

Main Contract

HPR have cleared all the dead ivy away from the exterior of the building, and have started to remove old mortar which is in need of replacement ready for re-pointing. They have also dammed the end of the tail race with sand bags to prevent backwash of water up from the river while they clear out the silt and debris that has accumulated in it since 1991. The scaffolders are back, extending the scaffold structure round the gable end of the barn (soon to become the bakery) and building the access platform to get to the second tier of welfare cabins and offices.



Figure 1 Cofferdam in place to prevent back flow of water from the river into the tailrace



Figure 2 Section of wall with old mortar removed ready for re-pointing

The millwrights have also been on site, finishing off the fitting of the control gate, which directs water into the wheel, and shuts it off again. They have also returned two cleaned and refurbished millstone casings, with food safety compliant aluminium linings ready for use on the two sets of stones we will be milling with.



Figure 3 refurbished tuns

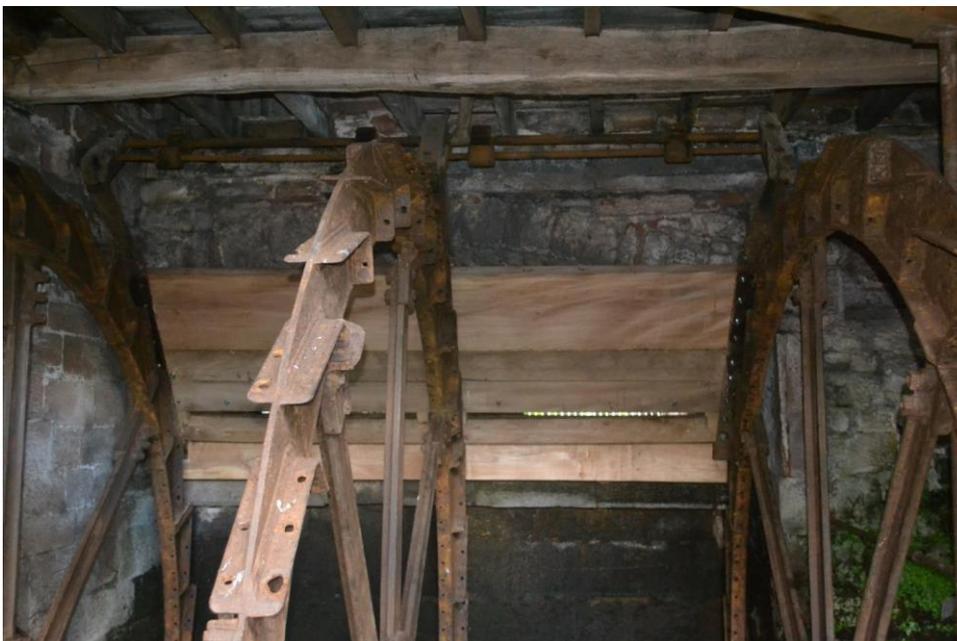


Figure 4 Control gate insitu in wheel pit

HPR have cleared the vegetation, silt and debris from the tail race and the culvert that takes water away from the wheel. During which we have uncovered a set of old sandstone steps leading down into the tail race from an access gap in the wall that has been blocked at some point. The bottom one of these steps was in fact an old millstone, but it is in two pieces. They have also installed more site protection, temporary electricity supplies and have prepared pointing samples for inspection by

MGA. Woodworm surveys have been undertaken to determine the extent of treatment required to ensure that any active infestation is prevented from spreading further.



Figure 5 cleaning stonework in tailrace

HPR have dug out the sand and silt that was bunging up the headrace leading down to the waterwheel, finding several small glass objects in the process, and using the excavated silt to reshape/landscape the garden. They have begun removing the barn floor ready for repair and replacement and started to re point the stonework in the headrace, and the tunnel leading to the control gate ready for it to function carrying water into the mill. The Large electric Motor has been removed from the tower on the side of the mill, and the wooden floor removed ready for replacement joists to be installed.



Figure 6 Large electric motor moved from tower and protected

New stone has now been delivered which will be used on repairs to the tailrace and various parts of the building. The stone flags in the store have been lifted in readiness for plumbing in the water, electric and waste pipes for the new lavatories. Although the stonework in the tail race was in poorer condition than expected, and some stone has deteriorated to the point where it will need to be replaced, the headrace has fared better, mainly requiring only re-pointing. They have also cleared the wall on the top loading docks of ivy, and prepared a lot more of the north wall for re-pointing. Meanwhile Harry the Archaeologist has been excavating and recording possible evidence of an older building with added brick fireplace that has been incorporated into the structure of the Drying Kiln.



Karen and Beth

At the mill we have been preparing documentation for the upcoming volunteer open day, and lots of paperwork regarding the storage locations of all the historic artefacts that have now been wrapped, boxed and will soon be making their way into the storage container. Karen has moved all of the small artefacts from inside the mill to the storage container, recorded where to find everything and is now working on the laborious task of renaming all archive photographs as their unique object ID number. The larger items and the new metal buckets will have to be stored elsewhere as there is no room for them onsite during the works.



Figure 7 Small artefacts packed and moved into storage

Beth has taken a health walks training course in Whinlatter Forest, and is now planning a route from the mill to take visitors on guided walks. At the mill more historic artefacts have been discovered and recorded, as we have gained access to previously inaccessible rooms with the scaffold platforms, and things have been found during the excavation of the head and tail races. Karen has also photographed and recorded the stonework that was lying around in the Kiln area, some of which is almost certainly part of the old drying kiln structure. We have also had a press call, and been interviewed about the progress of the project.



Figure 8 archaeologist taking samples from the drying kiln floor

At the mill Karen has been recording more artefacts that have been found during Harrys excavation of the Kiln floor and showing more woodworm contractors round etc., and been making arrangements to move certain large bulky items to offsite storage until the building contractors have finished working on the site. She has also prepared a description of how the equipment should run during a standard working day to help the hydro engineers understand what sort of a system their generator has to work alongside. Beth has Found a route to do the health walks, and is hoping to start advertising and running them soon! We have also been preparing for next weeks volunteer open day and have had confirmation that we have a stand for the university volunteering fair in November.