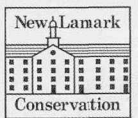
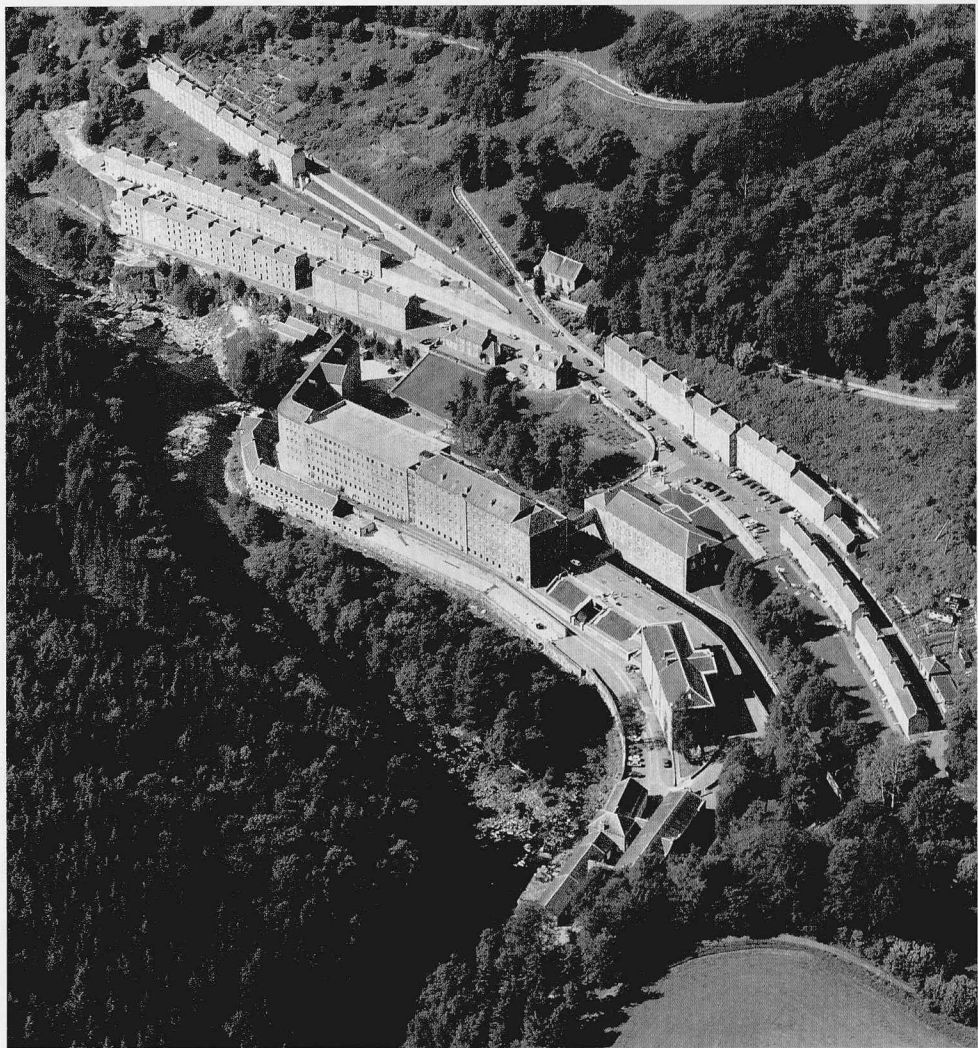




Royal
Commission on the
Ancient and
Historical
Monuments of
Scotland

RCAHMS BROADSHEET 15

New Lanark: Buildings and History



New Lanark

'...you come to a spot, as you descend the hill, where you have a full view of the great Falls of Clyde, with the accompanying rocks and woods which form the banks of the river. At the same time you see the green hills, and cattle and sheep feeding on them, at the summits of the banks on each side, and over the tops of the trees. The fine buildings of the factories are just under you: and this, all taken together, is by far the most beautiful sight that my eyes ever beheld.'

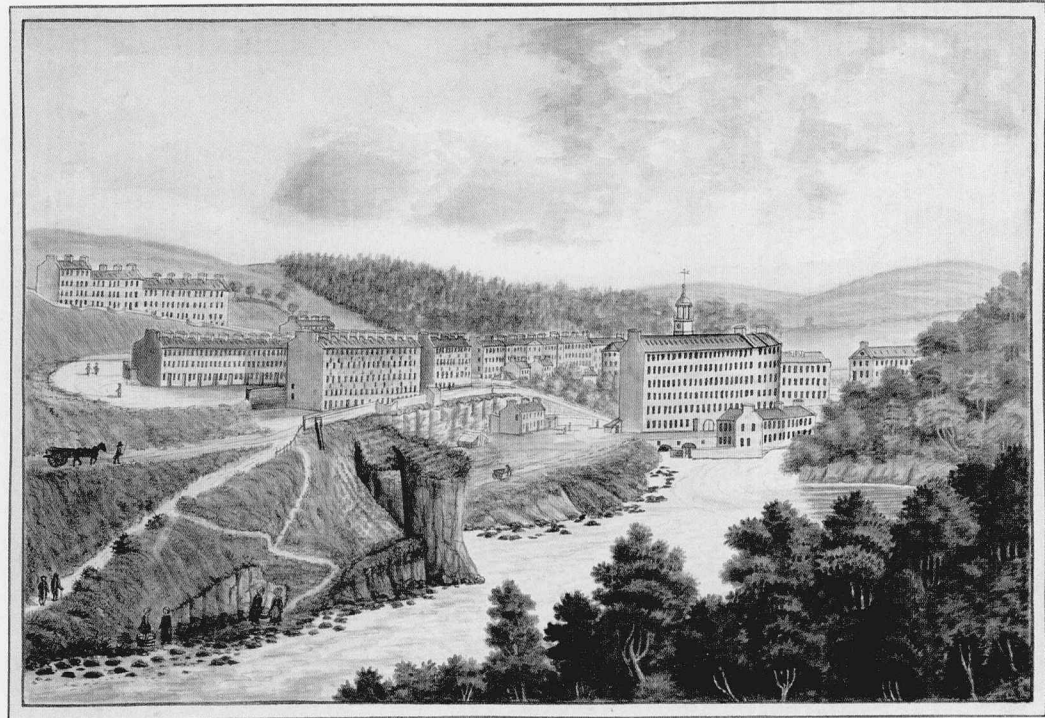
William Cobbett, from *Cobbett's Tour in Scotland*, 1832.

The village of New Lanark in west-central Scotland, in a spectacular location beside the River Clyde, is an outstanding monument of industrial and social history. Designated a World Heritage Site in 2001, it is of international importance as an example of social planning and industrial innovation from the period of Britain's great Industrial Revolution.

Built in the late 18th and early 19th century, the village was largely abandoned and under

serious threat of demolition as recently as the 1970s but has been extensively restored over the last three decades and receives thousands of visitors from home and abroad every year. Original mills, housing and community buildings survive, mostly built from sandstone quarried in the locality; the surviving complex represents the varied elements of a purpose-built manufacturing settlement. The purpose of this publication is to illustrate key aspects of its buildings and history.

New Lanark was built just downstream from the dramatic Falls of Clyde – the largest waterfalls in Britain in terms of volume – which were a great source of inspiration to writers and artists in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Falls were not, however, recognised solely for their aesthetic importance. When the great industrial innovator Richard Arkwright visited the location in 1784, invited by Glasgow businessman and philanthropist David Dale, he realised the enormous potential; the power of the river in descent could be harnessed to run innovative machinery for the mass-production of textiles. The banks of the River Clyde were to become one of the hotbeds of the Industrial Revolution, when Britain led the world in the race to move from

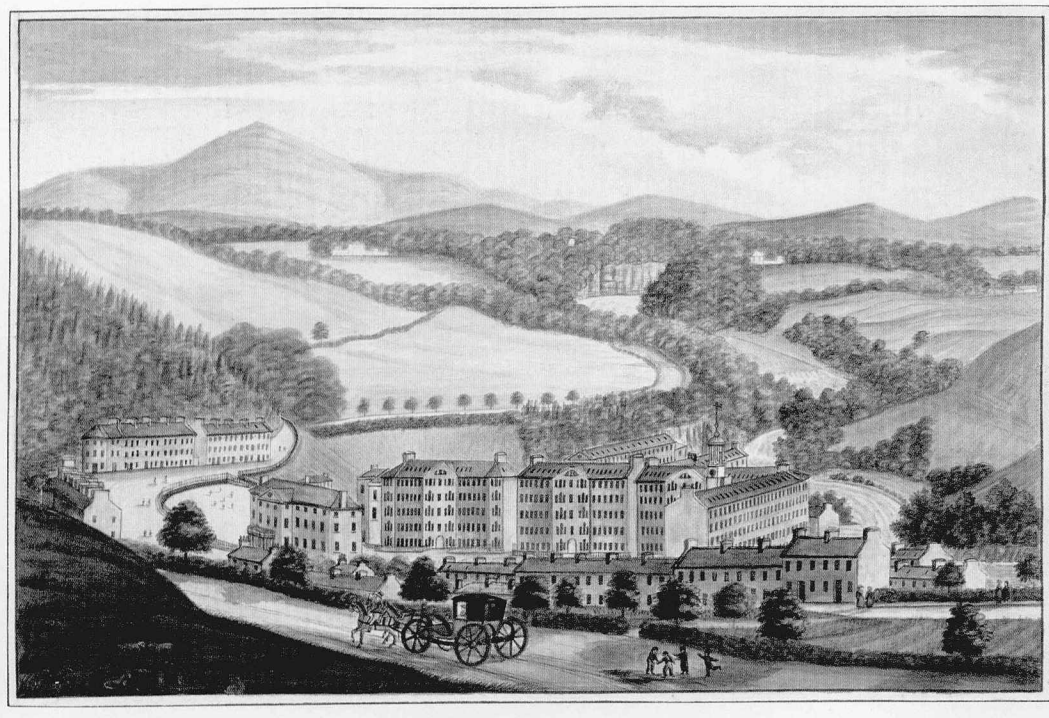


New Lanark from the east. Watercolour by John Winning, c.1818. (NLCT)

manufacturing by hand to mechanised production on a massive scale.

Shortly after Arkwright's initial visit he and David Dale secured from a local landowner the rights to the ground on which New Lanark was built. The settlement was given its name due to its proximity to the ancient Royal Burgh of Lanark, situated on higher ground to the north-east of the river. Construction began on the first mill in 1785, but there were major engineering problems to be overcome in establishing basic manufacturing facilities. In order to direct the power of the water to the mills, a weir had to be built across the river and a tunnel some 300m long excavated through bedrock.

Although these operations were largely carried out by hand rather than by mechanical means, the first mill was running by early 1786. A second mill was under construction in 1789 and by the 1790s there were four mills in operation, employing over 1,300 people. Various technical innovations to improve the efficiency and safety of mills and spinning machines were introduced and refined at New Lanark, especially by local clock-maker and inventor William Kelly during David Dale's period of ownership. Prevention



New Lanark from the north. Watercolour by John Winning, c.1818. (NLCT)

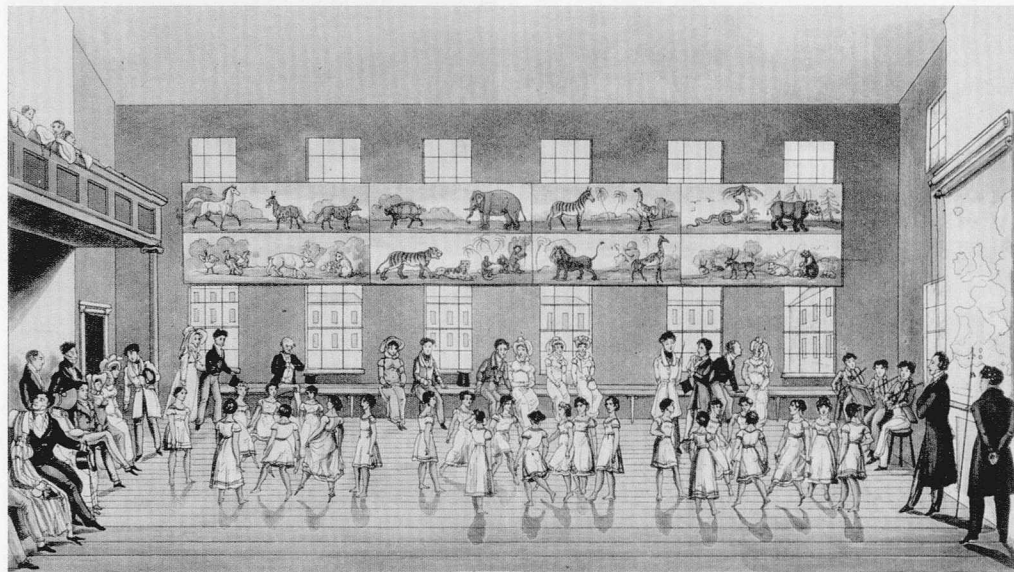


David Dale (1739–1806). Medallion by James Tassie, 1791. (NLCT)



Robert Owen (1771–1858). Watercolour by Mary Ann Knight, 1799. (© Scottish National Portrait Gallery)

Dancing Classes at New Lanark. Engraving by G Hunt, 1825. (NLCT)



M^{rs} OWEN'S INSTITUTION, NEW LANARK
(Landscape, Dancing)

monitoring systems and employed watchmen to prevent disorderly behaviour. The profit motive was therefore central to Owen's concerns, but it was allied to paternalistic management that sought to introduce more humane working practices than were typical of the early 19th century. In the quarter-century he was associated with the village, Owen sought to introduce various developments reflecting his philosophy that factory owners had a moral obligation to improve the well-being of their workers through the provision and maintenance of good-quality housing, progressive education and communal care.

Under the control of Owen, various new communal buildings were constructed including the Nursery Buildings, the Institution for the Formation of Character, the co-operative store

and the School for Children. The store sold superior-quality goods for the village inhabitants at below normal market prices and is now recognised to be an important precursor of the Co-operative movement, which became a key part of the fabric of urban life in Britain in the late 19th and 20th centuries. The Institution for the Formation of Character, known simply as 'the Institute', was used for lessons, lectures, dancing and musical performances. Owen placed great emphasis on education for children at a time when it was common for those employed in factories to work continually throughout the day and to receive little if any schooling. Due to his influence, New Lanark has often been portrayed as one model for a Utopian society – an ideal of enlightened thinking. Its location amidst one of the most beautiful landscapes in central Scotland

Mill workers, New Lanark, 1950s. (NLCT)



added to its fame as a place where factory labour was not merely exploitative but enhanced human dignity.

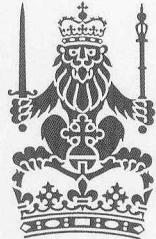
By 1824, however, Owen was in dispute with his partners at New Lanark. They objected to some of his more experimental ideas about how the village should be run. When he was given the opportunity to participate in a new community venture in America – New Harmony in Indiana – he ended his quarter-century of interest in New Lanark and left in December 1824. The mills and village were run from 1825 until 1881 by the Walker family, and then by Henry Birkmyre. His Gourcock Ropework Company (established 1777) changed the direction of manufacturing at the village, being suppliers of ropes, sail-rigging, nets, canvas and sailcloth. It was at one time the largest company of its kind in the world but it

New Lanark tenements, 1960s. (NLCT)



closed with the loss of 350 jobs in 1968 and in 1970 the site was sold to a scrap metal company.

Although New Lanark was given some statutory protection by the mid 1970s, its future was still uncertain until it was made the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order in 1983, taking it out of the control of the company who owned it and placing it in public ownership. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, various programmes of work were undertaken to restore the village as a living heritage centre. By the beginning of the 21st century, as well as having a resident population of around 200 people, the village had become an award-winning international attraction, culminating in New Lanark becoming the first industrial heritage site in Scotland to be included in UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.



Royal
Commission on the
Ancient and
Historical
Monuments of
Scotland

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) collects, records and interprets information on the architectural, industrial, archaeological and maritime heritage of Scotland. Whether you are working, teaching, studying or simply exploring your local heritage, RCAHMS resources are available to assist your research. You can use our online databases and mapping services to view over 60,000 digital images and to search for information on more than 250,000 buildings or sites, over a million aerial photographs and some 2.5 million other photographs, drawings and manuscripts. You can then visit our search room to consult original archive material (Monday to Friday, 9.30am – 4.30pm).

Search our databases online
www.rcahms.gov.uk

Contact
0131 662 1456
info@rcahms.gov.uk

Search room and library
RCAHMS
John Sinclair House
16 Bernard Terrace
Edinburgh, EH8 9NX

Further reading
Donnachie, I L, Robert Owen: *social visionary*, Edinburgh, 2005.

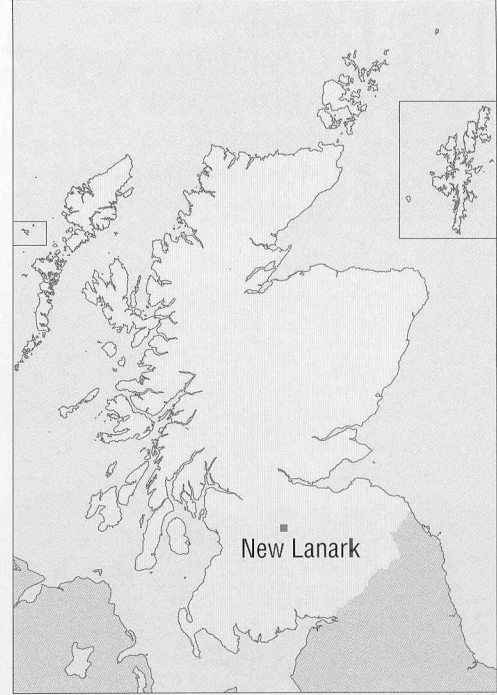
Donnachie, I L, and Hewitt, G, *Historic New Lanark: the Dale and Owen industrial community since 1785*, Edinburgh, 1993.

Historic Scotland, *Nomination of New Lanark for inclusion in the World Heritage List*, Edinburgh 2000, (reprinted 2006).

McLaren, D J, *David Dale of New Lanark*, Glasgow, 1999.

New Lanark Conservation Trust, *The Story of New Lanark*, Lanark 1997. Available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Japanese.

New Lanark Conservation Trust, *New Lanark Power Trail*, Lanark, 2006.

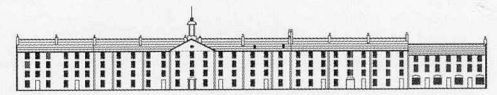


Images

The images marked '(NLCT)' are reproduced with kind permission of New Lanark Conservation Trust. Unless otherwise indicated, all other images are Crown copyright: RCAHMS.

Front cover

New Lanark from the south, aerial view. (SC574591)



This publication has been made possible by a generous grant from New Lanark Conservation Trust and Friends of New Lanark. Invaluable assistance has been provided by the staff of New Lanark Conservation Trust.

The text was written and compiled by Neil Cameron of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland with Lorna Davidson of New Lanark Conservation Trust.

Crown Copyright: RCAHMS 2006
ISBN (10 Fig) 1-902419-48-0
ISBN (13 Fig) 978-1-902419-48-0

Maps reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. OS Licence number 100020548 2006.



The School, New Lanark, after the collapse of its roof, 1970s. (NLCT)

New Lanark Conservation Trust

In 1968, the closure of the New Lanark mills caused a major crisis. A pilot project by the local Housing Association, formed in 1963 to refurbish the old tenement homes, was halted. In 1970, the industrial part of the village area was sold to a scrap metal company. Intervention by public agencies and conservation bodies was required if decline and decay were to be halted and reversed.

A Working Group was set up to examine options for the future of the village. In 1973, it published *A Future for New Lanark* and recommended that full restoration of the village should be attempted. The local Planning Department began the process of listing all the buildings (Category A) and having the village designated as an Outstanding Conservation Area. In 1974, New Lanark Conservation Trust was formed as an independent charity, charged with the challenging task of restoring and revitalising the historic village. Housing restoration recommenced. In 1983, the mills and Institute were brought into public ownership by means of a Compulsory Purchase Order. This was the first time that this legislation was used in Scotland to help recover historic buildings.

Under the direction of Jim Arnold, appointed in 1974, New Lanark Conservation Trust has pioneered a radical approach to heritage management. The village remains a living community, with a resident population of around

200 people. There are 45 tenancies and 20 privately owned houses. Around 180 people are employed in New Lanark, mostly by the Trust and its two trading subsidiaries.

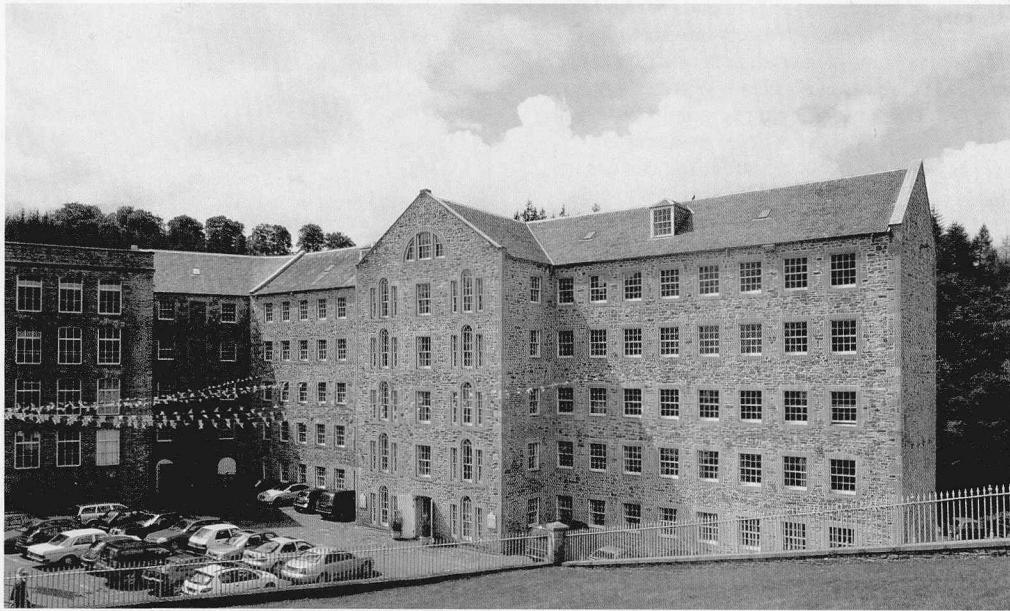
New Lanark Trading Ltd., established in 1989, operates the award-winning Visitor Centre. Permanent exhibitions interpret various aspects of the village's history including Owen's enlightened education system, living and working conditions, textile production and the restoration of the buildings. New Lanark Hotels Ltd., established in 1997, operates the New Lanark Mill Hotel and the Water-houses self-catering apartments. Hydro-electricity is generated on site to supply the Hotel and Visitor Centre; surplus electricity is exported to the grid. Profits generated by the trading companies are returned to the Trust for reinvestment.

New Lanark has become an international attraction, welcoming visitors and educational groups from all over the world. In 2001 it was inscribed on UNESCO's *World Heritage List*.

For more information visit
www.newlanark.org

New Lanark Conservation Trust
New Lanark Mills
Lanark ML11 9DB
t +44 (0) 1555 661345
f +44 (0) 1555 665738

New Lanark: Buildings and History



1. Mill Number 1 (Mill Hotel)
Begun in 1785 and rebuilt in 1789 after a fire, this is the oldest-surviving mill on the site. Its elaborate stair-tower in the centre of the main front shows industrial buildings of this period could possess considerable architectural ambition. The upper two storeys were removed for stability reasons in 1945 but were rebuilt in a restoration of 1993–96 which converted the mill to use as an hotel. (SC754825)

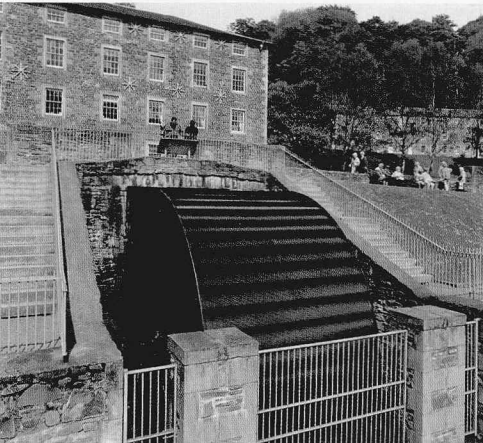


2. Mill Number 2
Probably begun about 1789, this mill was widened in the 1880s and its façade rebuilt in brick. Access was provided to Mill Number 1 by means of a link-block of 19th-century date. (SC754819)

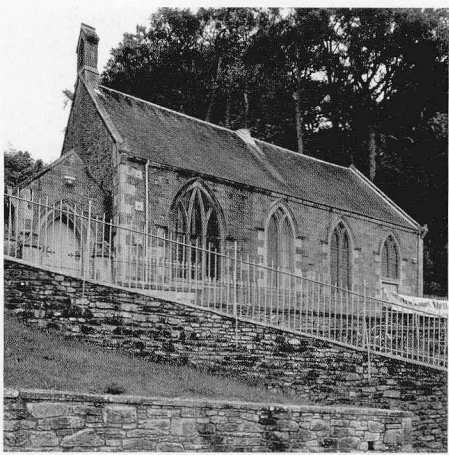
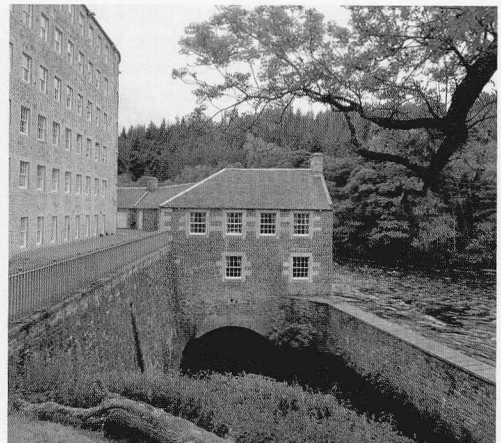


3. Mill Number 3
Built around 1830, this mill replaced one on the same site destroyed by fire in 1819. It is remarkable for its fireproof internal construction, with brick arches supported by cast-iron beams and columns. The basement houses a turbine, installed in 1931, which is still used to generate hydro-electricity. (SC754841)

4. Site of Mill Number 4
This mill, destroyed by fire in 1883 by workmen using a naked flame when carrying out repairs, was built in the late 18th century. Only its foundations and its western gable wall survive. A replacement water-wheel has been installed in the wheel-pit to demonstrate the use of water-power from the mill-lade. (SC754873)



5. Water-houses
These were built by Robert Owen in the early 19th century as part of his expansion of the cotton-manufacturing business. Of two storeys and built over the tailrace (outfall) of the mill-lade, they were converted to residential use in 1996–98. (SC754945)



20. Village Hall (previously Church)
Built for the Church of Scotland, this simply designed neo-Gothic church dates from 1898 and was deconsecrated in the early 1970s. It is now used for community meetings. (SC754914)



19. Wee Row and Double Row viewed from the site of Mantilla Row (demolished)
These tenements were built in the first main phase of construction in the late 18th century. Wee Row was converted to a Youth Hostel in 1994. One unit of Double Row is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and has been preserved as it was in the 1970s, when it was last occupied. (SC754923)



18. David Dale's House
Situating overlooking the centre of the village, this two-storey, three-bay detached house was built in the late 18th century for the founder of New Lanark, David Dale. The single-storey wings are slightly later additions. The house was used by Dale's family and later by a succession of mill owners and managers. (SC754989)



17. Robert Owen's House
Along with David Dale's House, this imposing property is one of only two detached houses in the village and was built in the late 18th century for the use of mill owners and managers. It now houses an exhibition about New Lanark's most famous owner, Robert Owen. (SC754981)



16. New Buildings and Bell Tower
Begun in 1798 by David Dale as tenements for housing mill workers and including a meeting room probably used for religious purposes, New Buildings were adapted around 1810 by Robert Owen. The distinctive bell tower was moved to its present position from Mill Number 1 in the mid 19th century. (SC755009)



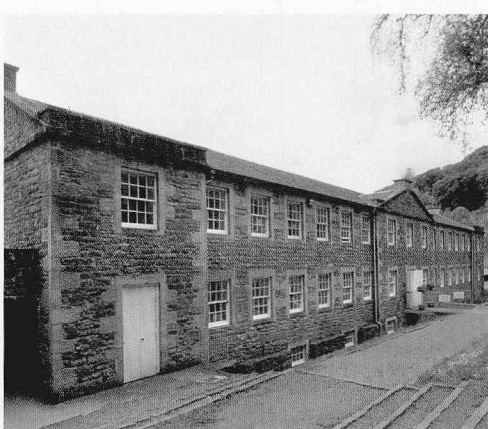
15. Nursery Buildings (corner image)
Begun in 1809, the Nursery Buildings were built by Robert Owen to house child workers who had hitherto lived in Mill Number 4. An example of Owen's desire to improve the working and living conditions for children who were employed in the mills, it was later converted to house families after he had phased out the use of child labour. (SC754951)

14. Village Store (above right)
Set up around 1810 by Robert Owen, the store was an early example of commerce conducted according to co-operative principles. It sold high-quality merchandise at just above cost price to the workers in the village and the profits were used to help with the expenses of running the school. (SC755082)

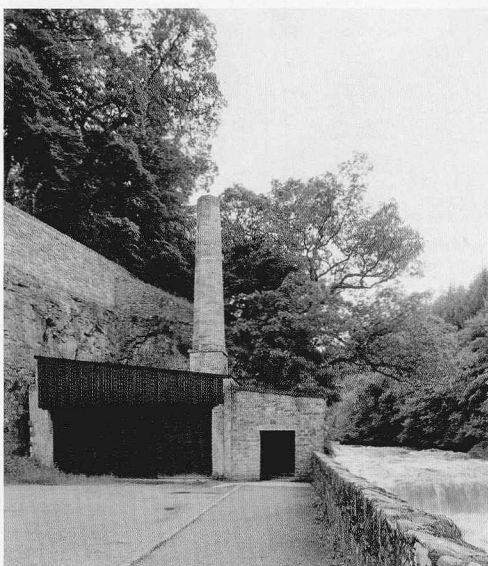


13. Counting House and Caithness Row
Overlooking the main village square, the bow-ended counting house was added to the tenements of Caithness Row by Robert Owen around 1810. It was the administrative hub of the village, and was used for document storage and the payment of wages. Caithness Row, which was completed in the 1790s, was named after the large number of northern Highlanders who worked at New Lanark. (SC755046)

12. Mechanics' Workshop
Along with the foundry, the Mechanics' Workshop was an essential part of the manufacturing complex in providing facilities for the engineering and repair of machinery. (SC754955)

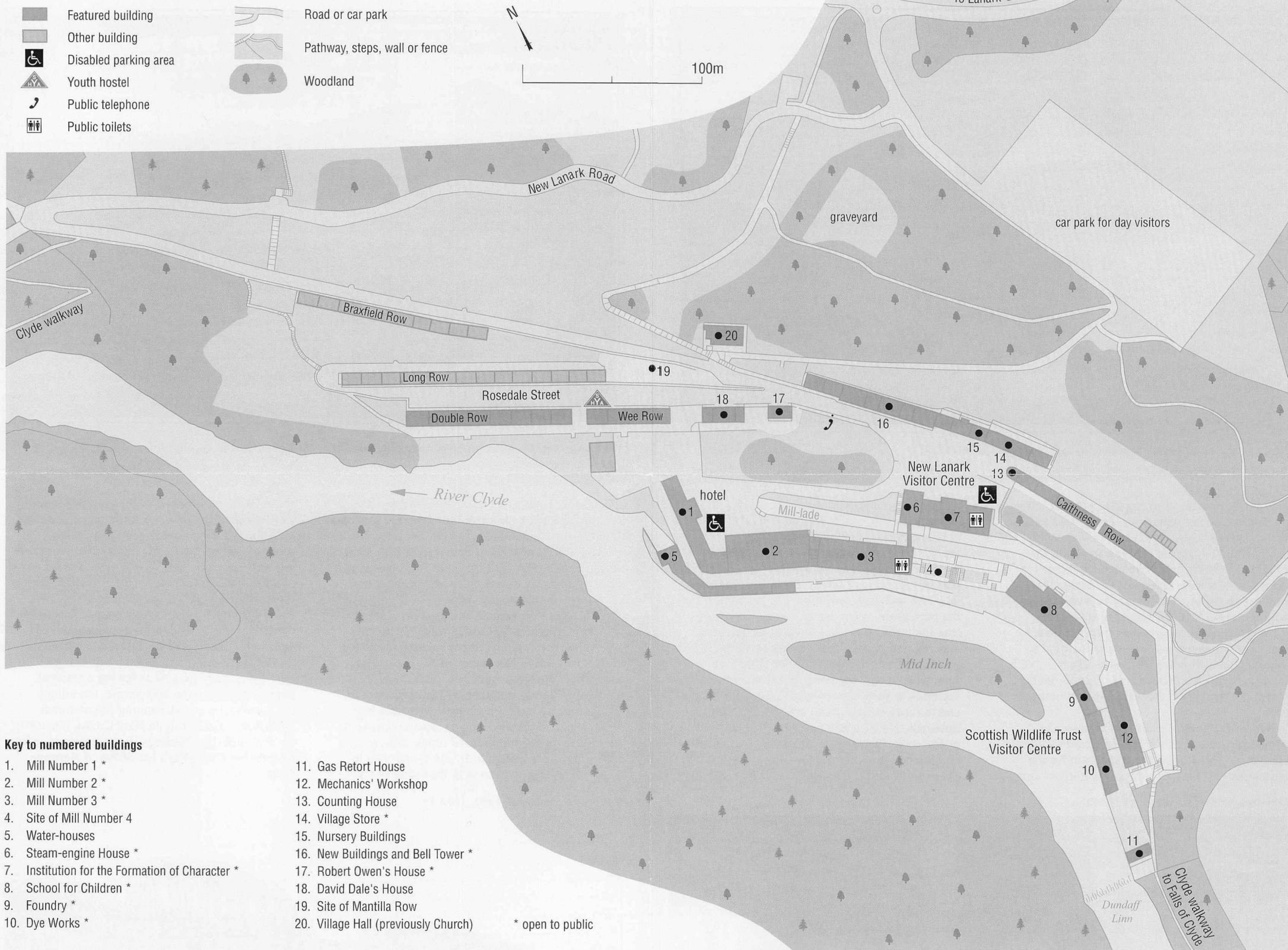
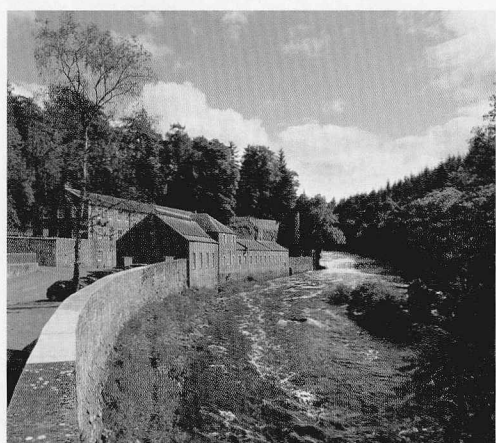


11. Gas Retort House
The gas retort house and its octagonal stone chimney were built in the 19th century to provide coal-gas lighting for the mills and village. (SC755080)

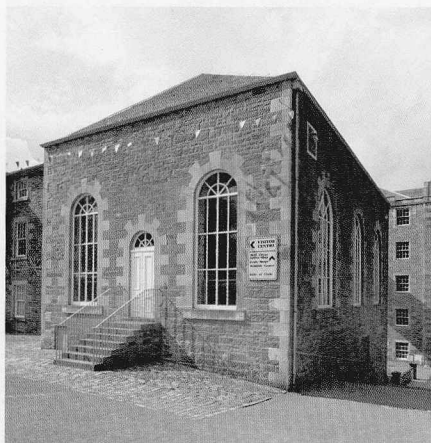


10. Dye Works (corner image)
The dye works, installed in part of the workshop complex when the mills began to diversify their production in the late 19th century, were converted out of part of the foundry. (SC755064)

9. Foundry
The iron and brass foundry, which formed part of the workshop complex beside the river at the south end of the village, supplied castings for use in the mill machinery and demonstrates the high level of self-sufficiency at New Lanark. (SC755068)



6. Steam-engine House
Built in 1881, it housed a steam engine which provided auxiliary power to Mill Number 3 by means of rope drives between the two buildings. The engine now installed was transferred from a mill in Selkirk and although smaller than the original it was made by the same manufacturer, J Petrie of Rochdale. (SC755076)



7. Institution for the Formation of Character
One of Robert Owen's key innovations, the Institution is the grandest community building at New Lanark, complete with an impressive entrance portico. Opened on 1st January 1816, when an inspiring address was given to the inhabitants by Robert Owen, it was the hub of the social and educational life of the village. The building is still used by the community; the image shows it decorated for the local 'Lanimer' festival. (SC754855)



8. School for Children
Another of Robert Owen's additions to the village, the School was completed in 1817. Children up to the age of ten were taught, with an emphasis on creative and physical activities as well as basic education. There are galleries in the main rooms on the top floor that may have been used for performances by musicians. (SC754887)

