

# PENDLE HERITAGE NEWS

AUTUMN 2008

50p



The Opening Ceremony of the Buildings of Pendle Exhibition: 9 Sept 2008  
(Left to right) Cllr Mrs S Derwent; Mayor of Pendle, Mrs Morgan, Mrs A McGeorge, Mayoress of Pendle and Mr Paul Simons.

(Bottom) Dr Ron Brunskill at the Opening Ceremony.

## A Precious Inheritance

“Concern for the community begins not in York Minster or Castle Howard, buildings so outstanding they are never going to be overlooked. It begins at street level, with the Victorian shop front. It begins with the beech tree at the end of the road. It begins with the barn in the next field. It begins by looking and seeing, and not taking for granted”.

*From An Appreciation of Settle by Alan Bennett, President of North Craven Building Preservation Trust*

One of the highlights of the Autumn was the Opening on 9 September of a new exhibition in the Heritage Centre about the traditional buildings of Pendle. The Trust was honoured to have Dr. Ron Brunskill, a leading authority and the author of many books on vernacular architecture to perform the ceremony in Park Hill Barn. On the following weekend the Trust took part in the national Heritage Open Day events, when over 2,000 visitors came to Higherford

Mill and St Mary's Church in Nelson, and also took the opportunity of special free access on Sunday 4 September to the Pendle Heritage Centre. This edition focuses on the ongoing work of improving the facilities at Pendle Heritage Centre and the new plans for Higherford Mill and for St Mary's Church in Nelson which will become a Centre for Traditional Building Craft Skills.

## Heritage Trust for the North West

# Buildings of Pendle Exhibition

The Friends of Pendle Heritage donated £5,000 towards the cost of the exhibition and also received an Awards for All Grant of £9,500 to acquire an interactive computer and pay for the research and scanning of the photographs of historic buildings in Pendle. Pendle Borough Council Tourism Unit contributed a further £4,000.

The Exhibition is housed in an upstairs room of Park Hill which is described in the inventory, on John Bannister's death in 1654, as "The Greater Chamber". In more recent times it has become known as the Green Room (the walls were painted green!). It has been closed to the public for several years and used as offices. With the move to Higherford Mill, the Trust had an opportunity to use the vacated space for an additional display area. The room has splendid views over the Walled Garden and the Park Hill Estate.



The Opening Ceremony in the Park Hill Barn, 9 Sept 2008.

The Buildings of Pendle Exhibition draws on material in the Trust's archives, and particularly that of the Collections of W J Smith and the late Nigel Morgan, both of whom have devoted a lifetime to the study and recording of traditional buildings. The Exhibition is also a record of the buildings saved and restored by the Trust since 1977, when Pendle Heritage Centre opened.



The Buildings of Pendle Exhibition.

## Heritage Open Days Weekend 2008



The weekend was a great success for Pendle, with around 3,500 visitors to the four sites open for the heritage open days. The Conservation Shop (2 Victoria St), St Mary's Church, Higherford Mill and Pendle Heritage Centre were all open, with special events at each. The "Made in Lancashire" food festival, with stalls selling local produce such as cheese, free range veal, pies, chocolates and fudge, was very popular. Angela White, the Operations Manager, said:

*"Many customers asked for the food festival to become a regular feature in our events calendar, which is definitely something we will be considering".*

If you are a local food producer, please register your interest for the next festival by calling the Heritage Centre (01282 661701).

The "Pendle witches' experience", held on the Saturday, was also popular with all places being booked several weeks in advance. Please register your interest for the next Pendle witches experience with Pendle Heritage Centre.

In the Whitefield Conservation Area, St Mary's Church had demonstrations of traditional building craft skills, given by Trapp Forge, Burnley College and Craven

College. Many people took part alongside the demonstrators, with children particularly enjoying the plaster moulding and lime rendering (see photos on page 3).

The Mayor of Pendle – Cllr Shelagh Derwent – visited St Mary's Church on Sat 13 Sept during Open Days events. She was particularly...

*"thrilled to see plans for St Mary's Church... ..it's good to hear that a new use and a very appropriate one has been found for St Mary's".*

Guided tours at Higherford Mill were also popular, with the added attraction of open artist studios showcasing and selling work created on the premises. For more information on forthcoming events please call the Heritage Centre T.I.C. on 01282 661701. The programme was supported by Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board.



'Made in Lancashire' Food stall in the Barn at Pendle Heritage Centre.



'Made in Lancashire' Food Festival. Sun 14 Sept.

# A new 'lease of life' for St Mary's Church, Nelson



Demonstration of lime pointing by Kevin Lambert.

The Trust used the occasion of the Opening of the Buildings of Pendle Exhibition, on 9 September, to announce that St Mary's Church, one of Pendle's best loved buildings, would be converted into a Centre for Traditional Building Skills. Speaking at the Opening, Mr Paul Simons, a member of the National Heritage Training Group and consultant to the Trust, said: "There is a huge shortage of traditional building craft skills to maintain national historic buildings. A Report, published by the National Heritage Training Group, indicated that there are around 5 million pre 1919 buildings (including half a million listed buildings) all of which are constructed using traditional building craft skills. However, of the 109,000 people employed on these buildings, only 33,000 were equipped with adequate skills to work with traditional buildings".

The new Centre will have conference and meeting rooms, exhibitions and research facilities where students of all ages, professional as well as amateur, can study and find out more about traditional building skills such as roofing, lime plastering, stone masonry and brickwork, carpentry and joinery, blacksmithing and stained glass. Information will be available to property owners on conservation methods, energy efficiency, and sustainability. Alongside these facilities there will be a shop, café, and information centre, and small offices to sublet.

The Trust will store its archive material in the undercroft. This Archive has grown considerably with the recent donation of over 70,000 slides, pictures, plans and documents of vernacular buildings in the North West.



Demonstration of stonemasonry by Kevin Lambert.



The Tower of St Mary's Church.



Adoration of the Magi - detail of one of the stained glass windows designed by Burne-Jones and manufactured by Morris & Co in 1919. This has been produced as a Christmas card and is on sale at Pendle Heritage Centre.



Demonstration of stonemasonry outside St Mary's Church by Kevin Lambert of Craven College, Skipton.



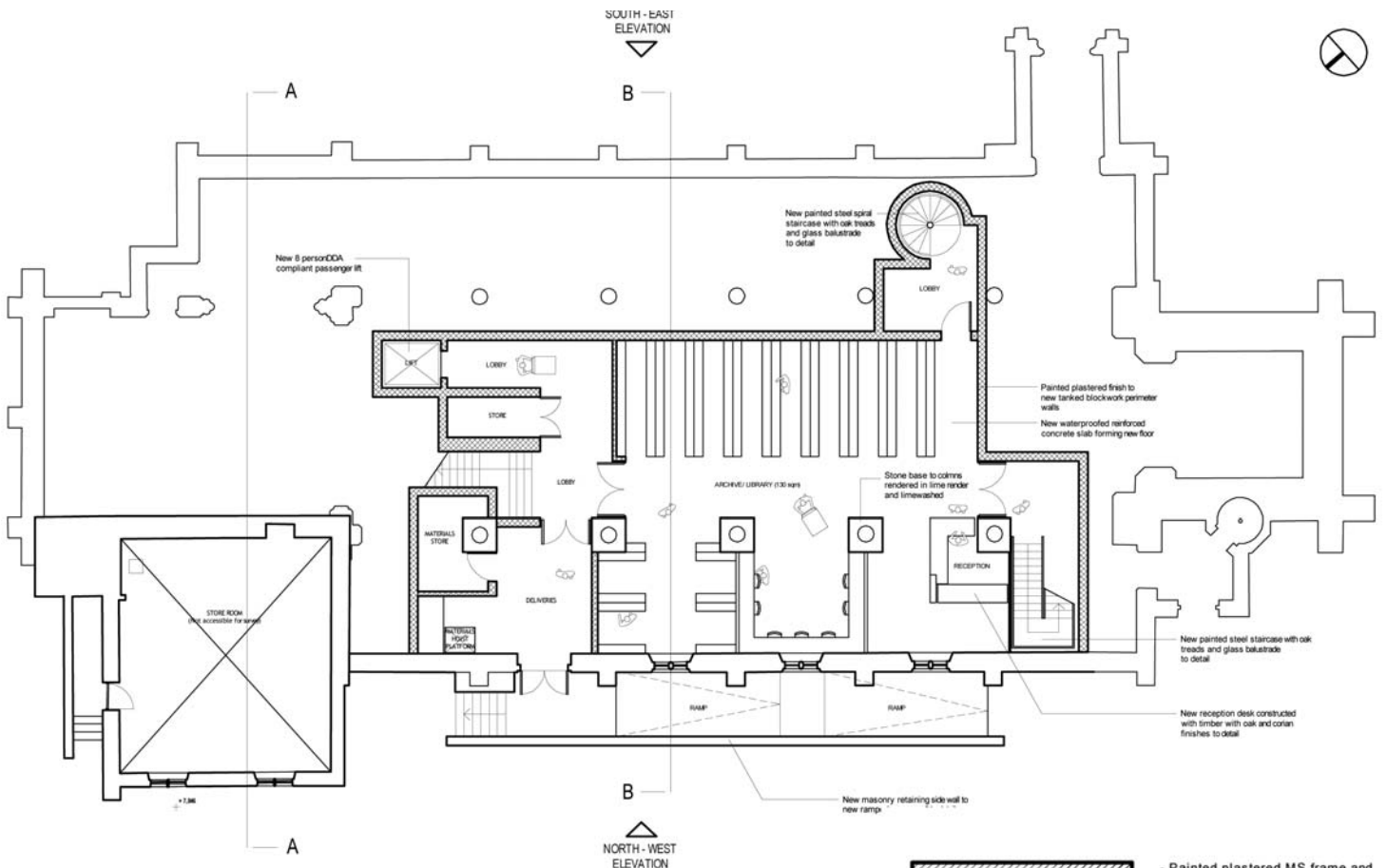
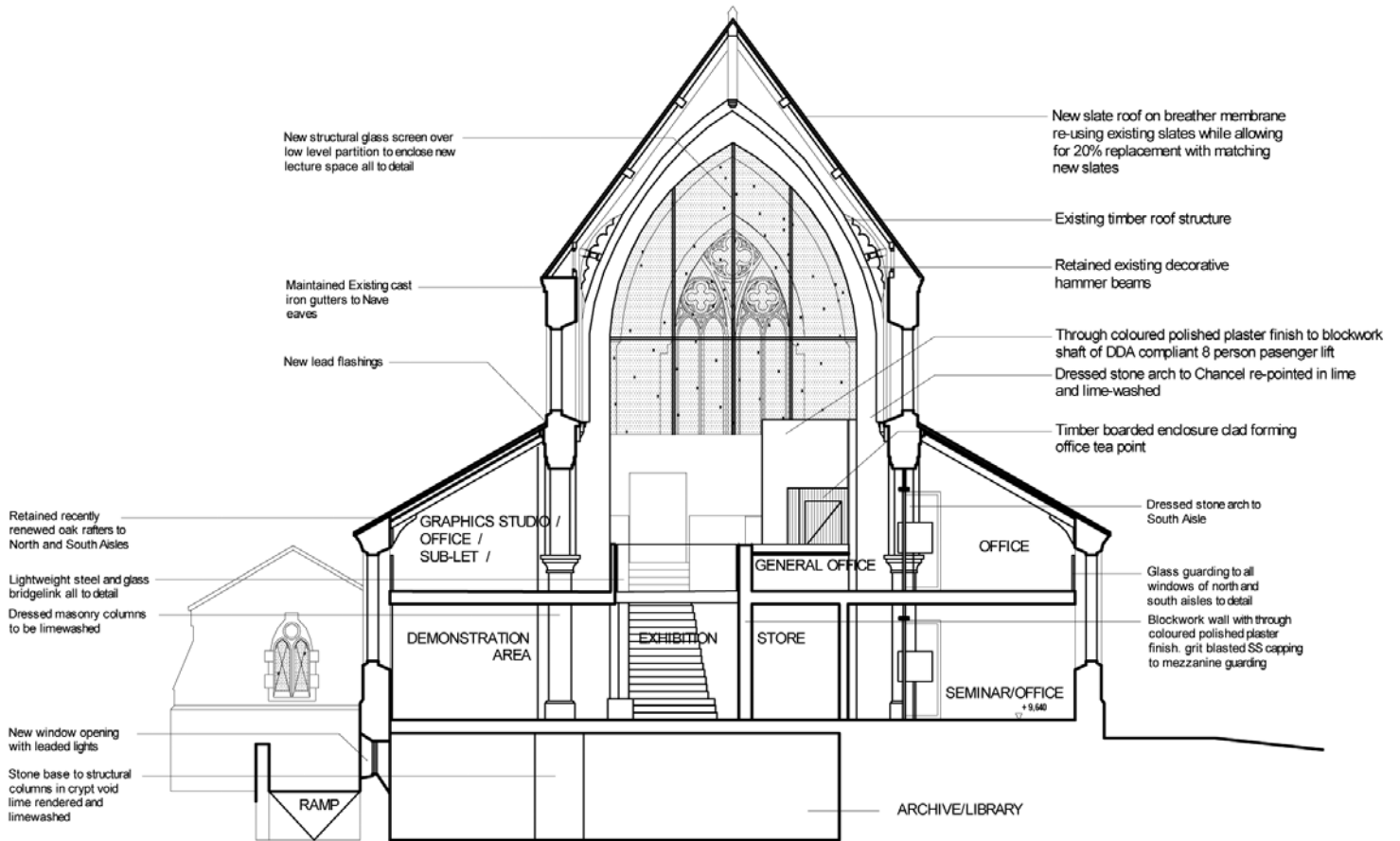
Demonstration of wrought iron work by Bill Carter of Trapp Forge, Padiham.

A planning application has been submitted to Pendle Borough Council and will be determined early in the New Year. There will be no alterations to the exterior. Inside, mezzanine floors, and sub divisions will be constructed to form meeting rooms, exhibition spaces and offices, but every effort will be made to retain a feeling of scale and open space, particularly at the west end where there is a huge stone arch framing the tracery window. Use will be made of the voids under the present floor of the nave to create further studio and archive areas. Access will be at the rear of the building, there will be lifts inside connecting all the floor areas.



Vehicle access will be through the two existing entrances with parking for up to 40 vehicles provided at the rear. The front part of the churchyard will be landscaped, and new trees planted.

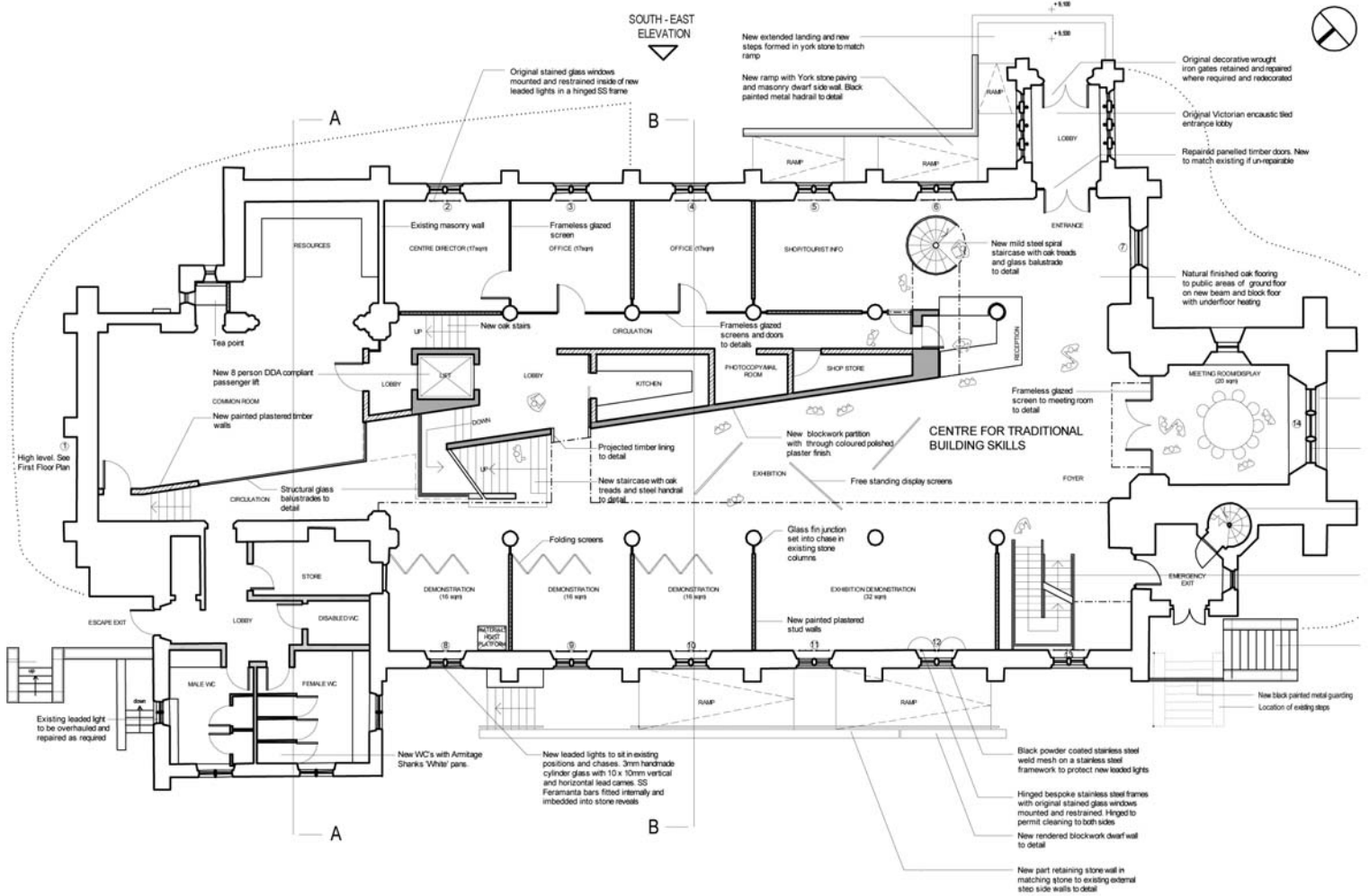
# Proposed Centre for Traditional Building Skills

Plans drawn by Purcell Miller Tritton 2008



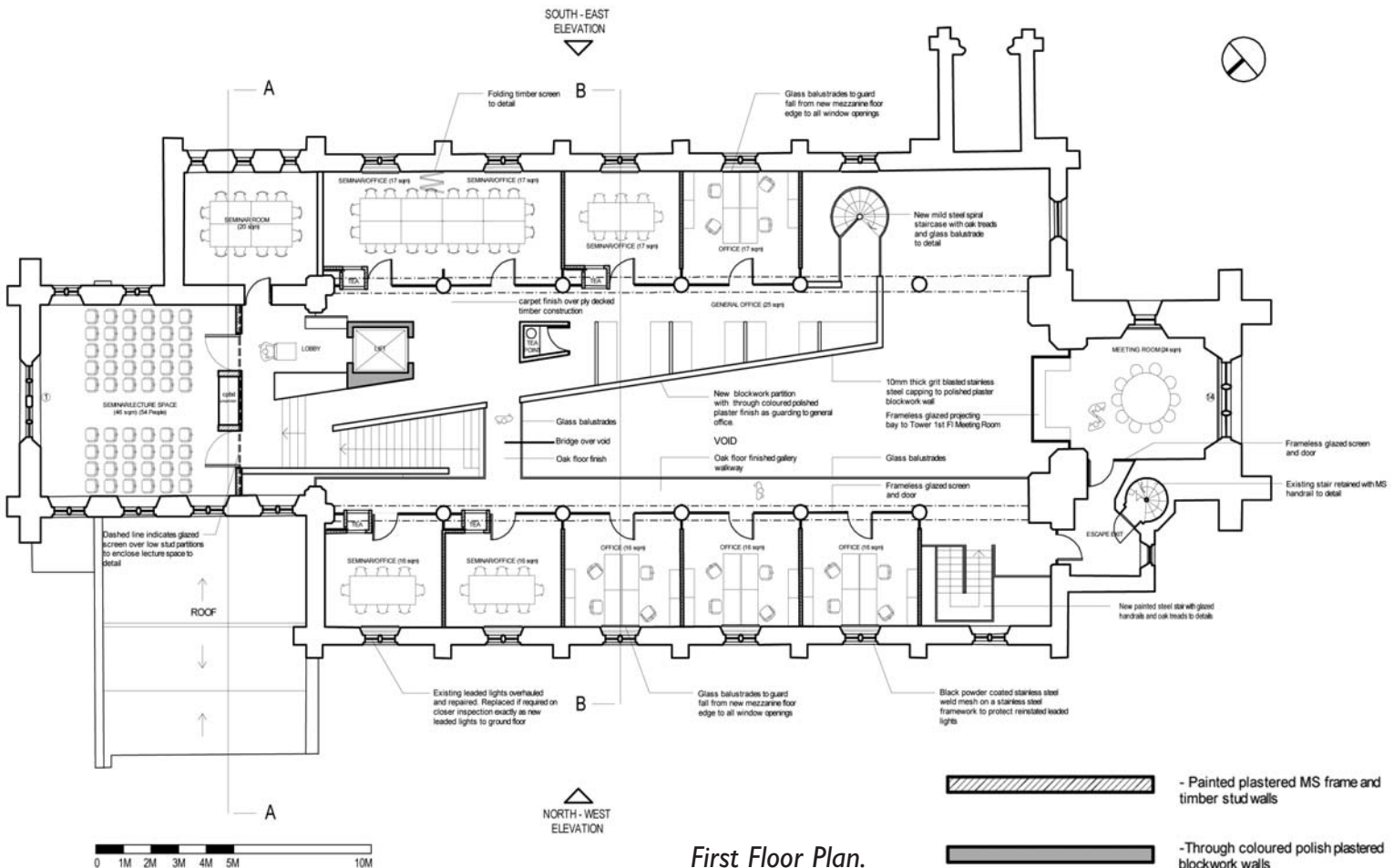
*Undercroft Plan.*

-  - Painted plastered MS frame and timber stud walls
-  - Through coloured polish plastered blockwork walls



Ground Floor Plan.

- Painted plastered MS frame and timber stud walls
- Through coloured polish plastered blockwork walls
- Painted plastered finish blockwork



First Floor Plan.

- Painted plastered MS frame and timber stud walls
- Through coloured polish plastered blockwork walls

# Higherford Mill

## The next phase of development



The square stone built Chimney at Higherford Mill is one of the earliest in Pendle, dated 1832. Later chimneys were built in brick and were usually round.

The Trust's first involvement was a battle, in 1984, to save the Mill Chimney (1832) from demolition. At a Public Inquiry the Inspector ruled that it should not be demolished. A decade later an application was made by the same owners to demolish the Mill and build 23 houses on the site. After a five year campaign, the Trust reached an agreement, in 2000, with the owner to purchase the Mill for £280,000. The building and site are now listed Grade II, and recognized as the landmark in the Higherford Conservation Area. It was the only building in the North West to feature in the BBC Restoration Programme in 2006.

The Trust is undertaking a phased programme of repairs, step by step bringing parts of the Mill into use as studios for artists and craftspeople. Some other tenanted businesses which the Trust inherited from the previous owner, still occupy the south weaving shed. To date £1 million has been spent on renovations.

### The next phase

This includes the conversion of the abandoned areas of the mill to provide additional visitor facilities, including an art gallery and educational resource centre. The restoration of the waterwheel and historic mill races will follow with major repairs to the South Shed. The cost is approximately £2 million.

### Progress to date

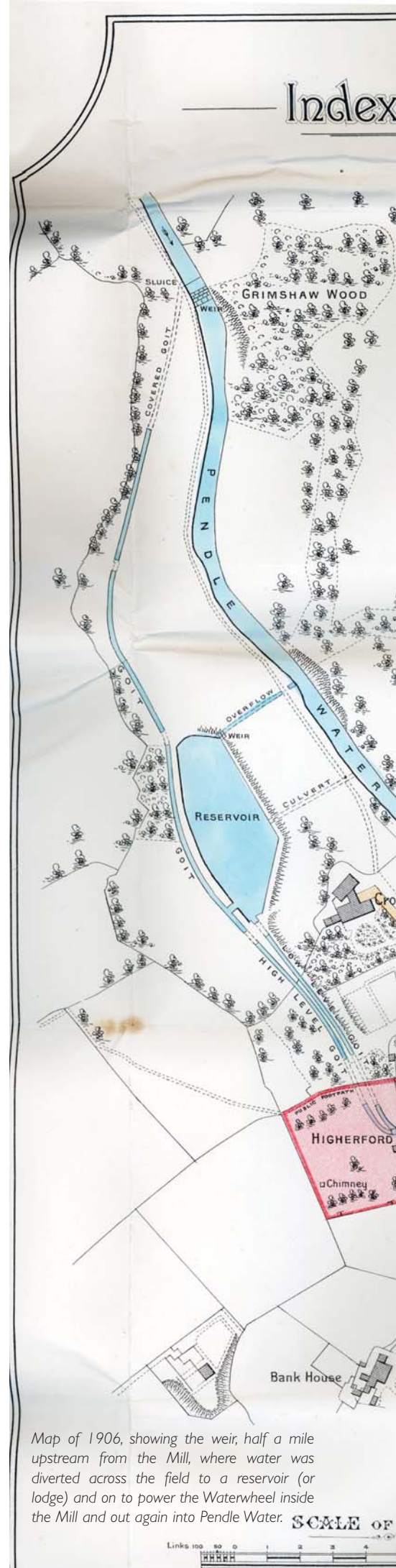
The Trust has commissioned Mann Power Consultants to produce a feasibility study on the viability of restoring the waterwheel, repairing the weir and cleaning the leats, which have silted up and partly collapsed, to allow water to flow again from the river through the Mill. They were responsible for restoring the waterwheel at Howsham Mill, nr York which featured in the BBC TV Village Restoration series two years ago, in competition with Higherford Mill.



The carved date on the Mill Chimney.

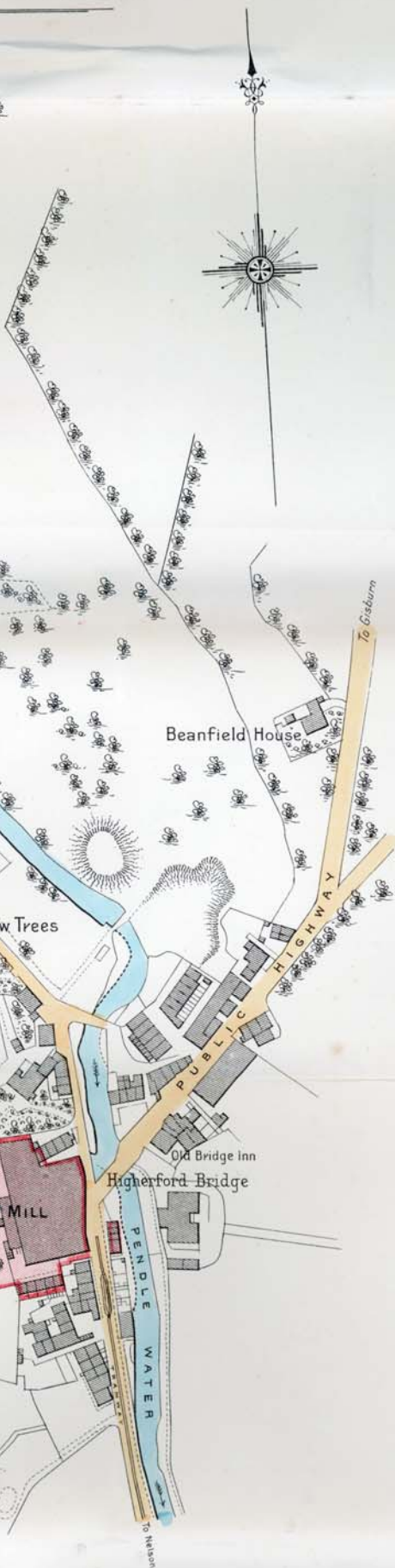


The 1824 datestone of the first mill on the site is incorporated into the wall of the South Weaving Shed in Paradise Street.

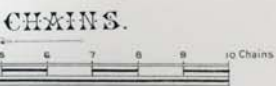


Map of 1906, showing the weir, half a mile upstream from the Mill, where water was diverted across the field to a reservoir (or lodge) and on to power the Waterwheel inside the Mill and out again into Pendle Water.

# Plan



Map donated by Mrs Whetton



Unfortunately the leat passes under land which no longer belongs to the Mill. The Mill pond, which is a common feature for mills in spate rivers with low flows such as Pendle Water, is shared by two different owners. However all the residents support our proposals and the Trust has obtained offers of voluntary support to help with the physical work of clearing the leats, and support in principle from the Environment Agency which is responsible for extraction of water from the river.

The Trust's Architect for Higherford Mill, Anthony Pilling, has investigated other measures to reduce carbon emissions. These include double glazing the north lights on the sheds, provision of solar panels discreetly installed on parts of the south facing shed roofs, and a rainwater harvesting tank beneath the forecourt.

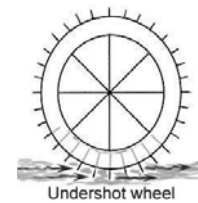
## Funding successes

The Trust was short listed from 20 entries for a prize of £500,000 by the Lancashire Environmental Fund to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Fund towards the cost of the work. In April 2008, representatives of the Trust were invited to present the scheme which involved reinstating the waterwheel and other energy saving initiatives. The prize was awarded to a community group to build a new village hall near

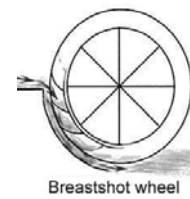
Lancaster; but the Panel was so impressed with the Trust's scheme that they offered a consolation prize (not originally in the competition) of £50,000.

Sarah Ravenscroft, our new Funding Manager, has secured two further grants. £14,959 from the Lancashire Locals Climate Fund, and £27,500 from the Heritage Tourism Initiative Scheme. These will help to pay for improvements to the facilities for visitors to the mill, including a reception/retail area and better signage to artists studios and workshops. This work will be completed by next Summer.

## Waterpower in Pendle



Water was a free source of power and was often used by mills in the Pennines during the Industrial Revolution.



Most early waterwheels were undershot as that arrangement was cheap and easy to install.



If more power was needed from limited supplies of water, other types of wheel were used. A breastshot wheel was used here.

Another type was the overshot wheel.



Architect's impression of the proposed new entrance and reception at the Mill.

# The King's Head, King St, Blackburn



The King's Head, a former Coaching Inn.  
Photograph: Blackburn Libraries, c1950.

Outside Pendle, the Trust has been involved over recent months with the restoration of the King's Head and the adjoining house, no. 3, Freckleton Street which formed part of a former coaching inn. Built in 1777, it is a Grade II Listed building in the King St Conservation Area, the Georgian quarter of Blackburn. In the mid 19th C. the property was acquired by Thwaites Brewery, who added a third storey to the building and new windows. Unfortunately this weakened the structure of an already flimsy brick building. In 1996, Thwaites sold the building as two separate properties. In 2002, the King's Head was gutted by fire, and the new owner (who wasn't insured) sought permission to demolish the building. No. 3, Freckleton Street was also damaged by the fire. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and English Heritage resisted the application on the grounds that it was not only a listed building, but in a prominent location at the entrance to a fine street of Georgian properties, and a gateway into Blackburn. The Council appealed to the Trust for help, and under a back-to-back deal, agreed to acquire the King's Head

for £25,000 and Freckleton Street for £10,000. It then passed both properties on to the Trust for £1 each.

The Council has subsequently offered grants to the Trust of approximately £400,000. The Trust's construction company (Conservation Services NW) tendered with others and, with the agreement of the Council, won the contract.

This has been a very complex project. The buildings were in a dangerous condition supported by scaffolding on a very busy road junction, with no land other than the public pavement. The roof of both properties had collapsed and water penetration over six years had done considerable damage to the internal fabric; access to inspect the property was impossible. Restoration work finally commenced in February this year. The internal walls have been rebuilt, and a new roof put on without demolishing any of the external walls. New chimney stacks were constructed. The work has progressed during the summer, and is now nearing completion.



The King's Head before restoration.



No. 3 Freckleton St. during restoration.

The trading company has made a small profit which will go to the Charity and help defray the costs of the Trust's contribution to the repairs. The King's Head will be let as offices, and no 3, Freckleton Street as a dwelling.



The King's Head and 3, Freckleton St. restoration near completion.

