

PENDLE HERITAGE NEWS

AUTUMN 2007

50p



- 1** | **2** | *1 Original stone door surround at Bridge Cottage, Nelson, 2 Re-instating traditional windows in 2 Victoria Street, Nelson,*
3 | **4** | *3 View of Pendle Hill and terraced houses, from 2 Victoria Street, Nelson ,*
4 Planning Day in Lomeshaye Weaving Sheds, Nelson organized by the Prince's Regeneration Trust.

This issue focuses on Whitefield, in Nelson, where the Heritage Trust for the North West has campaigned to save the terrace houses from demolition and where it has acquired, with the help of loans from the Architectural Heritage Fund, many of the key buildings. The Trust's first acquisition was Lomeshaye Bridge Mill, in 1998. It subsequently purchased Lomeshaye School and the Lomeshaye Weaving Sheds, and latterly St Mary's Church. It has also acquired several terrace properties, including 14 Maurice St, 2 & 14 Victoria St, and 158 Every St. The latest acquisition is Bridge Cottage (close by the canal, opposite Lomeshaye Bridge Mill) which was the house for the Coachman for the Ecroyd family who lived nearby at Lomeshaye House, and were responsible for building the 'model' village. All these buildings will be open during the Heritage Open Days from 6 - 9 Sept 2007.

Heritage Trust for the North West

Message from the Mayor of Pendle

Here in Pendle I always feel proud and fortunate to live in this wonderful part of the country. Overlooked by Pendle Hill, which rises above the ancient hunting grounds of the Forest of Bowland, and with the tiny hamlets and farms, which played a part in the true story of the Pendle Witches.

In the 21st century, Boundary Mill in Colne brings millions of visitors to our area to enjoy the special shopping experience. So, we are looking to encourage them to stay a little longer and sample our many excellent attractions. A Pendle visitor centre is to be built at their new site at the end of the M65. It will showcase our many and varied amenities, our charming heritage, our innovative businesses, our attractive countryside, our wonderful Leeds & Liverpool canal and our numerous interesting walks.

As part of my effort to promote walking in Pendle, I have invited everyone to join me in walking the Pendle Way. Starting and finishing at Pendle Heritage Centre, the walk goes through all parts of the borough and is a total of 45 miles long. We are walking this weekly in 8 sections and are due to complete the walk by September 11th. In my hometown of Barnoldswick, I was also very pleased to launch the new Steam & Stream trail, which highlights the town's fascinating heritage.

The successful Pendle Walking Festival is also due to start from the Pendle Heritage Centre on Friday, August 31st. It offers opportunities to participate in over 40 walks of varying distance over a 4-day period. All of the walks are free and guided by volunteers. I shall be doing my bit again by leading the Beating the Bounds walk, a circular walk around the ancient boundaries of Barnoldswick, on Sunday 2nd September.

As the newly elected mayor, I promised that I would also do my utmost to promote tourism throughout Pendle. So I am really pleased that the Pendle Heritage Centre is attracting yet more visitors to our area by providing Heritage Open days in Pendle with vintage bus tours, and that I shall be helping with guided tours of our Town Halls.

So why not come and join us and discover the 'hidden gem' of Pendle?

For more information please click on www.pendle.gov.uk

Coun. Allan Buck
Mayor of the Borough of Pendle

Heritage Open Days

The aim of the Open Days is to open buildings of historic importance which are not normally open to the general visitor, and to open them free. The programme for Pendle, 'Churches, Chapels, Museums, Mills', includes a number of themed tours by vintage coach and reaches out across the Borough. Each tour will be guided by someone with knowledge of the buildings and context and will show just how rich and diverse the architecture of Pendle is and the importance of conserving it. As well as opening the Trust's own buildings such as St Mary's, Lomeshaye Bridge Mill, Higherford Mill, the programme also includes Bancroft Mill in Barnoldswick and the recently revamped Yorkshire Dales Mining Museum in Earby. A key part is Pendle Borough Council's restoration project Stream and Steam in Barnoldswick, which introduces visitors to parts of the town's history hitherto unknown.

The Trust is also including places of worship, historic churches and chapels of various denominations, across the Borough. The programme and promotional literature has received generous financial support from Pendle Borough Council and the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board.



The Mayor with the Mayoress of Pendle and Cllr Sonia Robinson (on Mayoress' right) leaves Pendle Heritage Centre on 24 July 2007, on the first of his Tuesday walks.

The Whitefield Conservation Area, Nelson

Whitefield features prominently in the newsletter, not just because of the many Trust's initiatives, but because it is a very special area and has achieved a national-level profile and become the focus of many of the key issues of conservation, following the two public enquiries in 2002 and 2003. Unlike other industrial communities in East Lancashire, it remains an intact model village, and a rare example of late 19th Century industrial development. Even the original plans survive for each house. In 2004 this was recognized by the designation of the whole of Whitefield as a Conservation Area.

In a recent strategy review, the National Trust decided in future to concentrate less on the large country houses and put more emphasis on the homes of ordinary people, and has as a consequence been acquiring domestic properties in Birmingham and Liverpool, and a workhouse in Worksop. In Whitefield, the terrace houses and corner shops together with the surrounding mills, the school, and St Mary's Church, tell the story of everyday lives of an industrial community. Whilst the Trust does not want to fossilize the community, it does want to see the area's characteristics respected.

The importance of the area has been further recognized by numerous official visits, including two visits from HRH The Prince of Wales in 2003 and 2005, the Commissioners of English Heritage in 2006 and, most recently, 50 members of the Ancient Monuments Society came after their AGM at Stonyhurst College, in July of this year.

Stream & Steam by Rosemary Lyons, Conservation Officer, Pendle Borough Council

The Stream & Steam initiative was a four year heritage based scheme which has been carried out in Barnoldswick by Pendle Borough Council. It had two principal components:

1 The Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS)

The scheme offered grants for the repair and enhancement of historic buildings and structures within the designated conservation areas of Barnoldswick. This was the core of the project funded by three partners, English Heritage, Lancashire Economic Partnership through the NWDA supported Lancashire Regional Park Programme, and Pendle Council.

The types of improvement work have varied, but they have all enhanced the character of the conservation areas. The Corn Mill is a focal point of the trail. A major scheme of repairs secured the future of the mill and permitted the upper floors to be used. Inappropriate modern additions were removed, new timber windows installed, and the exterior repointed in lime mortar.



The Corn Mill (before restoration).



(After restoration)

Improvements throughout the conservation areas included the repointing of buildings, the installation of traditional timber windows, the relaying of stone cobbles and the reinstatement of traditional shopfronts.



The reinstatement of cobbles and improvement work to cottages (before and after).

2 The Heritage Trail

The heritage trail was a natural follow on from the regeneration, to encourage visitors and residents to trace the origins and industrial past of Barnoldswick. Carefully sited information boards punctuate the route supported by a trail leaflet to provide background history of the buildings and sites. The creation of the trail triggered many footpath improvements, including landscaping and tree-planting. It also leads people through interesting but once unvisited or unloved parts of the town, revealing its rich industrial and social heritage. The Trail starts high up in the car park at Letcliffe Park, with panoramic views from above the town, and ends in Victory Park with its more recent Rolls Royce

heritage of world famous engines, the R.B.III.

The 'Stream' part of the Trail title highlights the importance of water to the mills as a source of power, with the pathway following the streams as they criss-cross the town, or are diverted into mill lodges.

Highlights along the way include:

- Gillians: one of the earliest former water-powered mills of 1790.
- Bancroft Mill: housing the original working steam engine.

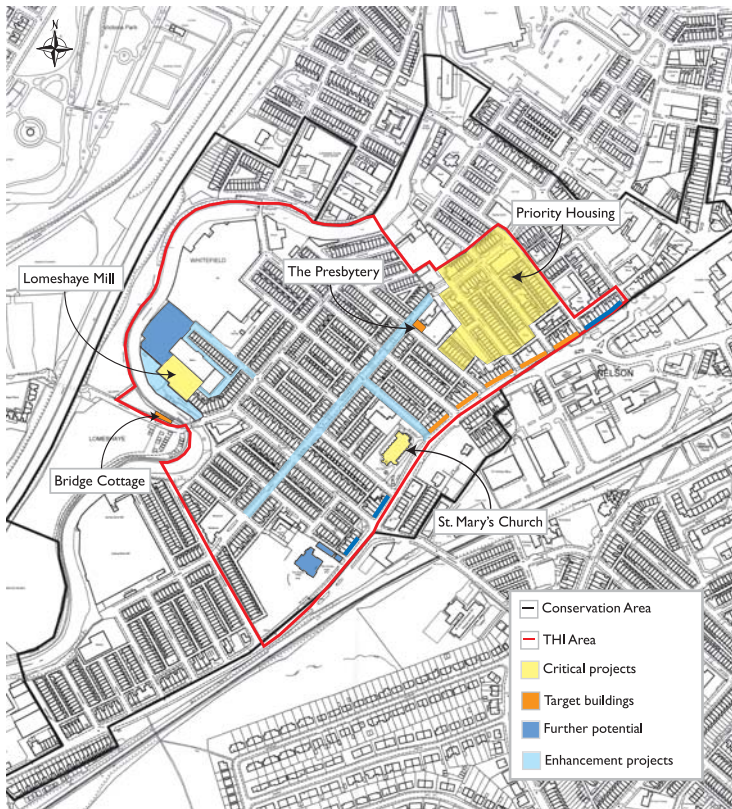


- The site of the former Clough Mill: the first steam powered mill in Barnoldswick.
- The imposing Independent Methodist Church on Walmsgate.
- The impressive Corn Mill which is the site of a mill built in 1582.
- The modern day industrial power of Barnoldswick - the extensive Rolls Royce factories.

Free trail guides are available from Barnoldswick and Pendle Tourist Information Centres, Tel: 01282 666704 and 01282 661701.



The Whitefield Conservation Area, Nelson



Map showing the boundaries of the Whitefield Conservation Area and the area eligible for funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

The establishment of the Whitefield Conservation Area in 2004 marked the culmination of a long battle to safeguard one of the last intact examples of an entire workers' model village from Pendle's 19th century industrial past. The importance of such areas is described by English Heritage in the publication 'What is a Conservation Area':

"Conservation areas vary greatly in their nature and character. They range from the centres of our historic towns and cities, through fishing and mining villages, 18th and 19th century suburbs, model housing estates, and country houses set in their historic parks, to historic transport links and their environs, such as stretches of canal.

The special character of these areas does not come from the quality of their buildings alone. The historic layout of roads, paths and boundaries; characteristic building and paving materials; a particular 'mix' of building uses; public and private spaces, such as gardens, parks and greens; and trees and street furniture, which contribute to particular views – all these and more make up the familiar local scene. Conservation areas give broader protection than listing individual buildings: all the features, listed or otherwise, within the area, are recognized as part of its character."

The first Conservation Areas were created in 1967 and there are now over 8,000 in the UK. Of the 26 Conservation Areas in Pendle, Whitefield is recognized as being the most outstanding.

Whitefield demonstrates a development of architectural styles from the early cottage terraces to the later, more elaborate terraced houses with richer decorative embellishments. Some had small gardens to the front with stylish railings and gates; all had private rear yards with outbuildings and privies. There were numerous corner shops, still identifiable by their larger windows and doors, which would have made the area self-sufficient – work, habitation, worship, education and recreation in the open landscape beyond. Through Whitefield runs the other key component of its development – the canal, providing transport for raw materials and finished goods.



Aerial view of the Conservation Area © English Heritage.

'Article 4' – Protecting the character of the Whitefield Conservation Area

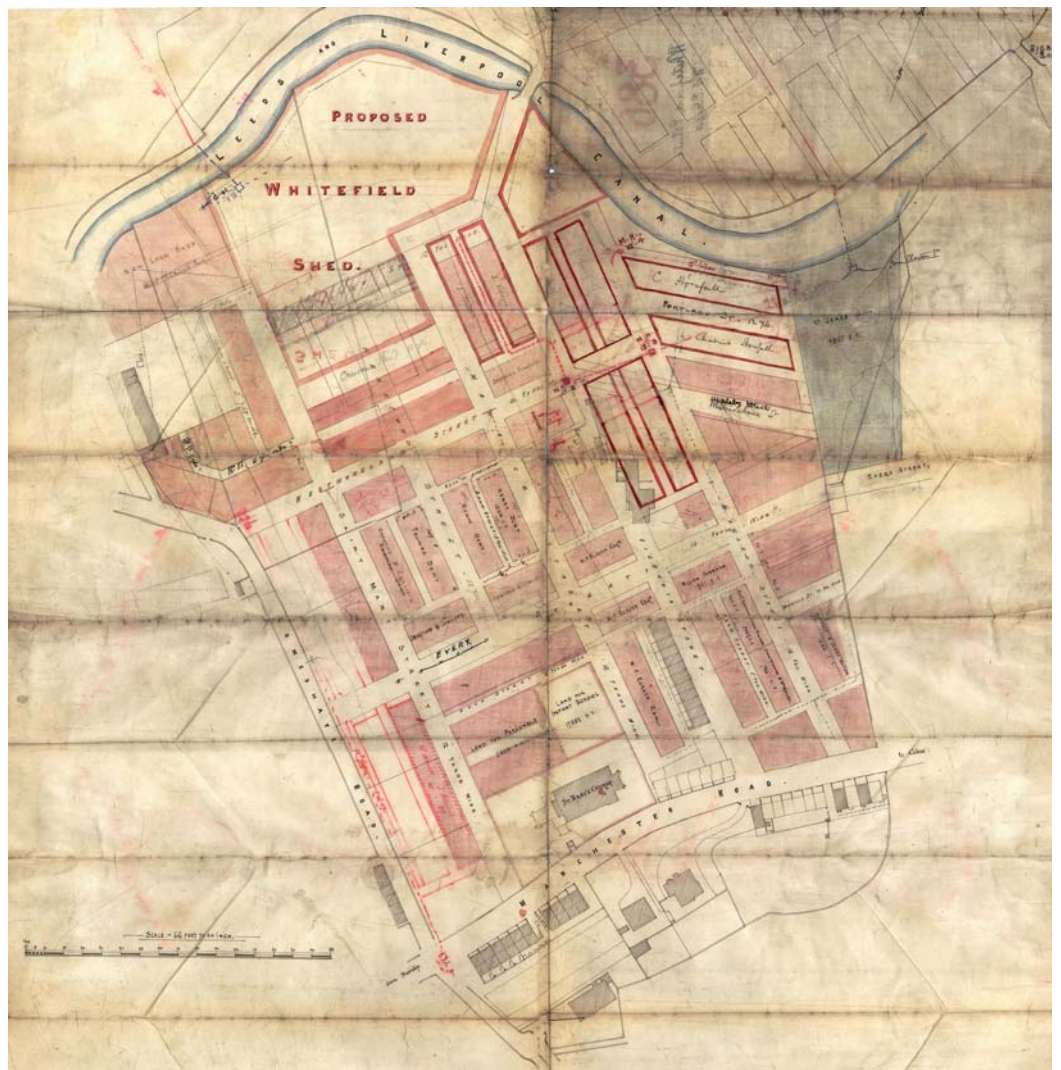
Recently Pendle Borough Council has undertaken the group repair of properties in the vicinity of St Mary's Church. The scheme has improved the quality and appearance of individual houses and the terraced rows. Homes have been restored to their original appearance with traditional timber sash windows, front doors and chimney pots. Rear extensions and boundary walls have also been repaired.

An Article 4 Direction has been applied to the group-repaired houses in order to protect the restoration work. This will not necessarily stop changes taking place, but will bring any proposed change under

planning control, requiring residents to apply for planning permission. This will ensure that any changes proposed are carried out in an appropriate way so as to improve the local area and protect the historic character of Whitefield. The aim is to encourage good quality design that will enhance the Conservation Area. In addition, exercising greater care in the way in which houses are altered protects and enhances property values and makes houses more marketable.

Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

The Heritage Lottery Fund, through its Townscape Heritage Scheme (THI), has awarded a grant of £2 million towards the repairs of buildings within the Whitefield Conservation Area. Both St Mary's Church and Lomeshaye Bridge Mill are considered critical buildings eligible for funding.



Estate Map of Lomeshaye showing the plan for a model village laid out in 1880 by William Ecroyd, owner of Lomeshaye Bridge Mill, who lived close by at Lomeshaye House (see map p7). There are clear similarities between Lomeshaye and Saltaire, near Bradford. Saltaire has been fully restored and is now a World Heritage Site.

The Whitefield Conservation Shop

No 2 Victoria St. (a former tobacconist) was acquired by the Trust in 1999. A typical corner shop, these were usually built at the end of terraces at the junction of two roads to catch trade from both directions, and were generally larger than the adjacent houses. Plans indicate that only the front room was used as the shop, the back room being used as a living room in which the family cooked, sometimes (as at 2 Victoria St) supplemented by a scullery outshut, or a two storey extension.

The Trust's own construction company 'Conservation Services NW' has restored and adapted it to form a Conservation Shop, which will provide information and advice for those involved in the restoration of property, particularly in Whitefield. Modern fixtures and fittings have been incorporated to comply with building regulations, and designed to show how old buildings can be adapted for new uses and still retain their character. The shop will be open during the Heritage Open Days Thurs 6 to Sun 9 Sept 07.



No. 2 Victoria St, before and after restoration.

The David Knightly Charitable Trust has given the project a 'Pride of Place Award' with a grant of £6,000 towards the refurbishment.

The Whitefield Conservation Action Group has contributed to the cost of the exhibition through an 'Awards for All' Lottery grant.

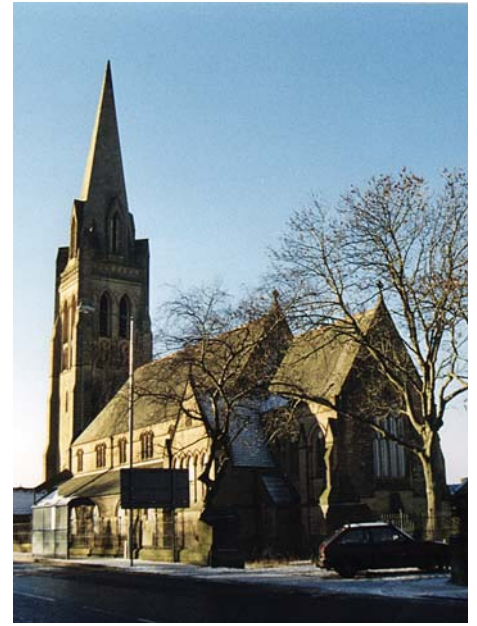
St Mary's Church, Nelson

St Mary's Church was built by the Ecroyd family who provided a substantial amount of the funding with the balance being raised by public subscription. It was constructed in two phases between 1877 and 1907; designed by the Burnley architects Waddington and Dunkerley, it also contained outstanding windows by the artist Edward Burne-Jones and manufactured by the famous William Morris and Co from London. Some of the windows were the last commission before the firm ceased trading in 1939.

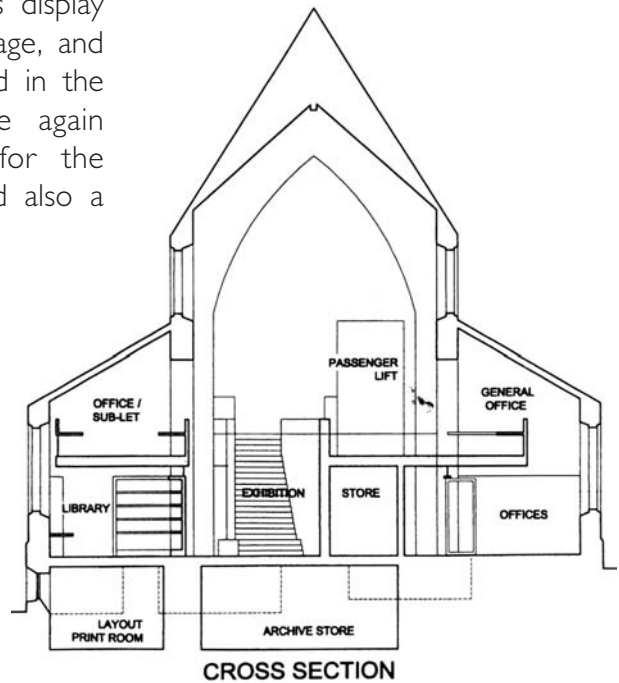
The Church was declared redundant in 1989 and sold to a private developer, who, in 1996, was refused permission to demolish the building. It was at this point that Pendle Borough Council approached the Trust to suggest alternative uses for the Church, and this led in 2000 to the Trust acquiring the building. Since then the Trust has carried out urgent structural repairs at a cost of £250,000, funded by the Trust's own resources and substantial support from English Heritage and Pendle Borough Council, and the Architectural Heritage Fund.

It is always difficult to find new uses for redundant Churches. The preferred scheme originally was offices for the Trust, but these have now been located at Higherford Mill, another Trust property. There was a long debate about St Mary's becoming a new Community Centre, but it has been agreed that this be located in the Town Centre.

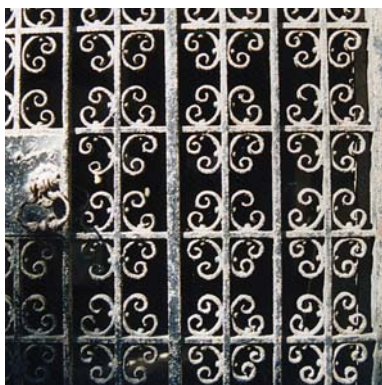
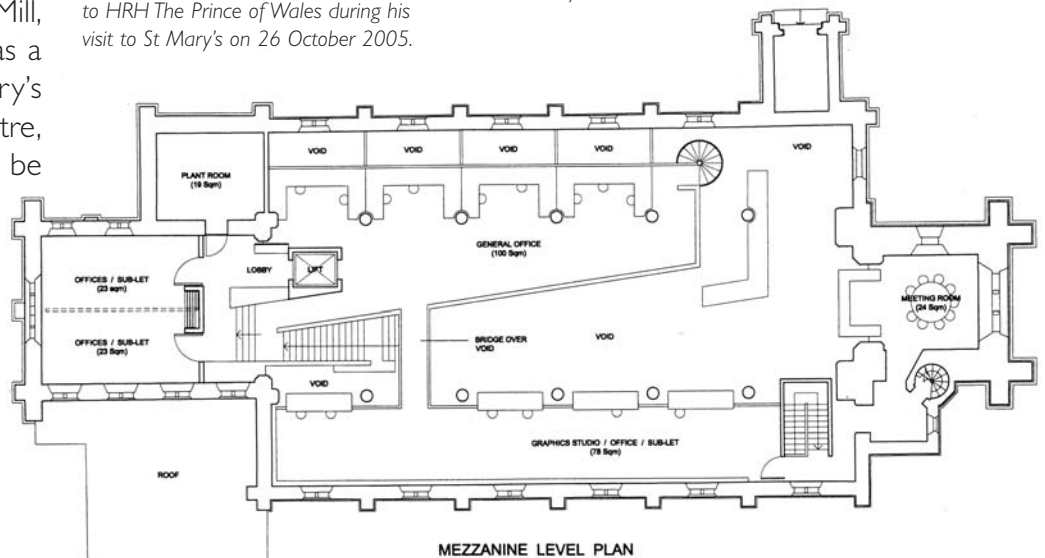
A proposal has been put forward by the Trust in partnership with Elevate East Lancashire, English Heritage and the CITB Construction Skills Board to establish a Centre for Traditional Building Craft Skills, and St Mary's Church is considered to be the ideal location. Initially it was proposed to locate the Centre in the Whitefield Weaving Sheds (also owned by the Trust) adjacent to Lomeshaye Bridge Mill, but there is not adequate space there for all the activities that will be required. Instead the messy activities connected with training will take place in the Weaving Sheds, with all the other facilities such as display areas, offices, archival storage, and study areas will be located in the Church, which will once again become a focal point for the Whitefield Community and also a visitor attraction.



Henry Owen-John, Regional Director, English Heritage, presenting a copy of a booklet on guidelines for repairs to buildings in Conservation Areas to HRH The Prince of Wales during his visit to St Mary's on 26 October 2005.



St Mary's Church, Nelson, development proposals by Purcell Miller Tritton



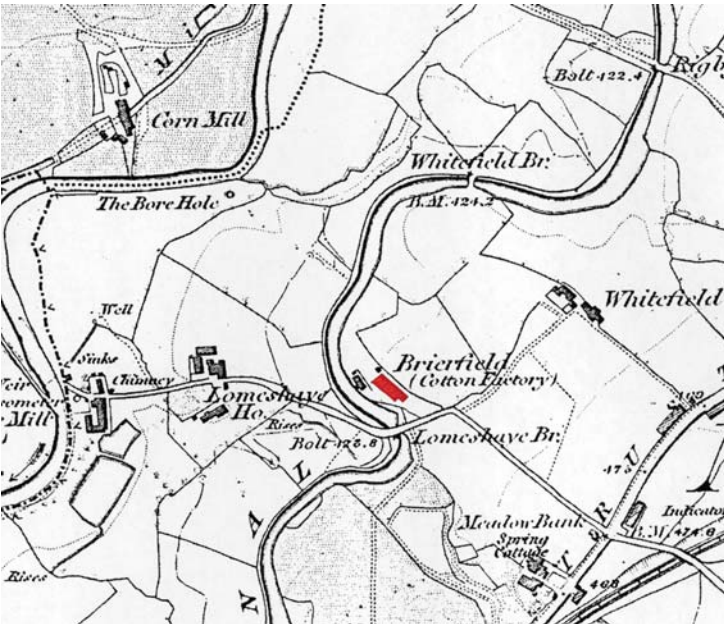
The wrought iron gates to St Mary's Church.

Lomeshaye Bridge Mill, Nelson

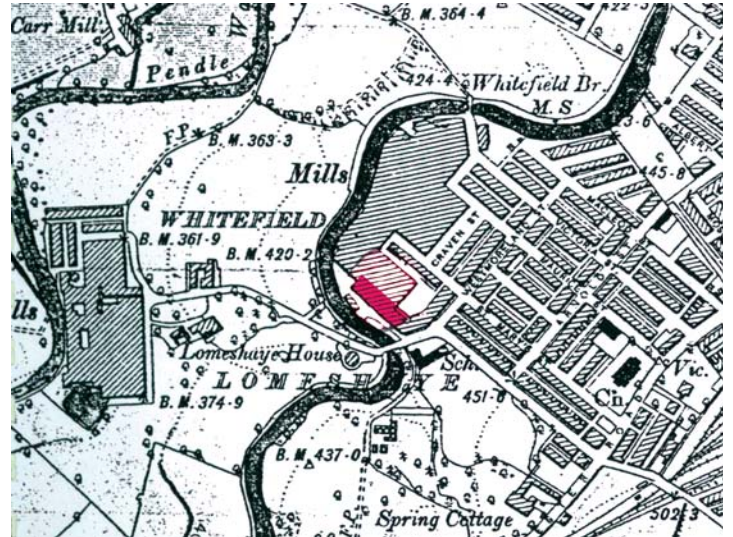


Lomeshaye Bridge Mill, purchased by the Trust in 1998, was the Trust's first acquisition in Nelson. This 4 storey mill was also the first industrial building to be erected in this part of the town and predates all the housing (see maps below). Initially it was a 2 storey steam powered cotton spinning mill and this part is dated 1841. In 1899, a two further storeys and the adjoining weaving sheds were added, reflecting that from the mid 19th Century, Nelson developed as a weaving town, with spinning concentrated in Manchester and Bolton.

The Prince of Wales' Regeneration Trust has adopted the Mill as an exemplar regeneration through heritage project, and led efforts to find a suitable sustainable new use. Plans have been prepared by Purcell Miller Tritton, Architects to convert and restore the Mill into 16 workspaces for the creative industries. Planning permission was granted in March 2007. Already £1.1 million has been raised towards the total cost of £1.8 million.



In 1848 Whitefield was still a farming community. Lomeshaye Bridge Mill was one of the first industrial buildings. It was known then as Brierfield Cotton Factory.



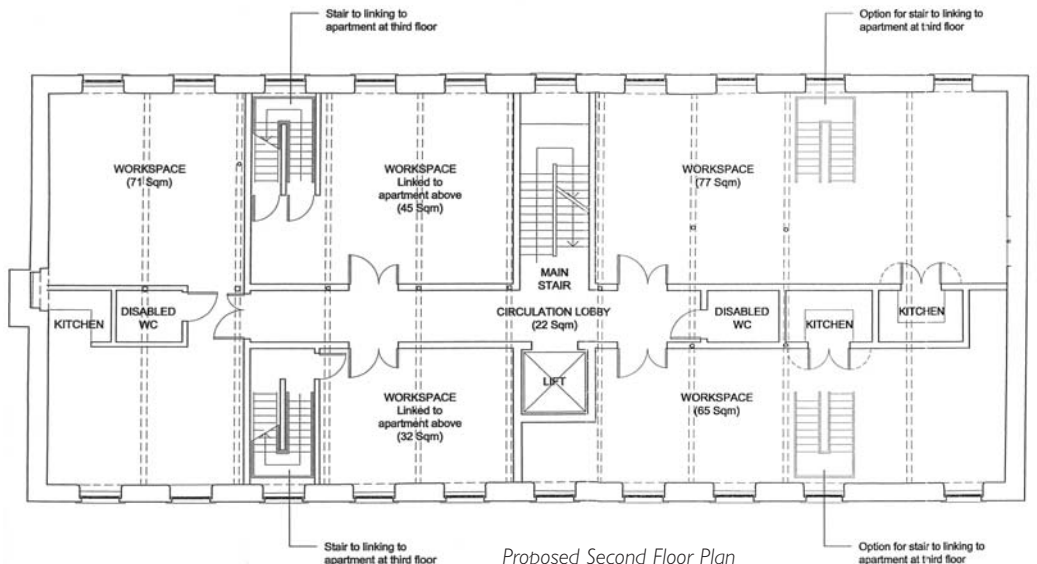
Between 1848 and 1895 the area around Lomeshaye Bridge Mill was surrounded by other mills and Weavers' Cottages.



View from the Top Floor Lomeshaye Bridge Mill looking towards St Mary's Church



Planning Day organized by the Prince's Regeneration Trust



Proposed Second Floor Plan of Lomeshaye Bridge Mill

Park Hill Barn 1907 - 2007



Park Hill Barn (now the Conference Centre at Pendle Heritage Centre) was built during the late 17th Century, but there were a number of alterations and additions during subsequent centuries. The last alteration (before the Trust converted the building in 1999) was the re-roofing. An inscription on one of the roof trusses commemorates that the repairs were completed exactly a century ago on June 21 1907.

2007/8 is the 30th Anniversary of the formal opening of Park Hill as a Heritage Centre. The next edition of Pendle Heritage News will commemorate this important landmark. As well as looking back at what has been achieved in this period, the Trust will look ahead at the direction of the Centre for the next 30 years.

Heritage Open Days Diary

Thurs 6 Sept

10am - 4pm
10am - 4pm
2pm
11am & 2pm

Vintage Bus Tour I: Churches & Chapels
East Lancashire Towel Company Open Day
Stream & Steam Guided Tours
Tours of Higherford Mill

Fri 7 Sept

10am - 4pm
10am, 1pm & 3pm
11am & 2pm

Vintage Bus Tour II: Churches & Chapels
Tours of Colne Town Hall
Tours of Higherford Mill

Sat 8 Sept

10am - 4pm
11am & 2pm
10am, 1pm & 3pm
10am, 1pm & 3pm
11am & 2pm
2pm
11am - 3pm

Vintage Bus Tour III: Mystery Tour of Historic Buildings
Tours of Whitefield Conservation Area
Tours of Nelson Town Hall
Tours of Colne Town Hall
Tours of Higherford Mill
Tacklers' Trail Guided Tour
Archaeological Excavation at Wycoller

Sun 9 Sept

10am - 4pm
11am & 2pm
11am & 2pm
10am, 1pm & 3pm
1pm & 4.30pm
10am - 5pm

Vintage Bus Tour IV: Industrial Heritage
Tours of Whitefield Conservation Area
Tours of Higherford Mill
Tours of Nelson Town Hall
Steaming Day at Bancroft Mill, Barnoldswick
Pendle Heritage Centre FREE ADMISSION



Heritage Open Days is a national event organised by the Civic Trust, and has been held over four days each September since 1994. Heritage Trust for the North West has organised this programme with support from Pendle Borough Council, the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board and the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

Heritage Trust for the North West is a registered Building Preservation Trust supported by the Architectural Heritage Fund. The Trust carries out restoration of historic buildings at risk throughout the north west.

If you would like more information about things to see and do in Pendle, as well as places to stay in the area please contact Pendle's Tourist Information Centres on 01282 661701 or 666704 or email: tourism@pendle.gov.uk

