

HOYLE MILL, THURLSTONE,
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

ENHANCED ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr J Hutchings to undertake an enhanced archaeological desk-based assessment at Hoyle Mill, Hoyle Mill Lane, Thurlstone, South Yorkshire (NGR SE23700360 centred). The project comprised a detailed documentary and architectural assessment of the Hoyle Mill complex to assess, as far as was possible using non-intrusive methods, the archaeological importance and potential of the site. This information could then be used to determine the archaeological implications of a proposed re-development of the site.

Within the confines of the brief, the assessment has uncovered no evidence to suggest any settlement or industrial activity on the site prior to the 1740s, although it is possible that there may have been an earlier river crossing point here. The first known industrial activity on the site was the building of an oil mill in the 1740s by the Walton family, and the site was known until recently as Oil Mill. The combined documentary evidence suggests that the earliest mill was located at the west end of the site, and was a large two or three storey L-shaped building which is depicted on a c.1900 bill-head. It is likely that a waterwheel was located within the northern "arm" of this building, which was fed by a pond and a weir across the River Don.

The original mill appears to have been either rebuilt or enlarged in 1761, and a small terrace (or two semi-detached cottages) was erected for mill workers on the northern edge of the site during the mid to late 18th century. Along with several other local mills, Hoyle Mill was converted to woollen production before 1845, and possibly as early as the c.1820s. The old oil mill building was probably converted into a water-powered fulling and scribbling mill and a new mechanised hand-spinning mill was erected alongside the river. The site was converted from water to steam power after 1854 but again following a local pattern, woollen production appears to have declined in the later 19th century, to be replaced by rug manufacture.

Rug manufacture continued right up until the Second World War, although by this date the site was much altered. At sometime between the c.1920s and 1931, the entire western end of the mill complex, including the original oil mill building, was demolished, along with a boiler house and its adjacent tall chimney, and the mill pond was infilled. After the war, the site was used as a chicken processing factory from the early 1960s to c.1977 and has been occupied by the current owner, South Yorkshire Home Improvements, since 1982. The redevelopment of the complex by successive owners has removed many of the historic elements and these alterations have severely reduced the importance of the remaining upstanding 18th/19th century structures on the site.

The proposed re-development of the site will involve the demolition of all upstanding structures in the complex, and a number of new apartments will be built over the southern part of the site. The main area of archaeological potential, the site of the original 18th century oil mill building, should mostly remain unaffected by the proposals. The below-ground survival of other parts of the early mill complex is unknown, but the currently proposed foundation design is unlikely to have significant impacts. However, it is recommended that these impacts are reviewed once designs and proposals are finalised. It is also recommended that the surviving historic structures within the site (Buildings C, D and H) are subject to a photographic survey prior to their demolition.

1 INTRODUCTION

Reasons and Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1 In February 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr J Hutchings to undertake an enhanced archaeological desk-based assessment at Hoyle Mill, Hoyle Mill Lane, Thurlstone, South Yorkshire (NGR SE23700360 centred).
- 1.2 The project involved a detailed documentary and architectural assessment of the former Hoyle Mill complex in order to assess, as far as was possible using non-intrusive techniques, the archaeological importance and potential of the site, both in terms of any upstanding remains and below-ground deposits. This information could then be used to determine the archaeological implications of a proposed re-development of the site.
- 1.3 The desk-based assessment was made prior to the determination of an outline planning application (number 2005/2142), so that the information obtained could be used to inform any decision. The scope of the assessment was determined by a brief issued by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (see Appendix 1); the terms and conditions of the brief were clarified following discussions with Mr Roy Sykes of the SYAS.

Site Location and Description

- 1.4 The former Hoyle Mill site is located on the south-east edge of the village of Thurlstone, on the north side of the River Don. Thurlstone lies c.1km west of Penistone and c.11km to the west of Barnsley town centre (at NGR SE23700360 centred) (see figure 1). The site comprises a complex of buildings of widely varying dates, accessed from the west via Hoyle Mill Lane, which leaves the A628 Manchester Road just to the north of Thurlstone Bridge (see figure 5).
- 1.5 The site is bounded to the west by Hoyle Mill Lane, to the south and east by the River Don and to the north by agricultural land. It is positioned on a narrow area of flattened ground on the north bank of the Don, at a height of c.98m AOD. The existing buildings are effectively formed by two ranges, each aligned north-east/south-west, flanking a narrow central yard which is open on the west side. The buildings and site now form a double glazing and conservatory business, South Yorkshire Home Improvements Ltd.
- 1.6 None of the buildings within the site are listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, and the site lies outside the Thurlstone Conservation Area which was designated in June 1975 (Knox 1977, 1). The site was afforded a Level "B" survey as part of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England's (RCHME) survey of Yorkshire textile mills; the record comprises very brief details entered on a proforma record sheet and two photographs (Giles & Goodall 1992, 247; NMR SE20SW20). The site is not entered on the South Yorkshire SMR, but it noted by the South Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (HSY 296). There are no other recorded archaeological sites within the immediate vicinity of the mill complex.
- 1.7 There has been some local research undertaken on the mill, specifically by Nicholson as part of her study of the Upper Don watermills (Nicholson 2001, 99-106). The historical development of the Thurlstone area in general is covered by Hey (2002) and Dransfield (1906).

Survey Methodologies

- 1.8 As noted above, the scope of the building recording work was defined by a brief issued by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (see Appendix 1) and subsequent discussions.

Documentary research

- 1.9 Documentary research was undertaken at, and information gathered from, the following archives and collection:

- Barnsley Local Studies Library, Barnsley;
- John Goodchild Collection, Wakefield;
- English Heritage's National Monuments Record, Swindon;
- South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record, Sheffield;
- Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Leeds;
- National Archives website (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk).

- 1.10 A detailed list of the sources consulted is given in the bibliography. Consultation was also carried out with the site owner, Mr Hutchings, who allowed digital copies to be made of a number of historic photographs.

Site inspection

- 1.11 A detailed inspection of the site was undertaken on the 15th March 2006 by Shaun Richardson and Ed Dennison of EDAS, using site plans obtained from Mark Brotherton Ltd. All parts of the sites were accessible, and all existing buildings and other structures were inspected both externally and internally. As part of the inspection, a number of 35mm colour prints were taken, supplemented by digital photography. A selection of these photographs have been used to illustrate this report.

Report

- 1.12 A detailed description of the site was prepared from the information gained from the documentary research and the observations made during the site visit. The following text describes the site, the surviving buildings and other structures, and analyses their form, function, history, and sequence of development, as far as is possible using the previously gathered information. The buildings are also placed within their historical and technological context, where possible. The report also contains an impact assessment of the redevelopment of the site, based on the currently available proposals.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 2.1 The following information has been prepared from the sources listed above and in the bibliography, and from observations made on site. It should be noted that there is a general lack of published or easily accessible unpublished material relating to the earlier development of the village of Thurlstone.
- 2.2 It should also be noted that throughout the following text the site's most recent name of "Hoyle Mill" is used, although it was originally known as "Oil Mill" and underwent several changes of title during its lifetime. It is not known when it became known as Hoyle Mill, but it may have been when the site was leased to J Hoyle and J Hogley in 1913. However, the complex is still named as "Oil Mill" on the Ordnance Survey map of 1931, and so the name may simply be a corruption of Oil Mill. In addition, the term "modern" is used to denote structures erected after c.1945.

Up to the Post-medieval Period

- 2.3 Thurlstone forms the largest manor and township within the parish of Penistone. Penistone may originally have formed part of the ecclesiastical unit served by Silkstone church but it had become an independent parish by the early 12th century (Hey 2002, 15). The name "Thurstone" derives from a combination of the Anglo-Saxon term *tun* and the Old Danish personal name, *Thurulf*, suggesting that an existing settlement was taken over by the Vikings and named after their local lord (Hey 1986, 12; Hey 2002, 43).
- 2.4 The core of any early settlement may have been formed by the farm at the north end of Thurlstone known as "Top of the Town", which is set high up on a spur of land above the main village. Hey has also drawn attention to the planned layout of the village as depicted on the 1854 6" Ordnance Survey map (Hey 2002, 42-43). At this time, regularly spaced house plots are visible on either side of the north-south aligned main street (Town Gate); those on the east side of Town Gate appear to be substantially longer than those to the west (see figure 2). There is no documentary evidence to date the planned settlement, although comparison with other Yorkshire villages suggests that it may be late pre-Conquest or perhaps Norman in origin (Hey 2002, 43).
- 2.5 Following the Norman Conquest, the whole of Penistone parish was taken into the south-west part of the Honour of Pontefract, which later formed part of the Duchy of Lancaster. As stated above, at 8,116 acres, Thurlstone formed the largest manor and township in Penistone parish and it was held by the Savilles, a well known West Riding gentry family (Hey 2002, 43). At the same time as the planned layout of the main part of the village was created, two open fields were laid out on either side of the settlement. Some of the open field strips, which were enclosed by stone walls in 1696, still survive within the former West Field, but the 17th century enclosure of the former East Field created a new pattern of land holdings (Hey 1979, 73; Hey 2002, 43). It is assumed that the later Hoyle Mill site lies within the former area of the East Field, and there is no firm evidence to suggest that there were any structures on the site before c.1740 (see below).
- 2.6 Thurlstone paid the highest amount of tax (£2 16s 0d) of any of the eight townships in Penistone parish in the 1334 Lay Subsidy. It again provided the highest returns from the 1379 poll tax, paying 16s 10d from the 56 people recorded within the

township. Several of the families already settled within Thurlstone township in the late 14th century were to remain there until well into the 19th century (Hey 2002, 60-63); Dransfield reproduces part of the 1379 poll tax return, giving names, occupations and amounts for which they were assessed, as well as a number of later medieval deeds relating to Thurlstone, Penistone and the surrounding district (Dransfield 1906, 153 & 178).

The Post-medieval Period

- 2.7 The post-medieval economy of Thurlstone was dominated by farming and hand-loom weaving, and the surviving buildings in and around the village reflect this dual economy. Although some farmsteads located away from the village centre retain or once retained early buildings, the historic houses within the village comprise typical 17th and 18th century West Riding forms, some with weavers' windows inserted during the early 19th century (Hey 2002, 43-45). During the 17th century, many of the houses remained small in size; of the 65 total hearths recorded in Thurlstone township in the 1672 hearth tax returns, 44 buildings had only one hearth whilst only four houses had four hearths or more (Hey 2002, 63).

The 18th century

- 2.8 Previous studies agree that the genesis of industrial activity on the Hoyle Mill site lies with a building erected during the 1740s by James and John Walton (Nicholson 2001, 99). However, the Hoyle Mill (or Oil Mill as it was then known) was not the Walton family's first milling venture in Thurlstone. James Walton (1710-94) also owned the Indigo Mill which stood adjacent to Hornthwaite corn mill, a short distance upstream (west) from Hoyle Mill. The Indigo Mill produced dyes for the woollen cloth industry but was worked by tenants rather than by Walton himself. A steam-powered scribbling mill was built next to the older dye house in the mid 19th century and the whole site was converted into a joinery works in the 1880s (Hey 2002, 146).
- 2.9 The Doncaster to Salter's Brook Turnpike (the existing A628) was created following an Act of Parliament in 1732 (Knox 1977, 9) and it may have been this improved transport link that stimulated the Walton family to expand their business. In the 1740s they acquired a 2½ acre site further downstream from the Indigo Mill upon which they erected an oil mill. During this period flax was being grown around Thurlstone, and the mill machinery would have crushed the flaxseed to produce linseed oil for use in paint and dyes, with the residual cake being converted into cattle food. The mill was powered by water and so a goit (mill leat or race) and weir was made 200 feet below Hornthwaite corn mill in order to provide the necessary head of water, with a tail race 300 feet long taking water away from the oil mill and back to the River Don. As might be expected, Hoyle Mill had close economic associations with other businesses within the area. For example, in order to extract oil from seeds, the Waltons would have needed both hair and bagging. "Hairs" were a cover for bags used in the pressing process; the bags themselves were of two types, one with a broader web for the first pressing and a second of a narrower web for the second pressing. It is likely that they purchased at least some of their materials from Zachariah Wainwright's hair cloth and bagging business located at Bankhouses (Nicholson 2001, 99; Hey 2002, 146).
- 2.10 The original 1740(s) building at Hoyle Mill was either rebuilt or enlarged in 1761. Given the relative concentration of mills at Thurlstone on a short stretch of the Don, it was almost inevitable that some conflict would arise between the different owners regarding water supply. In 1764, Aymor Rich, the owner of Hornthwaite

corn mill, complained that the weir at James and John Walton's Hoyle Mill had caused a bed of wrack (debris) over 40 yards long and 90 yards in circumference to accumulate in the river, thus forcing water back up the tail-race of a new water-wheel he had installed in 1761, thus rendering it inoperable; the papers note that Hoyle Mill was built in 1740 (Sheffield Archives CM/1554-1). The case was to have been heard at York Court Assizes in 1765 but a private settlement was reached and the problem of wrack accumulation resolved (Nicholson 2001, 92 & 100; Hey 2002, 51-52).

- 2.11 During the late 18th century, Hoyle Mill passed from the Waltons to the Milner family, when Susannah Walton married Gamaliel Milner of Attercliffe in 1777 (Nicholson 2001, 100). The only known depiction of the site during this period is given on Thomas Jefferys' 1772 map of Yorkshire. As elsewhere, the position of the mill is marked only by a waterwheel symbol, although interestingly at this date, the river appears to split either side of the symbol, re-uniting to the east. This must represent the goit and tail-race constructed along with the original building on the site in the 1740s, and may suggest that they remained fully-open, rather than being culverted, in the late 18th century.

The 19th century

- 2.12 Thurlstone and the surrounding area underwent substantial changes during the 19th century. The 6,552 acres of commons and wastes in Thurlstone township were enclosed between 1812 and 1816 (Hey 2002, 14). Only the Enclosure Award, and not the map, is held at Bamsley Local Studies Library but this provides some details of the three allotments given to Gamaliel Milner (BLSL 1816, 76-77), although none is of significance to the mill itself.
- 2.13 The population of Thurlstone township almost trebled in size during the 19th century from just over 1,000 in 1801 to nearly 3,000 in 1901 (Hey 2002, 137). The militia returns for 1806 demonstrate the extent to which the textile trade dominated the local economy. Of the 130 men aged between 18 and 45 who were eligible for militia service in Thurlstone, 40 were weavers, 21 were clothiers and four were cloth dressers, with one slubber, one yarn maker and one dyer (Hey 1989, 241). Those termed "clothier" were generally farmer-weavers whose family would have helped them prepare a piece of cloth weekly to be sold in the Piece Halls of larger market towns; the Cloth Hall in Penistone was built in 1763 (Hey 1998, 181). The number of weavers increased rapidly during the late 18th century, as the preparation and spinning of yarn became mechanized and concentrated in mills; in 1822 there were 14 woollen manufacturers in Thurlstone in addition to several black warp and cloth dressers (Dransfield 1906, 153). Although some mills were eventually converted to steam-powered weaving mills, some forms of hand-loom weaving persisted well into the later 19th century (Hey 2002, 137-139).
- 2.14 These economic and landscape changes also had an impact on the Hoyle Mill site. Flax was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain locally by the early 19th century and before 1845 Hoyle Mill had been converted into a cloth and fulling mill, the miller being a Mr Tomasson at this date (Nicholson 2001, 100-101). Surprisingly however, Hoyle Mill does not appear to be specifically mentioned in early 19th century trade directories. In 1822, Baines lists "Gamaliel Milner Esq" under Thurlstone, but no occupation is given, and it may be that the mill was leased out at this date. Two fulling and scribbling millers are listed but they can both be linked to other sites (Baines 1822, 621). Thomas Tomasson is listed as a woollen cloth manufacturer and merchant in 1834 (Pigot 1834). Similarly, White's directory of 1838 gives no information that can be specifically related to the Hoyle Mill site.

(White 1838, 239-240). However, from the later records (see below) it appears that the site was owned by John Crossland Milner from at least the mid 19th century; in 1834 and 1851 he is recorded as being a woollen cloth manufacturer and merchant (Pigot 1834; National Archives HO107/2334 f.332, p.31).

- 2.15 The Bamsley Local Studies Library does not hold a copy of the Thurstone tithe map but the 1854 6" Ordnance Survey map depicts the site in the mid 19th century, when it is named as "Oil Mill (Woollen)" (see figure 2). If the mill's goit and tail-race had remained open in the late 18th century (see above), then they had been largely culverted in the intervening period, as only the weir and adjacent angular cut into the river bank to form a head of water are shown. At this date, the mill complex comprised three separate structures, a large north-south aligned block at the west end, a smaller east-west range on the north side (almost certainly mill cottages – see below), and a long range adjacent to the river with a wider west end. Nicholson notes that a Church Sunday School was started in an upper room at the mill in 1850 by William Birks and it appears to have continued in use as such until at least the early 1860s (Nicholson 2001, 100). The 1851 census shows that the four cottages on the site were occupied by Isaac Booth (a wool carder), Enoch Jubb (an engineer at the mill), Miles Brook and James Booth (both woollen spinners), and their families; many of their children also worked in the mill (National Archives HO107/2334 f321, p7-8).
- 2.16 During the late 1860s, James Studley Nokes came to work at Hoyle Mill, which was by then producing cloth with a narrow stripe of grey on black used for making trousers. Nokes was born in Leicester and the 1861 census shows that he was a 26 year old woollen cloth manufacturer; he and his parents were staying with the Milner family (the owners of the mill) at their house in Town Street on the evening of 7th April 1861 when the census was taken (National Archives RG9/3455 f15, p24). Nokes subsequently married into the Milner family and became a well respected local figure, eventually becoming a partner in the firm (Nicholson 2001, 102). Directory evidence suggests that Nokes had become a partner as early as 1861, when the firm is listed as "Milner & Nokes, woollen cloth manufacturers" (Kelly & Co 1861, 833). The 1861 census also records John Crossland Milner as a woollen cloth manufacturer employing 15 men and 15 children, and that John Coldwell was the mill manager, living in one of the four cottages on the site (National Archives RG9/3455, f15, p24 & f16, p26).
- 2.17 The mill was damaged by fire in January 1866 when James Jubb, an engine tender at the mill, was killed (Nicholson 2001, 100-102). The mill is still listed as "Milner & Nokes, woollen cloth manufacturers" in 1871 (Kelly & Co 1871, 993), when 25 men, three women, ten boys and four girls were employed at the site (Nicholson 2001, 102). At this time James Studley Nokes was living at Rose Cottage, on the other side of the Manchester Road (see figure 3), with his wife and five daughters: he is described as a "woollen cloth manufacturer" (National Archives RG10/4654, f58, p8). John Coldwell was still the mill manager, living in one of the cottages on the site (National Archives RG10/4654, f14, p28). It appears that John Crossland Milner leased the site wholly to Nokes in 1873, as in this year an agreement was drawn up between the two by which Nokes, given as a woollen and cloth manufacturer, agreed to pay £2,000 to Milner regarding the mill and premises (John Goodchild collection); in 1879 Milner paid just over £56 rateable value for his businesses whilst Nokes paid nearly £181 (Nicholson 2001, 102).
- 2.18 By 1880 Hoyle Mill appears to have become disused (Nicholson 2001, 102) and it does not appear in an 1881 directory, when both Nokes and Milner are listed at private addresses (Kelly & Co 1881, 1390). However, this might be contradicted

by the fact that there were six houses on Oil Mill Lane in 1881 still occupied by mill workers, including Henry Stott and Herbert Rusby who were "engine drivers at worsted mill". Other workers were employed as worsted and woollen weavers (National Archives RG11/4613, f12, p15-16).

- 2.19 In c.1886 the site was leased to Benjamin Whiteley, a rug manufacturer. Whitley specialised in sheepskin rugs, making both hand pegged and machine-made rugs (Nicholson 2001, 102). A plan accompanying the lease (unreferenced but reproduced in Nicholson 2001, 103) provides the first known detailed depiction of the Hoyle Mill complex (see figure 3). The site was reached via Hoyle Mill Lane, which left the Manchester Road at Thurstone Bridge. To the south-west of the mill complex, a footbridge (also illustrated by Nicholson 2001, 104) crossed the River Don above the mill weir. At the north end of the weir, an angular cut into the river bank ponded a small head of water for the mill. The mill complex itself was represented by a large L-shaped range (formerly shown as two separate ranges in 1854), with a smaller detached range (the mill cottages) to the north. The main range comprised a squat, north-south aligned, U-shaped building at the western end, with external steps positioned at either end within the U. The longer part of the building, running parallel to the river, was considerably wider at the western end. To the east, another footbridge crossed the Don and the mill's tail-race emerged from below ground to re-join the river a short distance downstream.
- 2.20 The c.1886 plan is supplemented by a drawing of the site, almost certainly from a bill-head, also reproduced by Nicholson (2001, 100); a copy is also held by the site owner, Mr J Hutchings (see plate 1). The view is undated, but it closely resembles the site as depicted on the 1893 Ordnance Survey map (see figure 3). Although the bill-head probably gives an idealised picture of the works, it appears to be broadly accurate in terms of the position, relative sizes and number of storeys of the buildings, to judge from the surviving evidence (see Chapter 3 below). The bill-head shows that the U-shaped building forming the western end of the main range was actually a two or three storey L-shaped structure with a pitched roof, end stacks and external steps leading to the first floor. There was a lower apparently detached two-storey building at its north end; low-level windows in the north elevation suggest that it had a cellar / basement. A building with a raised ridge-light is depicted to the south of the L-shaped building.
- 2.21 The wider end of the long part of the complex was formed by two parallel north-south aligned buildings, the western of which was an engine / boiler house served by a tall chimney. This appears to have infilled the gap between the two separate ranges shown in 1854, suggesting that steam-power was introduced at Hoyle Mill only after this date. The eastern of the two buildings was of two storeys, with a small lean-to at its junction with a large ten-bay building running parallel to the river. The latter was built into a steep bank and was of three storeys to the north elevation, with a central doorway and probable loading door above. To the north, the mill cottages are shown as an eight-bay two storey range; the distribution of chimney stacks suggests that it was divided into four separate dwellings which concurs with the census information. A smaller two storey three bay building, possibly of two phases, appears to the east; this was not shown in c.1886 but it does appear on the Ordnance Survey 1893 25" map (see figure 3). The bill-head also depicts the railway line on the south side of the valley, and various figures and activity within the mill complex.
- 2.22 It appears that the site had been sub-divided into two businesses under the Whiteley Brothers' tenure. In 1891, it appears in a directory as "Whiteley Brothers & Co. rug and mat manufacturers, Stanley & Oil Mills, Thurstone" with further

entries of "Benjamin Whiteley (fancy woollen, worsted trouserings and vesting manufacturer), Stanley & Oil Mills, Thurstone" and "Whiteley Brothers & Co (Hearth and carriage rug and mat manufacturers), Stanley & Oil Mills, Thurstone" (Slater 1891, 552 & 555). The 1891 census shows that only two of the four cottages were occupied, Herbert Rusby still being the engine driver while his son Fred was an engine cleaner (National Archives RG12/3785, f6, p5-6).

- 2.23 The 1906 25" Ordnance Survey map (see below), where Hoyle Mill is named as "Stanley Mills (Rugs, Mats etc)", proves that the two businesses were on the same site, rather than being two entirely separate mills, and this may go some way to explaining the contradictions between documentary sources. For example, the complex is named as "Oil Mill (woollen) (disused)" on the 1893 Ordnance Survey map but in 1897 and 1901 it is still listed as "Whiteley Bros & co, rug manufacturers" (Kelly & Co 1897, 944; Kelly & Co 1901, 841). It seems likely that woollen manufacture had ceased on part of the site but that rug manufacture continued as before.

The 20th century

- 2.24 Nicholson states that the Whiteley family continued to manufacture rugs at Hoyle Mill until 1905, when they moved to larger premises and Hoyle Mill again became disused. However, the complex is not shown as disused on the 1906 25" Ordnance Survey map and the buildings are depicted much as in 1886 and 1893 (see figure 4), although this need not be significant. Perhaps more telling is the fact that nothing is listed at either Stanley or Oil Mills in contemporary textile trade directories (Anon 1913, 10) and it is then unclear what happened to the site until May 1913, when it was leased by the Milners to J Hoyle and J Hogley, Huddersfield rug manufacturers. Hoyle apparently continued in business at the premises until 1939, when Hoyle Mill was given over to army use (Nicholson 2001, 102-105).
- 2.25 However, the site had undergone radical alterations by this date, as shown by the 1931 Ordnance Survey 25" map (see figure 4). The whole of the western end of the complex had apparently been demolished, leaving only the ruined footprint to mark its position, and the adjacent cut into the river bank had been backfilled. The complex had reverted to its earlier name of "Oil Mill" but was still manufacturing rugs and mats. The site owner has a photograph of the west end of the complex prior to demolition, probably taken during the 1920s.
- 2.26 At the end of the Second World War, Hoyle Mill was put up for sale, along with other Milner properties, and was sold to Henry Redfern of Thurstone for £1,750. It was used as an electrically-operated chicken processing factory from the early 1960s and remained in use as such until at least 1977 (Knox 1977, 10). The site then became disused again until 1982, when it was taken over by South Yorkshire Home Improvements as a base for their double-glazing business (Nicholson 2001, 106); it remains in this use today. Aerial photographs of the site taken between 1982 and 1989 show that, with the exception of the addition of several new blockwork buildings, the layout of the older parts of the site has changed little over the last 20 years (Mr Hutchings, *pers comm.*).

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

- 3.1 The site is described below from west to east, starting with Hoyle Mill Lane and terminating at the footbridge which crosses the Don to its east. In the following text, the standing buildings on the site are identified by a unique letter reference system, being labelled from "A" to "I" in an anti-clockwise direction starting in the south-west corner of the complex; for ease of description, the buildings are also assumed to be aligned either north-south or east-west. No detailed reference is made to the form of window glazing or doors, as all such items had been replaced with modern fittings throughout the complex by the time of survey. The identified sites and buildings are shown on figure 5.

Hoyle Mill Lane

- 3.2 The site is approached via Hoyle Mill Lane, which leaves the east side of the A628 Manchester Road on the north side of Thurlstone Bridge; the lane is surfaced with tarmac for its entire length. At its west end, the lane is flanked to the north by a terrace of houses, built after 1931, and to the south by some modern garages. Beyond the garages, the ground slopes steeply downwards towards the river. At the base of the slope, there is a shallow linear depression or gully, poorly defined and with a slight bank on the riverside. This gully runs east as far as a concrete outfall, and is the remnant of the tail race from Hornthwaite corn mill (subsequently called Thurlstone Mills); it is clearly shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1893, 1906 and 1931. Immediately beyond the concrete outfall, a pipe crosses the river, supported on coursed squared gritstone abutments. These are not shown in 1931 and so are assumed to have been built after this date. However, a low rubble wall of large stones projects from beneath the eastern side of the north abutment and is perhaps the remains of an earlier revetment, as the river bank is particularly steep here.
- 3.3 Hoyle Mill Lane continues eastwards, passing through a modern gateway; the gateway has a c.1m tall gritstone gate stoop with strong diagonal tooling marks on its south side. To the north, a modern low drystone wall with cemented vertical coping runs along the north side of the lane and contains a step stile adjacent to the gateway. In 1893, 1906 and 1931, "Stones" or "Stone" are marked in the wall line close to the position of the stile and the latter represents the line of a footpath running north. A number of dressed stones, most probably taken from one of the demolished parts of the Hoyle Mill complex, are visible at the base of the wall here but, given that the wall is of a recent date, whatever was marked on the Ordnance Survey maps must have been removed. A very large dressed stone, c.2m long and 0.50m square in section, is visible lying at the base of the river's north bank not far from this position, but it is not known if it is *in* or *ex situ*. Its form and position suggest it may have been set over a former outfall, although there are now no visible traces of one.
- 3.4 Further to the east, another pipe crosses the river, again supported on semi-circular abutments. The southern abutment is of roughly squared gritstone rubble, whilst the northern is of rock-faced gritstone. The latter is shown on maps in both 1906 and 1931 but the central pier, of rock-faced gritstone with margin tooling, does not appear. Beyond the northern abutment, the river bank continues as a steep grassed slope as far as the weir and remains of a footbridge (see below). The lane here is lined by mature trees, the remnants of the more extensive avenue shown in 1896.

- 3.5 The drystone wall on the north side of Hoyle Mill Lane runs eastwards as far as a gateway which gives access to a track and footpath which leads north-west towards the north end of Thurstone village. The gateway retains a 1.20m tall tooled gritstone stoop with a semi-circular head on the west side. To the west of the gateway, the drystone wall rises to over 1m in height and contains a further modern gateway leading into the pasture field to the north of the site.

The Weir, Footbridge and Car Park

- 3.6 Water was originally diverted into the mill pond which powered the mill's waterwheel by an angled weir built across the width of the Don. At the time of the site visit, a large volume of water was passing over the weir, and much of its form was obscured (see plate 2). However, photographs taken during a drier period (Nicholson 2001, 104-105) and a c.1920s photograph held by the site owner, Mr Hutchings, show that the top of the weir comprises a line of stones containing a shallow central groove. Below these, the base of the weir, formed by sloping stones or cobbles, stretches some 10m to the east, where another line of stones marks the line of a second much narrower weir depicted in 1893 and 1906. The upper weir is effectively divided into two parts by a central overflow channel, lined with large dressed gritstone blocks and originally fitted with a sluice at the upper end. This channel survives today.
- 3.7 The sluice may have been operated from the footbridge which formerly crossed the river above the weir. The footbridge was approached from the south-west via a footpath leading off the north side of the Manchester Road. The line of the path is clearly visible as a flattened linear earthwork descending the south bank of the river, although there is no evidence for a former gateway in the wall at the point where it leaves the main road. The footbridge was supported on three low piers built of large dressed stones and is shown on the c.1920's photograph with wooden railings set on widely spaced posts braced with base struts. It is apparently not marked in 1854 but is shown in c.1886 (Nicholson 2001, 103).
- 3.8 As stated above, the weir formerly diverted or ponded water into a collecting area cut into the north bank of the river, adjacent to the west end of the mill complex. A channel is shown on the east side of the pond in 1893 and this was fitted with a sluice in 1906; it clearly once provided the head race for the mill's waterwheel. There was also formerly a small structure in the south-west corner of the pond. The pond was backfilled sometime between 1906 and 1931, when the adjacent part of the mill complex was also demolished. Both now lie beneath the tarmac of the car park at the east end of Hoyle Mill Lane (see figure 5), and the only visible remnant of this part of the mill is a decaying section of revetment wall made up of large pieces of gritstone in the north bank of the river adjacent to the weir.
- 3.9 Although the main mill building has been demolished, the combined documentary evidence indicates that it originally had a squat U-shaped plan and was not physically joined to the rest of the complex in 1854, although it had been by 1886 (see figures 2 and 3). The c.1900 bill-head shows the U-plan to comprise a tall two or three storey structure with an L-shape, end stacks and steps at the north-east corner (see plate 1). The north return of the U-plan was a much lower two-storey building, aligned east-west, which the bill-head suggests was not attached to the rest of the structure. The only known photograph of this part of the complex is held by the site owner, and it probably dates to the c.1920s. It shows the larger of the two buildings on the c.1900 bill-head viewed from the west. It is a tall structure of three storeys, apparently with a slated hipped or half-hipped roof. A number of tall (window?) blocked openings are shown on the ground floor, with no openings to

the first floor and a series of low wide window openings, also blocked, to the first floor or attic storey.

- 3.10 Although this part of the mill complex was demolished before 1931, sufficient of its footprint remained to be surveyed at this date, suggesting that the lowest parts of the external walls were still visible (see figure 4). An aerial photograph held by the site owner, taken between 1982 and 1989, appears to show part of a large open-sided shed in this area. Part of the site of the former building is now occupied by a modern blockwork structure (Building A) which was erected after 1989. The ground surface of the car park slopes steeply downwards from the north of Building A into the narrow yard running through the complex.

Building B

- 3.11 Building B stands between Buildings A and C on the south side of the narrow yard running through the centre of the complex. In 1854, a gap between the west part of the complex and the riverside range is shown in this general location but it had been largely infilled by 1886 and 1893. The c.1900 bill-head shows a north-south aligned partly sunken building here, almost certainly a boiler house, with a very tall chimney at the south end adjacent to the river; the chimney is still visible in the c.1920s photograph held by the site owner. The bill-head also shows a long cylindrical tank running parallel to the west side of the boiler house. The chimney, building and associated structures were all demolished before 1931 along with the western end of the mill complex. An aerial photograph taken between 1982 and 1989 shows a single storey building here, presumably erected after 1931, with a single slope asbestos-sheet roof and a small window in the south elevation.
- 3.12 At the time of site visit, Building B remained much as shown on the aerial photograph, although the asbestos roof had been replaced with felt. It is aligned north-south and is c.12m long by 5m wide. The visible parts of the exterior are built of neat thinly coursed squared gritstone set with a cement mortar. The north elevation is partly obscured by a modern flight of steps which lead up to the first floor of Building C, and a blockwork lean-to has been erected against the south elevation since 1989 (see plate 3). The interior contains no features of historic interest.

Building C

- 3.13 Building C stands between Buildings B and D, on the south side of the narrow yard running through the centre of the complex. A building is shown in this approximate position in 1854, set at a right angle to the much longer riverside range (Building D). It is similarly depicted in 1886 and 1893, although by the latter date the area to the immediate west had been infilled by other buildings. The c.1900 bill-head shows the building as two storeys in height with a pitched roof. The north elevation has doorways to both floors at its west end, with two windows on each floor to the east; the upper doorway is reached via steeply ascending steps. In 1906 this part of the site is similarly depicted but following demolition of the western end of the complex it was again joined only to the riverside range (Building D).
- 3.14 The existing building is aligned north-south and is of two storeys in height with a pitched slated roof, although the east and west slopes are of unequal length (see below). The building has a sub-rectangular plan, being c.16.50m long and 6.50m wide, although the width is not constant; internally, the east wall can be seen to be slightly curved rather than straight and on the 1982-89 aerial photograph the building appears to splay slightly outwards towards its north end. It is built

throughout of coursed squared gritstone with intermittent "pecked" or horizontal tooling marks and is set with a lime mortar. The north gable originally had three tall windows on the ground floor, each with projecting stone sills and stone lintels. All are now blocked and the western pair have been partly removed by the insertion of a much larger opening, which was subsequently blocked with machine-made bricks. Above, on the first floor, there is a central window of similar proportions, flanked by former taking-in doors; the west door was narrowed before it was partly blocked and converted into a window. The upper part of the gable rises from moulded kneelers and is surmounted by flat coping.

- 3.15 The east and west elevations of the building are largely obscured by the buildings to either side, but the first floor of the west side can be seen to be six bays in length. When viewed from the A628, the central part of the east elevation can clearly be seen to pre-date the rest of the building, which butts it at either end. A centrally positioned blocked opening is visible at the very top of the east elevation, with some disturbance to the masonry to either side.
- 3.16 The south elevation, facing onto the river, has a modern concrete balcony with steel railings projecting from the ground floor (see plate 4). A ground floor doorway leading onto the balcony has been boarded up, whilst a window to the west was originally of the same size as all the others in the building, but has since been greatly reduced in depth. To the west of the window, the line of the elevation projects slightly beyond that of the west elevation. Above, there are two windows to the first floor. The upper part of the gable has been rebuilt in slightly larger stones than the rest of the elevation, resulting in roof slopes of unequal length to either side of the ridge and kneelers set at different heights.
- 3.17 The main access to the interior of the building is via a modern flight of brick steps rising to the north-west corner of the first floor. The interior of the building is entirely fitted out with modern fixtures and finishes, and no features of historic interest were visible. At the south-east internal corner, a steep flight of steps lead down to the doorway in the south elevation.

Building D

- 3.18 Building D is located immediately adjacent to the river, and now forms part of the range of buildings set between the central yard and the Don. A long narrow building is shown in this position in 1854, with a thickened west end probably formed in part by Building C. It is similarly depicted in 1886 and 1893; a small enclosure was attached to the east end by 1893, with a small free-standing building just to the east. The c.1900 bill-head shows the building as being of three storeys, perhaps with a cellar level to the river side, and approximately 11 bays in length. The central bay has a doorway to the ground floor and a taking-in door set midway between the first and second floors, whilst the remainder have windows to each floor level. There are similar windows to the ground and first floors of the east gable, with Venetian windows to the second floor. The overall plan of the building was little changed in 1906 and 1931, with the exception of the small attached enclosure shown in 1893 which had been turned into a roofed building by 1906. The present building appears very similar on the aerial photograph taken between 1982-89.
- 3.19 The existing building is aligned east-west and is rectangular in plan, c.33m long and 7m wide. It is 11 bays in length, built of coursed and squared gritstone with strong horizontal tooling and has edge-laid quoins to the visible corners (see plate 3). The building now stands to only a single storey height for most of its length and

is provided with a single pitch corrugate sheet roof. However, the westernmost two bays rise through two storeys and the former west gable of the building, which was incorporated into Building C, survives to the full three storeys shown on the c.1900 bill-head; the blocked central opening here may be the remains of a Venetian window similar to those formerly existing in the east gable.

- 3.20 The majority of the building's external elevations are now obscured by later structures, and only the south side can be clearly seen. With the exception of the end bays, each bay contains a single, relatively small UPVC window. These windows are significantly shallower than the original window openings, which were fitted with projecting stone sills and stone lintels. The easternmost bay is blank, whilst the westernmost bay contains a blocked doorway. The two surviving first floor windows to the south elevation retain their original proportions but have also been fitted with modern frames (see plate 4). To the east of these windows, the first floor wall returns to the north, where it contains two further modern windows, both later insertions. The northern return may once have been an internal wall, or it may have been rebuilt when the upper floors of the building were demolished.
- 3.21 The interior of the building is now accessed through Building E to the north. It has been whitewashed and given a concrete floor. The steel girders supporting the single pitch roof have been boxed in and the interior contains no visible features of historic interest.

Buildings E, F and G

- 3.22 These three buildings are all modern structures of no historical significance. Building E is in two parts, both in brick, the west part being taller and earlier than the east part. Building F has also developed in a number of stages, almost all of which are constructed in blockwork, apart from a short section of the south elevation which has plank facing. Building G was built in 1989 by the current owner of the site (Mr Hutchings, *pers. comm.*).
- 3.23 In 1854 the area covered by these three buildings was part of the open yard but between 1886 and 1893 a small rectangular building was erected. The c.1900 bill-head depicts it as being of two storeys and three bays in length; its position and appearance suggest that it may have been a stable. It was still depicted in 1906 and 1931 but by the time the aerial photograph was taken in 1982-89 it appears to have been replaced by a large container set in the same position. When Building G was erected in 1989, no remains were observed of either the earlier building shown on maps here or a tailrace from the waterwheel (Mr Hutchings, *pers. comm.*).

Building H

- 3.24 Building H stands in an elevated position on the north side of the central yard. A building is shown in this position in 1854, with a slight recess in plan in the south side. In 1886, two smaller cells or sub-divisions are shown at the east end, whilst in 1893 it was sub-divided into four parts of unequal size. It is similarly depicted in both 1906 and 1931. The c.1900 bill-head shows the building as a two storey terrace, eight bays in length, with four evenly spaced ridge stacks. The plan form of the building had changed little in either 1906 or 1931. The 1982-89 aerial photograph shows the south elevation to be whitewashed, with two surviving ridge stacks and a stone slated roof. A toilet block was built against the west gable after 1989 (see plate 6).

- 3.25 Excluding modern additions, the main body of the existing building is aligned east-west, c.24m long by 6.50m wide and of two storeys with a pitched slated roof. It is set on a platform, retained by a revetment wall along the south side, which sets it c.1m above the central yard. The building is built of coursed squared gritstone, laid in courses of varying thickness, and with edge-laid quoins. The east and west gables are largely obscured by later additions but a small blocked window can be seen in the apex of the east gable, whilst the upper part of the west gable rises from curved kneelers.
- 3.26 The south elevation has been subject to much modern alteration, but when this is discounted, a basic pattern emerges (see plate 5). It formerly consisted of four dwellings, each of a single room on the ground and first floors. The only entrance to the dwellings was through paired ground floor doorways, all provided with deep monolithic lintels and substantial quoined jambs. The shared wall between the doorways would have contained the fireplaces and chimney flues. Each dwelling was provided with a large window to the ground floor and a smaller window to the first floor; all windows have sills, lintels and jambs formed from single pieces of stone; the ground floor windows would once have been sub-divided into several smaller lights. The easternmost bay is clearly a later addition to the building, and is provided with much deeper windows to the ground and first floors.
- 3.27 The north elevation is less altered than the south (see plate 6). The stone courses are misaligned in the centre, suggesting that the building was built in two main phases, each phase consisting of a pair of semi-detached dwellings. The north elevation of each dwelling has a single small window to the ground and first floors, supplemented by much larger windows which are later insertions. One of the original ground floor windows has a small stone spout or drain placed beneath it, passing through the thickness of the wall. As in the south elevation, the easternmost bay is clearly a later addition. The ground floor window is either a later insertion or an enlargement of an original window, but on the first floor an unaltered window remains with a very thick monolithic west jamb.
- 3.28 When the site was taken over by South Yorkshire Home Improvements in 1982, the building had apparently been fired and was in poor condition (Mr Hutchings, *pers. comm.*). All internal floor levels and historic roof structures have now been removed, a concrete floor inserted and the interior lined throughout with blockwork.
- 3.29 In 1893, a small building is shown to the west of Building H and it survived until at least 1931. It has since been demolished but its approximate position can still be seen in a change of construction in the field wall and a low retaining wall to the west of a toilet block added to the west end of Building H. Further west, the field wall contains a blocked narrow gateway retaining a single dressed stoop. Both the gateway, a footpath leading to it and the small building are depicted on the c.1900 bill-head; the building may have been a loading platform.

The Tail race and Footbridge

- 3.30 In c.1886, the tail race of the mill complex is named as "mill race" and is shown as a narrow channel of regular width running east from the site to rejoin the river. It is similarly depicted but not named until at least 1931. There is now no trace of the tail-race, but a sinuous stream still follows its approximate line. The stream now acts as a drain for water coming from the centre of Thurstone to the north-west (Mr Hutchings, *pers. comm.*) and there may be traces of a stone lining at the very western end.

- 3.31 An angled footbridge crosses the river to the immediate east of the complex. A footbridge or ford appears to be shown in this position in 1854 and a bridge was certainly present by 1886. None is marked in 1893, although a trackway leading down to its position is shown on the river's south bank. The footbridge had reappeared by 1906 and an early photograph shows it to have been supported on three low piers with post-and-rail fencing running along either side (Nicholson 2001, 104). The fencing continued to the south-east up the trackway leading to the A628.
- 3.32 Since the photograph was taken, the timber railings have been replaced with tubular steel examples. The body of the bridge is formed by two long steel girders which rest upon three low stone piers. The trackway running up the river bank to the south-east is still visible, and the point at which it meets the Manchester Road is marked by a pair of squat gatepiers. There is also another trackway leading down to the footbridge from the south-west, surviving as a flattened linear earthwork carried on a substantial retaining wall.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 No documentary, architectural or archaeological evidence has been uncovered to suggest that there was any settlement or industrial activity on the site prior to the 1740s, although this is not to say that such activity might not have been present. It could be argued the footpath shown running south-east from the upper part of Thurstone village towards Hoyle Mill in 1854 was a continuation of an earlier route, and that this, together with the tracks leading down the south bank of the Don towards the existing footbridge, might suggest there was an early crossing point over the river here, predating the mill. Further documentary research would be needed to confirm this suggestion; the water level was relatively high at the time of the site visit, preventing any examination of the river bed for possible crossing points.
- 4.2 The earliest known industrial activity on the site was the building of an oil mill in the 1740s by the Walton family. Given the Waltons' previous activity at the nearby Indigo Mill, the erection of an oil mill to produce linseed oil for use in oil paints and dyes would seem a natural expansion of their business activities. The combined documentary evidence suggests that the earliest mill was located at the west end of the site, and was formed by the large two or three storey L-shaped building shown here on the c.1900 bill-head. It is likely that the waterwheel was located within the northern "arm" of the building, and was fed by the pond shown to the west of the building on early maps, which was itself created by a weir constructed across the adjacent River Don. Comparison with other oil mill sites in Yorkshire indicates that the waterwheel would have driven a set of edge runner stones to break down the flax seeds and a stirrer with a heating plate to heat the resulting "seed meal". This "meal" would then have been pressed to extract the oil and the residual cake used as cattle food (Harrison 2001, 83-84). After powering the waterwheel, the water would have passed down the tail race, which remained open for the whole of its length in the late 18th century, before re-entering the Don some distance to the east.
- 4.3 The original mill appears to have been either rebuilt or enlarged in 1761, and the building shown on the c.1920s photograph does bear some resemblance to "improved" mills erected in north-east Yorkshire during the late 18th and early 19th centuries (Harrison 2001, 86-108). However, it is not clear whether the mill continued in the production of oil after 1761. It was certainly not the only building on the site in the late 18th century. In its original form, Building H comprised either a terrace or two semi-detached cottages of slightly different dates. The form of the cottages is strongly reminiscent of mid to late 18th century clothiers' houses in West Yorkshire, but the windows, even those on the ground floor, may be too small to allow adequate lighting for handloom weaving (Caffyn 1986, 10-12). Alternatively, the building also bears some similarity to late 18th century mill workers' cottages (Caffyn 1986, 18). The census information from 1851 onwards shows that the cottages were occupied by mill workers, including the mill manager.
- 4.4 Either of these alternative forms suggests that some textile production may have been taking place at Hoyle Mill by the end of the 18th century. This would not be unexpected; Hey has demonstrated through the use of militia returns that the woollen trade dominated male employment in the local area in 1806 (Hey 2002, 137). Several other local mills in the area were converted to textile use relating to the woollen trade during this period. An old fulling mill on the River Don, known as Batty Mill, had been enlarged into a scribbling, fulling and carding mill by 1798, whilst by the same date a scribbling mill, four houses and a cropping shop had

been erected at Windmill Green (Hey 2002, 145-146). The woollen mill at Plumpton was founded on a former corn mill site in 1816 (Bayliss 1995, 53).

- 4.5 According to Nicholson, Hoyle Mill had been converted into a cloth and fulling mill prior to 1845. During this period, the manufacture of woollen cloth required several distinct phases of preparation and working. The raw wool was first sorted, scoured to remove dirt and grease, washed and dried, and then dyed at this stage if required. Following cleaning, it was 'willeed' (separation of fibres) and then carded or scribbled (straightening and disentangling of fibres). The yarn was spun and then woven, before being finished by beating in fulling stocks and stretched on tenter frames. Finally the surface was raised and sheared (Giles & Goodall 1992, 7-15). Prior to the late 18th century, all of these stages of production had been carried out by hand but from c.1770 onwards they gradually became mechanised. For example, willeing, carding and scribbling had been mechanised by the end of the 18th century, but it was only in the 1820s that mechanised spinning by automatic mule was introduced to woollen production. Similarly, handloom weaving remained dominant in woollens until the 1830s and persisted in the Thurlstone area well into the late 19th century (Giles & Goodall 1992, 7-15; Hey 2002, 137-139).
- 4.6 On balance, it seems most likely that Hoyle Mill was converted to woollen production some time between c.1820 and 1845. The old oil mill was probably converted into a water-powered fulling and scribbling mill and a new building (Building D) was erected alongside the river. In its original form, Building D was tall, long and well-lit but relatively narrow, similar in structure and detailing to several early 19th century mechanised hand-spinning and hand-weaving shops recorded elsewhere in West Yorkshire (Giles & Goodall 1992, 18-19). It probably started life solely as a spinning mill, with weaving put out to handloom weavers in the district but finishing carried out on site. Building C is clearly a later addition to Building D, although its exact function remains uncertain. The earlier cottages (Building H) were occupied by workers; the 1851 census notes that some of the workers were wool carders and spinners, while in 1861 there were fulling millers, an engine tenter and a teaser (National Archives HO107/2334, f321, p7-8; RG93455, f.16, p26).
- 4.7 Map evidence suggests that the mill was converted from water to steam power after 1854, when a boiler house and tall chimney were erected between the original oil mill and Building C. The most likely position for the engine house is between the boiler house and the mill, i.e. Building C, although there is no existing structural evidence to suggest that it ever housed an engine. A date after 1854 for conversion to steam power may seem a little late, given that other mills in Thurlstone had been powered by steam from at least 1845 (Hey 2002, 145). It is possible that an original smaller engine house built before 1854 was replaced, although the assessment has uncovered no evidence to support this. The erection of a steam engine would also have allowed improved machinery to be introduced onto the site, and it may be that some of the floor space originally occupied by spinning was turned over to weaving machinery, thus altering the relationship between the mill and woollen out-workers in Thurlstone. Despite the introduction of new technology, Hoyle Mill remained smaller in size, employing only 30 people in 1861 and 42 men, women and children in 1871. This can be compared to nearby Plumpton Mill which employed 120 in 1861 (Bayliss 1995, 53).
- 4.8 The apparent cessation of woollen production on the site in the late 1880s and its leasing out to a rug manufacturer is typical of the experience of many woollen mills in the surrounding area. After c.1850, the woollen industry in the Penistone area

went into decline (Giles & Goodall 1992, 5), and several mills around Thurlstone were converted to other uses; for example, at Windmill Green, the woollen mill became a wire works in the 1870s whilst the cloth and scribbling mill adjacent to Thurlstone (Hornthwaite) corn mill was converted to a joinery works in the 1880s (Hey 2002, 144-146). The Hoyle Mill site was recorded as a worsted mill in 1881 (National Archives RG11/4613, f12, p15-16), but this may have been only in a part of the complex.

- 4.9 Documentary evidence suggests that the site was sub-divided between two separate businesses during the 1890s and that woollen production may have ceased by 1901. Rug production continued right up until the Second World War, although by this date the site was much altered. At sometime between the c.1920s and 1931, the entire western end of the mill complex, including the original oil mill building, was demolished, along with the boiler house and its adjacent tall chimney, and the mill pond was infilled. After the war, the site was used as a chicken processing factory from the early 1960s to c.1977 and has been occupied by the current owners, South Yorkshire Home Improvements, since 1982. The redevelopment of the site by successive owners has removed many of the historic elements; for example, Building D was reduced to a single storey prior to 1982, whilst Building H is now little more than its external walls. The combined effect of these alterations means that the importance of the surviving 18th/19th century structures on the site has been severely reduced.

5 ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

- 5.1 As stated in Chapter 1 above, one of the aims of the enhanced archaeological desk-based assessment was to consider the archaeological implications to the proposed development of the Hoyle Mill complex.

The Development Proposals

- 5.2 The development proposals, as currently envisaged, comprise the erection of 24 apartments in two and three storey blocks with an extended access drive and turning head, and associated landscaping. The new apartments will be confined almost completely within the footprint of the existing buildings on the southern side of the site, i.e. Buildings A, B, C, D, E and F. The area currently occupied by Buildings H (the former cottages) and G (a modern structure) will become car parking spaces, and the northern boundary of the site will be reinforced with a 5m wide landscape frontage. There are also proposals for a new riverside walk with attendant landscaping along the bank of the Don, between the river and the new development. All existing structures within the site will be demolished to ground level to facilitate the new development. The surrounding walls and wall furniture, and the weir and other river structures, will remain intact.
- 5.3 It should be noted that the current proposals have only been worked up in outline, and the nature of the foundation design for the new buildings has not yet been determined. However, it is likely that piled foundations will be required (Mark Brotherton, project architect, *pers. comm.*). Similarly, the amount of land reduction across the site is not yet known, but it is likely to be minimal, with finished ground levels being similar to those which currently exist.

Archaeological Potential and Implications of Development

- 5.4 It was noted in the preceding chapters that there are no known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the Hoyle Mill complex, and nothing has been uncovered by the enhanced desk-based assessment to suggest that there was any pre-18th century settlement or industrial activity on the site. It is possible that the southern footbridge marks the site of an earlier ford or routeway across the river, but this remains to be confirmed.
- 5.5 The first known building on the site was the oil mill complex built by the Walton family in the 1740s. The main mill building lay at the west end of the complex, adjacent to a mill pond, and it was subsequently modified and changed over time. It is not known how many other buildings were associated with this 18th century complex, but other structures had been built by the time of the first cartographic depiction of the site in 1854. The original mill building and another structure attached to the east were demolished sometime between the c.1920s and 1931. The original mill building, as well as the adjacent mill pond, now lie in the area of a car park to the west of and within the footprint of the modern Building A, while the eastern building now mostly coincides with the modern Building B (see figure 5).
- 5.6 Buildings C, D and H represent mill structures which survive from the 19th century: Building D was probably a spinning mill, dating to between c.1820 and 1845, but Building C is slightly later and may have once have functioned as an engine house. Building D was originally three storeys high, but it was mostly reduced to a single storey before 1982. Building H, on the north side of the site, represents the remains of a terrace of four mill-workers cottages, possibly built in two phases and perhaps contemporary with the original 18th century oil mill but more likely to be

associated with a remodelling of the site in the 1760s. However, none of these buildings retain any internal features of historic interest of importance. Buildings A, B, E, F and G are entirely modern structures.

- 5.7 In the absence of any below-ground investigations, the results of the enhanced desk-based assessment suggest that the archaeological importance and potential of the proposed development site is low. Without details of the previous developments on the site, it is difficult to determine how much of the original mill complex might survive below the current car park area and Building A. It is possibly significant that this part of the site is c.1m higher than the enclosed yard to the east; perhaps the demolition work in the c.1920s-1931 was not complete, leaving the ruins or foundations of the original mill which were mapped in 1931 and which have since been buried by the car park. However, the area of the car park is not affected by the current development, although most of the footprints of Buildings A and B are.
- 5.8 The development proposals will involve the demolition of all the existing buildings on the site but, as noted above, only Buildings C, D and H are of interest. However, this interest is now limited to the external elevations, as all internal features, and in many cases floor levels and roof structures, have been removed or replaced.
- 5.9 If the new development is to utilise piled and ring-beam foundations, it is questionable whether the construction will significantly disturb any historic structures, even if they are present; the construction of Building G in 1989 did not uncover any earlier features. It is possible that some historic structures might be uncovered if existing ground levels are significantly reduced, or if strip foundations are required, but current evidence suggests that this will not be the case. It is also possible that some earlier features might be uncovered by the construction of the riverside walk and associated riverbank stabilisation, but these details have not yet been worked up.

Recommendations for Mitigation

- 5.10 Based on the current level of knowledge of the site and the proposed development proposals, the following mitigation measures can be recommended;
- A photographic survey, as defined by English Heritage (RCHME 1996, 5), to record the historic structures within the site complex prior to demolition (Buildings C, D and H). This primarily consists of a detailed photographic record, and can be supplemented with the results of this enhanced desk-based assessment.
 - A review of the impacts of development once foundation designs and other construction details have been worked up. This review may recommend no further archaeological work if, for example, piled foundations and minimal ground disturbance are proposed. Alternatively, an archaeological watching brief may be necessary if some ground disturbance or deep strip foundations are required. It is recommended that existing ground levels within the current car park area are retained, so that any *in situ* remains of the original mill building that might survive below-ground are unaffected by the proposed development.

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1854 Ordnance Survey 6" map sheet 273
1861 Census (National Archives RG9/3455)
1871 Census (National Archives RG10/4654)
1873 Agreement between J S Nokes of Thurlston, Woollen & Cloth Manufacturer and J C Milner, Thurlstone Esq (John Goodchild collection, Wakefield)
1881 Census (National Archives RG11/4613)
1891 Census (National Archives RG12/3785)
1893 Ordnance Survey 25" map Yorkshire (West Riding) sheet 273.15
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- 7.1 The enhanced archaeological desk-based assessment of Hoyle Mill was commissioned and funded by the owner, Mr J Hutchings. EDAS would like to thank Mr Hutchings, Mr Michael Townsend (Planning Consultant) and Mark Brotherton (architect) for their help and co-operation in carrying out the work.
- 7.2 The assessment work was undertaken by Shaun Richardson and Ed Dennison of EDAS. The responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies remains with Ed Dennison.

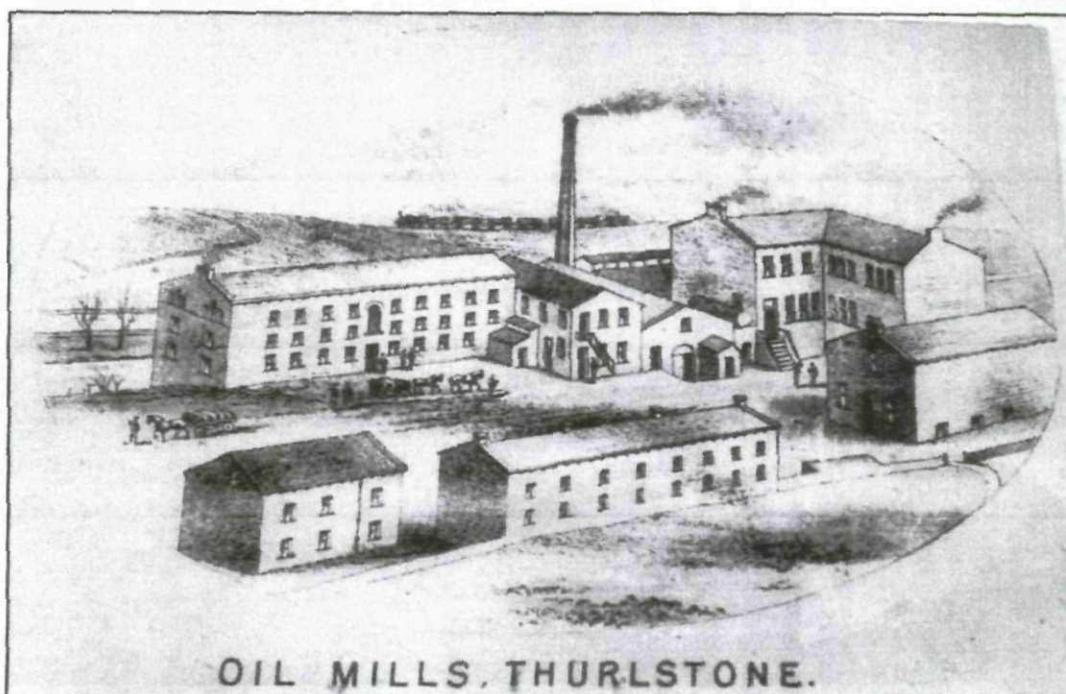


Plate 1: c.1900 bill-head showing the Oil Mill complex, looking south-west

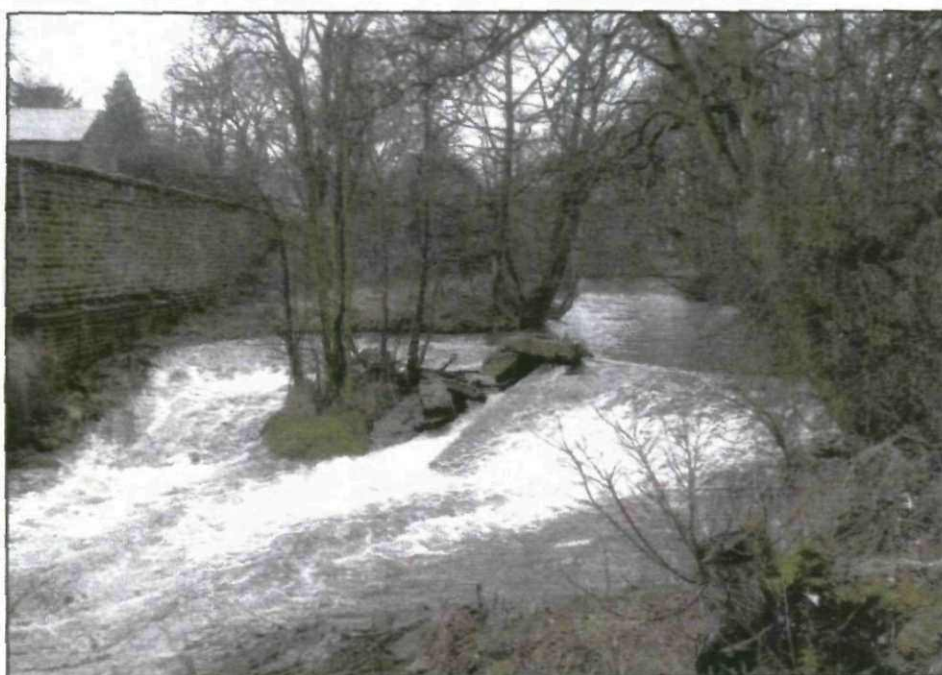


Plate 2: View of weir and overflow channel, looking west



Plate 3: South side of mill complex, Buildings B, C and D, looking north-east



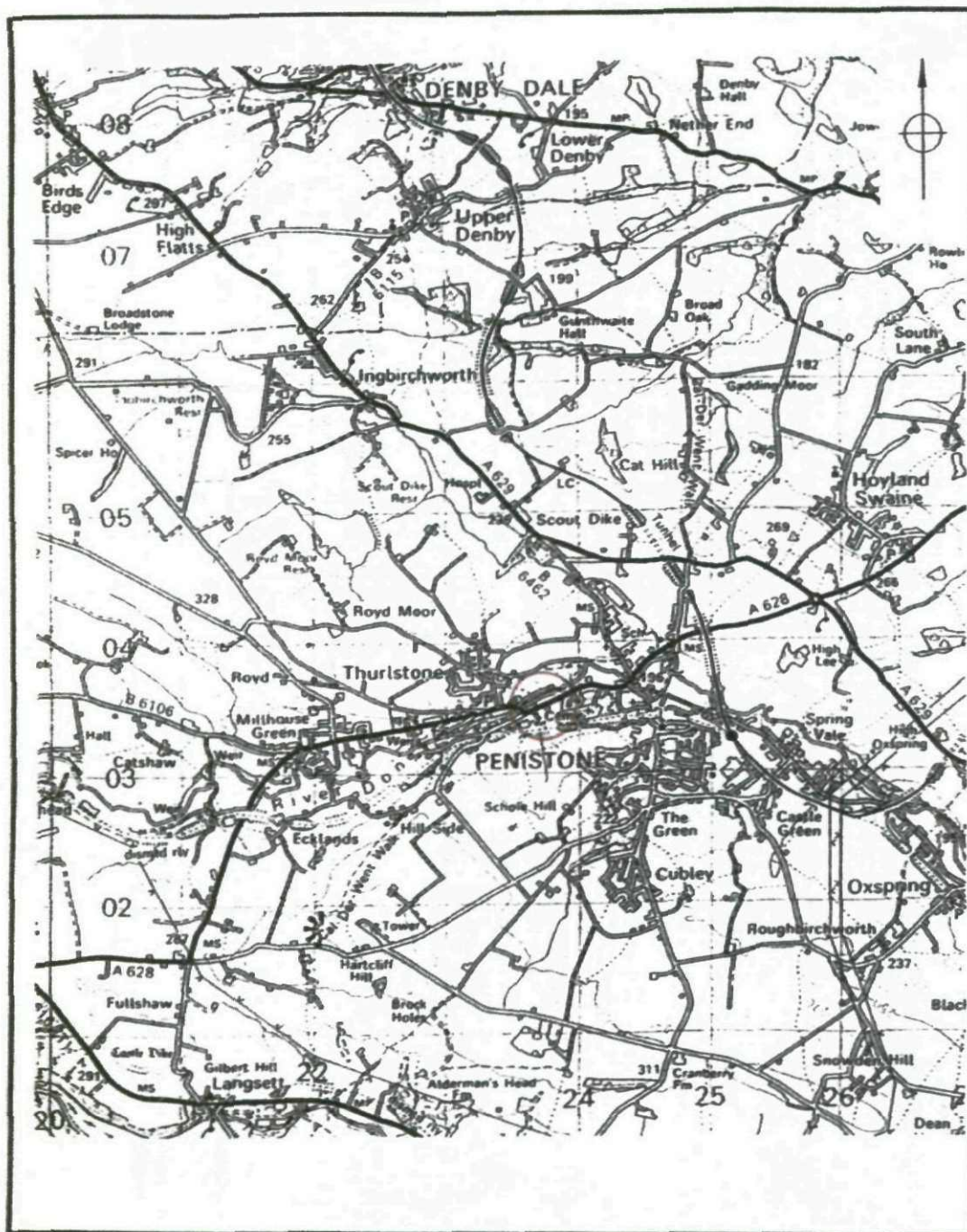
Plate 4: South side of Building C and west end of Building D, looking north



Plate 5: South side of former cottages (Building H), looking north-west

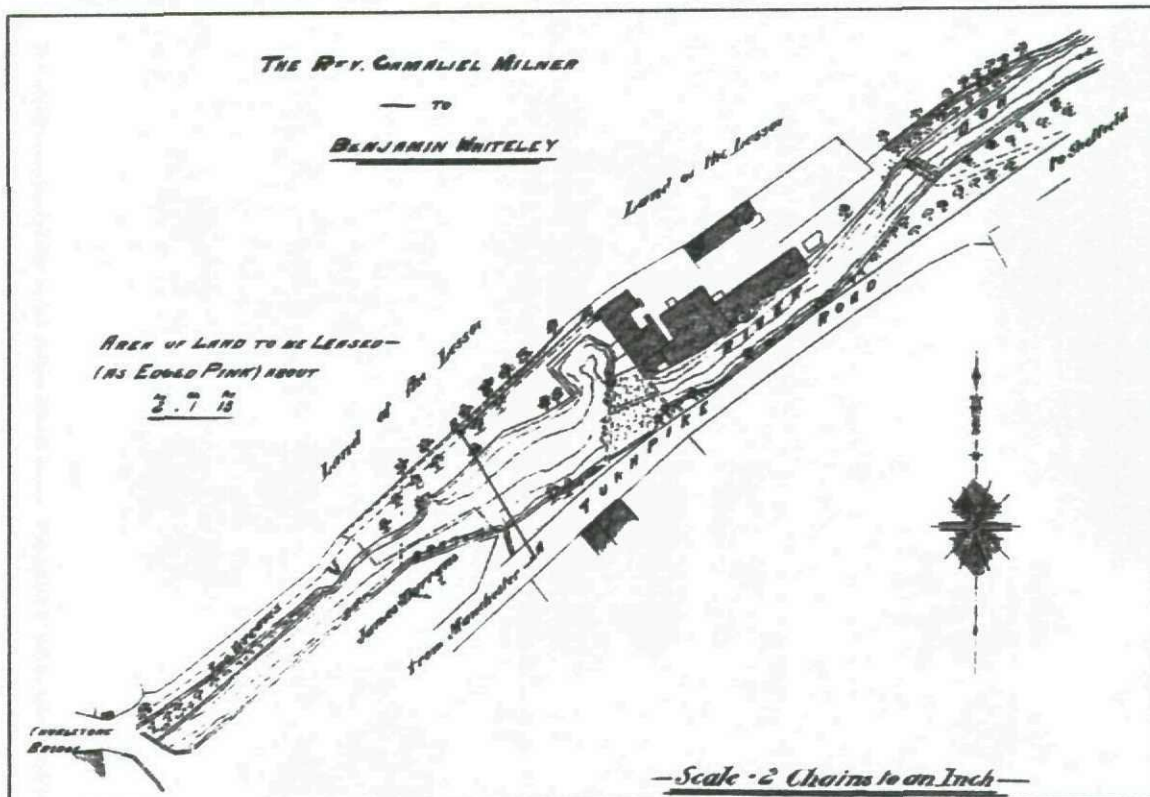


Plate 6: North side of former cottages (Building H), looking south-east

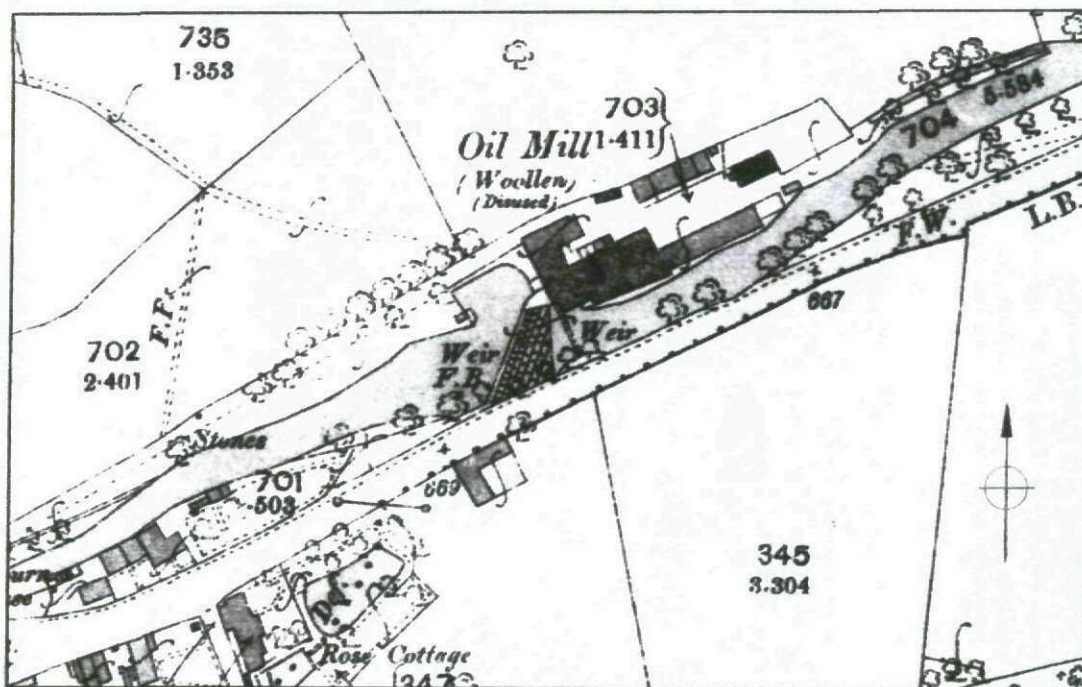


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PROJECT		HOYLE MILL, THURLSTONE	
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SCALE	1:50,000	DATE	MAR 2006
EDAS		FIGURE	1

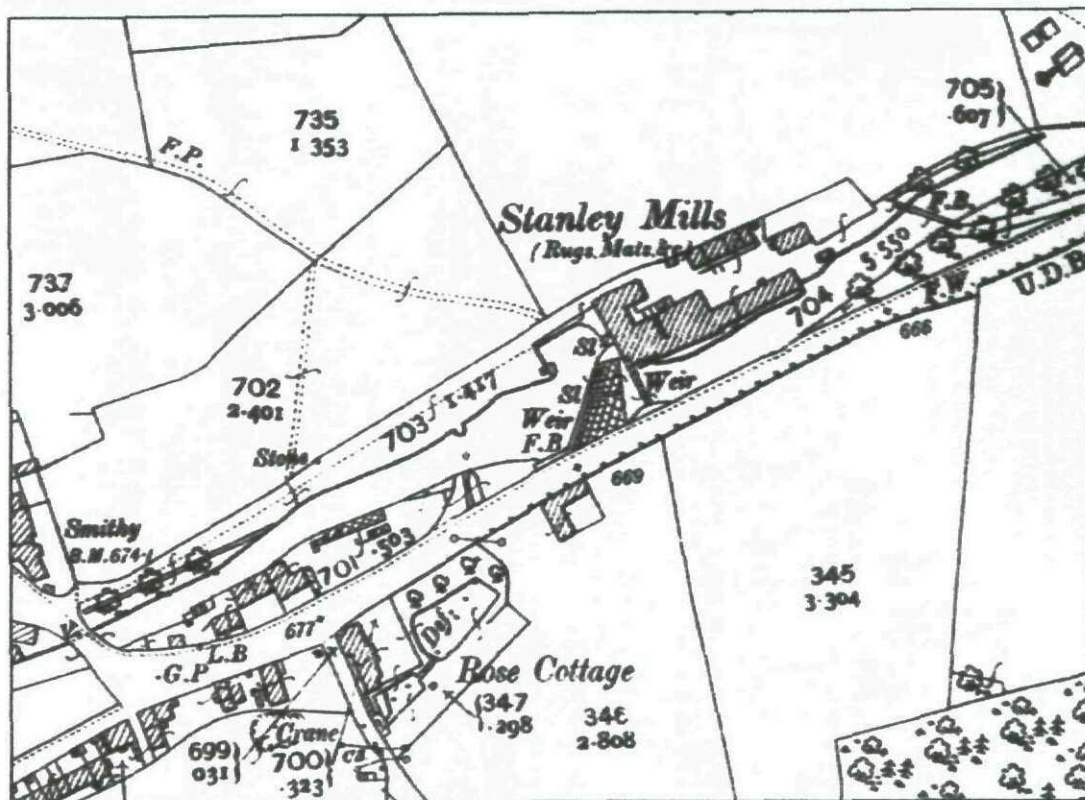


c.1886 plan of Hoyle Mill (Source: Nicholson 2001, 103)

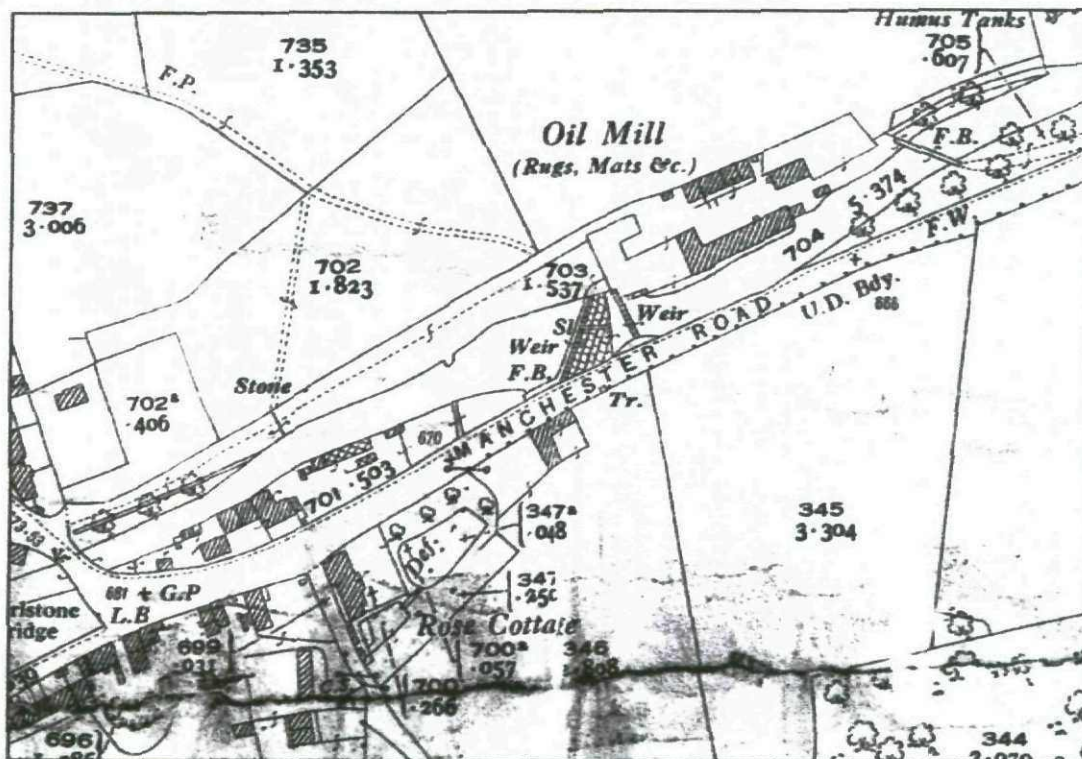


Source: Ordnance Survey 1893 25" map sheet 273.15

PROJECT		HOYLE MILL, THURLSTONE	
TITLE		PLANS OF c.1886 AND 1893	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAR 2006
EDAS		FIGURE	3



Source: Ordnance Survey 1906 25" map sheet 273.15



Source: Ordnance Survey 1931 25" map sheet 273.15

PROJECT		HOYLE MILL, THURLSTONE	
TITLE		PLANS OF 1906 AND 1931	
SCALE		NTS	DATE
			MAR 2006
EDAS		FIGURE	
		4	