



# OUGHTIBRIDGE MILL

Breathing New Life into  
this Former Industrial Site

Heritage Statement

March 2016





## HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

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## OUGHTIBRIDGE MILL OUGHTIBRIDGE, SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

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**OUGHTIBRIDGE MILL,  
OUGHTIBRIDGE, SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
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**SPRING GROVE PAPER MILL,  
OUGHTIBRIDGE, SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

**SUMMARY**

*Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) was commissioned by CEG to undertake a heritage statement in support of a planning application for a residential development on the former site of Oughtibridge Mill, currently a brownfield site, in Oughtibridge, north-west of Sheffield (NGR 430187 394092).*

*Data for this study was obtained from the Sheffield Archives, Sheffield Local Studies Library, Barnsley Archive, National Archives and British Newspaper Archive, in addition to resources from the client and the internet. A site visit was undertaken on the 12th November 2015, in order to undertake a visual assessment of the site and a preliminary historic buildings appraisal.*

*This heritage assessment has confirmed that the proposed development would not affect any designated heritage assets or any non-designated assets outside of the development boundary.*

*The most significant heritage assets affected by the proposals are the extant buildings, structures and below ground archaeological remains associated with the former 19th century Spring Grove Paper Mill, which was located within the boundary of the development site. The significance of this site has been compromised as a result of the demolition of many of the original buildings and the site is considered to be of some local importance.*

*This report provides an overview of the historical development of the former paper mill, and assesses the significance of the extant buildings and structures. These include three former mill buildings, fronting Langsett Road North, which are of local importance and contribute to the character and appearance of the area.*

*The redevelopment of the site will require the demolition of all surviving buildings and structures. Approval to demolish the surviving 19th century stone-built buildings was granted in 2013 in response to a Prior Notification Application. Given the current condition of these buildings and structure, and the lack of well preserved historic context, the effect of this loss on the significance of this site, is considered to be minor adverse. These buildings and structures are not protected and would not meet the criteria for listing. In the absence of development, it has already been determined that neither prior approval nor mitigation would not be required for their demolition.*

*Given that demolition could be implemented without the need for further recording, it is considered that the current proposal has therefore been of minor beneficial effect in enabling the opportunity to provide an understanding of the history and development of the mill and to provide a basic record of both the buildings and associated structures in advance of their demolition. Given the existing approval for demolition, no further recording of the buildings or structures is considered warranted.*

*While there is some limited potential for the localised survival of below ground archaeological remains associated with the 19th century paper mill, the extent of survival will have been compromised by the extensive ground disturbance arising from multiple phases of previous site development and construction. If further investigation within areas of highest potential survival is required by the local planning authority, then such works could be adequately secured through planning conditions.*

*The site of the 19th century Spring Grove Corn Mill lies within the far north-west extent of the development boundary. This site is of some local importance and the potential for survival of below ground remains is unknown, but it is likely that the site will have been substantially disturbed by the construction of modern foul water tanks.*

*It is concluded that the proposal fully accords with national and local development plan policy with respect to heritage protection and that there is no reason in terms of heritage impacts why permission for the application should not be granted. This conclusion is in accordance with Sheffield's Pre-Application Response to a previous development proposal, which included this site (14/0735/PREAPP), and confirmed that there were no archaeological reasons to object to redevelopment of the site in any part.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) was commissioned by CEG, to undertake a heritage assessment for the site of Oughtibridge Mill, Oughtibridge (NGR 430187 394092) (Fig. 1). This assessment supports an outline planning application for the development of residential dwellings on the site.

1.2 This report provides details of the historic and archaeological sites ('heritage assets') which may potentially be affected by the proposed development. Details are provided of all known heritage assets within a 1km study area of the site. However, as a result of an earlier assessment (CGMS 2014), this assessment predominantly addresses the significance of heritage assets *within* the proposed development site boundary including the potential for unrecorded archaeological remains.

1.3 The purpose of this heritage assessment is to identify any heritage assets that could be affected by the proposed development, to assess the significance of these assets and the extent to which this significance could be affected by the proposals. Where the potential for adverse effects is identified, actions to avoid, reduce or mitigate these effects (where reasonable) are recommended.

1.4 This document is intended for use by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to help determine whether the development proposals comply with national and local planning policy requirements in relation to the historic environment. In this case, the site lies within the boundaries of both Sheffield City Council (south of the River Don) and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (north of the River Don).

1.5 This assessment has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- English Heritage (2008) Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment;
- NPPF Planning Practice Guidance: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (2014) (<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk>);
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA (2014) Standard and Guidance for Desk-based Assessment;
- Historic England (March 2015) Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment;
- Historic England (March 2015) Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in

Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets

- South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (2011) The Regional Statement for Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process

## 2.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 The proposed development would not have any construction or operational effects on any designated heritage assets. The remains of the Spring Grove Paper Mill are located within the boundary of the development site. This includes three former mill buildings, fronting Langsett Road North, which are of local significance. The development scheme proposes the demolition of these non-designated buildings, the principle of which has already been approved in response to a Prior Notification Application, in 2013.

2.2 The historic environment legislation and policies relevant to this development are:

*National Policy*

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012), Policies 7 and 12; and paras 61, 128, 129, 135, 136, 141, 203.

*Sheffield City Council Planning Policy, comprising:*

- Sheffield City Council Core Strategy (adopted March 2009), CS74;
- Sheffield Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (adopted March 1998) Saved Policies (September 2007), BE5, BE20, BE22;
- Pre-submission Draft City Policies and Sites (April 2013) (the precursor of the new Local Plan, which will come into force in 2018), G7.

*Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Planning Policy, comprising:*

- Barnsley Core Strategy (adopted September 2011), CSP 29, CSP 30;
- Barnsley Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (adopted December 2000) Saved Policies (September 2007), BE3.

2.3 A summary of the relevant policies is provided below and a copy of the full policy wording is set out in Appendix 1.

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012)

- 2.4 The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to encourage sustainable development that makes a positive improvement to the quality of the built, natural and historic environment and contributes to the overall quality of people's lives (para. 9). There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through [...] decision taking (para. 14).
- 2.5 A heritage asset under the NPPF may include a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. It includes designated assets (Scheduled Monument, Listed Buildings etc.), as well as any non-designated assets identified by the local planning authority as being of particular heritage significance (including local listing). In the absence of a local list in Sheffield, it is considered that the standing buildings at Spring Grove Paper Mill are non-designated heritage assets of local heritage significance, as illustrated in the subsequent sections of this report.
- 2.6 **Policy 12** of the guidance, *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, is intended to ensure the conservation of '*heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life for this and future generations*'. It sets out a framework by which local planning authorities can make informed decisions. It requires an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposed development to a level of detail proportionate to the importance of the asset (para. 128). This includes a consideration of impact on setting. It also states that where a site has the potential to include sub-surface archaeological deposits then the local planning authorities should '*require the submission of a desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly address the interest, a field evaluation.*' (*ibid*). This report fulfils the necessity for a desk-based assessment, and addresses the requirement for a field evaluation.
- 2.7 Paragraph 129 of the legislation requires the local planning authority to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal, including effects of development on setting. This assessment should be taken into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, *to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the*

*proposal*'.

- 2.8 In determining a planning application, the local planning authority is required to take account of:
- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
  - The positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic viability; and
  - The desirability of new development to make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness (para. 131).
- 2.9 The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset (para. 135)
- 2.10 Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.
- 2.11 Paragraph 141 of the NPPF addresses the dissemination of information on heritage assets, and how this may contribute to the public's understanding and appreciation of the local historic environment. It recommends that any information gathered as part of development management of a project should be made publicly accessible. The local authority should require an applicant to *'record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible'*. Developers are required to publish this evidence and deposit copies of any reports with the relevant historic environment record (HER) and archives, in this case material would be deposited with Museums Sheffield.
- 2.12 **Policy 7** of the NPPF, *Requiring good design*, emphasises the importance that local authorities should place on good design as a key aspect of sustainable development, *'making places better for people'* (para. 56). Paragraph 61 requires the local authority to *'respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation'* when making planning decisions. The guidance goes on to emphasise that good design

should also '*address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment*' (para. 61).

- 2.13 The NPPF also states that local planning authorities should consider whether otherwise unacceptable development could be made acceptable through the use of conditions or planning obligations, although it advises that planning obligations should only be used where it is not possible to address unacceptable impacts through a planning condition (para. 203).

### **Local Policy**

- 2.14 The Spring Grove Paper Mill proposed development site lies within the boundaries of both Sheffield City Council and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council; the border corresponding with the course of the River Don. Planning policy from both planning authorities has therefore been considered in this assessment.

### **Sheffield Core Strategy (adopted March 2009)**

- 2.15 **Policy CS 74** sets out particular design principles to which new developments are expected to comply. Of particular relevance to this development is the policy that proposals must demonstrate design which respects, takes advantage of and enhances distinctive features of the local area, including its distinctive heritage. The townscape and landscape character of a district - its associated scale, layout and built form, building styles and materials - must be a key factor in the design of the new development.

### **Sheffield UDP (adopted March 1998) Saved Policies (2007)**

- 2.16 Saved **Policy BE5** reiterates that a high quality of design is expected, and demonstrates the expectation of the retention and reuse of existing buildings. It is stated that (L) *the refurbishment of good existing buildings will normally be encouraged, particularly where their loss would lower the quality of the street scene*. **Policy BE20** emphasises that non-designated historic buildings which are of local interest should be retained *wherever practicable*.
- 2.17 **Policy BE22** sets out the Planning Authority's stance on assets of archaeological significance, stating that sites of archaeological interest will be preserved, protected and enhanced. Development which would damage or destroy significant archaeological sites and their settings will not normally be allowed. Where disturbance of an archaeological site is unavoidable, the development will be

permitted only with adequate mitigation of loss. Depending on the significance of the remains, this might typically include an archaeological record of the site, or possibly the preservation of the remains in situ.

#### **Sheffield Pre-submission Draft City Policies and Sites (April 2013)**

- 2.18 This document details the policies which form part of the emerging Sheffield Plan, and is considered for development management purposes.
- 2.19 **Policy G7.** According to this policy, heritage assets - including non-designated assets that contribute to the distinct identity of Sheffield - will be conserved by the developer through: **(a)** the protection, restoration and repair (where appropriate) of heritage significance, using design, materials and techniques consistent with the asset's age and significance; **(b)** the recording and interpretation of archaeological evidence, or the retention of remains to aid understanding of the area's past and in the exceptional circumstances that any harm to a heritage asset can be justified, investigation and publication of the resulting evidence; and **(c)** protect the character and setting of heritage assets, ensuring that development affecting them to respects, enhances or better reveals their significance.

#### **Barnsley Core Strategy (adopted September 2011)**

- 2.20 New developments are expected to be of high quality design, and to respect, take advantage of and enhance the distinctive features of Barnsley, in particular its heritage and landscape character (**Policy CSP 29**).
- 2.21 **Policy CSP 30** addresses development which affects the historic environment. New developments will be expected to protect or improve the character and/or appearance of buildings of archaeological significance and archaeological remains (including non-designated assets).

#### **Barnsley UDP (date) Saved Policies (2007)**

- 2.22 Saved **Policy BE4** states that where the Authority deems that the physical preservation of archaeological remains in situ is not justified, and where development would destroy such remains, the approval of a planning application will depend upon satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains.

### **3.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The Study Area comprised a 1km buffer zone, centred on the proposed development

site. However, as the wider study area was dealt with in an earlier assessment (CgMs 2014), this report predominantly focuses on heritage issues within the site boundary shown in Figure 1. The assessment included a comprehensive desk-based review of published and readily accessible documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic evidence, together with a site walk-over survey.

### **Aims and Objectives**

3.2 The principal aim of the heritage assessment is to provide the LPA with sufficient information to enable an informed decision on the effects of the planning proposal on the historic environment.

3.3 In order to achieve this, the assessment has sought to achieve the following:

- Identify those heritage assets which may be affected by the proposal, with a particular focus on those situated *within* the proposed development site;
- Provide appropriately detailed descriptions of the particular significance of those heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals, including the contribution of setting to that significance;
- Assess the potential for previously unrecorded areas of archaeological interest to be affected by the proposals and identify areas where further evaluation may be required in order to properly define this interest and/or the effects of development on this;
- Propose mitigation measures that could be built into the development proposals to avoid, reduce or remedy any potential adverse effects identified; and
- Assess whether the scale of any unavoidable harm or loss is acceptable in terms of the NPPF and local policy.

### **Information Sources**

3.4 This report is based upon a review of existing available information and desk-based studies. As part of this work the following repositories were consulted:

- South Yorkshire Archaeology Service
- Historic England Archives
- The Sheffield Archives
- Sheffield Local Studies Library
- The Barnsley Archive

- The National Archives
- The British Newspaper Archive

The following data resources were utilised:

- Published and unpublished historical and archaeological reports
- Historic mapping and other documentary sources
- Historic England National Monuments Record: Archaeology
- Historic England National Heritage List for England
- Environment Agency (LIDAR data)
- Google Earth

### **Preliminary Site Survey and Buildings Appraisal**

3.5 A site inspection was carried out on the 12th November 2015, in optimum light conditions. The objectives of the survey were:

- to confirm the presence and condition of previously recorded assets, with a particular focus on the standing 19th century mill buildings and other remains from this period of the site's history;
- to identify additional unrecorded heritage assets or the potential for these;
- to assess current landscape character, ground conditions and land use; and
- to assess the likely impact the development might have on the significance and setting of specific heritage assets and the historic landscape.

### **Limitations**

3.6 This assessment comprises a desk-based review of information derived from Sheffield City Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Historic England and other published and unpublished sources. Although assumed to be accurate, this information is not necessarily a complete record of the historic environment and does not preclude encountering hitherto undiscovered archaeological remains.

3.7 The evaluation of the condition and surviving features of above ground historic assets was limited by access. Internal access was only possible for the first floor level of the large warehouse building on the roadside, and the large modern warehouse buildings on the east bank of the River. Visual assessment was limited to the accessible external parts of the office buildings and boiler/counting house building. The River Don channel walls, which comprise lower parts of earlier mill buildings, were examined

only from the opposite river bank, due to safety constraints. There was no access to the part of the site north of the former reservoirs due to the presence of fencing and dense vegetation.

### Consultation

3.8 A Prior Notification Application was submitted to Sheffield City Council in 2013 for the demolition of a number of buildings on the site, including those along Langsett Road North (ref: 13/02864/DPN). In response to this, it was concluded that prior approval is not required for the demolition of the various buildings on site. This decision remains relevant and valid and the client may therefore choose to implement this at any time.

3.9 A desk-based assessment report by CgMs (September 2014, CgMs ref: CH/17944/01) was produced in relation to an earlier scheme proposal for this site and is considered relevant to the current application. South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) had previously reviewed this report, and concluded the following:

- There are no archaeological reasons to object to redevelopment of the site *'in any part'*
- The draft DBA has identified some archaeological issues, which SYAS are satisfied can be *'suitably secured through a planning condition at the detailed planning stage'*
- There is a need, following the draft desk-based assessment, to consult further information sources.

This updated heritage assessment responds to the recommendations made and has accordingly consulted: the Barnsley Archives, the South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service (SYMAS, Appendix 2), and the Fairbank Collection.

3.10 Consultation with Sheffield City Council has confirmed that *'at present Sheffield does not have a local list'* and that *'there are not currently any proposals to complete this project'* (David Marsh, Business Support Officer, Urban and Environmental Design, email dated 15th December, 2015). The buildings of the former Spring Grove Paper Mill are therefore not afforded any additional protection through inclusion on a local list.

3.11 Consultation by email with the South Yorkshire Mines Advisory Service (SYMAS) (Principal Engineer Paul James, 5th January 2016), confirmed that as far as the group

are aware, there is no history of mining within the boundary of, or in close vicinity to, the site. A geological map provided by the Coal Authority, is included in Appendix 2 of this report.

#### **4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

##### **Development Proposal**

- 4.1 Outline planning permission is being sought for the development of up to 320 residential dwellings. This will include the demolition of existing buildings and structures and erection of residential development (Use Class C3) with means of site access including a new vehicular bridge and a pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Don, and associated landscaping and infrastructure works.

##### **Location**

- 4.2 The site is located approximately 1km north of the village of Oughtibridge, and 1km south-east of Wharncliffe Side in the Bradfield area of Sheffield. It is situated 8.7km north-west of Sheffield City Centre, in the valley of the River Don.
- 4.3 The proposed development area comprises 13.79ha (centred at NGR 430307 394080) of what is currently a brownfield site, formerly Oughtibridge Mill. The River Don flows through the centre of the site, which is bordered to the south and west by Langsett Road North (A6102), a main route into Sheffield. To the north and east, the site is flanked by the dense vegetation of Redmires Wood.

##### **Geology and Topography**

- 4.4 The site is underlain by part of the Millstone Grit Group, comprising mudstone and siltstone (BCGS, 2015<sup>1</sup>). Drift deposits of clay and silt alluvium are present in the base of the valley, close to the River Don. The soils belong to the East Keswick association, these are mapped as deep, well-drained, fine and coarse loamy soils (Jarvis et al. 1984, 177).
- 4.5 The Sheffield Landscape Characterisation Assessment<sup>2</sup> identifies the west of the site as part of the 'Wooded Upland River Valley' (VA2), while the east of the site lies within Barnsley's 'Wooded Don River Valley' zone. The area is characterised by steep slopes, native woodland and a narrow valley floor with degraded industrial and post-industrial development. The main development site is set in a sheltered basin, with

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<sup>1</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=Oughtibridge&gobBtn=go> [Accessed 26/01/2016].

Langsett Road North, to the west of the main site, occupying higher ground, and the incline of Redmires Wood covering the sloping valley side to the east.

## 5.0 BASELINE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

### Previous Archaeological Interventions

#### *Proposed development site*

- 5.1 No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the proposed development site boundary.
- 5.2 An earlier desk-based assessment for three sites within the Oughtibridge area, which included the Oughtibridge Mill site, was undertaken in 2014 for a previous landowner (CgMs, 2014). The conclusions of this assessment are referenced throughout this report.

#### *Wider study area*

- 5.3 There has been some previous archaeological investigations and building recording in the wider study area. These events are listed in full in the CgMs report (CgMs, 2014).

### Designated and Non-designated Assets

- 5.4 In accordance with the requirements of paragraph 128 of the NPPF, this assessment has concentrated on identifying those heritage assets whose significance could potentially be affected by the proposed development, and whether the site has the potential to include unrecorded archaeological remains that could be affected by the proposals. The NPPF requires analysis of these assets to a level of detail proportionate to the importance of the asset, and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on that significance.

#### *Designated Assets*

- 5.5 Data obtained from Historic England and the Local Planning Authorities shows that there are no designated heritage assets (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Historic Parks and Gardens or Conservation Areas) within the proposed development site (Fig. 2). There are no Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas or Registered Battlefields within 1km of the site.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/planning-and-city-development/planning-documents/reports/landscape-character->

- 5.6 Due to the nature of the historic buildings surviving on the site (see below), it is considered very unlikely that these would meet the criteria for statutory listing. Furthermore, it is anticipated that any below ground remains which might be identified during further evaluation on the site will be of no more than local or regional significance, and would not merit scheduling.
- 5.7 There are a number of designated heritage assets within 1 km of the development site (Fig. 2). These assets have been discussed in depth in the earlier desk-based assessment (CgMs, 2014) and are therefore referred to only briefly in this assessment.
- 5.8 It is considered that none of these designated assets, nor their settings, would be adversely affected by the proposed development. The development site does not contribute to the setting of any of these designated sites, and there would be no visual impacts, as they are adequately screened from the site by topography and vegetation. This conclusion is in accordance with the CgMs desk-based assessment (2014) and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service consultation response (14/037735/PREAPP Sheffield's Pre-Application Response).

#### ***Non-designated Heritage Assets***

- 5.9 The effect of an application on the significance of non-designated heritage assets is a material consideration in determining an application.
- 5.10 Non-designated assets lying within the vicinity of the development site are shown on Figure 2.
- 5.11 The potential impact of the development on those sites outside the boundaries of the proposed development area was addressed in the previous desk-based assessment (CgMs, 2014) and it was agreed that there would be no adverse impacts on their significance. No further assessment of impact has therefore been undertaken.
- 5.12 This report primarily focuses upon those non-designated heritage assets lying *within* the proposed development site. The locations of these assets are shown on Figure 3, and they are identified by a unique reference number (**HA**) specific to this text. The areas with the greatest potential for the survival of below ground archaeological remains are shown on Figure 11.

### *Spring Grove Paper Mill*

5.13 The most significant non-designated heritage asset within the development area are the extant buildings, structures and below ground archaeological remains associated with the former 19th century Spring Grove Paper Mill (SMR 04118/01). The majority of the mill complex has been demolished and thus the significance of this asset has been compromised. There are a number of surviving component elements (**HA1-10**, listed in Table 2), each of which contributes to an understanding of, and the significance of, the historic site as a whole. These include:

- three standing 19th century buildings (**HA1, HA2, HA3**),
- the surviving walls of other mill buildings (which now form the River Don channel walls) (**HA4, HA5**),
- the iron railway bridge structure (**HA6**),
- some remaining 20th century mill building walls (**HA7**);
- the mill race (**HA9**);
- the tail race (**HA10**); and
- the potential for below ground archaeological remains relating to earlier phases of the paper mill.

5.14 The historical background to the former Paper Mill is set out in the section 6 below. Further detail relating to historic references to the site and the development of the paper-making process is provided in Appendix 3.

### *Spring Grove Corn Mill*

5.15 The site of the former 19th century Spring Grove Corn Mill is located within the north-western tip of the proposed development site on the west side of the River Don within the existing sewage works complex (Fig. 13). The potential for survival of below ground archaeological remains is unknown, however, it is likely that any archaeological remains relating to the site will have been substantially disturbed by the construction of modern foul water tanks (Fig. 11, see CgMs 2014, Plate 4).

### *The Pre-Paper Mill Landscape*

5.16 Due to the industrial use of much of the site from the early 19th century onwards, it is likely that the evidence of earlier activity pre-dating the Paper Mill will have been largely disturbed or destroyed. The likelihood of survival will vary in different areas of

the site according to historic use and development. To the west of the River Don there is extensive evidence of terracing which appears to have been achieved by cutting back into the bank sides. The former mill pond, mill race and reservoirs are also likely to have sterilised large areas. The later mill developments (mainly to the east of the River Don) are likely to have involved extensive cutting and levelling to prepare floors, roads and car parks and it is also unlikely that any earlier remains will have been preserved in these areas.

- 5.17 Although there is little evidence for Prehistoric and Roman remains in the immediate area surrounding the development site, there is considerable evidence for activity dating to these periods from the wider locality. The dearth of evidence within the study area is likely to arise from a lack of fieldwork. Although the characteristics of the site location are such that the area may have been attractive to settlement during the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods, given the extent of later site disturbance, the potential for the survival of such remains is considered to be low.

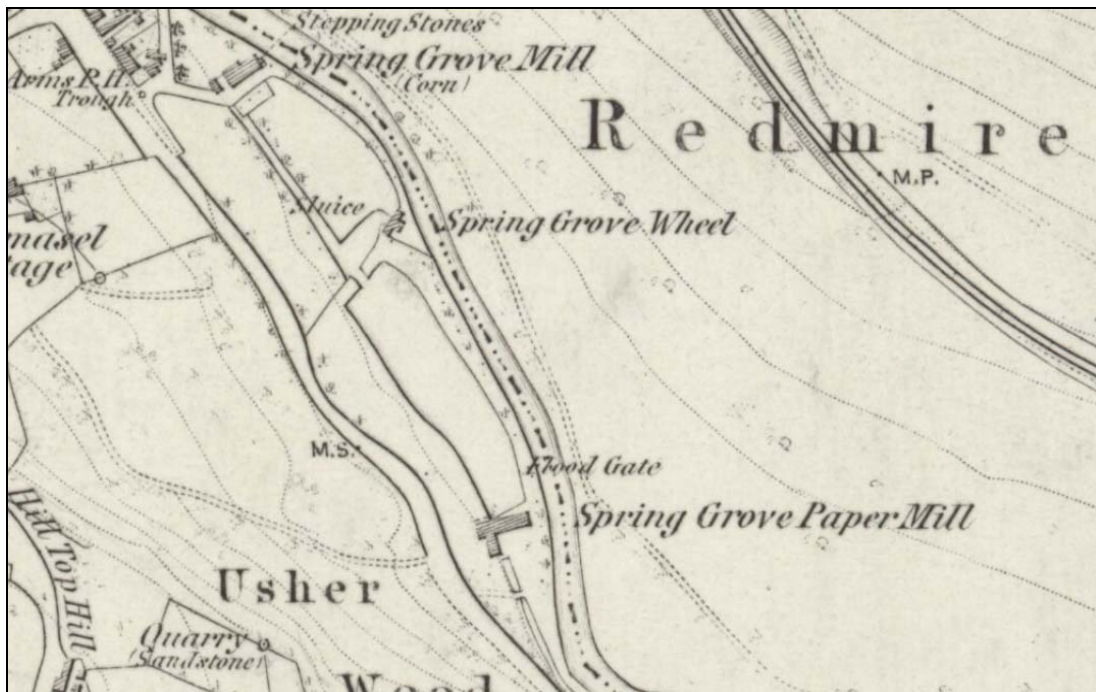
## 6.0 SPRING GROVE PAPER MILL

- 6.1 A number of paper mills developed along the River Don during the 19th century. The area was particularly well-suited for this increasingly mechanised industry, the fast flowing waters of the Don being ideal for powering mills<sup>3</sup>. Corn and wool mills were also common in the area (Harris, 1971) as evidenced by the former 19th century Spring Grove Corn Mill (Fig. 13).
- 6.2 Spring Grove Paper Mill is thought to have been constructed in 1834 (the date shown on the main sluice of the mill weir). It is not clear whether the Spring Grove Corn Mill predated this.
- 6.3 From 1848, the paper mill was occupied by William Jenkinson, from Ewes Paper Mill (Schmoller, 1992). Jenkinson initially took over the manufacture of 'Spurr's renowned gun wadding' (The Independent, 14 October, 1848), but by 1849, a local directory records him as a 'Manufacturer of Writing, Grocers, Printing and Packing Paper' (Johnson and Dixon, 1971). In 1852, British Parliamentary Papers record the mill as running one beating machine (Schmoller, 1992) and it appears in the Excise Lists as new mill no. 353 in 1850 (*Ibid.*).

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<sup>3</sup> <http://sytimescapes.org.uk/zones/barnsley/B14> [Accessed 30/11/15].

- 6.4 The six-inch OS map of 1855 (Fig. 4) is the earliest cartographic record of Spring Grove Paper Mill. At this time, it consisted of one very small building, with two rectangular ranges perpendicular to one another. A large mill pond was located north-west of the mill and the main mill building was located on its southern edge. The Spring Grove Wheel, thought to have been a grinding wheel, is located approximately 150m north-west of the paper mill on the River Don, and a flood gate is located just to the north-east of the mill. The Corn Mill is also recorded on this map, approximately 300m north-west of the paper mill. The 1855 OS map provides the most complete record for the alignment of the tail-race running to the south of the paper mill; it appears to have been culverted for much of its length from this date onwards.



**Figure 4:** Spring Grove Paper Mill shown in a very early stage of its development, in the First Edition six-inch OS map of 1855.

- 6.5 In the same year, the Stamford Mercury (July 27, 1855) published an advertisement stating that the Paper Mill was to be sold by auction, following the bankruptcy of William Jenkinson. The auction lots included the 'paper mill, corn mill, grinding wheel, dams and goits, paper making machine (nearly new), rag engine and other machinery and paper making tools'. Both the paper mill and grinding wheel are said to be held by Mr Jenkinson. The paper mill is described as having been stone-built and blue slated, comprising 'a machine house, boiler house and drying house, vat house, cutting room, sizing shed (with a ventilator), rag shed, cart shed, stable (with hay loft and chemical chamber above), a large warehouse and two rag engine-rooms

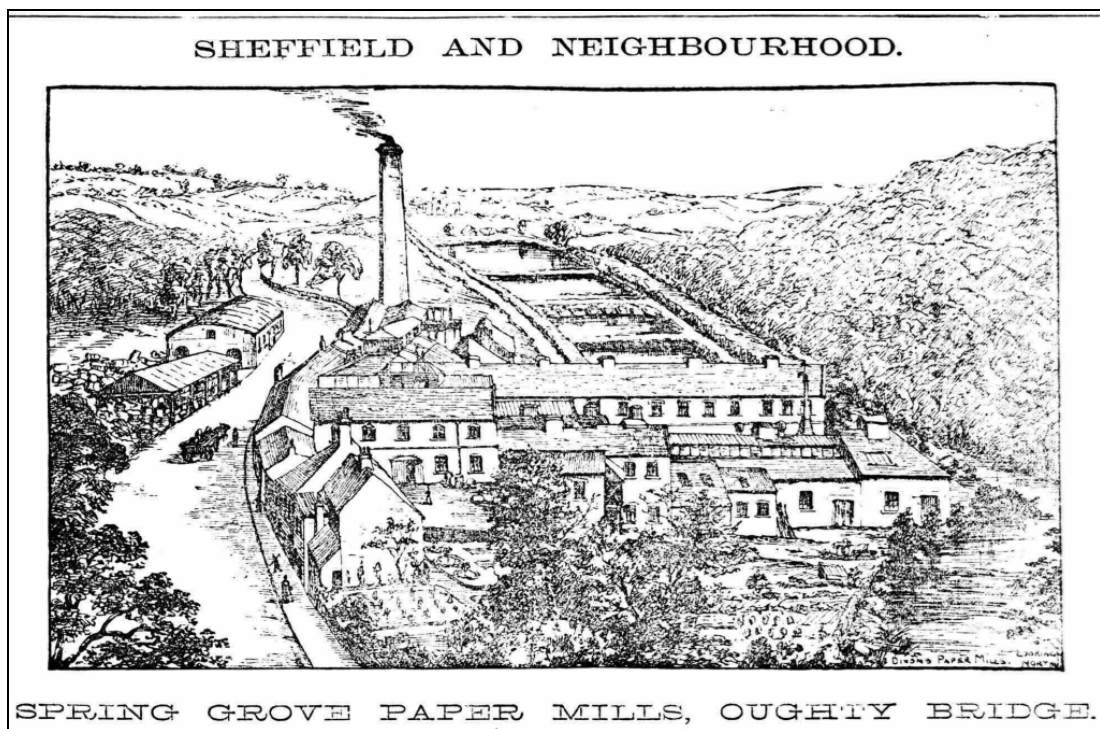
on the second floor of the mill, a large drying room, a rag store, and a lattice room'. At the time of the auction, the paper mill had three water wheels, 'two of them cast iron, and one wheel-race at present unoccupied'. The mill was advertised as having the capacity to produce 12 tons of paper per week, and the machinery and tools included in the lot are described to have comprised a steam engine (erected in the previous few months), a paper machine made in 1854 by Messrs Dean of Bolton, and three rag engines.

- 6.6 The new occupiers of Spring Grove - Wollatt (later Mollatt), Hough and Brassington - are first recorded in 1860 (Schmoller, 1991). By 1869, the mill had been bought by T and J Marsh. In 1870, an 'alarming explosion' occurred at Spring Grove (Sheffield Independent, 12th February, 1870). The newspaper report of the incident details the loss of a large amount of machinery, which had only been in use for 18 months. Some of the buildings destroyed in the explosion were said to have been built only two years before, suggesting that T and J Marsh had developed the site considerably. The explosion occurred in the boiler room, located on the ground floor of a two-storey building in the centre of the yard. At this time, the 'boiling pots' are described as having been heated by steam generated from three donkey engines. On the first floor of this building, and also destroyed by the explosion, was the cutting room (where rags were cut prior to boiling). The sorting room (where rags were sorted into type and colour), was an extension of this building.
- 6.7 In 1871, Peter and Joseph Dixon took over Spring Grove Paper Mill, which was presumably in a very poor state of repair following the explosion. The firm was established (under the name Dixon & Son) at Oughtibridge in 1871<sup>4</sup>. The Dixons repaired and modified the mill - presumably rebuilding a considerable proportion - to produce newsprint.
- 6.8 The Dixons were among the first newsprint manufacturers to use wood pulp, instead of rags, to make paper at Spring Grove. Indeed, the demand for paper had increased considerably with the growth of the printing industry in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Dixon's order for six tons of wood pulp in 1872 (recorded in a private journal of Peter Dixon, dated 1st March, 1872, cited in Schmoller, 1992), is evidence that the firm's modernisation was therefore relatively early in, and reflective of, the national development in the paper industry.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/c2c7f1a9-9ed0-4c6c-8d62-666088f13b9b> [Accessed 03/12/15].

- 6.9 An illustration of the mill (Fig.5), which was published in the Sheffield and Rotherham Independent (14th August, 1886), gives a good indication of the layout of the mill site, following the period of growth under the ownership of the Dixons (and since the 1870 explosion). The complex had expanded up to the roadside, and right down to the bank of the River Don. The large mill pond depicted on the 1855 OS map had been divided into four elements, and a separate mill race was created (isolated from the mill pond) running along the western side. It is likely that reservoirs functioned as a 'settling tank' to purify water before use. The article accompanying the image indicated that the warehouses (HA1) and offices (possibly HA3) ran along the roadside, while processing buildings ran perpendicular to the road and river in the centre of the site.



**Figure 5:** A drawing of the Paper Mill showing its extent in 1886 (Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, August 14th, 1886).

- 6.10 The buildings depicted in the drawing are quite typical of 19th century industrial buildings, which tended to be both single and multiple storey, and distinctly long and narrow (their span limited by the available length of timber trusses), with evenly spaced windows. Some of the buildings had raised ventilation along the ridge of the roof. This reflects some of the processes carried out inside, for instance drying processes, and the use of steam or chemicals. This building-type has a very distinctive gable end, the outline of one of these buildings (seen in Fig. 5) survives in the wall of

the warehouse building (**HA1**) still standing on the site (see Table 2). A tall chimney (which was later demolished, see below) is shown in the north-west corner of the yard, at the far side of this warehouse (between **HA1** and **HA2**). The area to the east of the River Don was not yet developed at this time, and is shown as woodland. Many of these buildings were destroyed in a further fire in 1892.

- 6.11 By 1894 (Fig. 6), the centre of the site had been linked with the Lincolnshire Railway by a new railway siding, which crossed the River Don via an iron bridge (**HA6**) (see Table 2). The original 1894 bridge structure survives (**HA6**), with a modern structure affixed to widen the crossing. A later depiction of the mill shows the railway siding reaching right up to the warehouse (**HA1**), where it terminated beneath a tall, iron shelter. By 1894, one of the east-west ranges depicted on the 1886 sketch had been demolished. The main complex formed a large irregular L-shape, with the reservoir divided into four sections and the mill race clearly depicted to the west. The Spring Grove Wheel and the Corn Mill are not labeled on the 1894 OS map, suggesting that these may have gone out of use by this point, although the structures are still depicted.
- 6.12 The expansion of the mill had previously been limited by the river to the east. However, the newly constructed railway siding and bridge (**HA6**), provided a connection from the main mill site to the other side of the river, facilitating expansion in this direction. In 1897, the first buildings were erected on the eastern bank of the river (Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, 1st August, 1899), and housed the paper making machinery. The lower walls of this building survive (**HA4**). From this point on, the preparatory processes continued to occur on the main mill site, but the later stages of the process were carried out in these new buildings, purpose-built for the machinery they housed (Plate 1).
- 6.13 The central buildings of the yard were again destroyed by fire in 1899, but some parts of the site escaped harm, including the new block across the river, a new building to the south of the site (Fig. 6), and the warehouse (**HA1**) and boiler house (**HA2**) (which survive today). Despite the damages caused by the fire - and the inevitable hiatus in operations while machinery was replaced and buildings reconstructed and repaired - it seems that Spring Grove made a relatively quick recovery (Schmoller, 1992). A directory from 1900 details that the mill was operating two machines (one 98 inch, one 102 inch), running on water and steam. Both rags and wood pulp were being used as raw materials.



Figure 6: The six-inch OS map of 1894 (surveyed in 1890-1), showing a large amount of development west of the river.

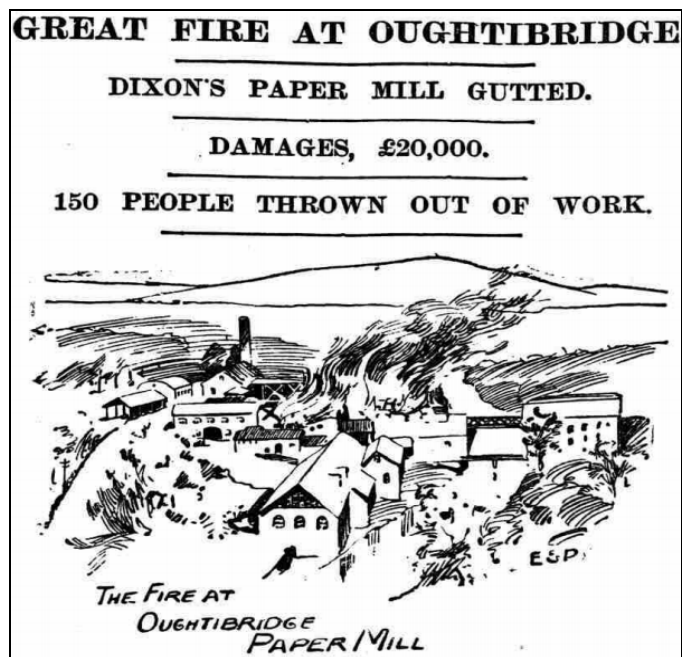
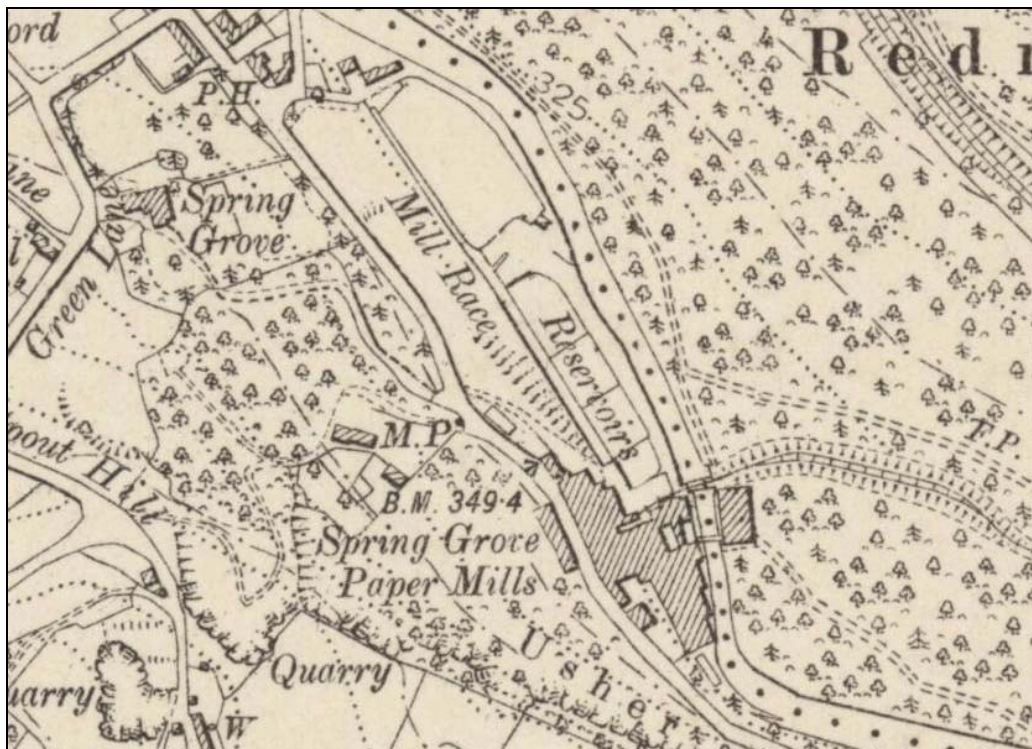


Figure 7: A depiction of the Paper Mill as a supplement to a report on the 1899 fire, showing the mill buildings on the eastern bank of the River (Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, 1st August, 1899)



**Plate 1:** A photograph taken from the surviving warehouse building (HA1), showing the later buildings on the eastern side of the Don, of which the lower walling survives (HA4). It is likely that the photograph was taken following the 1899 fire, as building debris is seen in the foreground (in the centre of the yard) (Picture Sheffield, s09931).



**Figure 8:** The 1905 six-inch OS map, showing considerable development of the site since the preceding survey.

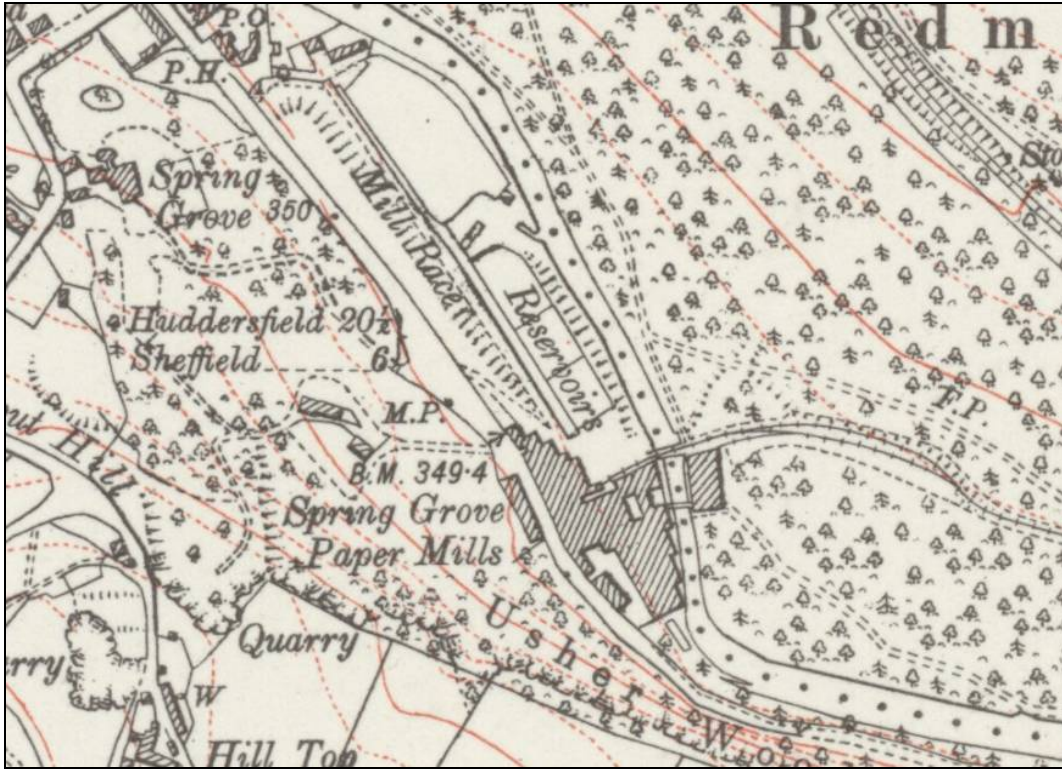
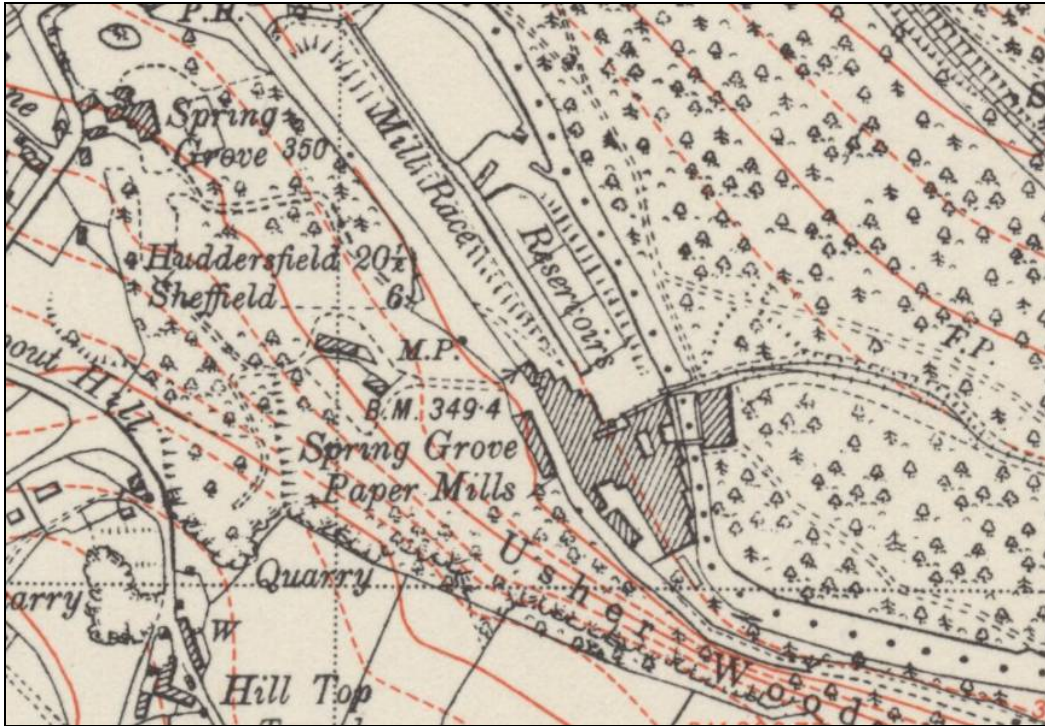


Figure 9: The 1924 six-inch OS map, showing little change to the layout and extent of the site in the years leading up to this date.



Plate 2: An aerial photograph of Spring Grove Paper Mill, showing the extent of the site in 1927. The warehouse (HA1) and boiler room (HA2) buildings along the roadside remain standing today (Britain from Above<sup>5</sup>).

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/epw019007> [Accessed 04/12/15].



**Figure 10:** Spring Grove Paper Mill as depicted in the six-inch OS map of 1948 (surveyed in 1938). Little change is visible since the preceding map.

- 6.14 By 1905 (Fig. 8), the Oughtibridge mill site had developed considerably following the fire in 1899. The mill complex had been extended considerably to the south alongside the river. The OS map also shows two bridge crossings over the River Don, the more southerly being quite narrow. The buildings in the centre of the site, which were destroyed by fire, had visibly changed from a narrow block of buildings (in 1894), to a much wider range, with a large southern projection.
- 6.15 In 1912, the mill suffered yet another fire, which caused little damage, but in 1917 another major fire occurred. As a result, the mill was reportedly 'gutted' and declared 'unlikely to resume operation for a year' (Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 6th August, 1917). In response, the workforce and surviving machinery from Spring Grove were relocated to Grimsby where the firm had established a second mill in 1904.
- 6.16 Despite the 1917 fire, the layout and extent of the Spring Grove Paper Mill appears to have changed relatively little by 1924 (Fig. 9). An aerial photograph, taken in 1927, gives an oblique view of the site from the north-west. The tall, narrow shelter into which the railway siding entered on its approach to the warehouse (HA1) is visible to the south of two new sheds set within a derelict building. The building range (built in 1897) on the east of the River Don can be seen in more detail here, as four gables of (at least) three storeys, each storey featuring eight, evenly spaced, windows. The

reservoirs and mill race have remained much the same. A large tip, or waste heap, is visible to the east of the river and to the north of the railway spur.

- 6.17 Following the Second World War, there was further large-scale development of the mill site. In 1958, Dixons became a public company, under the name of P. Dixon and Son (Holdings) Ltd<sup>6</sup>. A large phase of development followed this change, responding to the gradual shift towards tissue production (Dixcel toilet tissue, dressmaking patterns and crepe-paper toweling), which had occurred over the previous few decades.
- 6.18 In 1959, Dixons built a new machine house and by 1963, a £2 million upgrade of the mill site was planned and the improvements were completed by June 1965 (Quality of Sheffield, Vol. 12, No. 6, p. 24-6, June 1965, Sheffield Local Studies Library). The development included a new power station and boiler house, a new converting shop, new packing and dispatch departments and a new office block with canteen. At this time, Spring Grove continued to generate most of the electricity required for production, with coal-fired boilers, buying only a small amount of electricity from the Yorkshire Electricity Board. The water treatment plant (which processed water prior to use in the boiler) was located near to the boiler house, receiving supplies from three mill-dams on the bank of the River Don.
- 6.19 Later depictions of Spring Grove, and the buildings which stand on the site today, reflect this development. The original mill site to the west of the River Don remained largely unchanged, although 1990s images from Google Earth indicate that some buildings on the historic mill site were replaced with modern (steel-frame, clad) industrial sheds. On the eastern bank of the River Don, however, there was considerable expansion to the south-east, with a range of large, modern industrial buildings and, later, car parking (Fig.3). It is not clear when the railway siding was removed, but the passenger railway to which it joined closed in the 1950s. Finally, the stone chimney, which stood in the north-west corner of the site, beside the 19th century warehouse (**HA1**), was demolished during this period.
- 6.20 Dixons finally sold Spring Grove in the 1970s. By 1983, there are records that the mill was occupied by British Tissues. The company was brought before the courts in May that year, by the Yorkshire Water Authority, accused of discharging polluting waste 'far outside the terms of consent' into the River Don (Pearce, 1984, 14). The section of the River passing the mill at this time was reportedly unfit for most species.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/c2c7f1a9-9ed0-4c6c-8d62-666088f13b9b>[Accessed 04/12/15].

6.21 In the years following British Tissues occupation of the mill, Spring Grove was passed between hands, from Jamont UK, to Fort James, Georgia Pacific (2008) and finally SCA in 2012. Paper production ceased in 2007, when the mill site suffered serious flooding, and thereafter, it was then limited to processing and packaging operations. After it was acquired by SCA, Spring Grove continued to operate exclusively in converting paper produced elsewhere into commercial toilet rolls, paper hand towels and medical rolls. The works employed 161 people up until its complete closure in early 2015<sup>7</sup>.

## 7.0 PRELIMINARY SITE SURVEY AND BUILDINGS APPRAISAL

7.1 In preparation for its redevelopment, the majority of the remaining mill buildings (most of which were seemingly mid- to late-20th century) have now been demolished, as well as two of the three bridge crossings over the River Don (**HA6** survives). Prior approval for demolition of the buildings, including the three remaining stone buildings (**HA1, 2 & 3**) was sought and obtained in 2013 (ref: 13/02864/DPN). The large mid-20th century industrial sheds which survive to the south-east of the site are not of architectural or historic interest, and are therefore not considered here as heritage assets. Plates 3 to 6 illustrate the general nature of the site at the time of survey.

7.2 Table 2 (p.32 below), summarises the surviving above ground remains of the Spring Grove Paper Mill (**HA1-9**), and assesses their heritage significance.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.thinkcapitareaestate.uk/media/475667/oughtibridge-mill-estate-brochure.pdf> [Accessed 04/12/15].



**Plate 3:** A general view of the site from the southern end of the plot on the west bank of the river, looking north-west. This illustrates the extent of demolition, and the varied ground surfaces that remain. The bridge (HA6) is visible to the right, and the warehouse (HA1) to the left in the background.



**Plate 4:** A view from the eastern bank of the River, looking west. Most of the large, mid 20th-century industrial sheds survive, but are of little architectural or historic interest.



**Plate 5:** A general view of the site taken from the platform on the east bank of the River Don (showing the rear of **HA4**), looking west. It shows the extent of demolition and building **HA3** in the background.



**Plate 6:** The in-filled reservoirs, looking west towards the stone platform (**HA10**) and the modern industrial buildings. The mill race would have been in the foreground of this image.

## Site Specific Values

7.3 The NPPF states that Local Planning Authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (*para. 129*). The heritage significance of the surviving elements of Oughtibridge Mill located within the development site is considered in Table 2, with reference to the evidence provided in section 6 above.



7.4 The significance of these assets is considered with reference to the four key themes as set out in Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (English Heritage, 2008):




- **Evidential Values** - the potential capacity of an asset to yield primary evidence about past human activity (including potential archaeological remains).
- **Historical Values** - the potential capacity of an asset to form a connection between the present and the past through association with people, events and aspects of life.
- **Aesthetic Values** - the potential for people to derive sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place, through design, art, character and setting.
- **Community Values** - the potential for people to relate to a site in terms of a collective experience or memory (often closely related to Historical and Aesthetic values)




**Table 1:** Ranking used in assessing significance (adapted from ICOMOS (2010) Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments, incorporating Historic England (2008) Conservation Principles).



<b>High</b>	Elements considered to make an exceptional contribution to the significance of the site. The alteration or removal of these features would destroy or significantly compromise the historic character of the building or site. This category may be determined by the date, rarity, completeness, setting, context, or the representative quality of the element discussed. This importance may or may not be reflected in designation.
<b>Moderate</b>	Elements considered as making a considerable contribution to the significance of the site. Such features help to define the significance of the site and their damage or loss might diminish or limit an appreciation and understanding of its historic character.
<b>Low</b>	Elements considered to make some contribution to the significance of the site, but which are not intrinsic to it and which have a limited or marginal importance.
<b>Negative</b>	Elements considered to detract from the historic character of the site. The removal or alteration of such features could improve understanding and an appreciation of the historic character.

**Table 2:** Details of the surviving above ground remains of the Spring Grove Paper Mill (locations are shown on Fig. 3).

ID	Description	Construction Date	Significance	Photograph
HA1	<p>Warehouse. Three storey warehouse building, with earlier raised-ridge gable surviving in south-east end.</p> <p>Visual assessment was made of exterior, and first floor interior.</p>	<p>First visible on the <b>1886</b> illustration (Fig. 4). Gable end of raised-ridge building possibly of an earlier date.</p>	<p><b>Low/Moderate</b> - One of the earliest buildings surviving on site, built onto an earlier gable which still survives in the south-east end. Earlier gable may date to the period between the 1855 and 1894 surveys.</p> <p>Warehouse exhibits evidence of its use and development, including the blocked opening for the railway siding (closely linked with <b>HA6</b>), and wall scars from previous structures. Of some communal significance due to its roadside location. Contributes to overall historic character of local area. However, insensitive modern extensions of poorer quality at its north-eastern corner, in addition to a modern concrete flooring and metal structure internally. These are of <b>negative heritage significance</b>. Alteration over time has compromised aesthetic significance, particularly on north-eastern and south-eastern elevations, reducing propensity for reuse.</p>	
HA2	<p>Single storey stone building (boiler/engine house).</p> <p>Internal assessment was not possible.</p>	<p>First visible on the <b>1894</b> OS map (Fig. 5).</p>	<p><b>Low</b> - The historic purpose of this building is not known, although its size, and the former chimney to its north-west may indicate use as an engine/boiler house.</p> <p>Possibly of some communal significance due to roadside location. There may be features of some evidential interest internally. However, historic context has been lost with the demolition of the chimney to the south.</p>	

<p><b>HA3</b></p>	<p>Office block. Large two-storey stone domestic-style building.</p> <p>Internal assessment was not possible.</p>	<p>First visible on the <b>1886</b> illustration (Fig. 4). Various phases of extension.</p>	<p><b>Low</b> - This large, domestic-style office building demonstrates at least two phases of construction and is of some evidential value, in terms of illustrating the development of the site. The later phase features an oeil-de-boeuff window and quoin stones, of some aesthetic significance. Of some communal significance for former workers, and due to its roadside location. Whole complex supported on 19th century terracing.</p> <p>Modern extensions on the north-east elevation are of <b>negative heritage significance</b>, as is the loss of historic context. Internal assessment was not possible, but this is anticipated to be largely modern.</p>	
<p><b>HA4</b></p>	<p>Lower sections of 19th century stone mill building wall, which now forms River Don channel wall.</p>	<p><b>1897</b></p>	<p><b>Low</b> - These parts of the 1897 mill building wall are of some evidential significance, illustrating the late 19th century development of the site on this side of the River. The wall features blocked windows, with lintels and sills surviving, and some fittings which evidence the uses. Different construction dates are visible (including one date stone of 1903). This asset is of some aesthetic interest, providing an attractive River channel wall which contributes to the historic character of the site.</p>	
<p><b>HA5</b></p>	<p>Lower sections of 20th century red brick mill building wall. Former window sills survive. Earlier stone walling remains below the brick.</p>	<p>Brick wall: Early <b>20th century</b>.</p> <p>Stone Wall: Related to buildings first visible on the <b>1886</b> illustration (Fig. 4), possibly earlier.</p>	<p><b>Low</b> - This wall is very clearly of at least two construction phases (stone lower, dating to the late-19th century, and brick upper dating to the early 20th). Former window sills and brick course detail survives, evidencing the past form and development of the site. Little of the 19th century stonework remains. This asset is of some aesthetic interest, providing an attractive River channel wall.</p>	

<p><b>HA6</b></p>	<p>Iron railway bridge structure. Currently with supplementary modern structure overlain to widen crossing.</p>	<p>First depicted on OS map (Fig. 5). <b>1894</b></p>	<p><b>Low</b> - This element evidences the late 19th century growth of the paper mill which required a railway link. It is closely linked with the warehouse (<b>HA1</b>), to which the railway siding joined. The modern structure which currently dominates the railway bridge is, however, of <b>negative heritage significance</b>.</p>	
<p><b>HA7</b></p>	<p>Remaining 19th/20th century mill building walls along roadside. Remainder of building has been demolished. Rear of buildings were clearly brick, where remaining walls are stone.</p>	<p><b>Late 19th/early 20th century.</b></p>	<p><b>Low</b> - These roadside gables are the remaining parts of the demolished 20th century mill buildings. These are of very low evidential significance, demonstrating the style of some later mill buildings in this area of the site. This significance is compromised by the demolition of the buildings and the loss of the majority of the site's other buildings.</p>	
<p><b>HA8</b></p>	<p>Surviving 19th century retaining wall on west bank of the River Don, south of the main mill site.</p>	<p><b>19th century</b></p>	<p><b>Low</b> - Retaining wall thought to date to the mid-late 19th century, close to the Tail Race exit point. Provides some evidence of the historic landscaping and layout of the site.</p>	

<p><b>HA9</b></p>	<p>Remains of the south end of the mill race, and platform. Good quality stone wall platform, and some remaining modern plant.</p>	<p>Platform: 19th/20th century Plant: Modern</p>	<p><b>Low</b> - Some plant, and the platform wall relating to the former reservoirs and mill race. These are of some evidential significance in terms of showing how the mill operated.  However, most of the plant is modern, and this significance is compromised as the reservoirs and mill race have been in-filled, removing the historic context.</p>	
<p><b>HA10</b></p>	<p>Evidence of where the Tail Race rejoins the River. Evidence of adaption over time, but seemingly in the same location as is shown in earlier mapping.</p>	<p>Visible in its present position from the <b>1894</b> OS onwards. Although the structure itself seems to be more recent.</p>	<p><b>Low</b> - The tail race exit point is of some evidential significance, aiding understanding of how the mill operated, and how this changed over time. Although the location of this element has not changed since the late-19th century, the actual structure is relatively recent and is therefore of negligible heritage significance overall. It is possible that beneath this, there may be evidence of the earlier tail race structure.</p>	

### **Below ground archaeological potential**

- 7.5 There is some potential for below ground remains to survive, which are associated with the early paper mill, the corn mill, the grinding wheel and water management. It is likely that such remains would be affected by the proposed development, as contamination, remediation work and landscaping may necessitate widespread ground works.
- 7.6 In the area of the main historic paper mill (west of the River Don), there has clearly been numerous phases of rebuilding, including the formation of pits to house industrial processes (for which evidence remains on the surface). This will have caused substantial disturbance to any subsurface remains. However, it is possible that some earlier 19th century structural remains may survive, as it is clear that in some areas, the ground level has been raised in later phases of development, when compared to surviving earlier mill walls (HA5).
- 7.7 Below ground remains may preserve evidence for the earlier layout, phases of construction, process flow, power transmission and water management, which would contribute to knowledge of the Don Valley's industrial past. This is of some local importance given that no other paper mill sites remain in the area. In particular, below ground remains may provide a more detailed understanding of the early mill site (from 1834-1855).
- 7.8 The areas of main archaeological interest and those areas of highest potential for survival of below ground remains are shown on Figure 11 and the particular significance of these areas in terms of enhancing understanding of the site's development is discussed below:
- i. Map regression clearly shows that the earliest mill building (depicted in the 1855 OS, Fig. 4) had been built over by the time of the subsequent survey (1890), and by later phases of development. Whilst later development is likely to have caused some disturbance to the remains of the earliest mill, elements such as the lower wall foundations, the mill race, the wheel pit(s) are likely to be preserved.
  - ii. Investigation in the area south-east of HA1 may enhance understanding of the former building whose raised-ridge gable end survives incorporated into the

southern elevation of the warehouse. In particular, deposits associated with this structure may provide dating evidence, and establish its relationship to the earlier mill buildings.

- iii. Below ground evidence for the Spring Grove Wheel may survive to the south-east of the sewage treatment works, as this area has not been directly affected by previous construction.
- iv. The extent of damage to below ground remains relating to the Spring Grove Corn Mill during the construction of modern foul water tanks is unknown.

7.9 In the area of the site to the east of the river, some foundations of previous buildings may survive, but the earliest building on this part of the site was built in 1897 (HA4 is a surviving wall of this). In addition, there may be some below ground remains of the railway siding. As the details of these elements - which are later parts of this site - are relatively well understood already (positioning, function etc.), this archaeological potential is of less importance than areas of the site which may offer evidence of earlier buildings.

## 8.0 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

### Description of development

- 8.1 The proposed development involves the construction of residential dwellings within the red line site boundary shown on Figure 2, together with new access arrangements and landscaping.
- 8.2 At present, the final details of the nature and extent of construction and groundworks to be undertaken is not known, but it is understood that the majority of the site will be affected by groundworks and that the remaining standing buildings will be demolished.

### Description of potential impacts

- 8.3 During the course of construction, the following activities have the potential to impact on the significance of the identified heritage assets, including any surviving below ground archaeological remains:
  - movement of heavy plant and machinery.

- excavation particularly related to the following works:
  - site remediation and removal of contaminants
  - site infrastructure
  - building foundations
  - installation of services
  - landscaping
  - drainage and balancing ponds (if required)
  - construction of the contractors compound and storage areas
  - construction of temporary and permanent soil bunds

#### **Predicted impact on designated heritage assets**

- 8.4 The proposed development will have no impact (during either construction or operation) upon any designated heritage asset (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields) or its setting.

#### **Predicted impact on non-designated heritage assets**

- 8.5 The proposed development will require the demolition of the surviving 19th century buildings and structures associated with the former Spring Grove Paper Mill and the removal of any associated below ground archaeological remains which could survive within the area.
- 8.6 This mill site is considered to be of local importance, and the surviving above and below ground elements are considered to be of low to moderate value in terms of contributing to the significance and understanding of this site. There is no evidence to suggest that unidentified archaeological remains of *national* importance are likely to be present within the development boundary, as shown on Figure 2.
- 8.7 According to the NPPF (para. 135), the effect of a planning application on the significance of a non-designated asset should be taken into account in determining an application. In weighing applications that affect directly, or indirectly, non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.
- 8.8 The following section assesses the effects of the loss of the surviving above and below ground remains, which would arise as a result of the proposed development, on the significance of the former Spring Grove Paper Mill and Spring Grove Corn Mill.

- 8.9 The following definitions are used to describe the significance of these effects:
- Substantial – considerable effects (by extent, duration or magnitude) of more than local significance or breaching identified standards or policy;
  - Moderate – limited effects which may be considered significant; and
  - Minor – slight, very short or highly localised effects.

*Spring Grove Paper Mill*

- 8.10 Overall, the surviving buildings of the Spring Grove Paper Mill (**HA1, HA2, HA3**) are considered to be of local importance, reflecting the history and development of the mill, and contributing to the area's historic character and appearance - particularly given their roadside location. It is not anticipated that they would meet the criteria for statutory listing.
- 8.11 It is considered that the warehouse building (**HA1**) is of low/moderate importance in terms of its contribution to the significance of the site, due to numerous features within its fabric that are of some evidential value.
- 8.12 Each of the surviving buildings has undergone multiple phases of - largely insensitive and some irreversible - modern alteration and extension (see Table 2). This has compromised their potential to contribute to existing knowledge about the site, as well as reducing their aesthetic value, and therefore limiting the practicability of successful adaptive reuse. In addition, the historic context of the structures has been compromised with the demolition of the majority of the site.
- 8.13 The development proposal details that these buildings would be demolished. This would result in the loss of the buildings and their removal would be a loss to the character and appearance of the area.
- 8.14 Given the poor integrity of these buildings and their lack of well preserved historic context, the effects of this loss on the significance of this site, is considered to be **minor adverse**. The buildings are not protected and in the absence of development, it has already been determined that prior approval would not be required for their demolition.
- 8.15 The background research undertaken in support of this development proposal, has enabled a more informed understanding of the history and development of the site and this information will be made publicly available as a result of this application (NPPF para. 141). In this regard, the development is considered to have had a **minor**

**beneficial effect.**

- 8.16 In addition to the standing buildings, the site contains a number of above ground structures of some heritage significance. These include parts of former buildings (**HA4, HA5, HA7**) and some free-standing structures related to the former operation of the mill (**HA6, HA8, HA9, HA10**).
- 8.17 These elements are largely of low importance in terms of their contribution to the significance of the site. The majority of these assets will probably be removed as part of the programme of site remediation and groundworks, although it is possible that the River Don valley walls (**HA4, HA5**) may be retained, at least in part, as their riverside location is at some distance from the main areas proposed for new-build construction.
- 8.18 The effects of the loss of these structures on the significance of the site is considered to be **minor adverse** and to have been adequately mitigated through work undertaken in support of this application.

*Below Ground Archaeological Remains*

- 8.19 There is potential for below ground remains of the 19th century industrial history of the site. This includes evidence of the earlier Paper Mill buildings, the Spring Grove Corn Mill and the Spring Grove Wheel in the north-west of the development site. Such remains would be of local importance.
- 8.20 The extent of survival and state of preservation of below ground remains, is likely to have been compromised due to the damage arising from multiple phases of development of the site for industrial use. This damage is extensive and has disturbed the ground to a considerable depth. However, within the less disturbed areas of the site identified on Figure 11, some remains may survive and if present, they are likely to be destroyed or damaged as a result of the development impacts described above. The effect of such loss on the significance of either the paper mill or corn mill is considered **minor adverse**.

**9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION**

- 9.1 Paragraph 141 of the NPPF states that developers should be required to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.

- 9.2 Sheffield UDP (Saved Policy BE22) and Barnsley UDP (Saved Policy BE3) requires that where disturbance of an archaeological site is unavoidable, or preservation of remains in situ is not justified, the development will be permitted only if an adequate archaeological record of the site is made.
- 9.3 The proposed development will result in the loss of the remaining above ground remains of the 19th century Spring Grove Paper Mill, and possible below ground remains associated both with this mill, and that of the Spring Grove corn mill. These remains are of local importance.
- 9.4 In the case of the standing buildings fronting Langsett Road North (**HA1, HA2, HA3**), a Prior Notification Application for demolition has already been submitted and approved. These works may therefore be implemented without the requirement for mitigation. The current application has therefore been of benefit in that it has provided both a basic record of these buildings and other associated mill structures prior to demolition and it has improved understanding of the history and development of the mill complex. It is considered that any further building recording would be unwarranted given that prior approval for demolition is already in place.
- 9.5 In the interests of sustainability, it is recommended that the salvage of local stone and features of architectural interest, such as the oeil-de-boeuff window and cornerstones, should be considered where possible, as these could be reused on this site or for conservation purposes elsewhere within the region.

*Potential for below ground archaeological remains*

- 9.6 The assessment has identified the potential for the proposed development to impact upon unrecorded sub-surface archaeological remains of the 19th century Spring Grove Paper Mill, as well as the Spring Grove Corn Mill and Wheel. Such remains would be of local importance and of low to moderate value in terms of the contribution they would make to the significance of mill site. Below ground survival is, however, likely to be limited due to the extent of previous industrial development which has disturbed the site to a considerable depth, as well as repeated destruction by fire and rebuilding.
- 9.7 Areas offering the highest potential for the survival of locally important archaeological remains have been identified on Figure 11. If further investigation within these areas of higher potential survival is considered warranted by the local planning authority, then

such works could be adequately secured through condition.

## **10.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 10.1 This heritage assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF and supporting advice and guidance (NPPF para. 128), and the Local Policies of both Sheffield City Council and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council as detailed above.
- 10.2 The assessment has confirmed that the proposed development would not have any negative impacts (during construction or operation) on the designated heritage assets within or close to the Study Area (see CgMs, 2014; NPPF paras. 132, 133 and 134). There will also be no negative impact upon non-designated heritage assets outside of the proposed development site boundary.
- 10.3 The non-designated remains of the former 19th century Spring Grove Paper Mill are situated within the development site. This site is of local importance and the majority of the mill complex has already been demolished. The three surviving historic buildings - considered to be low to moderate significance in terms of their evidential, historical and aesthetic value - are proposed for demolition.
- 10.4 These surviving buildings and other associated mill structures are of local importance. Their significance has been compromised by the loss of their historical context, and multiple phases of insensitive and irreversible alteration. The effects of their demolition on the significance of this mill site is considered minor adverse.
- 10.5 A Prior Notification Application with respect to the demolition of the surviving buildings was submitted and approved in 2013 and these works can therefore be implemented at any time. The current proposal has therefore enabled the opportunity to provide an understanding of the history and development of the mill and to provide a basic record of both the buildings and associated structures in advance of their demolition. In this regard, the proposed development is considered to have had a minor beneficial effect on the significance of this site. Given the existing approval for demolition, no further recording of the buildings or structures is considered warranted.
- 10.6 Potential for the survival of sub-surface archaeological remains relating to the 19th century Paper Mill, as well as Spring Grove Corn Mill and the Spring Grove Wheel is likely to be limited due to the extent of previous industrial development, which has disturbed the site to a considerable depth, as well as repeated destruction by fire and rebuilding. Within the less disturbed areas of the site, some remains may survive and if

present, they are likely to be destroyed or damaged as a result of the development impacts described above.

- 10.7 It is concluded that the proposal fully accords with national and local development plan policy with respect to heritage protection and that there is no reason in terms of heritage impacts why permission for the application should not be granted. This conclusion is in accordance with Sheffield's Pre-Application Response (14/0735/PREAPP) to a previous development proposal, which included this site, and confirmed that there were no archaeological reasons to object to redevelopment of the site in any part.

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APPENDIX 1: RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY AND GUIDANCE

National Policy

<p>NPPF: Policy 12 <i>Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment</i> (Only including relevant policies)</p>	
<p><b>Paragraph 128</b></p>	<p>In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 129</b></p>	<p>Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 131</b></p>	<p>In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;</li> <li>● the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and</li> <li>● the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Paragraph 132</b></p>	<p>When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 134</b></p>	<p>Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.</p>

Paragraph 135	The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.
Paragraph 136	Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.
Paragraph 141	Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.
Paragraph 203	Local planning authorities should consider whether otherwise unacceptable development could be made acceptable through the use of conditions or planning obligations. Planning obligations should only be used where it is not possible to address unacceptable impacts through a planning condition.

#### NPPF Glossary:

This glossary sets out the definitions for heritage and archaeological issues which should be treated as a material consideration in the planning process. Those definitions of relevance to the current application are:

- **Historic environment:** All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity (whether visible, buried or submerged), as well as landscaped areas and planted or managed flora.
- **Heritage assets:** A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the LPA (including local listing).
- **Archaeological interest:** There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.
- **Setting of a heritage asset:** The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a

setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance, or may be neutral.

- **Significance (for heritage policy):** The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.
- **Historic environment record:** Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use.

## Local Policy

### Sheffield

Sheffield Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (adopted March 1998)	
Policy Number	Policy
BE5	Good design and the use of good quality materials will be expected in all new and refurbished buildings and extensions  Particularly: (l) the refurbishment of good existing buildings will normally be encouraged, particularly where their loss would lower the quality of the street scene.
BE20	The retention of historic buildings which are of local interest but not Listed will be encouraged wherever practicable.
BE22	Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their settings and other sites of archaeological interest will be preserved, protected and enhanced. Development will not normally be allowed which would damage or destroy significant archaeological sites and their settings. Where disturbance of an archaeological site is unavoidable, the development will be permitted only if:  (a) an adequate archaeological record of the site is made; and  (b) where the site is found to be significant, the remains are preserved in their original position.

Pre-submission Draft City Policies and Sites (April 2013)	
Policy Number	Policy
G7	<b>Development and Heritage Assets</b> Heritage assets, including the conservation areas, nationally and locally important historic buildings and landscapes and other heritage features that contribute to the distinct identity of Sheffield, will be conserved by the developer through:

	<p>(a) Protection and, where appropriate, restoration and repair of features of heritage significance, using designs, materials, techniques and detailing traditional to Sheffield, consistent with the asset's age and significance; and</p> <p>(b) Protection and, where appropriate, recording and interpretation of archaeological evidence and retention of remains that help an understanding of how the city has developed or, in the exceptional circumstances that any harm to the remains could be justified, investigation and publication of the resulting evidence; and</p> <p>(c) Protection of the character and setting of heritage assets, and ensuring that development affecting them respects, enhances or better reveals their significance.</p>
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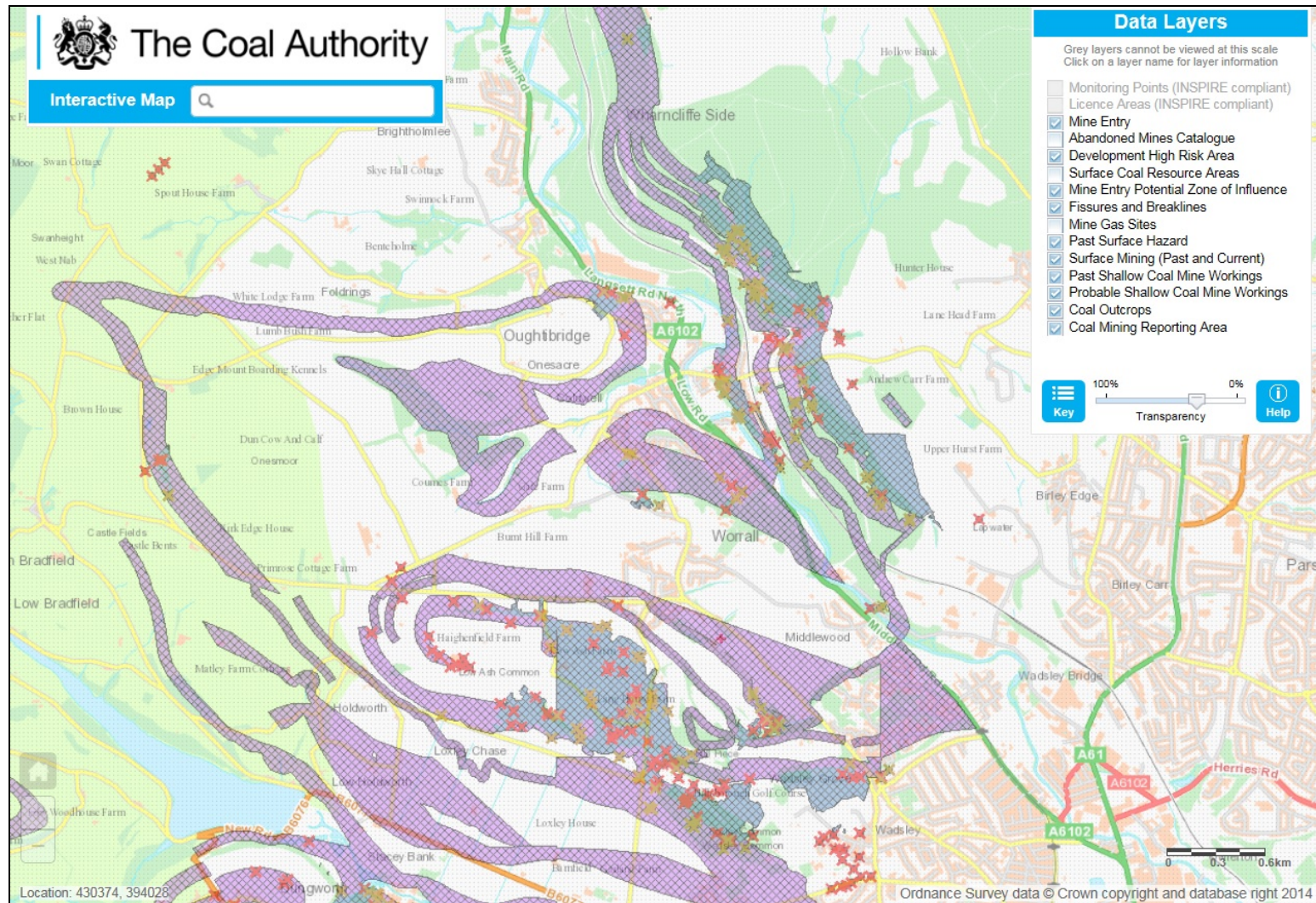
Sheffield Core Strategy (adopted March 2009)	
Policy Number	Policy
CS 74	<p><b>Design Principles</b></p> <p>High-quality development will be expected, which would respect, take advantage of and enhance the distinctive features of the city, its districts and neighbourhoods, including:</p> <p>(c) the townscape and landscape character of the city's districts, neighbourhoods and quarters, with their associated scale, layout and built form, building styles and materials;</p> <p>(d) the distinctive heritage of the city, particularly the buildings and settlement forms associated with: i. the metal trades (including workshops, mills and board schools) ii. the City Centre iii. Victorian, Edwardian and Garden City suburbs iv. historic village centres and the city's rural setting</p>

## Barnsley

Barnsley Core Strategy (adopted September 2011)	
CSP 29	<p><b>Design Principles</b></p> <p>High quality development will be expected, that respects, takes advantage of and enhances the distinctive features of Barnsley, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- heritage, townscape and landscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form</li> </ul>
CSP 30	<p><b>The Historic Environment</b></p> <p>Development which affects the historic environment and Barnsley's heritage assets and their settings will be expected to protect or improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the character and/or appearance of Listed Buildings (including any locally listed buildings or buildings of archaeological significance) archaeological remains of local or national</li> <li>- importance the character and/or appearance of historic parks and gardens and other</li> <li>- historic landscapes including key views from and within these landscapes</li> </ul>

<b>Barnsley Unitary Development Plan (Saved Policies)</b>	
<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>Policy</b>
<b>BE 4</b>	<b>Archaeological Sites</b> Where the Authority decides that the physical preservation of archaeological remains in situ is not justified, and that development which would destroy the remains should proceed, the Authority will ensure, before granting planning permission, that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains.

APPENDIX 2: Consultation from South Yorkshire Mines Advisory Service (by email from Paul James, 5th January, 2016) concluding that there is no mining history beneath the development site.



## APPENDIX 3: Historic Background Detail and Process Flow

### 19th Century

- A3.1 By 1800, there were 430 paper mills in England and Wales. At this time, all production was by hand and output remained very low until the mid-19th century. Yet, the industry continued to grow, and by 1821, there were 564 paper mills in the country.
- A3.2 The earliest recorded paper mill in the Don Valley was the Lewden Mill in Worsbrough (now demolished), which operated from the early 18th century (Schmoller, 1991, 113). Other paper manufacturers were located nearby, at Monk Bretton and Old Mill. There were, in addition, a number of 18th century paper mills in the wider Peak District (Harris, 1971). There is generally very little remaining of these sites (*Ibid.*).
- A3.3 The earliest mill building of the Spring Grove complex was built by George Hawksley, who later co-founded a Sheffield boiler-making company and acquired two extensive dye works, becoming a relatively influential figure in industrial Sheffield.
- A3.4 Jenkinson's bankruptcy was the start of a turbulent period in the history of the mill, lasting until 1871, which saw the mill pass through the hands of multiple owners, and the destruction and rebuilding of the mill on two separate occasions.
- A3.5 The first significant damage to the mill occurred in the summer of 1856, when Spring Grove flooded (Sheffield Independent, 16th August, 1856). The inundation of the mill coincided with repair works to goits and the mill buildings, which were all washed away, and further damage caused, as 'the works were overwhelmed with water' (*Ibid.*).
- A3.6 Subsequent owner Charles Hough, aged 40, was a paper manufacturer from Staffordshire. His partners were Henry Brassington and George Hough. At this time, 13 women, 3 boys and 6 girls were employed at the paper mill.
- A3.7 However, in under five years, Spring Grove was to change hands again, as these partners were also declared bankrupt (London Gazette, 14 December, 1866). In the years leading up to this, Charles and George Hough were no longer recorded as partners (by 1866) when William Sherratt, and Charles and Henry Brassington had taken over the running of the mill (*Ibid.*). In 1870, the Dixons took over the paper mill.
- A3.8 A directory from this time states that the firm was producing news and printing paper (on one 80-inch machine), although a published history of the firm indicates that production was focused on low quality brown paper during this period (Johnson and Dixon, 1971); it is not clear which source is more accurate.
- A3.9 In 1800, up to 24 million lb of rags were being used annually to produce 10,000 tons of paper in England and Wales, and 1000 tons in Scotland (Schmoller, 1992). The demand for white paper, in particular, started to exceed the supply of rags. Without any effective method of bleaching, white rags were in particularly high demand. Previously, rags were bought from the textile industries (as waste), but this supply did not increase in line with the growing demand. Although there had been experiments in the use of alternative raw

materials as early as the mid-18th century, it was not until the middle of the 19th century that pulp produced using straw or wood was used in paper production. In many mills, including Spring Grove (Schmoller, 1992) there was a considerable cross over period in which alternative materials such as wood pulp, and esparto, were used alongside rags.

- A3.10 A period of prosperity for the firm ensued, and Joseph Dixon used his wealth to benefit the surrounding population. In 1875, he bought seven houses<sup>8</sup>, a shop, and three acres of land to provide housing for some of the mill workers<sup>9</sup>. The following decade, Dixon - in collaboration with others - financed Wharncliffeside School and paid for half the cost of providing a district nurse.
- A3.11 In addition to this investment, Dixon also started work around this time on a new family home for himself. In 1878, he advertised in the Sheffield Daily Telegraph (25th June, 1878) for contractors to build for him a 'villa residence at Wharncliffeside near Oughtibridge'. Joseph and his wife Sophie (ne Hyde) later lived in this house, opposite the mill. There is little information available about this building, although a structure meeting this description is visible on the 1894 six-inch OS map (it has now been demolished).
- A3.12 The number of paper mills countrywide decreased dramatically at the end of the 19th century, despite the overall increase in the production of paper to meet ever growing demand. By 1884, the number of paper mills operating in England and Wales had decreased from 564 in 1821, to 250. Production was gradually becoming focused in fewer, larger mills and new mills were increasingly situated in, or near to, urban areas closer to the supply of raw materials and the paper markets. Others, particularly paper mills using esparto as Spring Grove did (Schmoller, 1992), had relocated to ports, as the raw material was generally brought in by ship. Although the Dixons kept Spring Grove afloat while other companies were relocating, the mill brought its fair share of challenges. The main difficulty was that the transport of goods to and from the mill was, at this point, still exclusively by road. Plans mooted in 1884 for the construction of a tramway of telpherage (an aerial or overhead tramline) from the mill to Oughtibridge train station were refused by the Earl of Wharncliffe. Still, the output of Spring Grove paper mill continued to rise. Between 1872 and 1888, the Dixon's increased the mill's output from 10 tons per week, to 45 (or more than 500 miles) of paper.
- A3.13 Many of the buildings depicted in the 1886 sketch (Fig. 5) were not to last much longer; in 1892, there was another fire at Spring Grove (the Paper Record of October and November 1892, cited by Schmoller, 1992). The fire is reported to have started in the machine room, caused by a fault which allowed the paper sheet to 'get into the gas jet, setting fire at once to a box of waste paper at the side of the machine'.
- A3.14 Spring Grove suffered yet another fire in 1899. The fire, which originated in the paper dusting machine<sup>10</sup>, destroyed the majority of buildings of the main mill complex, causing damages of more than £20,000 (Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, 1st August, 1899).

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<sup>8</sup>It is possible that these houses are those which survive within the woodland to the west of Langsett Road North.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.heritagewoodsonline.co.uk/map/019/019.html> [Accessed 03/12/15].

<sup>10</sup>Dusting refers to the process which removed all foreign particles from the rags, before they were cut.

At the time of the fire, the mill employed 150 people, and was operating 24 hours a day, 6 days a week (*Ibid.*). Like the explosion which destroyed much of the mill 29 years earlier, the fire started in the 'preparing' buildings, which ran perpendicular to the road and river, in the centre of the site; about 30 people (mainly women and girls) were working in these rooms, all of whom escaped harm. The newspaper article reporting the incident describes that the firm lost machinery and a huge amount of finished paper, which was stored in these buildings, and suffered damage to electric lighting of which 'they had only recently had a complete new installation' (*Ibid.*). Given the extent of the fire, the Sheffield and Stockbridge Fire Brigades could only prevent it spreading further<sup>8</sup>.

### *20th Century*

- A3.15 In spite of a rapid recovery at Oughtibridge, Joseph Dixon built a second paper mill at West Marsh, Grimsby, in 1904, which - situated on the banks of the Humber - benefitted the company immensely, providing direct access to overseas markets.
- A3.16 The first paper was made at the Grimsby mill on 20th July 1906. The mill eventually employed around 800 local people, becoming the largest paper mill in the country. This mill was focused on news production<sup>11</sup>, while the Oughtibridge Mill specialised in MF (machine finished) tissue paper and imitation parchment. The West Marsh mill also suffered a serious fire in the early 1970s which, combined with difficult trading conditions, led to the closure of this complex in 1973.
- A3.17 In 1912, the mill suffered yet another fire, although this was much less severe than earlier blazes; there were no fatalities, and little damage caused (Sheffield Evening Telegraph, 5th February, 1912).

### *First World War*

- A3.18 Spring Grove was badly damaged by fire again during the First World War. The fire occurred at the paper mill in 1917, but on this occasion, the fire brigade was not available to attend the site, due the increased demand for emergency services during the War. As a result, the mill was reportedly 'gutted' and declared 'unlikely to resume operation for a year' (Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 6th August, 1917). In response, the workforce and surviving machinery from Spring Grove were relocated to the Grimsby mill to continue production.
- A3.19 In 1927, Joseph Dixon died, aged 78 years, leaving behind an estate worth £377,366. After his death, the World's Paper Trade Review reported that 'the paper making industry of this country is robbed of a great personality [...] Mr Dixon held a unique place in the ranks of British Paper Makers, and he leaves an indelible impression upon the records of the industry' (Schmoller, 1992). A stained glass window in Bradfield Church dedicated to Joseph Dixon demonstrates his popularity and influence locally.
- A3.20 Following his death, Joseph's sons continued to build the business, planning to construct a £300,000 wood pulp plant (with an adjacent village for workers) in the vicinity of the

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<sup>11</sup> <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/c2c7f1a9-9ed0-4c6c-8d62-666088f13b9b> [Accessed 03/12/15].

Grimsby mill, to avoid importing the raw material from Scandinavia<sup>12</sup>. However, when the Dixons approached the LNER to negotiate concessions for the new railway links which would have been required, the LNER rejected the proposals. The Dixons consequently built a wood pulp factory in Finland. In order to transport the pulp to the British factories, the 'Peter Dixon Steamship Company' was created, employing two cargo vessels (SS Oughtibridge and SS West Marsh).

### *Second World War*

A3.21 The Second World War had some impact upon the paper industry, although there are no accounts of the effects of War on Spring Grove specifically. From February 1940, paper was subject to rationing, because the import of raw materials - such as esparto (normally imported from southern Europe) and wood pulp - was disrupted. The prices, and qualities, of raw materials were brought under government regulation, and output was severely restricted by license. This was exacerbated by the national shortage of coal, and of labour<sup>13</sup>. An article in the Yorkshire Evening Post (13th April, 1940) states 'the Ministry of Supply will issue licenses to supply or convert paper only for purposes essential to National interest'. Newspapers were reduced in output and size (by approximately 60%<sup>14</sup>), which would have affected Dixons output and processes. However, the Spring Grove mill was, by this time, predominantly producing tissue and toilet paper; although this was rationed and raw materials were limited, it was certainly in great demand throughout the War, which would have ensured Dixon's continued operation. In addition, it is unlikely that Spring Grove suffered from the conscription of employees into military service, at least to the same extent as some other industries, as some roles in paper manufacture were deemed 'reserved occupations'<sup>15</sup> (meaning that those in these particular positions were exempt from conscription).

### *Modern Development*

A3.22 The new machine house - with a span of 100-feet - was steel-framed with a heated ceiling, to prevent condensation during the paper-making process. The machinery was held by a reinforced concrete frame, independent of the machine floor, reducing vibration (plate 3). It is implied that the new machine house is on the east side of the river, linked by a bridge with the older machine house.

A3.23 In 1959, papermaking required 500 tons of water, to produce 1 ton of the paper in this period. Spring Grove received most of its wood pulp from the Dixon's pulp factory in Finland, although some was imported from Sweden and delivered by rail.

A3.24 The firm had remained small, and had come under great pressure as a result of the European Free Trade Association (a free trade agreement of which the United Kingdom was member between 1960-73, prior to EU trade agreements). This rendered production at Oughtibridge

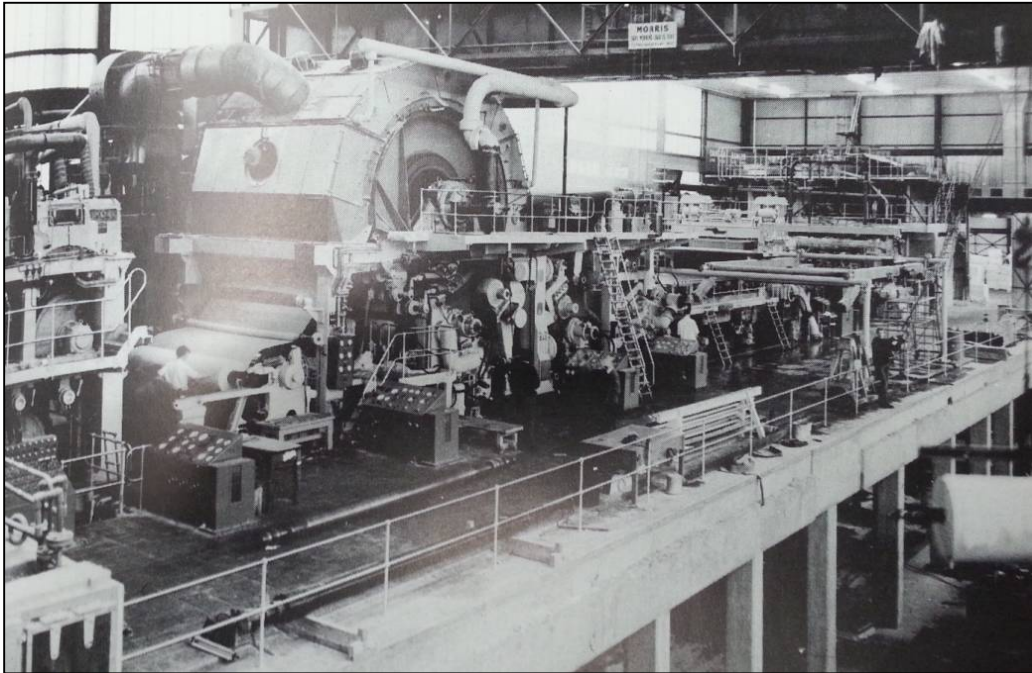
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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/BYGONES-Paper-roll/story-13148252-detail/story.html#1> [Accessed 03/12/15].

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.worldbhc.org/files/full%20program/A6\\_B6\\_Paper\\_Sarkka.pdf](http://www.worldbhc.org/files/full%20program/A6_B6_Paper_Sarkka.pdf) [Accessed 04/12/15].

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/gnmeducationcentre/paper-rationing-second-world-war-teaching-resource-gnm-archive> [Accessed 04/12/15].

unsustainable; non-British companies could ship finished paper into England for the same price as Dixons could import pulp from Scandinavia. However, paper production continued at the mill until 2007, and paper conversion until 2014, under a string of new owners.



The paper machine at Spring Grove Paper Mill. The photograph is undated, but acknowledges British Tissues, suggesting it was taken after 1983 (Schmoller, 1992).

- A3.25 Corroborating the environmental effects of the mill, locals recall that 'you could tell what colour toilet paper was being produced by the colour of the water in the River Don'<sup>16</sup>.

#### *Process Flow of Spring Grove Paper Mill*

- A3.26 A consideration of the paper making process, and what form this took on the Oughtibridge site, enables a thorough assessment of the historic role of the surviving parts of the mill, and their heritage significance, to be made.

Delivery

- A3.27 In the early years of Spring Grove, rags would have been delivered exclusively by road; the large opening on the road-facing elevation of the warehouse (HA1), and the buildings built on the opposite side of the road (seemingly stables and storage for raw materials, built some time before 1886) all played a role in the storage of raw materials, and the dispatch of finished paper. After the construction of the railway siding, between 1886-99, delivery and dispatch would also have occurred by rail; the siding reached right up to the main warehouse (HA1).

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<sup>15</sup> <http://anguline.co.uk/Free/Reserved.pdf> [Accessed 04/12/15].

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/719434> [Accessed 04/12/15].



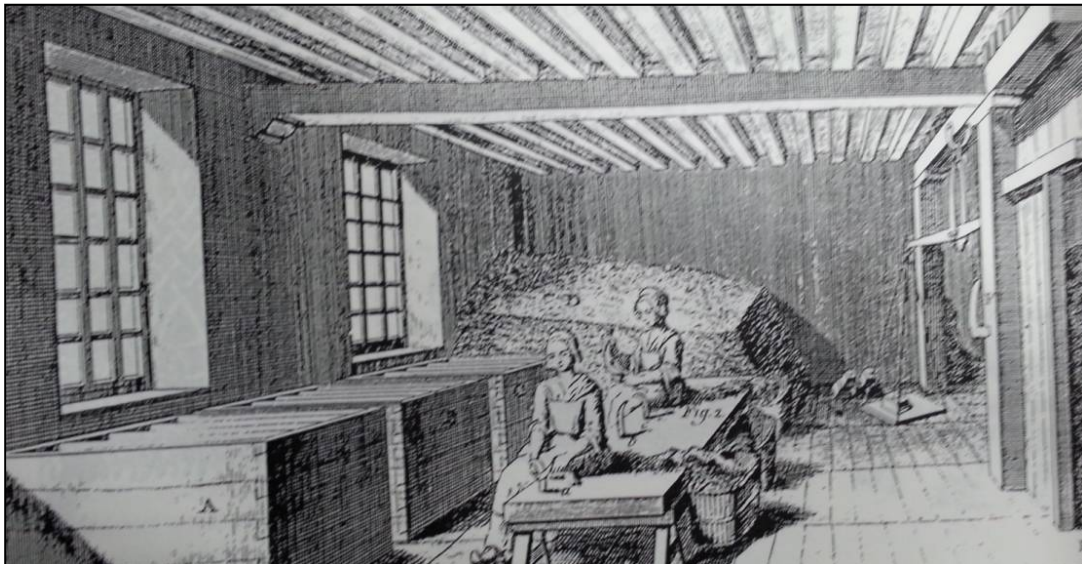
Finished paper being dispatched by road from the paper mill for delivery, c. 1900 (Picture Sheffield, s15265).



The warehouse (HA1) and boilerhouse buildings (HA2) (left) and further store, with stables behind (right), sometime between 1855-1900 (Schmoller, 1992).

Preparation

- A3.28 The rags then needed to be sorted. In the mid-19th century, white paper was in particular demand, but no effective method of bleaching rags had been developed. Therefore, rags needed to be sorted into colour, as well as type. After sorting, the process of making pulp commenced. The rags were cut, boiled and washed and then dismembered in water (first into threads, and then into their component fibres which would be plasticised). This was initially done by beating the rags by hand, but there was a beating machine at Spring Grove by 1852 (Schmoller, 1992). In the records of 1855 (*Stamford Mercury*, 27th July, 1855), the beating machine had been replaced by three 'rag-engines'. In these machines, which would have been driven by the mill's water wheel, the rags were circulated, and ground against fixed bars set in a bed-plate, while immersed in water.
- A3.29 A newspaper article of 1870 (*Sheffield Independent*, 12th February, 1870) describes that these processes were housed in the centre of the yard. A two storey building, which ran perpendicular to the river and road, housed the cutting (first floor, see Fig. 11) and boiling (ground floor) processes: the boilers, at this time, powered by steam from three donkey engines. The 'sorting room' is described as being an extension of this building.



An image of a typical paper mill rag cutting shed (Schmoller, 1992).

- A3.30 From 1872, wood pulp was used - alongside rags - at Spring Grove. For wood pulp, the process is relatively similar, although sorting would not have been required in the same way. Wood pulp is made by 'digesting' the wood (removing the lignin, or glue holding fibres together)<sup>17</sup>. This is done using chemicals which dissolve lignin, such as sodium hydroxide (or caustic soda) and sodium sulphate, under heat and pressure. If lignin is left in the pulp, the finished paper product is normally discoloured, as with newspaper, which is often made from ground wood pulp with minimal chemical treatment. The preparatory stages continued to take place on the historic mill site west of the river, in the central area of the yard.

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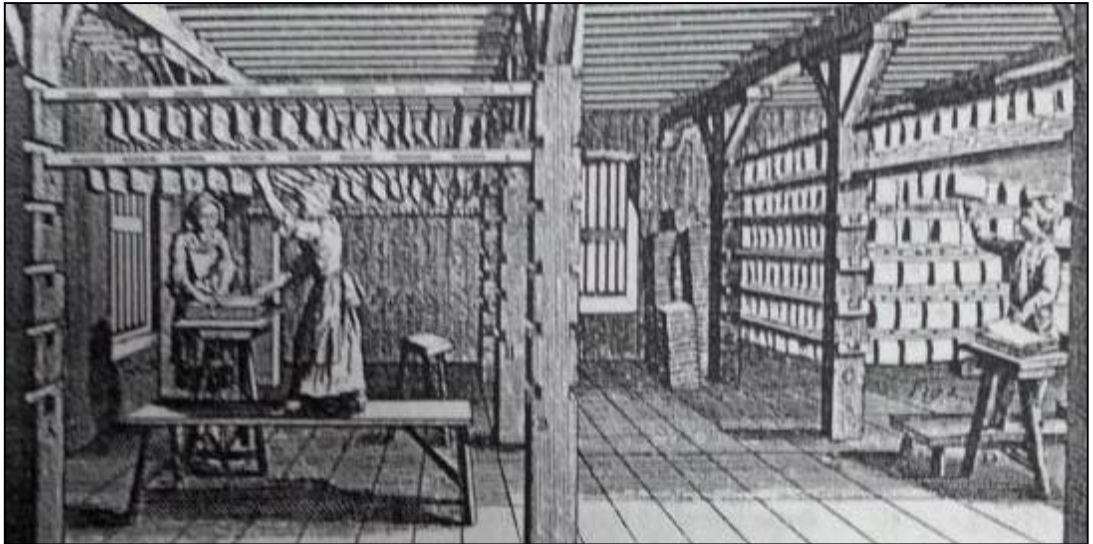
<sup>17</sup> [http://www.ipst.gatech.edu/amp/exhibits/museum\\_adv\\_machine.htm](http://www.ipst.gatech.edu/amp/exhibits/museum_adv_machine.htm) [Accessed 04/12/15].

### Making Paper

- A3.31 The pulp then needed to be shaped to make paper. Until about 1800, paper was made by hand in individual sheets; pulp slurry was stirred and poured into a fabric sieve (or sheet mould), and then pressed while still on the fabric to remove excess water before being hung to dry. The first paper machine was patented in 1799 by Frenchman Nicholas Louis Robert, but it did not prove successful. A successful version of this was eventually produced in Hertfordshire in 1803, commissioned by Henry and Sealy Fourdrinier. Rather than in individual sheets, the machine pressed pulp in a continuous reel onto a wire cloth. It was then transferred to a felt blanket and pressed again, before being cut into sheets and loft dried, the same way as handmade paper.
- A3.32 In 1809, this process was improved, and a new machine patented by John Dickinson. A cylinder covered in wire cloth was made to revolve in a pulp suspension, removing water through the centre of the cylinder. The layer of pulp which had accumulated was then removed by a felt roller. Again, the paper required drying afterwards. This machine was the forerunner of the modern *cylinder mould* or *vat machine*.
- A3.33 The Spring Grove paper mill had a paper machine by the time of its sale in 1855, as well as three 'rag engines' (another term for a beating machine). This paper machine was made by Messrs Dean of Bolton in 1854. In 1869, the mill had one paper machine, specified to be '80 inch' (referring to the width of paper produced, before cutting). From at least 1899, paper making machinery was housed in the block on the east bank of the river (built in 1897, HA4), and in 1900, Spring Grove's production had expanded to the use of two machines (one 98 inch, one 102 inch).
- A3.34 In 1955, a booklet produced by the firm describes that these two machines were still in use in the mill, but had been heavily modernised to produce imitation parchment and tissue paper, having become too slow for newsprint production. The same publication describes that, in 1955, the mill was powered by two Babcock and Wilcox Boilers, which generated electrical power and provided power for the preparatory machinery. In addition, the mill still made use of a small amount of power from what is described as 'a very old water turbine' (Sheffield Local Studies Library, MD1271S, 10th June, 1955).

### Drying

- A3.35 In early paper making (up until the mid-19th century), paper was repeatedly pressed and the sheets separated, to remove as much of the remaining water as possible. Finally, the sheets would be separated and would be hung to air-dry. This would occur in a specific 'drying loft' on the paper mill site. The 1855 advertisement for the sale of Spring Grove (Stamford Mercury, July 27, 1855) lists that the mill had a 'drying room', but gives no specific location of this. It is likely that this bore some resemblance to the example shown in Figure 12.



A drying loft in a paper mill, probably similar in form to that found in 19th century Spring Grove, before the process was mechanised (Schmoller, 1992).

A3.36 In 1821, TB Crompton developed a method for drying paper continuously, as a final stage in the mechanised production process, using a woven fabric to hold the sheet against steam heated drying cylinders. The paper would then be cut into sheets.

Sizing

A3.37 Once dried, the paper remained unsuitable for use with aqueous media such as ink or water colour - a coating process was required before use. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, this was undertaken by immersing the paper in a vat filled with a hot solution of gelatine and potash alum. This sizing agent worked by adhering to the substrate (paper) fibres, forming a film; its hydrophobic properties resulting in a smooth, water-repellent finish.

A3.38 It is not clear where this took place in the earlier years of Spring Grove, although there are reports that a large amount of finished paper was lost in the fire of 1870, suggesting this was stored in the central buildings (with much of the general processing phases). Later, in 1899, records suggest that much of the 'finishing' process was undertaken across the river (in the 1897 buildings on the east bank, **HA4**), so it is likely that this stage of manufacture was relocated to this part of the site.

Packaging and Dispatch

A3.39 Once these processes were complete, sheets of paper would be sorted into grades, counted into reams and quires (normally 25 sheets of the same size and quality). Packages would then be tied up with wrappers made out of 'vat bottoms' and other waste material.

A3.40 The finished product would then be stored, briefly, in the warehouse (**HA1**) -which still survives today - for efficient dispatch by road. While the railway siding was in use, it is likely that the location of the warehouse remained the same, as the track ran over the bridge (**HA6**) and reached right up to the south-east side of this building (see Fig. 6; plates 1 and 2).