
NORTH PENNINES HERITAGE TRUST

Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/49/03
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**REPORT ON
A LEVEL III BUILDING
SURVEY AT
DENTON MILL,
NAWORTH
CUMBRIA**

NGR: NY 5723 6225

**FOR
COUNTRYSIDE
CONSULTANTS**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Philip Cracknell and Fiona Wooller who carried out and compiled this survey, and to the staff at Carlisle Records Office. Finally thanks are due to Mr S MacFarlane who provided on site assistance during the building survey.

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In June 2003 North Pennines Heritage Trust was commissioned by Countryside Consultants to undertake a level III building survey on a complex of mill building at Denton Mill. The Mill building was found to have three distinct phases, the earliest of which could date to the seventeenth century.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The North Pennines Heritage Trust was commissioned by Peter Kempsey of Countryside Consultants in June 2003, to undertake a building survey of The Old Watermill, Denton Mill, Naworth near Brampton in Cumbria (NGR NY 5723 6225). The work was carried out on behalf of the owner Mr Sandy MacFarlane, prior to the conversion and alteration of the mill to domestic use.
- 1.2 No formal brief was produced by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service, though the programme of recording was defined by Mr Peter Messenger, Conservation Officer at Carlisle City Council. This required a record of the building prior to the commencement of building work, to assist in the consideration of the planning proposal. Accordingly, a Level III Building Survey, as specified in *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*ⁱ¹ was carried out.
- 1.3 The former water-powered corn mill in the Parish of Nether Denton was designated as a Grade II listed building in 1984 (SMR Number 10029). The building is currently derelict with sections on the point of collapse, and has until fairly recently, been used as an agricultural byre and hayloft.
- 1.4 The survey was carried out during early July 2003 by Philip Cracknell BA (Hons), AIFA and Fiona Wooler BA (Hons).

2. SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The watermill is sited in the Irthing Valley, one Mile (1.5 km) to the south of the river on the eastern bank of Castle Beck, a small stream that joins the river Irthing just upstream of Lanercost Old Bridge.
- 2.2 The mill is sited at a height of c.120 metres above sea level in a sheltered position (Figures 1 & 2) with the hillside of Scarrow Hill rising steeply to the east and south-east.
- 2.3 Denton Hall, approximately one kilometre to the north-east, and Denton Foot, only 150 metres to the north, were both originally farmhouses, which incorporate, the remains of a sixteenth century bastle house tower and hall respectively², within their fabric.
- 2.4 Immediately opposite the mill, on the western bank of Castle Beck, is the farmhouse and outbuildings of Denton Mill Farm (Figure 2).

3. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 THE BUILDING SURVEY

3.1.1 The survey consists of three basic elements:

- A written account, which includes information derived from documentary research
- A measured survey with accompanying drawings
- A photographic record

3.2 The written account is included in this document together with a selection of photographs and plans from the on-site drawn survey.

3.3 The photographic archive consists of:

- A series of 35mm black and white prints, which include general views of the exterior of the building, elevations and part elevations, along with specific external and internal details (e.g. windows, doorways etc).
- A series of 35mm colour prints showing general views of the exterior of the building and its setting.
- A series of 35mm transparencies showing general views of the building and its setting.
- A series of digital views of the exterior of the building, the interior of the building and specific internal details (e.g. windows, doorways etc) supplied on CD-Rom.

3.4 Project Archive

3.4.1 The full archive of the desk-based assessment and Level III building survey has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP) 2nd Edition 1991). The archive will be deposited within the County Record Office and a copy of the report given to the County Sites and Monuments Record where viewing will be available on request.

4. PREVIOUS WORK

4.1 No previous archaeological work had been carried out on the site.

5. RESULTS

5.1 The Mill Buildings

- 5.1.1 As previously stated, the building is currently derelict but has, most recently, been used as a byre and hayloft. The building ceased to function as a working mill at around 1900³ and has probably served as a domestic dwelling and byre since that date.
- 5.1.2 The mill buildings are L-shaped in plan with a single storey extension to the north-western arm, which is clearly a later addition to the original building. The longer north-eastern arm of the original mill building is built across the contour line of the hillside, resulting in only one storey at first floor level at the north-eastern end. The remainder of the building is of two storeys.
- 5.1.3 Careful examination of the fabric shows that the present L-shaped building has at least three distinct phases of construction (Figure 3).

6. THE BUILDING SEQUENCE

6.1 Phase 1 (Figure 4a)

- 6.1.1 Of the existing range of buildings, the earliest element was a simple rectangular two-storey building measuring c.11.5 metres by 5.80 metres. The building is aligned north-east/south-west, at right angles to the beck. It is built of calciferous sandstone coursed rubble masonry and was originally roofed with red sandstone roof tiles. On the south-eastern elevation several of the sandstone roof tiles remain in-situ at eaves level, partly covered by the slates of the later roof (Figure 5).
- 6.1.2 The main entrance is in the north-western elevation, although it seems probable that there was an entrance in the north-eastern gable of the building. The original position of the north-eastern end of the building can clearly be seen in Figure 6, where, just to the right of the ranging pole, there is a clear vertical construction break.

6.2 THE INTERMEDIATE 18TH CENTURY MILL

6.2.1 Phase 2 (Figure 4b)

- 6.2.2 The house immediately opposite the mill - Denton Mill farmhouse, on the western bank of Castle Beck was built in the first half of the nineteenth century, together with the L-shaped range of farm buildings to the west. At the same date, or soon after, the mill was extended by c.3 metres at the north-eastern end (See Figure 7) and an extension was added at right angles to the existing building (See

Figure 8), with a new doorway allowing internal access between the extension and the original mill building. In addition the wall above the original main entrance of the Phase 1 building on the north-western elevation was heightened by 5 courses (see Figure 7). The whole building was re-roofed in Welsh slate

- 6.2.3 On the south-eastern elevation several roof tiles of red sandstone from the original roof remain in-situ at eaves level (see Figure 5). That these alterations took place at more or less the same date as the building of Denton Mill Farm is supported by use of the kneelers and stepped gable coping stones (see Figure 9). These architectural details appear on the farmhouse, barn, extension to the mill buildings and on the south-western gable, where the stepped gable sits rather uncomfortably on the earlier masonry (see Figure 12). In addition, the extension encroaches on the right-hand door jamb of the Phase 1 entrance. The second stone down (marked with an arrow on Figure 10) is inscribed with:-

R.W. 1724

I. F. 1726

W. 1726 H

C.R. 1796

- 6.2.4 It was not possible to accurately record the inscriptions. None of the initials can be associated with any of the documented millers (see Appendix A).

6.3 THE FINAL DEVELOPED MILL

6.3.1 Phase 3 (Figure 4c)

- 6.3.2 The final addition to the mill was a single-storey extension to the north-eastern range, constructed out of roughly coursed sandstone blocks. This building had no internal access to the rest of the mill. It had certainly been added before 1863⁴.

7 THE MILL WHEEL AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES

- 7.1 There is little remaining evidence for the milling machinery within the building, apart from a trapdoor for a hoist on the first floor and the blocked opening for the drive shaft of the water wheel in the south-western wall. However, there may well be some evidence for the gearing and associated machinery. beneath the collapsed first floor, and a further visit after clearance of the debris may prove rewarding.
- 7.2 Externally, after the removal of vegetation and rubbish from the area of the wheel-pit and tailrace, far more information was revealed by the limited archaeological investigation, the examination of the building fabric and the surrounding topography.

- 7.3 The south-western gable wall showed the scarring produced by the waterwheel at several points, and in one area showed evidence for two wheels of a slightly differing diameter (Figure 11). The diameter of the wheel was c.5.80 metres, occupying the full width of the gable end of the original Phase 1 building (see Figure 12).
- 7.4 The north-western end of the wheel-pit was buried below modern concrete but was probably at about the same position. The tailrace turned at right angles to the wheel-pit returning water to Castle Beck (see Figure 15). Due to scope of the project the wheel-pit was not cleared to the base and there was at least a further 1.2 metres of debris filling the base of the wheel pit. The pit was clearly wide enough to accommodate a wheel of up to one metre in width (see Figure 13). On the top of the masonry separating the wheel-pit from the beck are two large sandstone blocks with large iron bolts set into their upper surface.
- 7.5 The gap between the two sets of bolts measured approximately 800mm and would have originally held the bearing of the wheel drive shaft and gives a maximum width for the final wheel. The drive shaft would have entered the mill through a small squared opening in the south-western gable wall, (no blocked in) measuring 0.95m by 0.85m (see figure 14).
- 7.6 There was no obvious evidence for the mill leat, which is shown on several of the nineteenth century maps⁵. However, perhaps the most impressive remains of the milling process are sited 55 metres upstream to the south of the mill on Castle Beck, just below the railway embankment. Here are the substantially complete remains of the nineteenth century stone-built dam and sluice with the stone-lined reservoir behind (See Figure 1 for the position of the dam).
- 7.7 All three elements are constructed of well-dressed stone and the area would clearly repay further investigation, which is unfortunately beyond the scope of this brief.

8 THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 8.1 A rapid desk top study was carried out (as a full desk top study was not specified) by Fiona Wooller primarily at the Carlisle Record Office in order to comply with the conditions of the Level III survey.
- 8.3. The earliest reference to a mill on the site appears in Robinson and Perriam⁶, which states that in 1598 one ‘Lancelot Carleton has Denton Hall and Mill’. However, it should be noted that there are several watermills in the immediate area within the Parish of Nether Denton. The mill and the various millers are mentioned throughout the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (see Appendix A).
- 8.2 The mill is shown on the 1800 map of Nether Denton parish and in the 1850 Tithe map of Brampton Parish, but not in any recognisable form regarding the known plan. However, Denton Mill farmhouse does appear in a recognisable form on the 1850 Tithe Map, but the L-shaped range of farm buildings do not.
- 8.4 On the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 the mill farmhouse and complex of outbuildings are shown as they exist today.
- 8.5 The inscriptions of the doorway of the Phase 1 building in the north-western elevation provide a *terminus ante quem* for the Phase 1 building, i.e. built before 1724, and a *terminus post quem* for the Phase 2 extension, i.e. built after 1796.
- 8.6 Denton Mill farmhouse had certainly been built by the early 1840’s (pers. comm. Naworth Estate Office), but it has been difficult to ascertain a firm date for the building of the farmhouse, and there is no certain date for the Phase 2 additions and alterations. There is no evidence for the former existence of any demolished structures within the vicinity of the present mill buildings, indeed, the mill occupies the best natural site at the base of the steep hillside before the slope levels out. Given the number of documentary references to the mill during the seventeenth century, and the earliest inscription of 1724, it is highly probable that the Phase 1 building could not be of late seventeenth century date.

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 There are several surviving watermills in the Irthing Valley, Naworth Castle Mill and Lanercost Mill are both within two kilometres of Denton Mill. The mill is clearly not of national importance. However in a regional context the structure is certainly a significant site, as an example of a late 17th /early 18th corn mill illustrating a clear sequence of developments through the 18th and 19th centuries. The structure clearly illustrates the growth and development of a rural mill over a period of roughly three hundred years.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification, Third Edition, RCHME 1996

The Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria, Robinson, J and Perriam, D R, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Extra Series 1998

The History of the County of Cumberland Volume II, William Hutchinson 1794 - 1797

Parson and White Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1829

Pigot and Co. Directory of Cumberland 1834

Mannix and Whellan Directory of Cumberland 1847

Slater's Directory 1884

Kelly's Directory of Durham, Northumberland, Westmorland & Cumberland 1894

Bulmer's History and Directory of Cumberland 1901

1800 Enclosure Award and Map for the Parish of Nether Denton - DRC/1/87 Carlisle Record Office

1850 Tithe Map Brampton Parish - DRC8/26 Carlisle Record Office

1863 Ordnance Survey First Edition Map

1900 Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map

11 APPENDIX A: LIST OF DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

Carlisle Record Office

Howard Family - Cumberland Deeds and Manorial Documents Part I & II (1970)

Part I

- C24/36 'Lease, unexecuted, of Brampton New Mills and Denton Mill etc. Henry, Earl of Carlisle to David Murray of Easby, Yeoman and Richard Richardson of the same, yeoman 11 years.' Not dated though between 1738 and 1758.
- C25 'Conveyance by lease and release of a tenement and lands at Denton Mill, parish of Brampton. £50, William Brougham of Ivy Bridge, Devonshire, Innkeeper, to Lord Carlisle and Lord Morpeth.' 6 - 7 November 1835.
- C26/1 'Conveyance of cottage and garth near Denton Mill for £130. (1) Thomas Graham of Hayton, yeoman. (2) John Little, late of Low Row Gate, Netherton, Denton, yeoman, but now in the Castle of Lancaster and Ann his wife. (3) John Milburn of Denton Mill, miller and Eleanor his wife. (£91 paid to Graham and £29 to Milburn).' 28 February 1799.
- C26/2 'Mortgage of property for £100. John Milbourn of Denton Mills, miller Richard Holmes of Great Corby, yeoman.' 16 December 1815.
- C26/3 'Assignment of the lands of John Milburn, late of Denton Mill, miller, who was discharged from the keeper of the gaol of Carlisle pursuant to an order for the relief of insolvent debtors. Joseph Jeyes of Essex Street, Stand, Middlesex, gent. Provisional assignee of insolvent debtors to William Bell of Beckstone Gate, Nether Denton, farmer.' 10 Feb 1819
- C26/4 'Conveyance by lease and release of the property for £184. £126 11s 0d paid to Richard Holmes and the balance to William Bell. (1) Richard Holmes of Great Corby (2) William Bell (3) John Milbourn, late of Denton Mill (4) John Pearson, now of Denton Mill, miller (5) John Carrick, of Brampton, gent.' 28 - 29 September 1819
- C29/1 'Conveyance of a messuage at Denton Mill, Brampton. Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company to Lord Carlisle and Lord Morpeth.' 2 May 1846
- C29/2 'Deed of covenants to produce deeds of 1808 - 32. Lord Carlisle and Lord Morpeth to Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company.' 23 March

1847

- C29/3 'Agreement as to laying a water pipe through the NE Railway Co's culvert near Denton Mill.' 2 July 1885.
- C70/8 'James Maxwell, servant to Edward Lord Morpeth, to Christopher and George Bell of The Mill, Denton, yeoman. Late in possession of Henry West, gent., deceased. 11 years rent £19 counterpart.' 7th April 1681.
- C173/10 'Draft indenture. (1) Charles, Earl of Carlisle (2) William Graham, miller of Crosby. Lease of Cumcatch, Boothby [a fulling mill] and Denton Mills.' 1723
- C173/52 'Agreement of David Barnfather and Richard Richardson to take a lease of Brampton and Denton Mills.' 1741
- C173/53 'Agreement of John Routledge of Featherstone, Nicholas Routledge, his son, John Bell of Chesters, Humphrey Correy of Wall Town and William Nixon of Wall Town, all in the parish of Haltwhistle, to pay £31.10s.od, a years rent for Brampton and Denton Mills.' 22 Feb 1742.
- C173/64 'Papers relating to Brampton Mill, the multure thereof, those grinding away from it. John Routledge's agreement to take a lease of Brampton and Denton Mills, 1753. Case for counsel and counsels opinion 1753 - 1755.'

Part II

- C206/1 'Grant of messuage called Mill in parish of Denton. Christopher Bell and George, his son, yeoman of the Mill, to John Bell, third son of Henry Bell of Carnetley, Lanercost, yeoman for £123. Mary, wife of above Christopher Bell mentioned.' 23 March 1688/9
- C206/2 'Morgage of Denton Mill for £100 at 5%. William Bell of Denton Mill, yeoman to Elizabeth Bell of the same, widow.' 25 October 1745
- C206/3 'Copy of 2, with endorsement of further borrowings in 1747 and 1753, and Elizabeth's receipt for payment in 1757.'
- C206/4 'Articles of agreement for lease of Denton Mill. William Bell of Denton Mill, yeoman and Elizabeth Bell, his mother, widow of William Bell of Denton Mill to Thomas Goodfellow and John Tinniswood, both of Cumcatch for 11 years at £14 a year.' 6 January 1752.
- C206/5 'Articles of agreement for the sale of Denton Mill. William Bell of Gainslaw, Berwick upon Tweed, yeoman to James Boustead of Easby,

Brampton, yeoman for £300.' 14 September 1756.

C206/5a 'Notice of sale of Denton Mill, with note of bidding. The highest bidder being James Boustead at £303.' 1756.

C206/6 'Grant of Denton Mill. (1) Elizabeth Bell of Denton Mill, widow (2) William Bell of Gainslaw, Berwick upon Tweed, yeoman (3) James Boustead of Easby, yeoman. For £160 paid to Elizabeth and £143 to William.' 15 September 1756.

C206/7 'Notice of assessment of alienation fine of £27 on James Boustead on his purchase of Denton Mill.' 5 October 1756.

C206/7a 'Receipt signed by John Bell for £6 for 'seven collections for the law sute consarning our customs' and paid by William Bell.' 3 May 1757.

C206/7b 'Another demand for £27, the alienation fine levied on James Boustead.' 15 January 1758.

C206/7c 'Notice to John Boustead of the descent fine of £27.5s.0d levied upon him as brother and heir of James Boustead with receipt for the money, also £2 for a heriot'. 16 August 1761.

C206/7d 'Receipt for £3, the 8th and 9th assessment for Denton Mill, paid by John Boustead.' 15th February 1763.

C206/7e 'Receipt for £9, the general fine due on Lord Carlisle's death paid by John Boustead.' 21 June 1769.

C206/9 'Enfranchisement of messuage at Denton Mill and 27 acres of land for £100. Lord Carlisle and Lord Morpeth to John Boustead of Cumrenton, gent.' 2 February 1801.

C206/12 'Authority - John Boustead of Denton Mill to John Waugh of Brampton, mortgagee of his property at Denton Mill to apply money that may be received from the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company for ground to a payment of a promisory note and other debts.' 14 January 1834.

C206/13 'Further charge on above estate of £100. John Boustead of Denton Mill to John Waugh of Ridge House, Brampton, yeoman.' 6 November 1834.

C206/14 'Further charge of £100 on above estate lent by Waugh to John Boustead. John's mother, Jane, is a party to this deed.' 8 August 1836.

C206/15 'Further change. Same parties. Sum advanced £200.' 30 December 1836.

C206/16 'Further change. (1) John Boustead, late of Denton Mill now Newcastle timber merchant (2) Jane Boustead of Denton Mill, widow (3) John

Waugh of Ridge House, Brampton Esq. Sum advanced £300.' 19 March 1847.

C206/17 'Release of the equity of redemption of Denton Mill. John Boustead of Newcastle, timber merchant to Jane Boustead of Denton Mill.' 26 Feb 1848.

C206/18 'Release of the equity of redemption of Denton Mill. Jane Boustead of Burdoswald, Lanercost, widow to her son James Boustead of the same, farmer.' 16 March 1849.

C206/20 'Re-conveyance of Denton Mill. John George Waugh of Grays Inn, solicitor, Margaret Waugh and Emma Waugh of 4 Ada Villas, Birkbeck Road, Hornsey Rise, Middlesex, spinsters to James Boustead, yeoman of Denton Mill.' 17 February 1873.

C206/26 'Note of deposit of Denton Mill, now called Denton Foot, deeds by Fisher Edward Boustead with the Bank of Liverpool 1888.'

C206/31 'Map of Denton Mill estate - Not dated.'

12 APPENDIX B TENANTS OF DENTON MILL

Parson & White Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1829

Archibald Gillesby, Corn Miller, Denton Mill

Pigot & Co Directory of Cumberland 1834

Archibald Gillespie, Miller, Denton Mill

Mannix and Whellan Directory of Cumberland 1847

Thomas Ruddick, Corn Miller, Denton Mill

Slater's Directory 1884

John Simpson, Denton Mills [plural]

Kelly's Directory of Durham, Northumberland, Westmorland & Cumberland 1894

John Simpson, Miller and Farmer, Denton Mill

Bulmers History and Directory of Cumberland 1901

Naworth Township

Mrs Sarah Hudspith, Denton Mill [Not listed as a working mill]

In Kelly's Directories of Cumberland and Westmorland of 1910 and 1934, there is no mention of Denton Mill at all.

13 NOTES

- 1 Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification, Third Edition, RCHME 1996
- 2 Robinson, J & Perriam, D, 1998 pgs 148-9
- 3 Bulmer's History and Directory 1901 – Lists the occupier as being Mrs Sarah Hudsplith, but the building itself is not listed as a mill.
- 4 First Edition Ordnance Survey 1863
- 5 First Edition Ordnance Survey 1863
- 6 Denton, J 'An accompt of the Estates and families in the county of Cumberland' 1610 CW Tract (1887) Ed. R S Ferguson

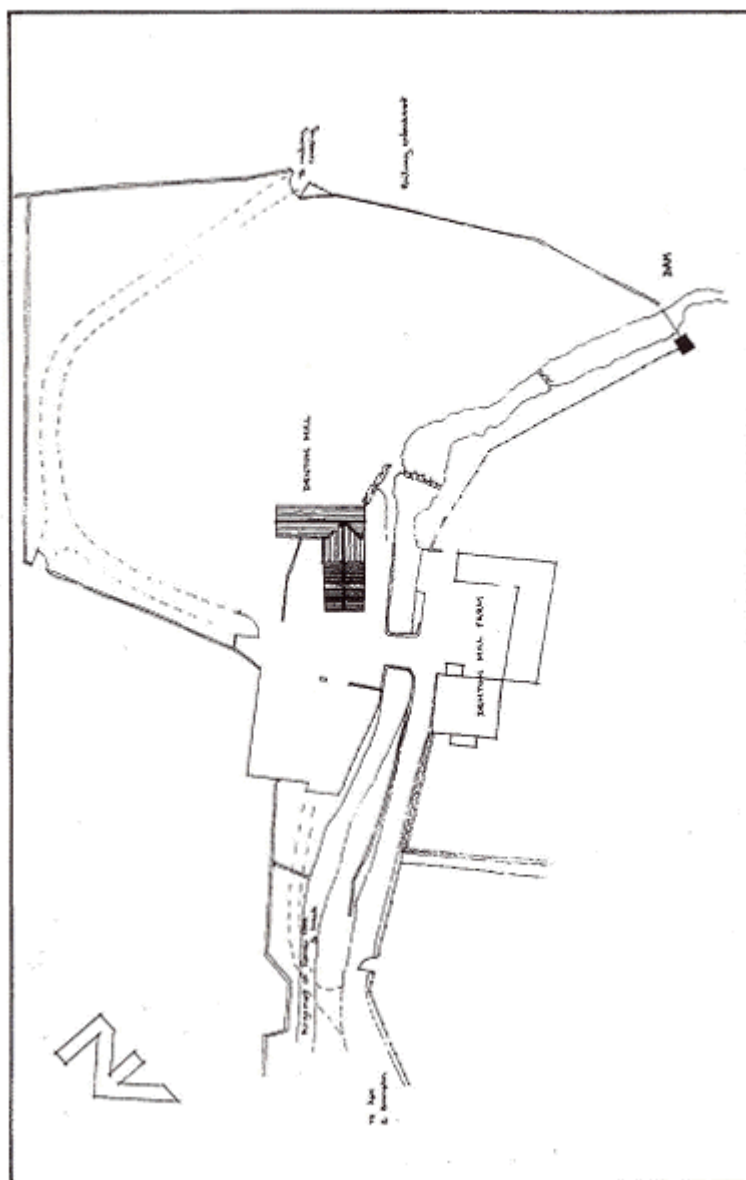


Figure 1
 Location Plan. Denton water mill.
 (scale 1:1000)
 (drawn by Countryside Consultants, Architects and Planners, Alston, Cumbria.
 Amended by P. Cracknell, July 2003)



FIGURE 1a: SITE LOCATION

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Figure 2

General view of the site from the north with the mill buildings on the left; Denton Mill farmhouse on the right and Scarrow Hill rising behind the buildings.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)



Figure 3

South-west elevation showing the three phases of building.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)

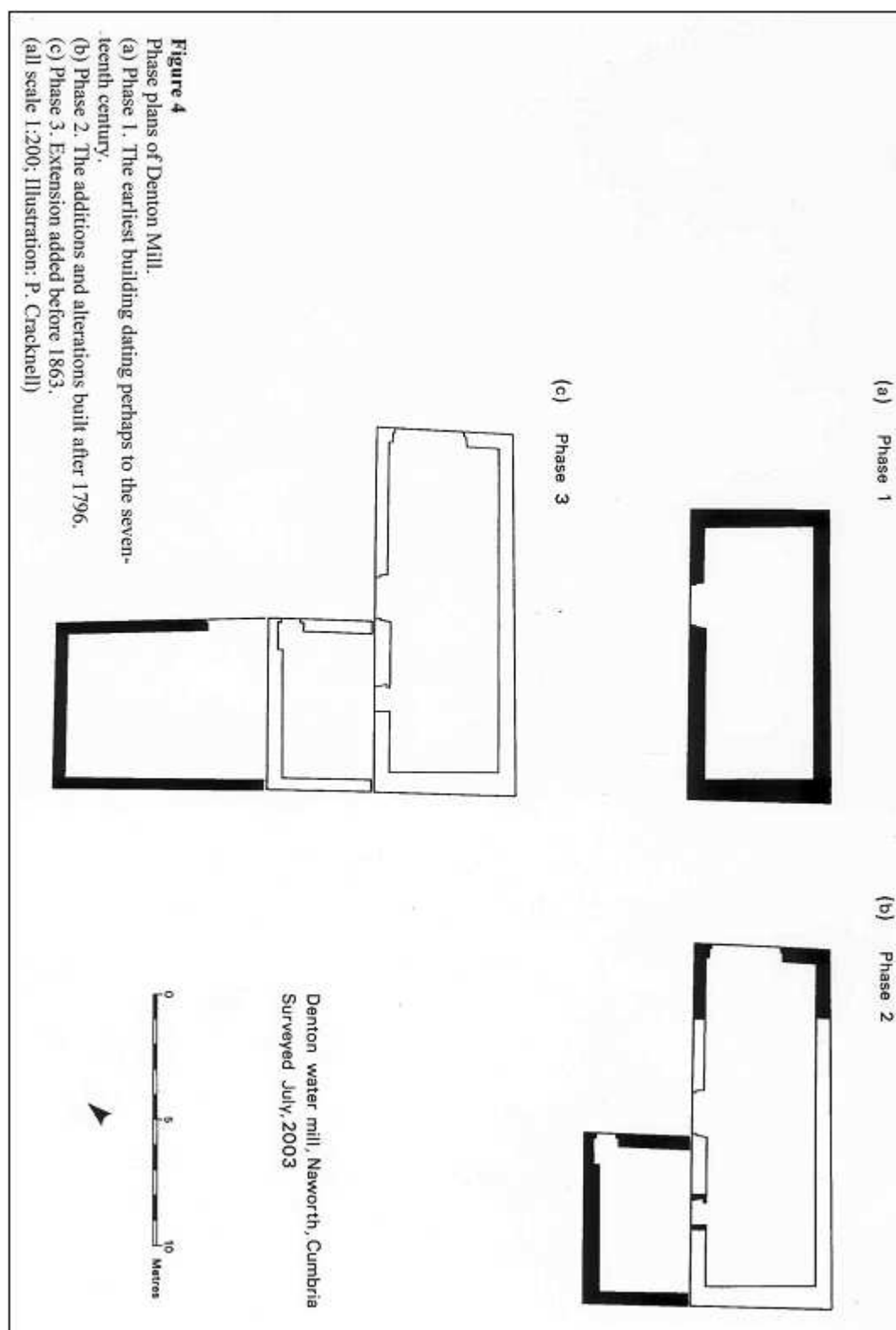




Figure 5

Part of the south-eastern elevation showing several of the original red sandstone roof tile-stones at eaves level, partly covered by the later roof of slates.
The scale measures 2 metres.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)



Figure 6

The original position of the north-eastern end of the Phase 1 building can clearly be seen just to the right of the ranging pole where there is a vertical construction break.
The scale measures two metres.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)



Figure 7

The Phase 2 extension of the north-eastern end of the original mill building (A) and the heightening of the north-western wall above the main entrance of the Phase 1 building (B).

The scale measures two metres.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)



Figure 8

Phase 2 extension at right angles to the original building.

The scale measures two metres.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)



Figure 9
The kneeler and stepped gable coping on the Phase 2 extension.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)



Figure 10
The main entrance to the Phase 1 building. The arrow points to the stone of the right-hand door jamb with the inscriptions hidden behind the Phase 2 extension wall.
(photograph: F. Wooler)



Figure 11

The chalked-in scarring on the south-western gable of the Phase 1 building showing evidence for two wheels of a slightly different diameter.

The scale measure two metres.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)



Figure 12

The south-western gable of the Phase 1 building with the circle of the waterwheel added.

The scale measures two metres.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)



Figure 13
The wheel pit viewed from the north-west.
It has been cleared of vegetation and debris
but not bottomed.
The scales measure one metre.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)



Figure 14
The blocked opening for the drive shaft of the water wheel
in the south-western gable
of the Phase 1 building.
The scale measures 500 millimetres.
(photograph: P. Cracknell)

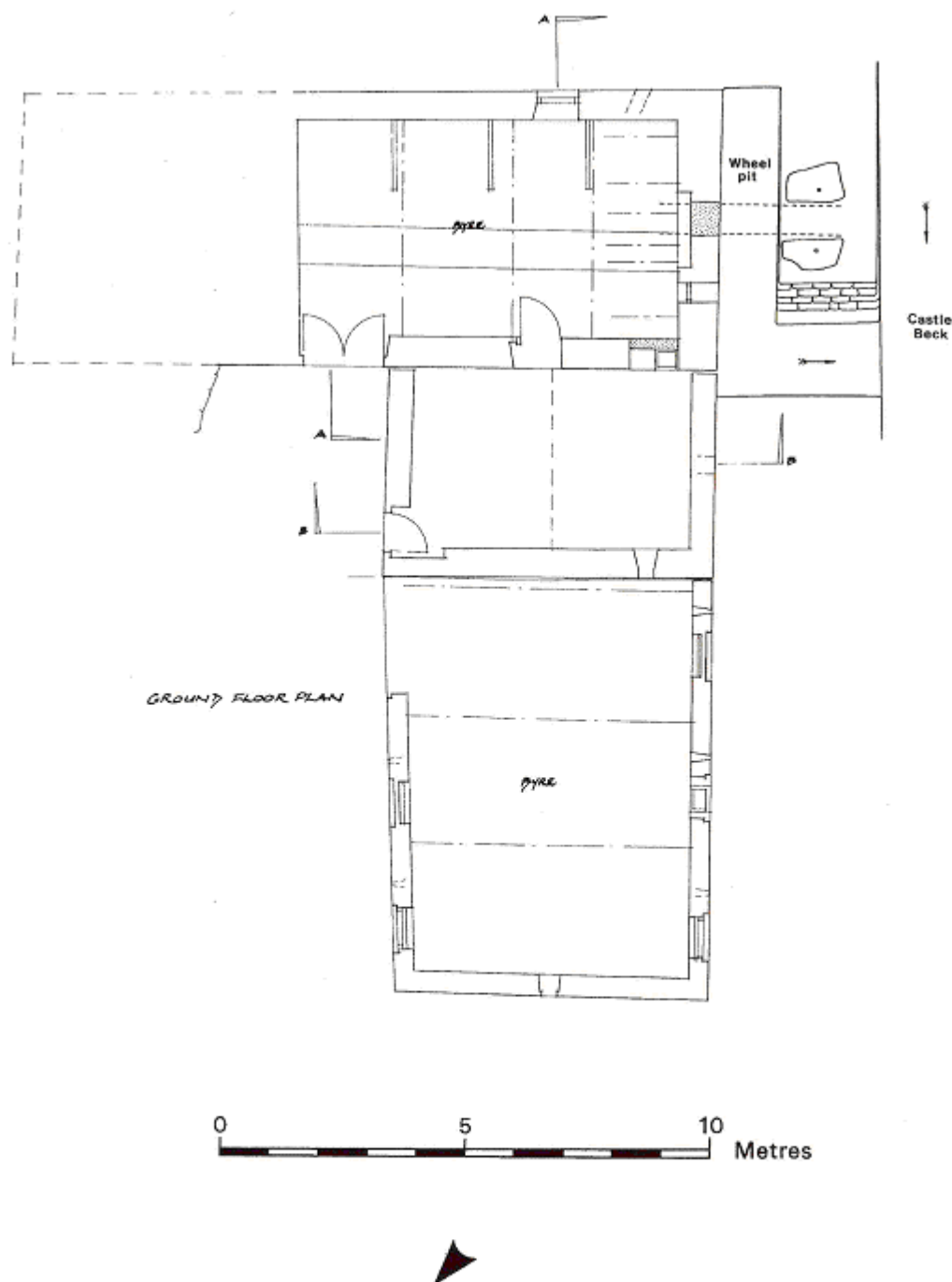


Figure 15

Ground floor plan of the mill buildings.

(drawn by Countryside Consultants, Architects and Planners, Alston, Cumbria.

Amended by P. Cracknell, July 2003)

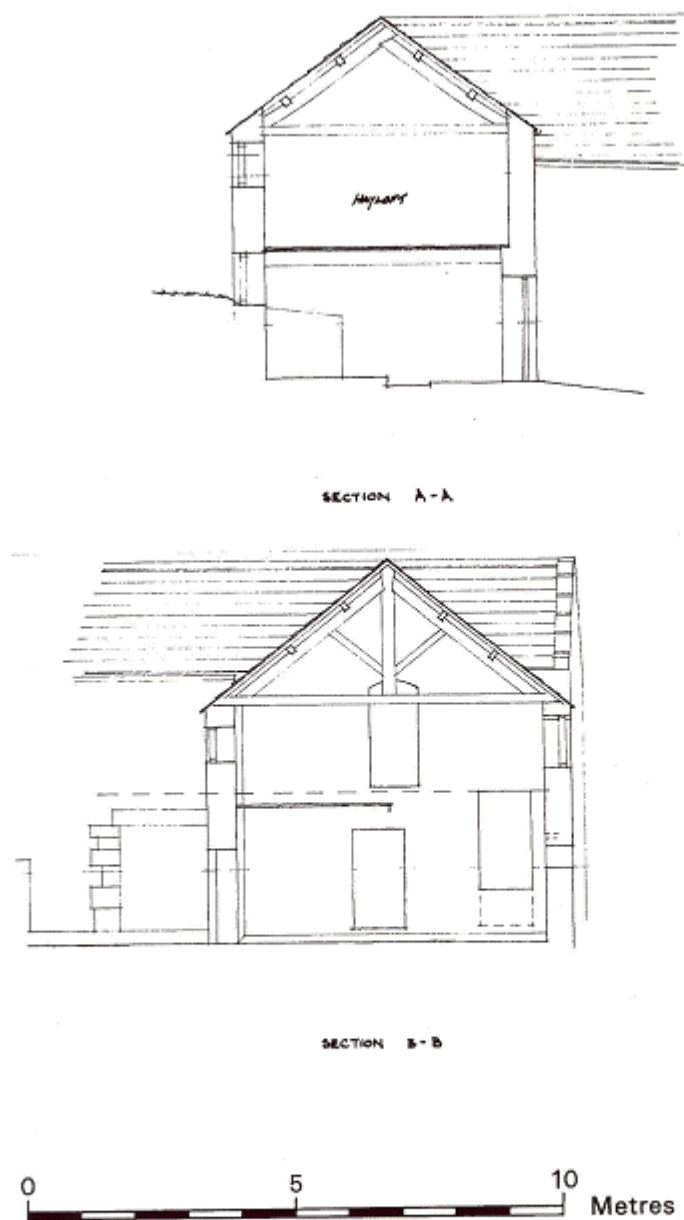


Figure 17

Sections A-A and B-B.

(scale 1:100)

(drawn by Countryside Consultants, Architects and Planners, Alston, Cumbria)