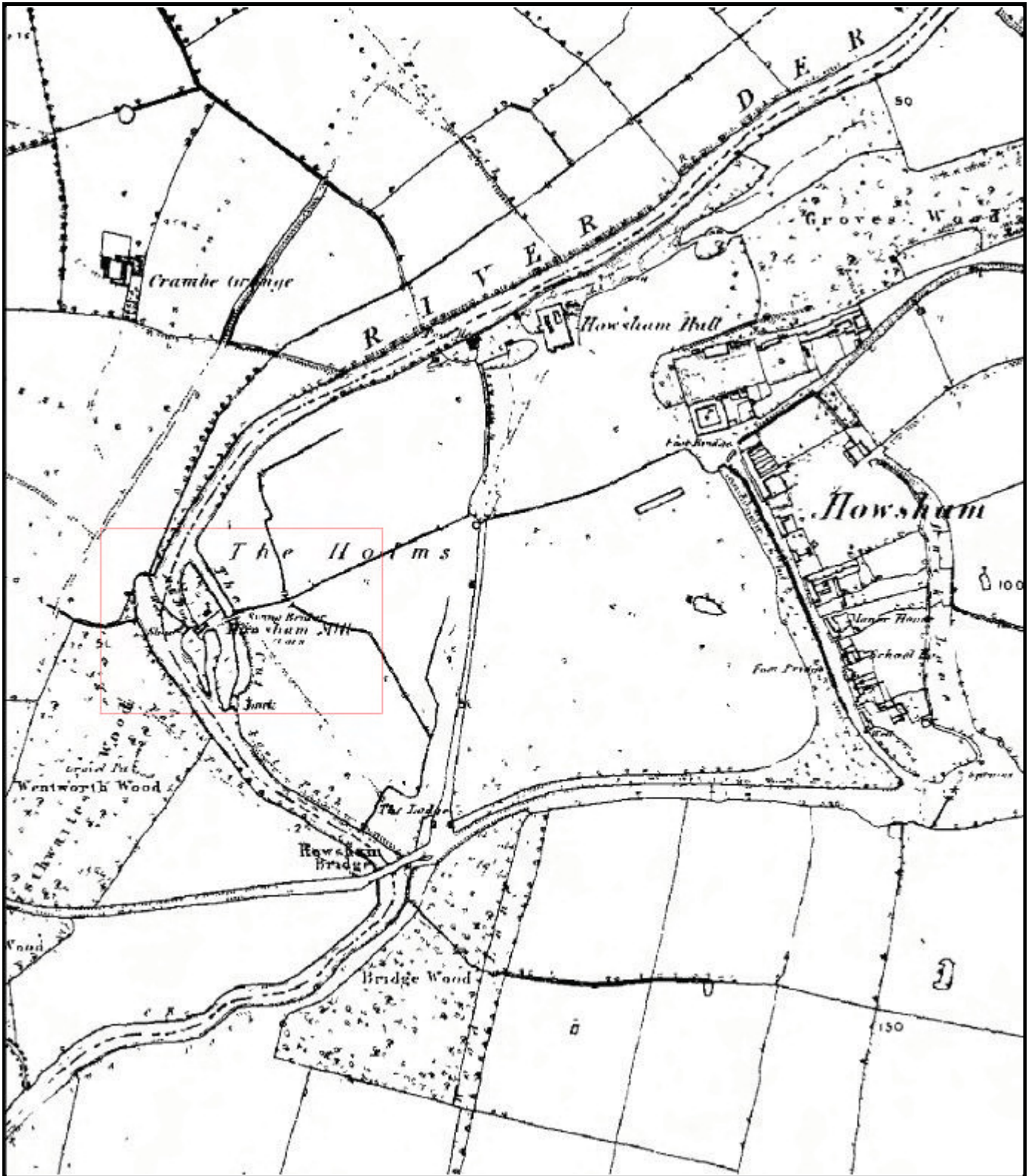
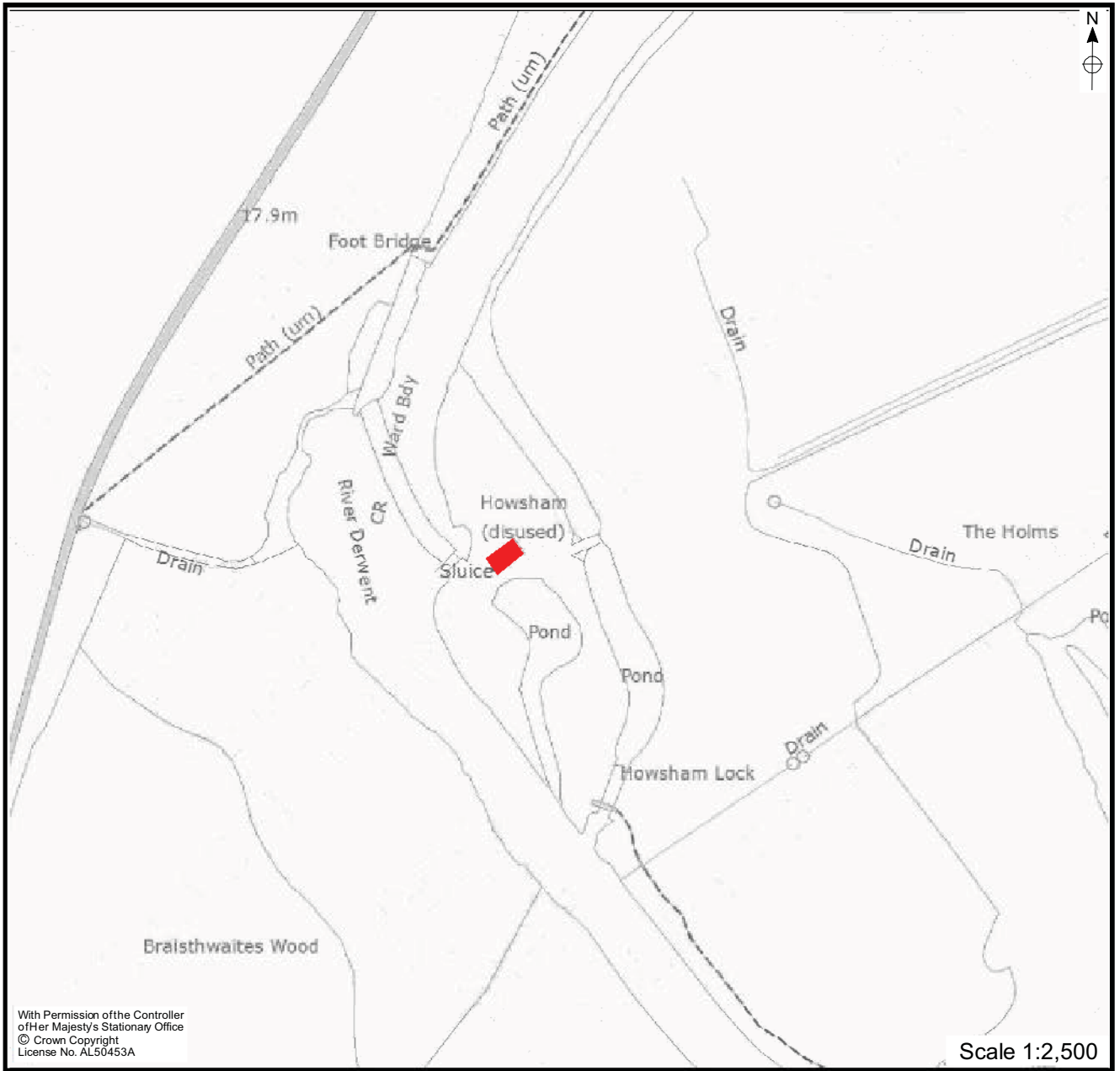


Figure 2. Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map.



**Figure 3.** Location of Howsham Mill.





Plate 1. National Monument Record Shot of Howsham Mill.



Plate 2. Howsham Mill in 2007.





Plate 3. Howsham Mill in April 2012.



Plate 4. Interior of Howsham Mill (2005).





Plate 5. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).



Plate 6. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).





Plate 7..Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).



Plate 8. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).





Plate 9. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).



Plate 10. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).





Plate 11. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).



Plate 12. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).





Plate 13. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).



Plate 14. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).





Plate 15. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).

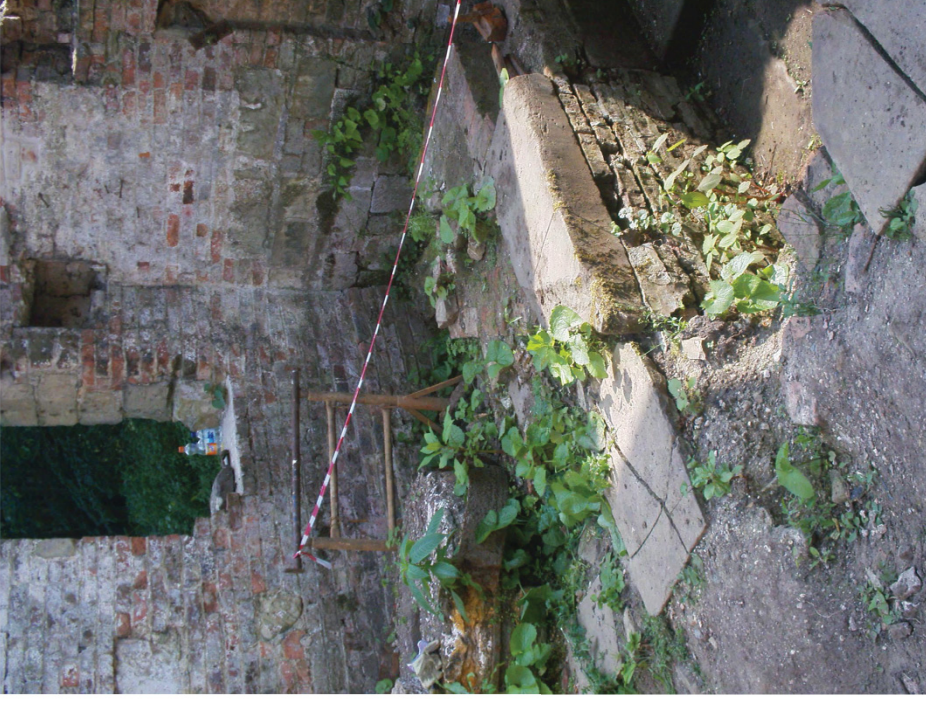


Plate 16. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).





Plate 17. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).



Plate 18. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).





Plate 19. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).



Plate 20. Interior of Howsham Mill (2004).





Plate 21. Cobble surface (2006).



Plate 22. Timber Structure (2006).





Plate 23. Reduced Level Dig inside Howsham Mill (2012).



Plate 24. Reduced Level Dig inside Howsham Mill (2012).





Plate 25. Reduced Level Dig inside Howsham Mill (2012).



Plate 26. Reduced Level Dig inside Howsham Mill (2012).





Plate 27. Reduced Level Dig inside Howsham Mill (2012).



Plate 28. Timber Feature (2004).



Plate 29. View of Howsham Mill (July 2012).



Plate 30. View of Howsham Mill (July 2012).





Plate 31. View of Howsham Mill (July 2012).



Plate 32. View of Howsham Mill (July 2012).



Plate 33. View of Howsham Mill (July 2012).



Plate 34. View of Howsham Mill (July 2012).



Plate 35. View of Howsham Mill (July 2012).



Plate 36. View of Howsham Mill (July 2012).





Plate 37. View of Howsham Mill (July 2012).



Plate 38. View of Howsham Mill Interior (July 2012).



Plate 39. View of Howsham Mill Interior (July 2012).



Plate 40. View of Howsham Mill Interior (July 2012).



Plate 41. View of Howsham Mill Interior (July 2012).



Plate 42. View of Howsham Mill Interior (July 2012).





Plate 43. Millstone (July 2012).



Plate 44. Gear wheels (July 2012).



Plate 45. Masonry (July 2012).



Plate 46. Masonry (July 2012).





Plate 47. Mill Floor (July 2012).



Plate 48. Wheel Pit (November 2012).



Plate 49. Wheelpit (November 2012).



Plate 50. Wheelpit (November 2012).





Plate 51. Reduced Level Dig (May 2013).



Plate 52. Howsham Mill Restored (May 2013).





Plate 53. Howsham Mill Restored (May 2013).



Plate 54. Howsham Mill Restored (May 2013).



Plate 55. Howsham Mill Restored (May 2013).



Plate 56. Howsham Mill Restored (May 2013).





Plate 57. Howsham Mill Restored (May 2013).



Plate 58. Howsham Mill Restored (May 2013).





Plate 59. Howsham Mill Restored (May 2013).



Plate 60. Howsham Mill Restored (May 2013).

