HISTORIC GALASHIELS
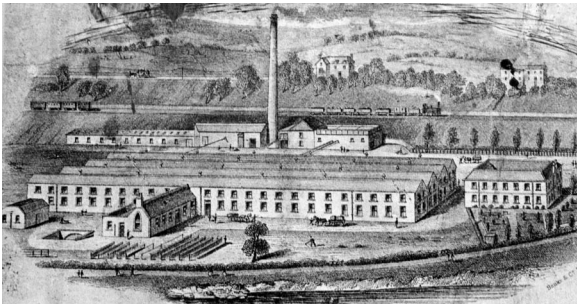
HISTORIC GALASHIELS

Archaeology and Development

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THE SCOTTISH BURGH SURVEY

Front cover:

Insets:

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Abbreviations

APS	*Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*, ed T Thomson *et al* (Edinburgh, 12 vols, 1814–75)
CDS	*Calendar of Documents Relating to Scotland*, ed J Bain *et al* (Edinburgh, 5 vols, 1881–1986)
DES	*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*
DOST	*Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*
ER	*Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, eds J Stuart *et al* (Edinburgh, 23 vols, 1878–1908)
NAS	National Archives of Scotland
NMRS	National Monuments Record of Scotland
NSA	*The New Statistical Account of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 14 vols, 1845)
OSA	*The Statistical Account of Scotland, 1791–99*, ed J Sinclair. New edition, ed I R Grant & D J Withrington (Wakefield, 1978)
PSAS	*The Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*
RCAHMS	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
RMS	*Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*, ed J M Thomson *et al* (Edinburgh, 11 vols, 1882–1914)
RPC	*Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, ed J H Burton *et al*. First series (Edinburgh, 14 vols, 1877–98); second series (Edinburgh, 8 vols 1899–1908); third series (Edinburgh, 16 vols, 1908–70)
RRS	*Regesta Regum Scottorum*, ed G W S Barrow *et al* (Edinburgh, 6 vols, 1960–)
RSS	*Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland*, ed M Livingstone *et al* (Edinburgh, 8 vols, 1908–)
SBAS	Scottish Borders Archive Service, Hawick
SHS	Scottish History Society
SRS	Scottish Record Society
TA	*Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, ed T Dickson *et al* (Edinburgh, 13 vols, 1877–)

Acknowledgements

1 Use of the Burgh Survey

Continued change is what gives towns their vitality. Yet it is the imprint of history that gives localities their distinctive character. Conservation is a matter of ensuring that the qualities that define a place are maintained while change continues to happen. Managing change requires an understanding of that character.

The Scottish Burgh Survey is a guide to the archaeological resource in towns, published by Historic Scotland and the Council for British Archaeology. It helps to influence decision-makers and to set the research agenda on questions that may be answered by archaeology where development occurs. Publications in the latest series are at http://www.britarch.ac.uk/pubs/latest.html.

This third series of Burgh Surveys is intended to furnish local authorities, developers and residents with reliable information to help manage the archaeology and historic environment of Scotland's urban centres. It offers comprehensive and consistent base-line information against which research, regeneration and land-use planning objectives may be set. It also guides the general reader in researching the rich history and archaeology of Scotland's historic burghs.

In its role as a tool for use by local authorities in the planning process, a primary point of reference in this volume is the colour-coded map (fig 34 & broadsheet) showing the phases of the burgh's development and therefore areas of prime archaeological interest. In the case of Galashiels, an important part of the archaeological footprint comprises the sites of mills and their water-powered systems. These are illustrated by fig 42: three maps that acknowledge the elongated shape of the town. However, discoveries may yet be made both within and beyond those areas that will require a reassessment of our understanding of Galashiels.

Further research into the archaeological potential of a site within the town can be gleaned from local and national libraries and archives. The PASTMAP website (http://www.PASTMAP.org.uk) can also be consulted. This interactive website, supported jointly by Historic Scotland and The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, allows anyone with internet access to search through the data on Scotland's historic environment including the sites protected by statute, scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings.

Both this Burgh Survey and the PASTMAP website provide information only. Where development is being considered advice should be sought in all cases directly from: Heritage and Design, Planning & Economic Development, Scottish Borders Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, MELROSE, TD6 0SA (Tel: 01835 825060).

2 Site and setting

Geographical location

Galashiels is situated in the steep-sided valley of the Gala Water, 2km above its confluence with the Tweed (**figs 1 & 2**). It lies between 140m and 180m above sea level and is dominated by high land on each side. The land is slightly gentler to the west, between the prominent Meigle Hill and Gala Hill, while to the east the valley side rises steeply towards Buckholm Hill and Langlee Hill, and is divided by the small valley of the Ladhope Burn. Although its site is restricted by the hilly terrain, the valley of the Gala Water provides a communication route, utilised by the path of the present A7 road and also by Melrose Road (B6374) leading to the adjacent burghs, and north to Edinburgh. The town is situated some 6km west of Melrose, 8km north of Selkirk and 24km east of Peebles.

FIGURE I

Location map: Galashiels and the surrounding area (Digital Terrain Mapping: Licensed to Historic Scotland for PGA through Next Perspectives TM. © Crown Copyright and database right [2010]. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100017509)

Digital Terrain Model: Licensed to Historic Scotland for PGA through Next Perspectives TM.

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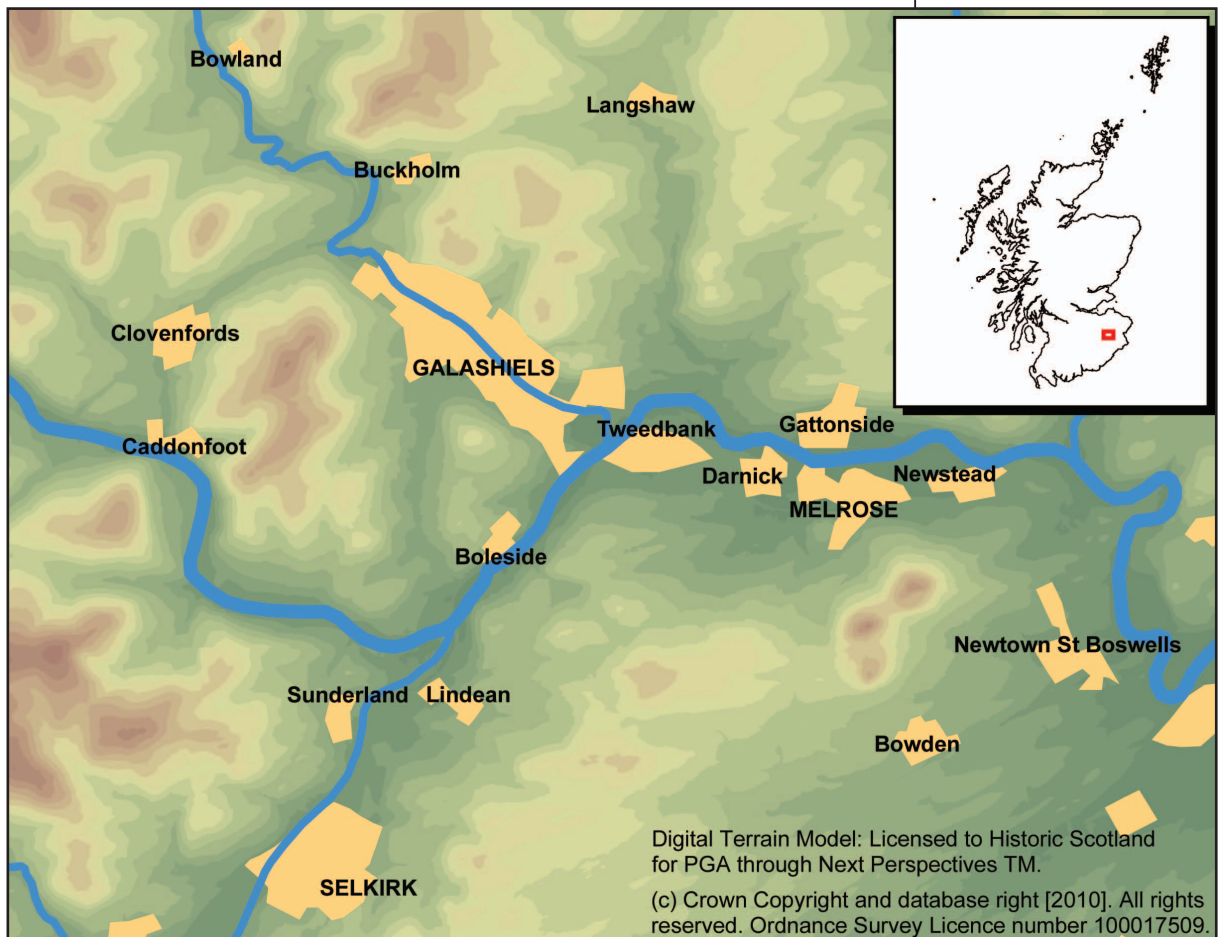
Geology

The Southern Uplands are formed from strongly folded sedimentary rocks dating from the Ordovician and Silurian period (395–500 million years ago), mainly shales, mudstones, slates, and greywackes (whinstone, as it is known locally). This geology, coupled with the action of the ice sheets which retreated around 10,000 years ago, has produced rounded hills and smooth slopes.[1] This contrasts with the old red sandstone of the Tweed basin which ranges in colour from pinkish-grey to red-brown and can be seen, for example, in the fabric of Melrose Abbey. The Eildon Hills are the result of igneous lava intrusions through the old red sandstone forming a focal point in the local topography that has influenced later settlement.

Building materials

Much of the building stone used in Galashiels is greywacke. This is difficult to work but the roughly hewn rubble walls built from this grey-brown stone are an essential part of the character of the town. The greywacke is often enlivened by the use of red sandstone for the dressings of windows, doors and other architectural details. The building of the railway in 1849 offered the possibility of using alternative building materials, such as brick and the fine Carboniferous sandstone from the Midland Valley. There is some evidence of harling, particularly on Gala House and the Old Town, but not generally in the town centre. A variety of roofing materials is used in the burgh. Thatch was commonly used for early roofing, but stone and slate were used for the more substantial structures of the nineteenth century; these are now the dominant roofing materials in the burgh.

Soils

The soils beneath Galashiels consist of brown forest soils of varying quality and drainage, those on the west side of the town being poorly drained gleys. There is fluvio-alluvial sand and gravel in the valley bottom, while on its flanks there is a poorly drained till containing many large sub-rounded greywacke boulders.[2] One undated plan from the late eighteenth century marks Darling Haugh, the then undeveloped area between the present High Street and the river, as 'fine arable land'.[3]

Climate and land use

The climate may be described as equable and temperate, with moderate rainfall as it benefits from being in the rain shadow of the Southern Uplands. This climate is reflected in the comments of the then minister of Galashiels, who noted in 1833 that:

> as to climate there is nothing remarkable, farther than may be inferred from the elevation … The harvest is early; peaches and apricots ripen in the open air; and, upon the whole, the climate may be judged as favourable to longevity as any in Scotland.[4]

A visitor summarised the local agriculture in 1846:

> The crops are various, oats, barley, wheat, potatoes, and turnips; the system of agriculture is advanced, and the four and five shift course of husbandry are prevalent. The land has mostly been well drained and are [*sic*] inclosed partly with stone dykes and partly with thorn hedges.[5]

FIGURE 3
Extract from William Roy's
Military Survey of Scotland,
1747–55, Maps C.9.b 8/3a
(By permission of the British
Library; © British Library)

FIGURE 4
Detail from William
Fairbairn, *Plan of the lands
and barony of Galashiels*,
1795 (Reproduced by
kind permission of the
Old Gala Club, loaned to
NAS and catalogued as
RHP140068) see http://
www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/
search_item/index

William Roy's map of 1747–55 (**fig 3**) shows that the land to the west and north-west of Old Gala House had been enclosed by that date, but the adjacent arable land is still depicted as open fields.[6] William Fairbairn's 1795 plan of the Gala estate (**fig 4**) shows that further enclosures had taken place by then, and more land was enclosed at Mossilee Farm in 1807.[7]

Sources of evidence

Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the historic core of the town, but there have been some excavations on the upstanding monuments around Galashiels.

The burgh appears in symbolic form on maps dating from the first half of the seventeenth century. Gordon's manuscript map of *c* 1636–52 and the maps of Teviotdale and of Tweeddale in Blaeu's 1654 chart all depict it as 'Galasheels'.[8] General Roy's *Military Survey* of 1747–55 is the first to give an indication of the actual layout of the town and as such provides a valuable indication of the form of the Old Town. Further detail is shown on John Ainslie's 1773 *Map of Selkirkshire* (see **fig 14**) which marks the church, manse and Old Gala House in pictorial form and four mills on the lade (artificial waterway) as symbols.[9] It is depicted in a similar way on John Thomson's *Selkirk shire*, published in 1824.[10]

Any detailed analysis of the town layout must begin with William Fairbairn's plan of the lands and barony of Galashiels, surveyed in 1795, which gives details of individual buildings and boundaries, but omits the area to the east of the Gala Water.[11] A plan of the whole town was published in 1824 by John Wood (**fig 5**), and Crawford and Brooke's map of an extensive part of southern Scotland, published in 1843, gives details such as buildings and boundaries.[12] The cartographic presentation of the town reaches its peak with the Ordnance Survey maps published from the mid-nineteenth century, and especially the 1:500 plan of Galashiels, surveyed in 1858 and published in 1861, which gives valuable evidence of the expanding industrial town (**fig 6**).[13] Various plans in the National Archives of Scotland relating to the feuing of properties in the nineteenth century have also been consulted.

The majority of historical evidence in this survey is drawn from printed histories of the town, dating from the late nineteenth century. The two earliest major works are Thomas Craig-Brown's *History of Selkirkshire* and Robert Hall's *History of Galashiels*. Others published since then include *Galashiels: a Modern History* by the Galashiels History Committee and the works of Margaret Lawson and the Old Gala Club. In addition, both RCAHMS and Historic Scotland hold information on many of the buildings in the town.

The information drawn from these histories was corroborated and expanded upon by travellers' accounts from the seventeenth century onwards, chiefly those of Christopher Lowther, Thomas Pennant, David Loch and Dorothy Wordsworth. Extensive searches were made among other printed primary
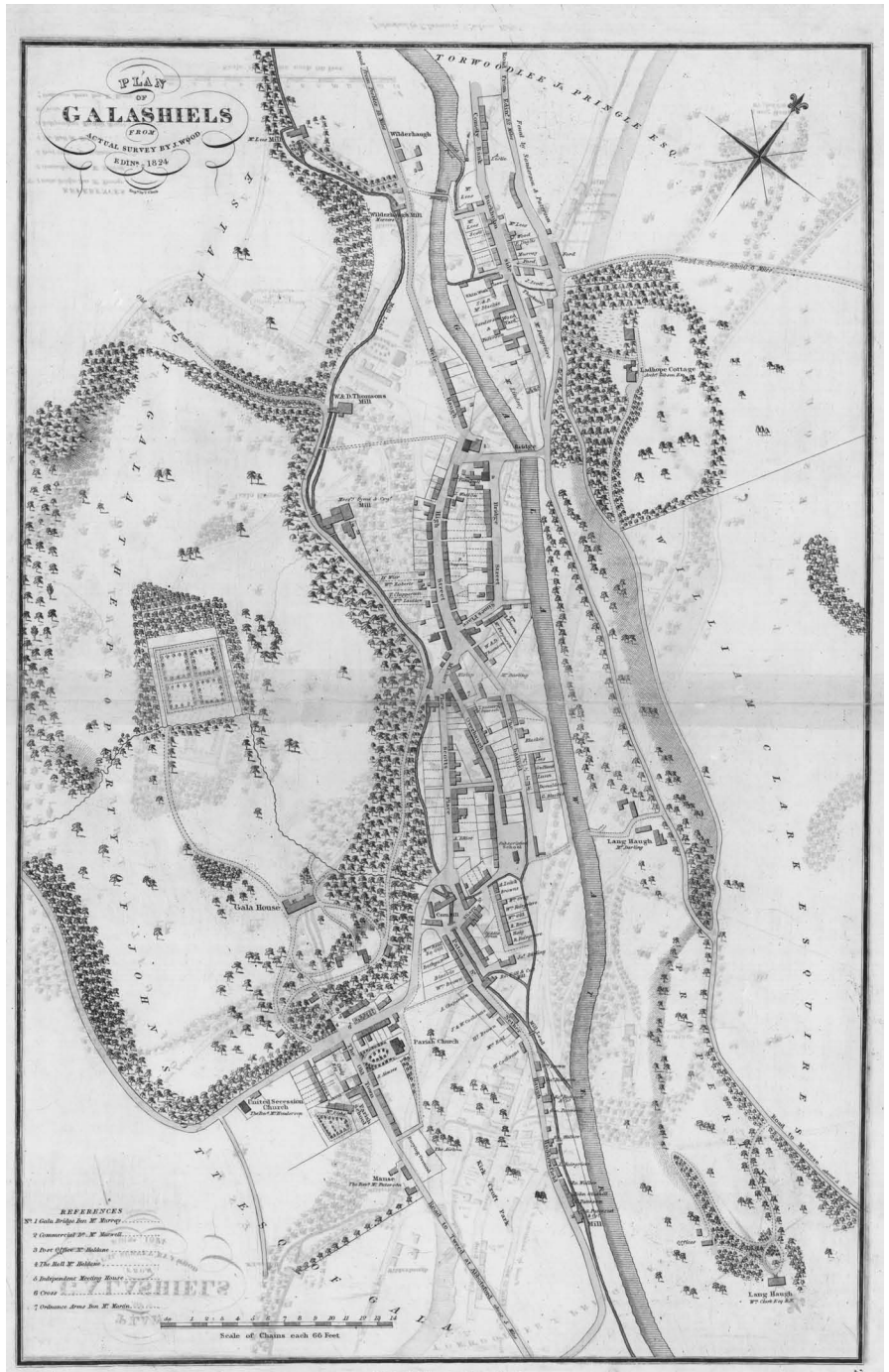
sources, but little extra information was uncovered. Further investigation may yet provide some additional details.

Time and resources did not allow for the thorough examination of all manuscript sources. In particular, there is a wealth of material from the nineteenth century (including papers on mills and associated trades) in the
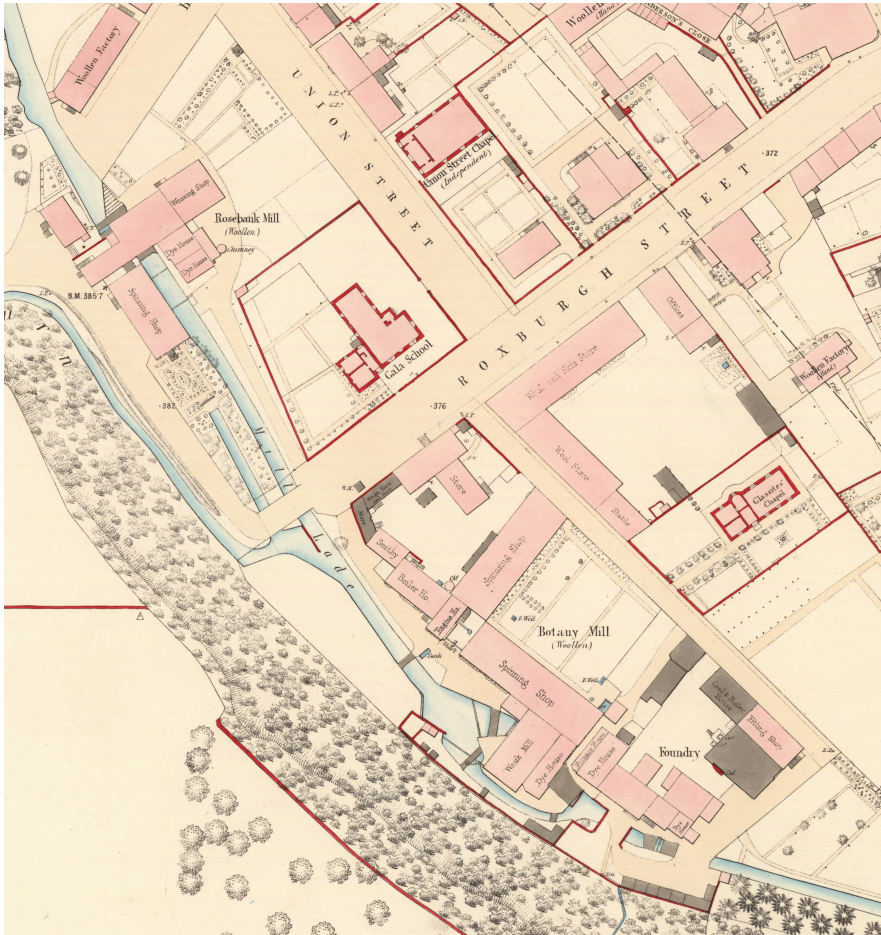
FIGURE 6

Detail from the 1:500 OS Town Plan of 1858, Sheet VIII.2.16 (reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland) showing:

(top left) Rosebank Mill and Gala School. The 1805 mill straddles the lade and would have had two arches, one for the bypass and one for the wheel and the tailrace, which continues under the spinning shop and ornamental parterres that may give the mill its name. The chimney may only have been for the dyehouses rather than for steam power. Gala School is an open L-plan inside, although accessed by a corner porch that divided the sexes. The smaller rooms beside the garden may have been the teachers' house.

(bottom) Botany Mill. The waterwheel would be at the word 'mill' of 'waulk mill', 1797, the first mill that spans the lade as far as an artificial island formed by the bypass lade carrying water to the next mill. The waulk or fulling mill and three dyehouses are also placed here to make use of the lade. A steam engine has been added at the fulcrum of the two spinning shops. Next door a small iron foundry has three chimneys marked. Two of these are the cupolas sharing a charging platform (see p 00).

(right) Glasite Church, founded by John Glas (though labelled here as Glassite's Chapel). Internal layouts of public buildings are shown in this OS series, with the main meeting room to the right of a more domestic set up. The 'woollen factory (hand)' next door is shown to have an external stair. Both these buildings still exist.

National Archives of Scotland and the Borders Archives. Sasines could also provide more information, as could newspapers, local family papers and records of the Kirk Session.

Notes

1   A D McAdam, E N K Clarkson and P Stone, *Scottish Borders Geology: an Excursion Guide* (Edinburgh, 1992), 3; G J H Oliver, P Stone and B J Bluck, 'The Ballantrae Complex and Southern Uplands terrane' in N H Trewin (ed) *The Geology of Scotland* (London, 2002), 10 and 187–8

2   J M Ragg, *The Soils of the Country round Kelso and Lauder* (Edinburgh, 1960), 73

3   NAS, RHP681

4   *NSA*, iii, 11–12

5   S Lewis, *A Topographical Dictionary of Scotland* (London, 1843), 459

6   W Roy, *Military Survey of Scotland*

7   W Fairbairn Plan of the lands and barony of Galashiels, 1795 (RHP 140068); Plan of new parks on Mossilee Farm, 1807 (NAS RHP82824)

8   NLS, Adv.MS.70.2.10 (Gordon 56); J Blaeu, *Teviotia* and *Tvedia* (Amsterdam, 1654), NLS WD3B/4

9   NLS, EMS.s.33A

10 NLS, EMS.s.712(5)

11 NAS, RHP140068, published in simplified form in R Hall, *The History of Galashiels* (Galashiels, 1898), 76

12 NLS, EU.31.W; William Crawford and William Brooke, *Map embracing extensive portions of the Counties of Roxburgh, Berwick, Selkirk & Midlothian and Part of Northumberland* (Edinburgh, 1843)

13 OS Plan of Galashiels, published 1861, eight sheets

3   History and archaeology

The history of Galashiels as a burgh begins in the late sixteenth century, but the present appearance of both the town and its surrounding countryside is the result of the interaction of man with his environment over many centuries. This history can be found in written documentation and in the buried and built environment. While there has been some archaeological work on the upstanding monuments around Galashiels, little has been undertaken within the historic core of the burgh. An introduction to the prehistoric, Roman, early historic and medieval periods has been included to provide a broader framework within which to study the origins of the burgh.

Prehistory

The earliest settlement of Scotland took place around 7000 BC, when much of the country was covered in dense woodland supporting game, particularly red deer. The few Mesolithic (literally meaning Middle Stone Age) settlements known in Scotland tend to be found along the coastline and riverbanks. These communities were 'hunter-gathers' who ate fish and shellfish, followed herds of woodland game through the seasons, and supplemented their diet with wild plants and berries. Their semi-nomadic existence has left few archaeological traces, although shell middens and flint tools are common finds along former rivers and coastlines.

During the Neolithic period (New Stone Age), *c* 4000–2000 BC, people began to live a more settled existence, partly in response to changes in the climate. Large areas of woodland were cleared by burning and trees were cut down with stone tools, livestock was kept and the land farmed for crops. Ritual played an important role in the lives of these early farming groups. Their communal stone-built chambered cairns, or barrows constructed of wood and turf, sometimes contained large numbers of burials. Evidence of Neolithic settlement in the Galashiels area has been found in the form of tools. A lithic scatter, evidence for the working of stone tools, has been found near Rink Farm (NT 4850 3224), about 4km to the south of the town.[1] A stone adze-hammer, partially perforated from both sides, was found during an excavation prior to the construction of the electric station at Joppa, Galashiels (*c* NT 5150 3551).[2]

By *c* 2000 BC (during the Bronze Age), gradual changes in society were taking place. The tradition of monumental tombs containing large numbers of burials waned in favour of a new trend for single grave burials. There is evidence for Bronze Age burials within the area of the present town of Galashiels: a number were found during building work in Gala Park in 1878–

79. The published accounts of these discoveries are slightly contradictory in their details. Hall, in his *History of Galashiels* published in 1898, states that a cist containing a human skeleton was unearthed 'in a knoll of no great height which was called the "Aiken Knock" situated to the east of Roxburgh Place'.[3] A more contemporary account, however, tells of many more burials. Two short cists containing the remains of young girls were found one above the other on 17 June 1878 when 'Little Aiken Knock' was levelled and six cists were found in the summer of 1879 at 'Aiken Knock'.[4] The word 'knock' is used for a small hillock, often standing in isolation (*DOST*) and a physical feature such as this would give extra emphasis to a man-made burial mound. Aiken Knock may be identified with the Aiken Oak on Fairbairn's 1795 plan of Galashiels (*c* NT 486 363).

Another stone cist, *c* 0.75m in length and containing a pottery vessel 'ornamented with zig-zag lines', was discovered in 'an unused portion of the churchyard, which was acquired about 1838'.[5] This was found in the south-east extension to the churchyard, as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1858 (NT 494 357).[6] A socketed bronze spearhead of middle Bronze Age date is also recorded as having been found at an unknown location near Galashiels.[7]

Considerable changes in technology and society took place at the end of the Bronze Age (*c* 600 BC). Iron tools and, increasingly, weapons begin to appear in the archaeological record. Despite the abundance of evidence for monuments and rich burials in the Neolithic and Bronze Age, knowledge of the subsistence base which supported these societies, and the settlements in which they lived, is rather poor. By the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, however, settlements begin to dominate the landscape. Numerous fortified settlements, ranging from large hillforts to enclosed villages and isolated single-family dwellings, are known. Less defensive types of settlement also existed, but the remains from this period may reflect a more competitive society in which groups fought over natural resources. The archaeological record suggests that there was a move away from the large monuments that served the community in the second and third millennia BC, towards settlement patterns indicative of tribal division.

There are a number of earthworks of unknown date in the Galashiels area. The Ordnance Survey name book of 1858 identified the remains of an earthwork at Knowepark (NT 4839 3653) as a 'camp' of possible Iron Age date but archaeological investigations in 2006 in advance of development uncovered no evidence of any significant pre-modern features.[8]

The later prehistoric and Roman periods

It was this fragmented society which the Romans encountered in the later first century AD. They promptly established a network of fortifications and communication routes throughout southern Scotland which ensured their

effective control over the native tribes. According to Ptolemy, the classical geographer writing in the second century AD, the Galashiels area was in the territory of the Votadini, a tribe whose range covered much of the eastern Borders.[9] The large hillfort on Eildon Hill is thought to have functioned as an *oppidum*, or major tribal centre, in this period. There are smaller hillforts in the area to the south of Galashiels, at Rink Hill (NT 4836 3308) and Hollybush (NT 4781 3448). The Romans occupied the area around AD 79, as testified by the remains of the large legionary fortress of Newstead and its connecting network of roads.

There is evidence of substantial structures erected by the local Votadini in their native tradition. At Torwoodlee (NT 4652 3844), about 2km north-west of Galashiels, there are the remains of a broch. These massive stone towers, circular in plan, with stone staircases and intramural chambers, are much more common in the north of Scotland. Pottery from the broch dates its occupation to the first century AD. Further evidence of Iron Age occupation was uncovered at Easter Langlee (NT 520 359) where a smelting site has been identified.[10]

There is some evidence for Roman (as opposed to native) occupation in the vicinity of Galashiels. Remains of a Roman stone building, possibly a monument or shrine, were observed during gravel quarrying in 1965 at Easter Langlee (NT 5210 3608).[11] Stray Roman finds are recorded from the area, including a coin from the time of the Roman emperor Augustus (29 BC–AD 14) found at the foot of Gala Hill.

Another notable feature of the archaeological landscape to the west of Galashiels is the linear earthwork known as the Catrail. This is likely to have acted as a major boundary but, unlike settlement sites, the precise function and date of the Catrail is unknown; such monuments have little artefact evidence associated with them and are difficult to date.

The early historic and early medieval periods

The name 'Galashiels' is a mix of two parts: Gala may originate in the Cumbric 'gal gwy' meaning clear stream; shiel, derived from a Scandinavian language, means 'shelter'.[12] Hence Galashiels means 'dwellings by the Gala Water'. It is said that pilgrims stopped at these dwellings on their way to Melrose Abbey.[13]

The Gala Water (**figs 7 & 8**) is mentioned frequently from the twelfth century onwards. It was referred to as *Galache* in a charter to the monks of Melrose in 1124, as *Galue* in 1154–65 and *Galhe* in 1180.[14] During the reign of Alexander III (1249–86) it appears to have changed its course, for in 1268 Symon Fraser, sheriff of Traquair, and others were directed to pass to the lands adjoining the 'Galu' and inquire how far its 'new course' affected the possessions of the abbot and the convent of Melrose.[15]

FIGURE 7
The location of mills and lades in the early nineteenth century (prepared by Kirkdale Archaeology, based on OS mapping; © Crown copyright)

FIGURE 8
The Gala Water at Ladhope Weir (© Kirkdale Archaeology)
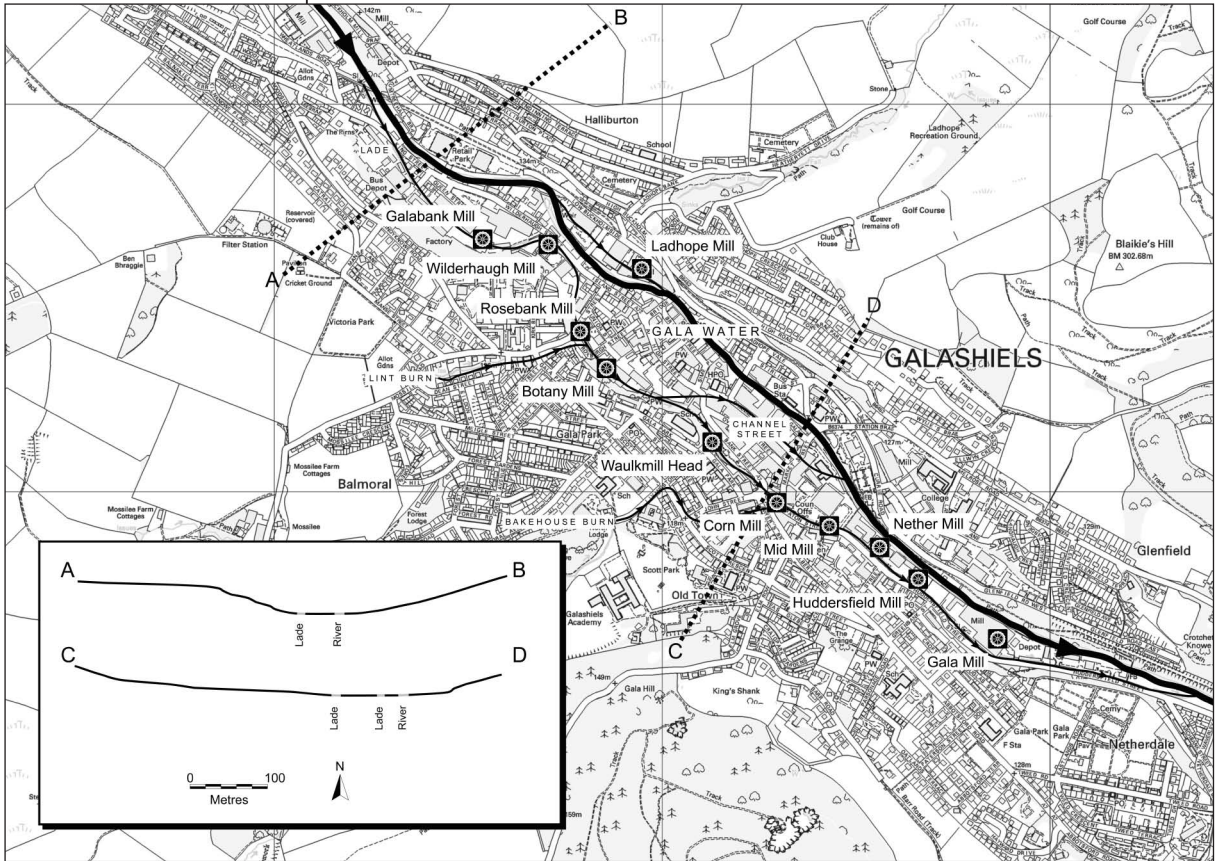
Despite the references to the Gala Water, there are no surviving references to 'Galashiels' until the fourteenth century. This suggests the settlement was of limited extent and had not yet developed a distinctive name.[16] Indeed, it is not mentioned in Blind Harry's *Wallace* when reference is made to Cospatrick, Earl of Dunbar, being entrenched in 1296 at the summit of Gala Hill, at the base of which the original village nestled.[17]

The later medieval period

By the fourteenth century a distinctive community had emerged. This community, referred to as *Galuschel*, is recorded in 1337:

> The marchers of England hering of the sege of Edenburge, cam to rescue it: so that the [Scots] cam thens to Clerkington and the Englischmenne cam to Krethtoun, where betwixt them and the Scottes was a great fighte, and many slayne on both parties. The Scottes made as they wold go yn to England, and lodged themselves at Galuschel and the Englisch went over Twede.[18]

Some have argued that out of this retreat by the English arose the burgh's coat of arms: a plum tree with a fox on each side, and its motto, *soor plums*. Others, however, claim that the imagery refers to the fable of the fox and the grapes.[19]

While it would seem natural that a community should have been established on the dry higher ground, there also seems to have been settlement in the river valley, probably in the vicinity of Paton Street. Medieval records of the river changing course, and the course of the current mill lade following the south-west contour (in contrast to the main river route which is so straight as to be artificial), as well as the use of the historic word 'inch' or island, all indicate the possibility that the site of downtown Galashiels was originally a group of islands, and that the mill lade is the formalisation of part of the original course of the river.

Furthermore, the use of the terms 'over' and 'nether' Hauches can normally be taken as a later sixteenth-/early seventeenth-century indication of agricultural (or in this case possibly industrial) improvement, intimating the split of a single unit into two. Later maps suggest that the earliest settlement lay to the south in the Nether Haugh.

There were a number of fortified residences in the vicinity of the present town, both within the historic core of the settlement and in the immediate peripheral area. The Borders area was well stocked with fortified buildings, as a consequence of the Anglo-Scottish wars of the late thirteenth to the late sixteenth century and also endemic feuding between different kinship groups. Those who could afford it provided themselves with defensible houses to protect their families, goods and livestock. Castle building in the Borders

continued until at least 1603. The majority of these buildings were tower houses: castles whose principal component was a defensible residential tower for the lord and his immediate household. The tower was not usually a self-sufficient dwelling, but was most often grouped with other buildings, such as a hall, kitchen and stable.[20] The medieval settlement around Galashiels seems to have been configured by three towers: Hunter's Ha' to the south, the predecessor to Old Gala House to the west, and Blindlee Tower to the north.[21]

In 1321 Robert I (1306–29) granted Ettrick Forest to Sir James Douglas (later the Earl of Douglas). The earls of Douglas held the strong tower called Hunter's Ha' (NT 4935 3567), located in what is now Glebe Street. Hunter's Ha' is said to have had walls 6ft 6in (2m) thick and doors and windows dressed with red sandstone. Near the house – about ten yards (9m) along a 4ft wide (1.2m) walled road – was a well. The well was about 3ft (0.9m) deep and in order to reach the water one had to go down two steps.[22]

The Douglas family was stripped of its lands and power in 1455 and the tower was claimed by the Crown for the storage and repair of cannon and other guns employed in the Border wars. Known locally as the 'King's Fortalice', the building later became the residence of the Gala Estate forester and remained as such until 1813. It was demolished in 1816 to make room for an addition to the south side of the parish school. The parish school is shown on John Wood's plan of 1824 (*c* NT 4935 3567); the area is now overlaid by dense housing development and there is no trace of the school or the tower.[23] Some authors – such as Pennant in 1772 – claimed that the Scottish kings occupied the tower whenever they went hunting in nearby Ettrick Forest.[24]

Around 1408 Robert Hoppringle of Whitsome, Berwickshire, obtained from Archibald, Earl of Douglas, a tack of the forest steadings of Galashiels and Mossilee. After the forfeiture of the Douglases in 1455, the Hoppringle family – known later as the Pringles – continued as kindly tenants under the Crown till 1566, when Mary I (1542–67) granted them the lands in feu.[25] In 1457 a tower house was built by Elizabeth Dishington, the wife of Robert, the second Hoppringle of Galashiels. An inscription cut on the doorway is said to have read: 'Elspeth Dishington builted me, in syn lye not; The things thou can'st not get Desyre not' – although there is dispute about this, since the inscription reads much more like seventeenth-century language than that of the fifteenth century. There are no visible remains of this house but it is likely that it occupied the site of Old Gala House (**fig 9**).[26] Certainly, by 1503, a sasine refers to the property as 'the tower and manor of Galloschelis'.[27]

The stede of Blindlie is mentioned in 1456, and it was one of two stedes held by the queen in 1480; the Exchequer Rolls indicate that she maintained a considerable establishment in the Forest. In 1588, the stede was held in feu by George Hoppringle.[28] In 1649 Blindlee Tower was noted as one of the principal residences in Selkirkshire.[29]

In addition to Hunter's Ha', Blindlee Tower, and the predecessor to Old Gala House, there were, according to Hall (writing in 1898), two towers in Galashiels: one was said to have stood 'in the garden now used by Dr Murray, adjoining the Parish Church', once occupied by Henry Watson, skinner; and a second at the head of 'Cuddy Green' which had been occupied by a weaver named Frier, father of Robert Frier, manufacturer.[30] Cuddie Green is shown on Wood's plan of 1824 as occupying the land between the present Green and Paton Streets (c NT 4935 3597).[31] If this reference is correct, it again may indicate that the early settlement included part of the valley floor.

There are very few medieval records concerning the town. On 17 December 1414, Archibald, Earl of Douglas, Lord of Galloway and Annandale, issued a charter under seal 'at Gallowschel' – presumably from the tower that he had had built there as his seat of authority, as he had at Wigtown. An entry in the Exchequer Rolls on 17 July 1442 states that £5 was paid to Master Nicholas, carpenter, for his expenses and those of his servitor for riding at the command of the king to 'Galowayscheelis' in the Forest regarding the carriage of the king's great bombard (a gun used mainly in sieges). This is also the first known evidence of craftsmen in the town.[32]

By 1467 there is proof of a varied and skilled community in the town, as court records tell of several local people being fined, including smiths, wheelwrights, foresters and spaders (involved with cannon carriages).[33] Later evidence for craftsmen includes a 1476 reference to David Wricht in connection with spades and shovels and one from 1486 concerning money for preparing poles and ropes for bombardments.[34]

The area behind the houses now at the corner of Glebe Place and Church Street, known as Bow Butts, dates from the fifteenth century. It was used for

archery, as stipulated in a decree by James IV (1488–1513) that all men of military age were to practise archery regularly so that they would be always ready for the call-up to war.[35]

The sixteenth century

By the sixteenth century Galashiels was an established settlement but had not yet achieved burgh status. This limited the rights and privileges of the inhabitants, as is evidenced by notices from the bailies of Selkirk warning the indwellers of the town of Galashiels that they should 'not sell goods within the bounds of the burgh [Selkirk] according to the tenor of royal letters to the baillies and community'.[36] Despite this lack of official status, there is good evidence from this time of buildings consistent with the beginnings of a town.

There were two sixteenth-century tower houses close to Galashiels. The remains of Ladhope Tower (NT 4947 3669), which formed part of the farm of Appletreeleaves, lie on the northern side of the town. The building measured 31ft (9.4m) in length by 19ft (5.8m) wide, while the clay-built walls were 3ft 5in (1m) thick.[37] The second tower was at Buckholm (NT 4828 3790), 2km north of Galashiels, and may have been built by John Pringle in 1582.[38]

There appears to have been a house on the site of the present Old Gala House by 1544 (see **fig 4**), but the oldest parts of Old Gala House are likely to be of the late sixteenth century, probably erected by Andrew Pringle in 1583.[39] The principal feature of the site was that the plateau running along the south of the haugh was riven in the middle by a burn, and what became Gala House was placed not on the highest ground, but on a terrace halfway down to the north-west, leaving it dominated by higher ground to the east. This made for a sunny and sheltered spot, close to water. It also indicates that the house's orientation was not only to the north but with an aspect to the west, where its privy garden is likely to have been. Pringle did not survive long after building the house. In the family burial place in Melrose Abbey the following epitaph can still be seen: 'Heir leis ane honorabil man, Andro Pringill, feuar of Gallowschiels, Quha decessit ye 28 of February, An. Dom. 1585'.[40] The Pringles also maintained a seat at Smailholm; the Galashiels residence was possibly built to aid the collection of rents and feus after Galashiels was feued to the Pringle family in 1566.[41]

A reference in 1529 suggests there was a chapel at that time in the town.[42] Little is known about it, although it might have been located in the Old Burial Ground (**figs 5 & 10**).[43] At this time the town was served by the kirk at Lindean, some 6km south of Galashiels.[44] Towards the end of the century the Lindean kirk was 'decayit and fallin doun', and in about 1586 was abandoned in favour of a church at Boleside, some 2km south-west of Galashiels.[45] Sources suggest that soon afterwards the minister's preaching

FIGURE 10
Old Burial Ground
(© Kirkdale Archaeology)

time was divided between Boleside in the morning and Galashiels in the afternoon; since the minister's manse was believed to be in Galashiels, this is not wholly surprising.[46]

The future prosperity of Galashiels was to depend on the development of the woollen industry. By the early 1580s at least two waulk mills are known to have existed. Waulk mills, also known as fulling mills, were for beating and cleaning cloth, using soap or fuller's earth. Fulling had been the first of the processes in the preparation of woollen cloth to be mechanised, with the use of water power since the Middle Ages. So waulk or fulling mills offered the technological infrastructure for later expansion.[47] These two sixteenth-century mills are said to have been on the sites of the later Mid Mill and Waulkmillhead Mill. At first they may have been powered by the water from streams that flowed into the Gala Water but later they were fed by a single mill lade (see **fig 7**), itself a remarkable feat of post-medieval engineering, although the precise date of its construction has not been ascertained.[48]

The sixteenth century was a period of some growth in Galashiels, with new buildings constructed and the first references to mills. However, the town was not yet a place of significance, as indicated by its omission from maps such as Gerhard Mercator's 1595 *Scotiae Regnum* south sheet.[49] Expansion in the seventeenth century would remedy this.

The seventeenth century

The seventeenth century saw a period of marked expansion and change in Galashiels, during which it is likely that the focus of the settlement shifted from the area around Paton Street to the higher ground of the Old Town.

18

In 1599, James Pringle of Galashiels was given the right to establish a burgh of barony at Galashiels.[50] Until 1850 it was administered by a baron bailie under the Scotts of Gala, who succeeded the Pringles of Gala as superiors in 1632. The laird was the town's feudal superior, usually represented by a bailie or magistrate. The first magistrate, serving from 1695, was Robert Ker of Prieston.[51] The town is said to have prospered shortly after being established as a burgh of barony.

Burgh status gave the town the important commercial privilege of holding its own market. In 1599 the town was granted the right to a weekly market on Wednesday and a yearly fair on St Peter's Day, called Midsummer.[52] The Act of Ratification of 1617 fixed fairs for 24 June and 29 September, and a third fair was appointed by parliament in 1693 for the first Tuesday of November.[53] Later references show this third fair was principally a market for black cattle and corn for winter.[54]

In time, market fairs were held on other days in the year. For example, at the start of the nineteenth century markets were held on the third Wednesday in March (a large gathering, concerning mostly seedcorn, cattle and linen), 8 July (a general market attracting people from across southern Scotland), and 10 October. The Martinmas fair continued to be held on the first Tuesday of November until about 1786 when the day was changed. It remained a big affair, with fleshers coming great distances to purchase oxen. Until the start of the nineteenth century the fair was held at Kyloe Park on Gala Hill, after which it was moved to St Boswells and then gradually declined.[55]

Tolbooth

The tolbooth (NT 4950 3575) was probably built in the early seventeenth century, shortly after Galashiels became a burgh of barony. It was a two-storey building, with a thatched roof and a square tower (containing a clock and bell) and a weather vane on top of the iron spire.[56] Earliest mentions of the tolbooth cite it as the place for preaching, until the kirk was built.[57] Later sources describe its use as a dancing school.[58]

The tolbooth in a burgh of barony would only rarely be adorned by the great tall steeple representing civic power typically seen on those in royal burghs; in a burgh of barony justice was customarily done in the laird's own seat when he was in residence.[59] However, it was quite common for the tolbooth to include the burgh school, temporary holding cells for those awaiting trial, space for the burgh tron or weighing machine, and a room for collecting customs dues.

In Scottish market towns, the tolbooth was the building in which monies were paid by traders attending the markets. Those who fell foul of the law also saw the tolbooth at close quarters, as it was used as a prison for the manorial court of Galashiels.[60] Prisoners were routinely punished with the jougs – an iron collar chained to the wall – which hung at the door.[61]

The tolbooth stood at the junction of Elm Row and the present Scott Crescent (NT 4950 3575) – near the mercat cross and the 'Pant Well'.[62] The ruins of the building survived into the late nineteenth century; they may be identified with the 'Old Gaol (in ruins)' marked between Gala House and Elm Row on the Ordnance Survey town plan of 1858. The OS surveyors remarked that:

> there is only the west end and portions of the north and south walls standing. And would appear to have been built in the form of one of the old 'Border Peels' high and narrow and walls of considerable thickness. The Town Clock was originally kept here and the place which it occupied is still boxed off.[63]

The clock and bell were removed from the tolbooth to the square red steeple of the parish church and the weather vane to Old Gala House, where the bell with headstock was also eventually taken.[64] The clock and weather vane are dated 1669, [65] while the bell bears the date 1695 and is said to have hung in the tolbooth from 1695 to 1861.[66] The jougs were taken by Sir Walter Scott to Abbotsford.[67]

Reavely, writing in 1875, described the tolbooth as 'almost extinct'[68] and Groome states that the tolbooth's 'ivy-clad ruins' were demolished in the summer of 1880.[69] Hall records that:

> Previous to this date the ground on which it was erected had been feued on the condition that the venerable building was not interfered with. A violent gale, however, damaged it considerably, and latterly it fell into such a ruinous condition as rendered it a source of danger to those in the neighbourhood, and it was reluctantly removed'.[70]

Other sources indicate that there was a secondary aim behind its demolition: the formation of a new street, which required the removal of the tolbooth's south wall.[71]

Market cross

The market cross was the traditional symbol of a Scottish burgh's trading status, since it showed that the town had the right to hold its own market. It was also the focus for social interaction and the place for town proclamations.[72]

The market cross of Galashiels can be firmly dated to 1695 but was almost certainly erected long before this – probably soon after the town became a burgh of barony.[73] It was sited close to the site of the present cross (**fig 11**) at the junction of Scott Crescent, Church Street and Elm Row.[74]

The cross originally stood on a circular stone base with a flight of steps and a projecting balcony, from where proclamations were made, according to nineteenth-century sources, but there is no known illustration.[75] The balcony was removed before the cross itself was taken down. The shaft of the cross

rested on a pedestal on the top of the circular base, and was surmounted by a dial holding an iron rod carrying a vane, dated 1695 and bearing the initials J.S.[76] These probably relate to James Scott, fourth laird of Gala, who had just inherited from Hugh Scott, third laird.

The cross was removed in 1820 and the shaft was left abandoned at the back of Gala coach house. It was restored in 1867, and again in 1887, with the aid of funds from a public subscription, retaining the sundial and vane. A section of the original shaft can be seen in Old Gala House.[77] Further works involving stone replacement were carried out in 1987, as a result of which the cross now stands on a traffic island on a busy crossroads between Scott Crescent and Elm Row (NT 4927 3577).[78]

Old Gala House

In 1611 Sir James Pringle made Galashiels his main residence. He extended the modest earlier building to create a more substantial house in the fashionable Renaissance style (see **fig 9; fig 12**).[79] Surviving carved windows and door detail indicate a seat of particular quality, as does a richly carved fireplace lintel that carries the date 1611 and the names of Sir James and his wife, Jean Kerr. The house was almost certainly surrounded by an inner court and high-walled yards providing a micro-climate for cultivation. The house was complemented with an elaborate garden that delighted Sir Christopher Lowther who visited Galashiels in 1629:

> He hath a very pretty park, with many natural walks in it, artificial ponds and arbours now a making, he hath neat gardens and orchards, and all his tenants through his care, he hath abundance of cherry trees, bearing a black cherry, some of which I see to be about 30 yards high and a fathom thick, great store of sycamores, trees he calleth silk trees, and fir trees.[80]

The existence of 'artificial ponds and arbours' and 'natural walks' displays an attitude to garden design which was unusual for the time. This was a move outwards, away from the enclosed gardens of the late medieval period, one that took account of natural features in the surrounding landscape, although often through the eyes of classical writers. It may have been an early example

of a form of garden known as a 'wilderness', where an irregular layout of paths led through trees and shrubbery. This form was derived from Italian gardens and was being introduced in English palaces by the end of the sixteenth century.[81] Pringle's enthusiasm for cherry trees was not confined to his own garden; tenants were fined if they did not plant six cherry trees or twelve other trees.

In the late eighteenth century there was a large walled garden to the north of the house which had an orchard at its northern end and was bounded by Bakehouse Burn on the south (see **fig 4**). The combination of stream and walled garden may indicate an early seventeenth-century origin as a water garden. The remains of this designed landscape are now separated from Old Gala House by the later creation of Scott Crescent and have been altered and partially built over, although part of the structure of the walled garden may survive behind Balmoral Place and Scott Street.

The Pringles occupied the house until 1632, when Sir James moved back to the family home of Smailholm Tower near Kelso, where he died three years later. The house then passed from the Pringles into the ownership of the Scott family through the marriage in 1621 of Jean, Sir James's daughter, to Hugh

Scott.[82] Under the Scotts more work was conducted on Old Gala House, including an ornate timber ceiling on the first floor, painted to commemorate the wedding of Jean Pringle and Hugh Scott and incorporating their initials. In the mid-seventeenth century the house was described as one of the principal houses of Selkirkshire.[83]

Parish church

Markets and fairs, and the presence of a laird, stimulated growth in the town. According to a report in 1622 there were at that time around 400 people in Galashiels.[84] Although it was still a small settlement compared with other towns in Lowland Scotland, this is likely to have represented a significant increase in a short time. It was because of this increase that the minister began preaching at Galashiels rather than splitting his time between there and Boleside, as had been the practice previously.[85] Initially, preaching took place in the tolbooth, but in 1617 a local church was erected.[86]

The church was built in what is now known as the Old Burial Ground (see **figs 5 & 10**). It was described by Commissioners in 1622 as 'well built, comely apparelled'.[87] It had a typical rectangular shape with lofts on three sides of the upper floor for all the trades, and the laird – the longest side is occupied by the Gala pew. The ordinary people brought stools or benches to sit on. The church at that time exerted tremendous authority and those who stepped out of line were suitably rebuked from the pulpit. For any scandal they had to stand at 'the pillar', sometimes dressed in sackcloth. There was even a pair of jougs set in the wall outside the door as an ultimate punishment.

The church acted for the whole district and the name of the parish was changed from Lindean to Galashiels in 1622.[88] It also served as the school up to 1695, when orders were given that the school should be held in the school house and no longer in the church.[89]

It was demolished *c* 1813 because it had become 'dangerous and unhealthy and totally unfit for divine service' – as described by John Smith who built the replacement church (which came to be known as the old parish church) in 1812–14.[90] The churchyard continued to be used for burials; the Ordnance Survey map of 1858 marks a watch house at its south-west corner, a reflection of the prevalent fear of body-snatching. The churchyard contains no gravestone earlier than 1697 and there is no trace of the parish church in the churchyard.[91]

In 1636 Hugh Scott of Gala built a burial aisle at right-angles to the church (NT 4945 3570). Above the doorway is a sculptured stone with the date and the letters 'H.S.I.P.', signifying Hugh Scott and Jean Pringle.[92] Above the window built into the south wall is a sculptured stone that originally occupied a position above the door of the old church. It is now illegible due to the weathering of the stone, but had been inscribed thus: 'Glorie to God in hevin, peace on earth and gud vil among men'.[93]

Originally free-standing, the aisle was connected to the church in the eighteenth century with access to the Laird's Loft. Once the original church was pulled down, the burial aisle was extended, its side walls being increased by roughly 2m and the end closed off with a wall and gothic window.[94] The roof was removed in 1971 and the building remained in ruins until Ettrick and Lauderdale District Council undertook restoration works in 1992, which included reroofing it with stone slates.[95] With the exception of the original portion of Old Gala House, this is the oldest building in Galashiels – most of the north gable and the lower 3m of the side walls for a distance of some 4.6m southwards of the gable are of the original seventeenth-century work.

Mills

The seventeenth century probably saw the first developments in controlling water power for industrial purposes, with the construction of the long lade known as the Galashiels Dam (**figs 4, 7 & 13**), a feature which is clearly shown on John Ainslie's county map of 1773 (**fig 14**).[96] Before this development, mills were reliant on the natural flow of the streams leading into the Gala Water from the neighbouring hillside.[97] The corn mill that formerly stood in Corn Mill Square (**fig 15**) was fed by Bakehouse Burn and its tributary, Mossilee Burn. It is possible that the 'artificial ponds' that were being created by Sir James Pringle in 1629 were not purely decorative, and that they served as millponds for the corn mill. The estate plan of 1795 (**fig 4**) shows a large pond on Bakehouse Burn, to the north of Old Gala House, which may date from the seventeenth century.

Pringle was also credited with founding two fulling (or waulk) mills and two corn mills, noted by Lowther after his 1629 visit.[98] By 1656 three fulling mills were recorded in the town.[99] The mills were evidently kept busy, as demonstrated in a Kirk session report of 1674 which claimed that William Wilson of Nether Haugh 'did suffer his wakmylne to goe till Sabbath morning at daylight, which gave ground of stumbling to them that heard it'. He was ordered to make public satisfaction.[100]

The importance of the mills and their associated textile production is evidenced in the formation of the weavers' corporation in 1666.[101] This association aimed for better regulation of the trade, establishing, for example, four-year apprenticeships, and providing various utensils and articles connected with the craft for the common use of members. It also – as with all such corporations – attempted to ensure its members monopolised the trade.[102]

Weavers were also active in political and social arenas outside their own trade concerns. In 1665 covenanters gathered to hear John Blackader on the banks of the Gala or at Ashiestiel, a noted place for dissent. Some of these dissenters were weavers who were forced to flee from Galashiels as a result of attending dissenting rallies, as their looms were confiscated and dwellings despoiled.[103]

FIGURE 13
Above left: The Gala Dam at Mid Mill wheelpit, Paton Street, 2005 (© Crown Copyright Historic Scotland)

FIGURE 14
Above right: Detail from John Ainslie's *Map of Selkirkshire or Ettrick Forest*, 1773 (NLS EMS.s.33A) (Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

FIGURE 15
Opposite: Aerial photograph of the southern part of the town centre in 1982, showing Old Gala House (top left), Corn Mill Square and Channel Street, Valley/ Mid Mill and Textile College (centre). Nether Mill (bottom) (By courtesy of RCAHMS; © Crown copyright RCAHMS)

Although textile production was starting to take off in Galashiels, most weavers were still dependent upon agricultural work as well[104] and it was not till the eighteenth century that weaving came to dominate the town.

Despite significant changes in Galashiels during the seventeenth century, including some population growth, it remained a small settlement, with only 152 hearths recorded by the hearth tax in the parish in the 1690s.[105]

The eighteenth century

Townscape

At the beginning of the eighteenth century Galashiels was still very much a settlement located adjacent to Gala House and its grounds. The area known as the Old Town formed the core of the burgh and contained the structures that symbolised its burgh status: the market cross and the tolbooth. John Hodges, writing in 1722, gives the following account of the town:

> It is a market town its weeklie market is on the Wednesday it does belong to Scot of Galla being of ancient family, he hath a very fine house with orchards, avenues, parks and planting on the west side of the town near the middle of the town, ther is ane tollbooth with clock and bell and merkit cross at the east end therof, the church and bureing place, the water of Galla runs to the east hard by the toune on the north pairt therof.[106]

According to Hodges, Gala House was 'very fine' and the heavily planted parks had 'very good ponds' for trouting. Although the First Edition OS map shows no trace, the profound two-storeyed drop between Gala House and St Andrew Street might have accommodated a fish stank (tank). Typically, Gala House's privy garden would have been closest to the house (probably lying to the west where the bowling green is now), the gallery would have looked over the river and the view, and the principal kitchen garden and nursery probably lay on the far side of the fish tank, where walled plantations are indicated in later plans.

The earliest known map to show Galashiels in any detail is Roy's map of 1747–55, which shows the town surrounded by unenclosed fields apart from the parkland of Gala House. There is little development in the valley, with the focus of settlement located on the higher land. The old parish church, in the present old graveyard, was at the eastern extremity of the burgh. The burgh was entered from the south by what is now Church Street and existing property boundaries on the north side of this street may date from the original layout of the burgh. An irregular 'square', probably a market area, is shown in roughly the area of the present cross. Two streets extend north from this, one on the line of the later Scott Street and another further east.

The plan of Galashiels has some affinity in shape with that of Melrose, which became a burgh of barony in 1609.

A new manse, to the south of the east end of Church Street, was built in the late 1750s, using stone taken from the dilapidated existing manse.[107] In 1787 repairs were made to the new manse, which may have included an extension.[108] The new manse was one of only two buildings in Galashiels at the end of the eighteenth century to have a slate roof, rather than thatched.[109] Its stables and coach house survive; the rest was rebuilt *c* 1812 and is now known as The Grange.[110]

The Glasite Church was transferred from Darnick to Galashiels *c* 1775 and was established in the Old Town opposite the later Cloth Hall.[111] In 1842 the church was moved from the Old Town to Botany Lane, where it remains today.[112]

By the late eighteenth century the Old Town seems to have been in a state of advanced decay. The writer of the Old Statistical Account remarked on 'the vestiges and ruins of houses' in what he terms the 'village' and surmised that the population must once have been greater. However, Scott of Gala was credited with the building of 32 'good dwelling houses' in the village.[113] A plan of the Gala estate surveyed in 1795 (**fig 4**) shows the town in more detail.[114] As today, Church Street is the dominant axis, crossed by Elm Row and with Tea Street to the west, but a cluster of houses also existed to the north of Elm Row. Their alignment suggests that they may have been grouped around a once-larger market place that had been encroached upon by buildings.
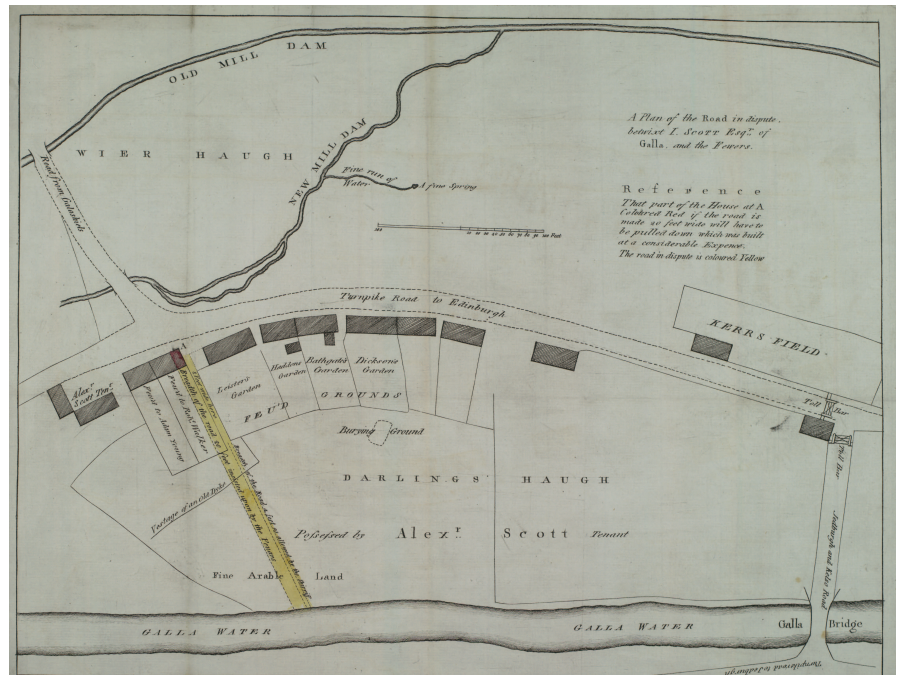
FIGURE 16
A plan of the area of the High Street in *c* 1780 (NAS RHP681 © Crown copyright: National Archives of Scotland)

FIGURE 17
Tea Street, 2005 (© Crown
Copyright Historic Scotland)

By the end of the eighteenth century, the town had begun to grow away from the bounds of Gala House. A map of the Gala estate surveyed in 1795 (**fig 4**) shows linear development on the lower land along roads that would become the framework for the later town centre.[115] The present Overhaugh Street (formerly known as Cowgate) has a broken line of buildings, while further north there is a line of houses on the east side of the present High Street, in the area then known as Darlings Brae. This differentiated development partly reflects the split of the town between the parishes of Galashiels and Melrose – Darlings Brae being in the latter and outside the Gala estate. This whole area, which was to become the core of the nineteenth-century town, was at this time regarded as outwith Galashiels. On a late eighteenth-century plan of Weirhaugh and Darlings Haugh, the area of the later High Street (**fig 16**), the north end of the road that was to become Bank Street is marked as 'Road from Galashiels'.[116]

There was some attempt to impose order on the otherwise scattered buildings by the river. The 1795 estate map (**fig 4**) shows that the present Market Square had been laid out near the crossing of the Gala Water, which was then a ford. The square was only partially enclosed with buildings, with a terrace on the north side and another on the southern end of Market Street.

The growth of the town in the valley was encouraged by a deliberate shrinking of the Old Town when the road north from the cross was closed and the northern part of the older settlement was absorbed into the parkland of Gala House. An area of the Old Town that was not taken into the Gala

House policy appears to have been regularised in plan, as seen in the single-storey cottages of Tea Street (**fig 17**) (NT 4928 3569).[117]

Gala House itself was expanded with a wing to the west, facing the enclosed parkland. Service buildings, including a laundry and servants' quarters, were erected to the south-east of the main house in the form of two pavilions with a courtyard between them, as seen on the plan of 1795 (**fig 4**). These buildings survive today, as Rose Cottage, Woodneuk and Belhenden, on the west side of Gala Terrace.[118]

Roads

The major road from the north, the turnpike road from Edinburgh, opened in 1764 on the west bank of the Gala Water.[119] On the east side of the Gala Water was the turnpike road to Jedburgh. Access to these roads was through two adjacent toll bars at the north end of High Street and the west end of Bridge Place.[120] Although these roads improved communications somewhat, they were of poor quality, especially the road to Edinburgh. Travellers to Edinburgh are recorded as using the channel of the Gala for a road when it was sufficiently dry – even the riverbed afforded a better surface.[121]

Bridges

Eighteenth-century records describe the remains of a stone bridge over the Tweed, about a mile and a half (*c* 2.5km) from Melrose. By at least the middle of the eighteenth century, all that could be seen of this bridge was three octagonal pillars, the centre one bearing the arms of the Pringles of Galashiels.[122] A replacement stone bridge was built *c* 1764 a little further downstream at Buckholmside. Known as the Ladhope Bridge, this bridge was slightly damaged by floods in 1766; it was replaced in the 1880s with the current Ladhope Bridge (**fig 18**).[123]

FIGURE 18
Ladhope Mill from Old Ladhope Bridge, *c* 1880. The 1830s mill in the centre sports the vestigial gable end stacks also found in a few eighteenth-century cotton mills such as Stow Mill. The M-roofed mill on the left was added in 1871; both were destroyed by fire in 1928 and replaced by a concrete-framed new spinning mill (By courtesy of the Old Gala Club; © Old Gala Club/ RCAHMS)

Occupations

There is evidence of various occupations in Galashiels in the early eighteenth century. A *tack of teinds* between Sir James Scott and others from 1714 lists the professions of the signatories as merchants, wrights, weavers, malters and fleshers, and of the witnesses as dyers and skinners.[124]

Fleshers had formed themselves into an incorporation by 1706, as evidenced by a seal of cause from six named fleshers dated 11 October of that year.[125] The first mention of Lees and Aimers millwrights (who later – as Aimers and Sons – became an established engineering firm in the town) dates from 1744 when they were consulted by the burgh of Selkirk. Their original workshop was located close to Hunter's Ha' peel tower in the Old Town.[126]

By the end of the century there were listed ten skinners and tanners, seventeen wrights (cabinet-makers, mill wrights, house carpenters, implement-makers), three blacksmiths, three bakers, five shoe-makers, nine tailors, a number of merchants and shopkeepers, and fifteen licensed houses.[127] In addition, a post office was established in Elm Row in 1791.[128] However, most residents were involved in the textile industry. In 1797 an agent of Scott of Gala wrote that 'the parks and fields proposed to be let to the inhabitants ... seems to be sufficient ... as most of them are (to their credit) so intent on their own business that they have not great desire to be farmers'.[129]

Textiles

The eighteenth century saw a period of great transformation in Galashiels, driven primarily by an expansion in textile production, from only two mills at the start of the century to an established industry by its end.

As with the rest of the Scottish woollen industry, little progress was made in the quality of manufacturing in Galashiels' mills in the early eighteenth century,[130] references emphasising the low quality of the textiles. In 1733 Sir Patrick Lindsay wrote in his book *The Interests of Scotland Considered* an account of the woollen trade in Galashiels:

> At Galashiels are made a few coarse kerseys, called Galashiels Gray, for home consumpt, and was their wool better scribbled, the goods more milled and better finished, they might serve in place of the lowest priced Yorkshires for country wear to ordinary people and day labourers.[131]

Attempts by the Board of Trustees for Manufactures (established in 1727) to improve the industry had little success. In 1728 a man skilled in sorting, stapling and washing coarse tarred wool was placed by the Board in Galashiels.[132] He was to have a work-house conveniently situated near running water, for which the Laird of Galashiels gave guarantee, but after five years he had made little impact.[133] Later, the Board paid according to results: in 1744 and 1746 a James Williamson from Galashiels was paid for a modest quantity of wool which was sorted, carded and manufactured; he then disappears from

the records. Other towns manufactured much larger quantities of textiles.[134] The industry in Galashiels, and elsewhere, was hampered by the poor quality of fleeces, on account of covering sheep with tar to prevent disease, as well as bad husbandry, poor technical skills in weaving and spinning, and the use of unsorted wool. Attempts to improve the industry by encouraging skilled foreign workers and providing some protections from foreign competition made little difference.

However, *c* 1770 a series of factors helped stimulate Galashiels' textile industry. These included rising demand for cloth at home and overseas, coupled with improvements in the quality of local wool. There was also a particularly strong demand for blue cloth, which encouraged improvements in the skill of dyeing. The rise in local demand was created by rapid growth in the Scottish population, from 1.25 million in 1755 to 2 million in 1821, and by higher living standards.[135] Agricultural advances helped improve local wool quality – especially the introduction of Cheviot sheep with a fleece suitably hardy and heavy for the weather, but with a fine texture – and changes in farming practices, such as using oil and butter to protect sheep, rather than tar.[136]

This growth encouraged investment in the industry, with all the expected positive consequences. Financial backing came from a variety of sources. The Board of Trustees provided grants and subsidies for purchasing equipment such as looms, dye-vats, carding and spinning machinery. They also paid for local workers to travel to study finishing techniques.[137] Galashiels was particularly successful in securing support from the Board. For example, between 1791 and 1829 Galashiels received £3803 of a possible £4744. The Borders generally were successful in the Board's competitive premiums: over the same period, the Borders took a total of £4021.[138] Notable local figures, such as the Laird and Dr Robert Douglas, the independently wealthy minister, also provided financial support for the industry, both in cash (such as the £1000 loan provided by Douglas to build Cloth Hall) and in kind, for example long leases.[139] In 1825, Robert Wilson compared the Laird's beneficence favourably with the attitude prevalent among Hawick landowners and remarked that 'Mr Scott of Gala, and his father, whose views seem to have been equally sound and liberal, have raised a town which is likely to become the Leeds of Scotland'.[140]

In 1777 the Manufacturers' Corporation was established by ten manufacturers in Galashiels. Initially the Corporation's main concern was providing equipment to share, but it soon became the governing body of the industry, developing standards and encouraging investment, and grew rapidly in numbers.[141] But most investment in the industry was made by the manufacturers themselves – the bulk of the capital came from the meagre savings of ordinary men. Those who invested about £3000 in the Galashiels woollen industry in 1790s were described as 'poor people who

began business without any capital', raising themselves 'by their own energy and enterprise'.[142] However, the amount of capital should not be overstated: buildings could be rented, and building conversions were minimal, as mills could operate in fairly primitive conditions – four stout posts and a thatched roof was all that was required for a late eighteenth-century Galashiels fulling mill, although most were stone structures. Machinery too was relatively inexpensive, especially as the technology was slow to change.[143]

Technological change might have been slow, but its effects were profound. Much of the new textile technology had been pioneered in England, especially that associated with wool preparation and spinning. Spinning 'jennies' first appeared in the 1790s; initially these were hand-jennies, mostly located in spinners' lofts, but, soon after, water-driven semi-automatic 'mule' jennies were introduced.[144] Scribbling or carding machines which disentangled and then blended the wool fibres were widespread from the late eighteenth century. These reduced dependence upon hand labour and increased the supply of prepared wool to spinners. Hand-operated scribblers were bought by a group of four Galashiels clothiers in 1785, while the first water-driven carding engines were probably built in 1791.[145]

Mills

By 1797 four buildings had been erected for teasing, scribbling, and carding yarn: Wilderhaugh Mill, Ladhope Mill, Botany Mill and Mid Mill (**fig 19**) – all were water powered.[146]

Wilderhaugh Mill was built in 1790 by George Mercer to accommodate some of the new machinery: a 'scribbler' (carding machine).[147] It was the first mill for machine carding in Galashiels.[148] The original building was 65ft (20m) long, 27ft (8.2m) wide and 16ft (4.9m) high; it was demolished in 1862, and replaced by Wilderbank Mill.[149]

Ladhope Mill, built in 1793, was also known as the Boglehole Park or Low Buckholmside dam.[150] The first mill at Botany Mill was a fulling mill built in 1797 by Hugh Sanderson (a clothier) and Thomas Clapperton (a weaver) as Weirhaugh Mill.[151] The building was 40ft (12.2m) long, 18ft (5.5m) wide and 18ft (5.5m) high.[152] Ladhope and Weirhaugh Mills were each extended as spinning mills in 1834 and 1829 respectively, and both were later destroyed by fire.

Mid Mill was built in 1792 by four co-partners, on the site of one of the fulling mills belonging to the Gala estate in the 1580s.[153] Originally called Mid Waulkmill, it was 40ft (12.2m) long, 29ft (8.8m) wide and 16ft (4.9m) high.[154]

A feature associated with the mills was tenting grounds: lines of frames with hooks, on which the cloth was stretched and dried in the open air after fulling. These appear in an early view of the town (**fig 20**) and gave rise to open spaces within the town centre, often in the backlands. There

Mid or Valley Mill, interior of beam engine house, showing that this was a double engine, where two beams pivoted on an entablature carried by four columns. This arrangement is found only in the largest textile mills or in water pumping stations. Photographed before demolition in 1980 (By courtesy of RCAHMS; © Crown copyright RCAHMS)
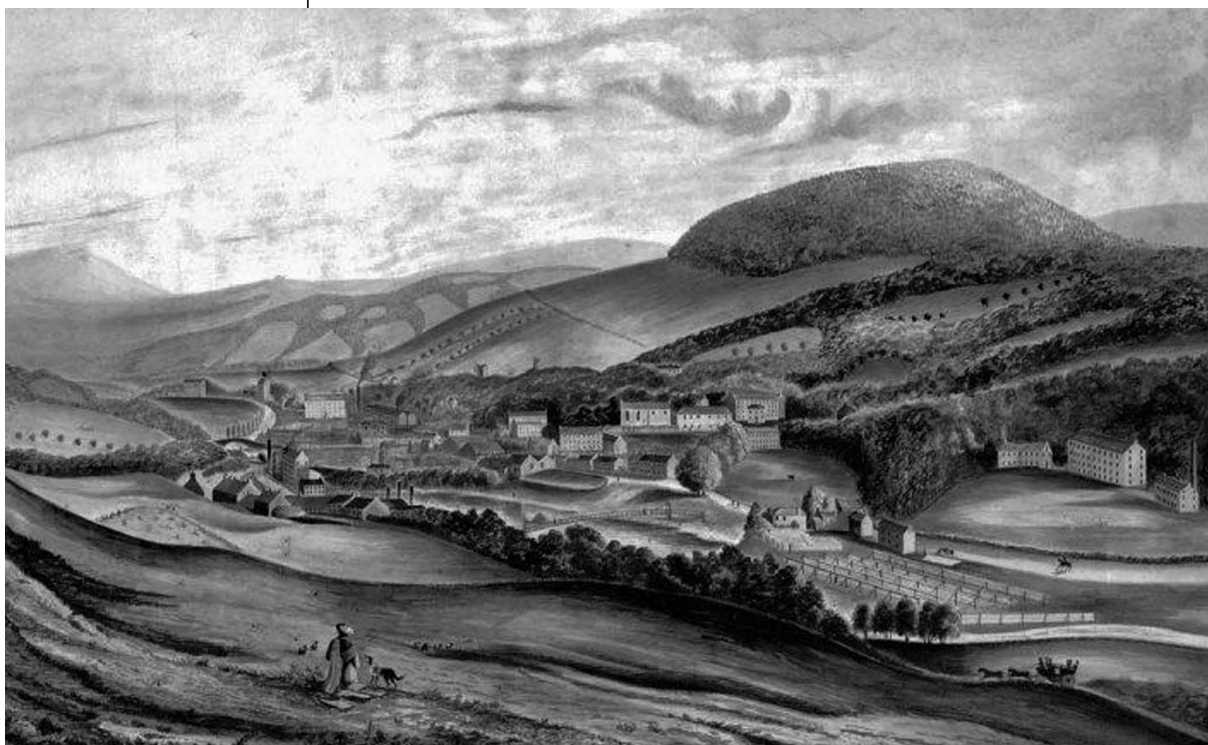
Galashiels from Buckholm Hill in 1845. This is the frontispiece in Hall's *History of Galashiels* (1898). Prominent from left to right are Abbots, Bridge, Ladhope, Nether and Mid Mills, Old Gala House and the parish church above trees, Waulkmillhead Mill and the Corn Mill, the Glasite Church with its two windows emphasised, Botany and Rosebank Mills, Mr Lees' Suspension Bridge and his Galabank Mill, and nearer the foreground, tenters at Wilderhaugh Mill (By courtesy of RCAHMS; © Crown copyright RCAHMS)

was a large area extending south-east from Market Square, while another lay to the north-west of Ladhope Mill. The tenting grounds associated with Botany Mill were to the west of High Street, on land that is now occupied by a car park.

Weaving

The technology of weaving was slower to change. The fly-shuttle loom was introduced into Galashiels in 1788,[155] and was initially used in homes. Later, it was employed in loom shops that were established in the town. In 1789 it was reported in the town that, on account of the flying shuttle, 'a greater quantity can be worked with less fatigue, softer wool can be closer driven, which makes better cloth, and webs can be woven as broad as the looms will admit'.[156] The ability to weave wider cloth was particularly important as demand for narrow cloth was limited. By 1790 there were 43 such looms in Galashiels.[157]

Lades

Expansion in the textile industry relied upon the successful exploitation of the Gala Water. The full potential of this water power was first harnessed in the seventeenth century with the construction of the Galashiels Dam (see **figs 4, 7 & 13**) which supplied power to the waulk and grain mills.[158] This lade is clearly shown on Ainslie's county map of 1773, with five mills marked along its course (see **fig 14**).[159]

The riverside of Darlings Haugh, immediately to the east of Gala House, lay outside the lands of the Gala estate and, indeed, outside the county. The Dam or lade, however, skirted the west side of the valley floor within the Gala estate, and was a potential source of water power for woollen mills. The existence of an industrial infrastructure in the former waulkmills allowed their enterprising owners to expand into other aspects of woollen manufacture.[160]

In around 1797 a new lade was created, running from Botany Mill in the direction of Channel Street (see **figs 5 & 7**); it is marked as 'New Mill Dam' on an undated late eighteenth-century plan.[161] This lade supplied the tannery that was situated between the northern parts of Overhaugh and Channel Streets, the name of the latter street being derived from the open lade on its south side.[162]

In 1783, George Mercer, the owner of Wilderhaugh Mill, is recorded as receiving £20 towards the cost of erecting a dam head.[163] In 1788 the Buckholmside dam joined the Gala Water at the mouth of Ladhope Burn but it was swept away by a flood in 1831. The weir was subsequently rebuilt, higher and further upstream.[164]

Dyeworks

Dyeing also became more important in Galashiels towards the end of the century. As demand for blue cloth increased, indigo dyeing became more entrenched, resulting in the local 'greys' giving way to 'blues'.[165] In 1778–79 the Dyers' Corporation of Galashiels was founded, marking the new skill as an established trade.[166]

Both fulling and dyeing required special covered premises and both also needed running water: for boiling in dye-vats, scouring the mill and cloth, and driving fulling stocks. In time, both dyeing and fulling were practised by dyers under the same roof.[167]

The Cloth Hall

To facilitate the sale of cloth, the Cloth Hall was built (see **fig 11**) in what is now Scott Crescent. It acted as both a warehouse and trade centre for the milling industry.[168] Without this simple building the textile industry in Galashiels could not have expanded as speedily as it did. The Cloth Hall's Old Town location, however, was not ideal, being so far from the expanding mills.

Constructed in 1791–92, with later additions and alterations, it is a two-storey building, with a single-storey curved section to one corner and later additions to the rear. It was inspired by the cloth halls of the West Riding of Yorkshire. These varied in size but some, such as Piece Hall in Halifax, were extremely grandiose.[169]

The Cloth Hall opened for business on 30 July 1792 and was an instant success: more than 3700 yards (3383m) of cloth sold for over £500 in less than an hour.[170] The cost of the building was met by subscription and the local minister, Dr Robert Douglas, gave a loan of £1000. Each member of the Manufacturers' Association was allocated a shelf and charged an annual rent of 40 shillings for this space.[171] The Hall's construction was part of an attempt to make the town a marketing centre, a venture which terminated in 1811 – its failure blamed chiefly on the remoteness of the Borders, which discouraged merchants from visiting the town – but while it lasted, manufacturers were able to obtain part of the price of their cloth from a fund on its lodgement in the Hall; the remainder was paid on sale.[172] In 1813 the Hall became a public house and later a bank; it is now converted to flats.[173]

Scale of production

Production of cloth increased in Galashiels throughout the eighteenth century, particularly in the latter decades. This was the case for most of the towns in the Borders, although production of woollen cloth in Scotland generally decreased. The cloth from Galashiels remained of relatively poor quality, although some improvements were made.[174]

Galashiels was noted by Richard Pococke in 1760 as being famous for weaving,[175] while in 1790 it was reported that 'the manufacture of coarse

woollen cloth is here carried on to a great extent. It has rapidly increased within these few years, and is now brought to great perfection'.[176] Flannels and superior cloths were also being produced alongside coarse greys and blankets by the end of the century.[177] Mechanised carding and spinning increased production with only modest capital expenditure. In 1798 Dr Douglas stated that his parishioners were able to make 'a much greater quantity of cloth on a shorter notice' than before, as well as cheaper and of better quality.[178] The one downside to this was the decline of linen-weaving in the Melrose area, seen by some as a direct result of Galashiels' textile success, since woollen manufacturers were paying higher wages to spinners than the linen trade could afford.[179]

The amount of woollen cloth produced rose from between 722 and 792 stone (4585–5030kg) in 1774 to 2916 stone (18,517kg) in 1790, after George Mercer established Wilderhaugh Mill. This much cloth would be worth an estimated £5000.[180] This does not include the cloth which in 1790 was still produced for private use.[181]

The number of spinners in the town quadrupled between 1780 and 1791, with 241 women in constant employment spinning wool by the later date.[182] In addition there was a small colony of weavers and thirteen owners employing 50 journeymen and apprentices in 'sorting, scourging, and scribbling'.[183]

Housing

The expanding mills were the nuclei around which the new industrial town grew, resulting in clusters of development around each mill. The pattern was one of individual mills, each with associated housing nearby. The success of the textile industry did bring some wealth to the whole town, evidenced by things such as improvements in housing. A report by David Loch to the Trustees of the Board on Manufactures in 1776 claimed that the houses built in the village showed people to be much more prosperous than formerly.[184] Between 1771 and 1791 a number of new houses were built, especially on the haugh land bordering Galashiels, close to the mills.[185]

The manufacturers built their own houses at a little distance from, but within sight of, their mills. Some, such as Wilderhaugh, were positioned to take advantage of a river view. This was sited by the fall of the weir to the north of the present Wilderhaugh Street. The Ordnance Survey map of 1858 shows a summerhouse on the north side of the river, evidence that the picturesque could coexist with industry. Most of the earlier mill owners' houses have been demolished but the practice of having a close physical link with the mill was continued in the later nineteenth century by Archibald Cochrane who built his new mansion of Abbotshill overlooking Netherdale Mill. A direct path, known as Archie's Path, created to connect the owner's house and mill, still survives today.[186]

Great changes were beginning to be made in Galashiels during the

eighteenth century, mostly due to the growth of the textile industry. At the end of the century Galashiels remained relatively small – in 1790 the Minister of Galashiels estimated that there were 581 inhabitants in the town. However, that number had apparently increased from the time his ministry started in 1770.[187] Moreover, the shape of the town had begun to alter, extending far beyond the Old Town as its focus shifted towards the river and lades.

The nineteenth century

Galashiels underwent substantial changes during the nineteenth century. The town grew in wealth, size and number of inhabitants, moving from a population of around 800 at the beginning of the century to a peak of 19,553 in 1890. This phenomenal 24-fold expansion was based on the thriving textile industry, which saw Galashiels become an important textile manufacturing town. When Dorothy Wordsworth passed through Galashiels in 1803, her descriptions captured the town's burgeoning industry, although this clearly did not meet with her expectations of picturesque countryside:

> Went through a part of the village of Galashiels, pleasantly situated on the bank of the stream; a pretty place it once has been, but a manufactory is established there; and a townish bustle and ugly stone houses are fast taking place of the brown-roofed thatched cottages, of which a great number yet remain, partly overshadowed by trees.[188]

Population

Various population records document the dramatic increase in the number of people living and working in Galashiels in the nineteenth century. In 1801 there were 844 inhabitants.[189] This had risen to *c* 1000 a decade later and *c* 2200 by the 1820s. By the 1850s there were about 6000 inhabitants and this rise continued steadily: to *c* 10,500 in the 1870s, 15,500 in the 1880s and peaking at 19,553 in 1889–90.[190] Much of the population increase was due to people moving into the town for work. In 1881, for example, it was estimated that 53% of the population was not born in Galashiels. Most of these migrant workers were from the surrounding Border counties.[191]

In the 1890s demand for Galashiels cloth began to decline and so did the population, falling by a quarter in one decade.[192]

Textile industry

The growth of the textile industry seen in the late eighteenth century continued in the early nineteenth century. In 1815 an observer noted that the town was in a state of 'great animation, the woollen manufacture being uncommonly busy', due to the 'rapid advancement' that had lately been achieved.[193] One of the most visible signs of the increase in woollen

manufacture was the development of handloom shops, concentrating handlooms in factories rather than at home. This was a feature of the woollen industry in the Borders, along with large wool-spinning mills, which operated in connection with handloom weaving making it vertically integrated with scouring, dyeing and finishing so as to control all stages in manufacture.[194] By 1838 most Galashiels looms were described as 'factory' looms.[195] Surviving examples of these factories include Ladhope Vale (NT 49136 36409), Gala Mill, and the handmill in Bridge Street.

The rapid growth of the woollen industry in the town meant not only the erection of new mills but also the expansion and rebuilding of older ones on sites determined by water power that was already stretched to its limit. These mills were the most prominent feature in the townscape. New mills were fitted into the town centre and spread both upstream and downstream at Netherdale. In the late 1830s Galashiels manufacturers were obliged to expand onto sites in Selkirk (Dunsdale, Ettrick and Forest) during 1835–38 as the best sites in Galashiels had already gone. The arrival of steam power, made possible by the railway which brought in the necessary coal, permitted expansion to resume in Galashiels in the 1850s.

Botany Mill (**fig 21**), formerly Weirhaugh Mill, described above, had been built as a fulling mill in 1797. It was extended with a spinning mill in 1829, and a second spinning mill at right angles to it is shown in the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1858 (**fig 6**), with a steam engine house adjoining it, connected also by a shaft to the 1829 mill.[196] It is likely that a fire in 1870 destroyed this second spinning mill, as the present tall building on that site dates from 1871. This, the tallest building in the complex, is four storeys high, constructed of whin and sandstone rubble with red sandstone dressings. The interior is supported by cast-iron columns and timber beams, and there is a timber stair. It held 22 'slow looms' on each of the three upper flats.[197] Multi-storey weaving mills were superseded when fast looms which shook floors were brought in from *c* 1880, so the building became a wool store. This, along with buildings at Tweed Mill, Galashiels, and Ettrick Mill, Selkirk, is a rare survival of a 'slow loom' mill. The mill is a prominent feature in the townscape and forms part of a significant group of buildings, with those of Morrison & Murray's engineering group, the location from 1844 of Sanderson and Murray, fellmongers, and the former Glasite Church.

Wilderbank Mill (NT 4868 3661) occupied the site of Wilderhaugh Mill, built *c* 1790 (although 1780 is sometimes given as the date) by George Mercer. The foundations of Wilderhaugh Mill, which Craig-Brown suggests was possibly the first woollen mill in Scotland to employ machine carding (albeit contested by Caerlee Mill, Innerleithen, which dates from 1788), were still traceable in 1886 outside the walls of the later factory.[198] The original fulling mill building was 65ft (19.8m) long, 27ft (8.2m) wide and 16ft (4.9m) high. The introduction of mechanised carding machinery required an addition to

it. The factory suffered damage from fires in 1811 and 1819 but was rebuilt, and a two-storey spinning house was added in 1827.[199] In 1862 the mill was acquired by William Brown, who demolished the old building and erected a new factory. The old name was changed to Wilderbank, 'in consequence of the difficulty Englishmen had in pronouncing Wilderhaugh'.[200]

Waulkhead Mill, built between 1792 and 1802 on the site of an old waulk (fulling) mill which dated from at least the 1580s, stood near the foot of Bank Street Brae. Like other mills of its time it was a tall narrow building with small windows.[201] A fire in 1841 damaged the building, but its basic form survived.[202] The mill was sold to the town council in 1947 for £600 and demolished in 1949. The site now forms part of Bank Street Gardens, a project promoted by Dr Oliver of the Scottish College of Textiles, who recognised its historic importance and donated the land.[203]

Rosebank Mill, built in 1805, was the first mill in Galashiels to introduce spinning mules, which were installed in 1814. The mill stood alongside the mill lade between Botany Mill and Deanbank Mill. A water wheel on the lade was in use until 1953 when it was removed (along with an old steam engine) and the mill completely electrified.[204] Other mills from this period include Nether Mill, in Huddersfield Street, built in 1804–05 for James Bathgate and Partners,[205] Galabank Mill, also in Huddersfield Street, and Huddersfield Mill (later known as Bridge Mill), both dating from 1818,[206] and Abbots Mill, a prominent mill on the road to Netherdale, which was built in 1841. Its main buildings survived until 1970.[207] Buckholm Mill was built in 1846 by Henry Sanderson on the site of the Buckholm corn mill after that was destroyed by fire in 1839. The mill closed in 1972 and the building was demolished in 1975.[208]

The textile industry did not grow smoothly over the course of the century. From 1778 to 1825 the number of employers in the industry rose from ten to 35. In 1790 the value of cloth produced was estimated at £5500; by 1825 175 handlooms were producing £58,000 worth of cloth – mostly 'blues' and 'drabs', but also striped cloth and checks.[209] After the Napoleonic Wars (1804–15) there was a depression in the woollen trade which brought considerable hardship to the town, such that in 1827 it was described as being 'in a most disastrous condition'.[210]

The depression brought about significant modifications to the industry. Prior to 1829 Galashiels' chief products were blankets and cloth of home-produced wool, along with knitting yarns and flannels. In response to the depression, finer yarns from imported wool (initially from Europe, later from Australia) and new fabrics were introduced: chiefly tartans and mixed trousering in tweed.[211] These products found new markets, whilst also keeping pace with changes in fashion. In 1839, Galashiels was described as 'the most thriving of all the woollen districts, its trade being rapidly on the increase'. Galashiels' firms were the largest exhibitors in the textiles section of the Great Exhibition of 1851, scooping four of the twelve medals that came to Scotland. By 1853 the estimated value of the Galashiels tweed industry was *c* £250,000, in 1870 nearly £600,000, and possibly £1,000,000 by the early 1880s.[212] However, there must have been significant knock-on effects for local wool producers as a result of these changes. In the 1820s only about 5% of wool used in Galashiels was imported, 95% being locally produced. By the 1850s those figures had been reversed.[213] In 1848 a local newspaper talked of the Galashiels wool fair 'which at one time was pretty large, but [has] now almost dwindled down to nothing, since foreign wool has so greatly superseded the home-grown in our manufacturers'.[214]

In 1843, Fullarton's *Gazetteer of Scotland* records the following description of the Galashiels woollen industry:

> The factories being worked by water, the ground attached to them being painted over with the many coloured fabrics which are hung out to complete the process for the market, the dispersedness of the seats of stir and activity at intervals on the banks of the pastoral stream, the picturesque features of the rich landscape which sweep around, all contribute Galashiels from descending to the sootiness of most other seats of manufacture.[215]

By 1850 there were so many mills in the town – and most of considerable size – that the available water power was exhausted and manufacturers were forced to seek new locations.[216] In 1851 the mills in the Borders derived 84% of their power from water; in Galashiels, all twelve factories were propelled by water, with two using steam as auxiliary power.[217] Improvements in communications allowed coal to be brought easily into Galashiels for use

FIGURE 22
Comelybank Mill 1852,
showing the first two-storey
mill with spinning and
weaving on two levels, tenter
posts by the Gala Water, and
a chimney and steam engine
house behind the mill (By
courtesy of RCAHMS;
© Crown copyright
RCAHMS)
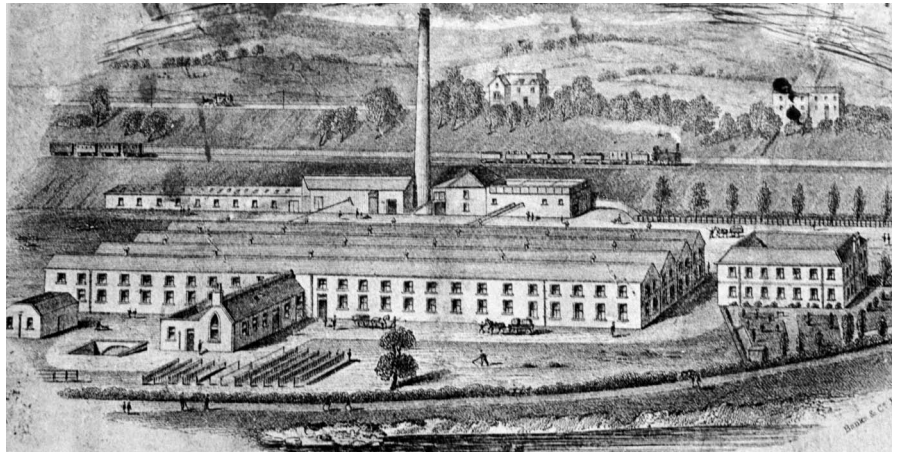
by steam-powered frames.[218] Tweed Mill, built in 1852 by P & R Sanderson, was the first mill in Galashiels to be powered entirely by steam, followed the same year by Comelybank Mill (**fig 22**). In each case the looms were on the top floor, above the mules and carding machines.[219] Initially steam power was viewed only as a supplement to water power, for use in emergencies, as demonstrated by the shaft from the engine at Botany Mill into the older water-powered mill;[220] by 1863 twelve of the sixteen mills in operation still used water power to some extent, but only one remained wholly dependent upon it. Steam-powered looms also gradually displaced handlooms, although the decline in handloom weaving in Galashiels was slower than elsewhere in Scotland. Henry Ballantyne and Sons were still hiring handloom weavers as late as 1868.[221]

Powered spinning mills of the 1820s (as at Botany and Ladhope Mills) were relatively narrow, with vestigial stacks in the gables and small windows. In the 1840s and 1850s, as tweed manufacturers invested heavily in mules of up to 600 spindles, mills became deeper and windows larger. Later in the century, mules were replaced by fully automatic 'self-actors'.[222] The optimum arrangement in the 1860s came to be mules facing each other in pairs, controlled by a single spinner. These would be arranged lengthwise, a four-bay depth being typical. Mills could be measured by the number of mules to either side of a stair tower (single as at Nether Mill, or double as at the two Netherdale Mills and Valley Mill) (**fig 23**). Mills of this type are also found in Selkirk and Langholm and Huddersfield in England (which produced comparable, but inferior, yarn).

The years 1850 to 1880 were a boom period for the town's textile industry. In 1863 one-fifth of the production capacity of the Scottish woollen industry was located in Galashiels.[223] At least some of this success was due to wars in Europe and America which paralysed foreign competition.[224] Galashiels responded swiftly to the increase in demand, with extensions to many of the factories, including Botany Mill, Wilderbank Mill and Nether Mill (later

called Waverley), and the construction of new ones: Wheatlands Mill (built on the shed principle) and Valley Mill (added to Mid Mill) in 1866 (**figs 24 & 25**), Netherdale in 1857 and 1873 (a pair of mills), and Langhaugh Spinning Mill in 1874. Weaving sheds were also added: to Comelybank Mill, Abbots Mill and Gala Mill in 1882, to Buckholm Mill in 1884, and to Netherdale Mill in 1893.[225] In all, by 1882 there were seventeen integrated woollen mills in the burgh, as well as four yarn-spinning mills.[226] The new and expanded mills consumed ever larger amounts of wool: from 8 tons in 1774 to 32 tons in 1790, and more than 2000 tons in the mid-1880s.[227] The majority of the population was connected with the manufacture of woollen cloth, the largest buildings in the town were woollen mills, and the most ornate mansions were those belonging to the tweed manufacturers.[228]

Further mechanisation and the division of labour fostered the centralisation of spinning and weaving on a single site. This was reflected in the expansion of mills into larger factories by the later nineteenth century, such as at Netherdale Mill, which at its peak in the 1890s had two mills, an office, engine house, tall brick chimney and weaving sheds that covered 30 acres (12 ha) and employed 650 people.[229]

Evidence of the industry's wealth is still visible in places like Kingsknowe, perched above the Tweed. Now a hotel, it was built in 1868–69 as a mill-owner's Scots Baronial house, with fine chimney pieces and interiors and an exquisite domed cast-iron and glass conservatory (see **fig 41**).[230] Ancillary businesses and services also grew with the wool trade. These included machine-makers, merchant houses, financial agencies, specialist dyers, and a large wool stapling firm, Sanderson and Murray.[231] However, the growth of the town was limited by both real and perceived physical factors. Surrounded by hills, remote from large population centres and coalfields, and with the

FIGURE 23
Netherdale Mill: a double mill, the second of which (on the right), built in 1873, survives as Heriot Watt University, relocated from the 1857 mill, known to students of the Scottish College of Textiles as 'The Production Unit' (on the left). J R Hume 1975 (By courtesy of RCAHMS; © Crown copyright RCAHMS)

FIGURE 24
Above left: Mid Mill *c* 1930, with at the right the mill that became Valley Mill when ownership was split (By courtesy of the Old Gala Club; © Old Gala Club)

FIGURE 25
Above right: Valley Mill (an addition to Mid Mill, built 1866): top floor, which was for weaving. Two valley roofs are carried on two rows of cast iron columns (By courtesy of RCAHMS; © Crown copyright RCAHMS)

amount of machinery limited by the available water power, Galashiels was prevented from becoming a 'second Leeds'.[232]

The boom period did not last. There were severe cutbacks in production in the 1890s as demand for Galashiels cloth declined. This was partly due to the end of hostilities in Europe (1871) and America (1865), which allowed other producers back into the market, but can be attributed mostly to adverse tariffs. Galashiels was almost totally committed to the North American market and in 1890 the American government imposed a tariff (McKinley's tariff) of 49.5% on all imported woollen goods; this was raised to 57% (the Dingley tariff) in 1897. In 1890, 75% of Galashiels trade was with the American market but by the early 1900s this had slumped to 5%.[233] The decline in trade resulted in a fall in population: between 1891 and 1901 the population fell by a quarter.[234] Many of those who lost their jobs emigrated.

Transport

At the start of the century, the only means of transporting goods between Galashiels and Edinburgh was the horse and cart. Galashiels was not on the main roadway to Edinburgh, which was constructed in the mid-eighteenth century via Selkirk, Clovenfords and Stow. The only road between Galashiels and Edinburgh was narrow and poorly maintained.[235] This caused considerable problems, as the bad road often delayed supplies, including coal which was essential for many parts of the manufacturing process, such as dyeing and drying cloth.[236] A tramway was proposed in 1821, when at least 6000 tons of goods are estimated to have been brought into Galashiels (3000 tons of coal, 1000 tons of lime and 2000 tons of timber, iron, oak bark, groceries and other goods); there are no estimates for goods taken out of the town. There was already tram transport between Edinburgh and Dalkeith, and Robert Stevenson, an engineer from Edinburgh, had already surveyed a similar line between Dalkeith and St Boswells on behalf of landed proprietors. The line of the tram-road was to be similar to that of the existing railway engineers'

report: Middleton Moss would be crossed by a chain bridge 500ft (152m) long and a similar bridge would span the Tweed at Galafoot. For no apparent reason, the tramway scheme was abandoned.[237]

In the 1830s, the road between Galashiels and Edinburgh was significantly improved, enabling the establishment of a coal depot in Galashiels in 1832.[238] In addition to providing an ongoing source of supply – should delivery be delayed – this also helped to equalise costs throughout the year. The coal was brought from Midlothian by cart.[239] The creation of the depot also coincided with the establishment of a mail coach.[240] In 1833 a road was constructed between Galashiels and Selkirk.[241]

In 1849 the opening of a new railway enabled the supply of less expensive coal (the cost was approximately halved) and fine wool from Australia, as well as the cheaper provision of alternative building materials such as brick.[242] It also furnished access to the domestic woollen market at a lower cost for the manufacturers of the town.[243] The railway ran from Galashiels, through St Boswells to Hawick. Originally called 'The Border Union Railway', it was renamed 'The Waverley Route' after the line was extended to Carlisle by the North British Railway. An extensive branch line network followed, reaching Selkirk in April 1856 and Peebles in June 1866.[244] The line was closed to passengers in 1951 and to freight in 1964.[245]

Other industrial and commercial development

The prosperity of Galashiels in the nineteenth century was utterly dependent upon the fate of the textile industry. Inevitably the trade depression of the late 1820s brought considerable hardship not only to mill employees but to the whole town, as spending power and demand for other goods and services was reduced.[246] A smaller depression in the late 1840s brought similar difficulties, when the weekly wages of one firm's handloom weavers dropped from 18s in 1846 to 10s 4d in 1849.[247] This depression also happened to coincide with the first of three outbreaks of cholera which hit Galashiels between 1849 and 1853, due to the then inadequate drinking water supply and poor sanitation.[248]

The majority of the nineteenth century, however, was a time of increasing production for the Galashiels factories, with consequent growth for all associated industries (especially once the train line was built). In addition to businesses directly connected with the mills such as dyeing, drying, finishing, skinning and tanning, there was also the development of engineering firms, shops, banks, inns and hotels, as well as new housing, new schools, new churches, leisure facilities and public amenities.

A brewery was built on an extensive scale at Low Buckholmside in 1804 but it failed and the premises were sold in 1809 to Messrs Sanderson and Paterson (a local building firm).[249] The Fleece Inn was well established by 1821, and Sir Walter Scott attended the annual Michaelmas Dinner held there that year.[250]

The plan of Galashiels by J Wood in 1824 shows the Bridge Inn, Commercial Inn, and the Ordnance Arms Inn, but not the Fleece.[251] Besides these four inns there were in 1825 a further six public houses and ten spirit shops, 'being one to every eighty of the population.'[252]

Hall also records the trades and professions that supported the town in 1825: ten shoe-makers, seven tailors, six butchers, five bakers, five blacksmiths, four carpenters, three millwrights, three skinners, two saddlers, two plasterers, one watch-maker, one nailer, one glazier, various firms of builders, two fire and life assurance agents, two surgeons and two banks. The Mechanics Institute and Library was established in 1837.[253] By 1825 the Baptist, Glasite and Secession churches had all been established.

Fullarton's *Gazetteer of Scotland* of 1843 records:

> branch offices of the Leith bank, and the National Bank of Scotland, a savings bank, a friendly society, a reading room, two subscription libraries, a small printing office, and an excellent grammar and boarding school, besides other schools.[254]

Sanderson & Murray, fellmongers, were founded in 1844, with extensive premises for pulling wool from hides. The main building was five storeys high, with a 200ft (61m) chimney stack and a belfry with clock (**fig 26**). Initially the plant bought European wool on the London market and at the great Hamburg wool sale. Later it bought wool directly from Australia and New Zealand, and also from South America, specialising in Australian skin wools. In the mid-1860s the plant was one of the largest of its kind in the world, and made John Murray sufficient money to erect the great mansion of Glenmayne at a cost of £20,000. During the boom years of the textile trade in Galashiels (1860–90) Sanderson & Murray's was the largest skinworks in Europe, treating 20,000 skins per week.[255]
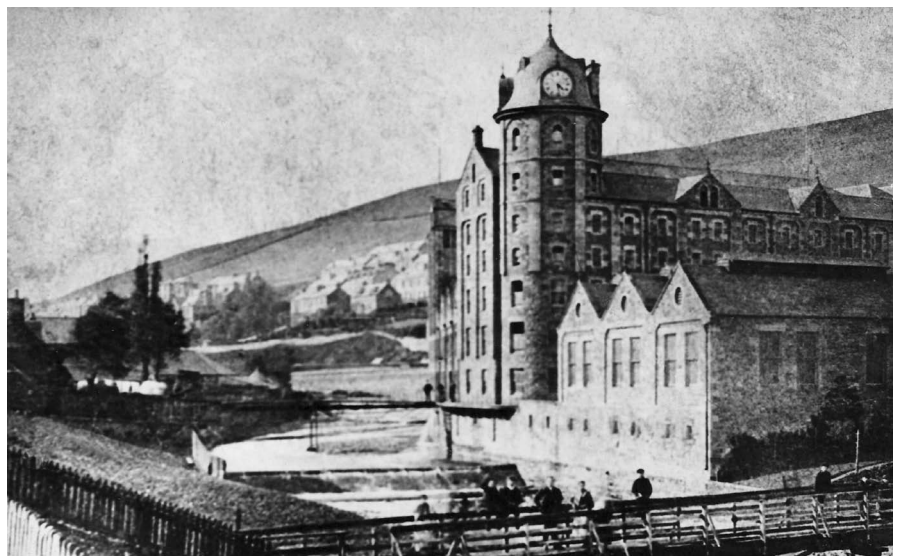
FIGURE 26
Sanderson & Murray,
Buckholmside Skinworks
(By courtesy of the Old Gala
Club; © Old Gala Club)

Various commercial buildings emphasise the wealth and optimism in the town in the later nineteenth century. These include the former Co-op store, on the corner of High and Roxburgh Streets, which was built in 1888 to a design by the Galashiels architects J & J Hall. It is a prominent Galashiels landmark, situated on a principal route through the town and dominating both streets.[256] In the 1890s J & J Hall also built the Douglas Hotel on Channel Street and Douglas Bridge,[257] and the Maxwell Hotel in Bridge Street (now Scottish Enterprise Borders), erected on the site of the Commercial Hotel.[258] Meanwhile the Post Office, built in flamboyant Renaissance style, added architectural presence to the intersection of High and Channel Streets.

Galashiels Bowling Club opened on 2 July 1859 at Kirkbrae and moved to Scott Crescent in 1883. The green had once been the rose garden of Old Gala House. The Pavilion is a rare survival of a two-storey pavilion, appearing to be more associated with cricket than the common single-storey bowling club design. It lies in a prominent position, its importance emphasised by being set back from the street with the open green to the front.[259]

Townscape

The nineteenth century saw dramatic changes to the layout of the town. With the rise in population came increasing demand for workers' housing, while growing prosperity led to the construction of grand villas for the factory owners. In 1832 the *Gazetteer* reported that at the bend in High Street there were a few very small shops (**fig 27**); by 1875 High Street was teeming with a wide range of shops, including ironmongers, fishmongers, tailors, shops selling fancy wares, a draper, a smith, a wine merchant, grocer, hatter, printer, painter, confectioner, watch-maker, shoe-maker, baker and plumber.[260] Modernised building techniques for homes, roads, walkways and bridges are also evident in the developing town: in 1802 there were only thirteen slated houses in the town but by the end of the century every roof was slate, the last thatched roof, in Tea Street, having been removed in 1889.[261] The years 1885 to 1913 saw a programme of concreting the footpaths, especially in the town centre.[262]

George Craig, appointed bailie in 1813 and factor of Gala, was responsible for the construction of new houses and streets, including Bank Street (then called Scott Place, erected on Swine Park), Channel Street, Green Street, and Elm Row (originally called Hill Street).[263] The houses in Scott Place were originally all on the south side of the street, with gardens on the north side, possibly inspired by the example of Edinburgh's New Town.[264] In 1827 an even grander 'New Town' development was proposed for Weirhaugh, in the area where Roxburgh and Union Streets were later laid out. This consisted of four axial terraces which led into a great oval market place that was to be surrounded by large detached houses.[265] Such plans were likely to have

been thwarted, however, by the serious depression in the woollen trade that occurred later that same year.

Until the mid-nineteenth century, the centre of Galashiels was not overly developed, as is seen in this extract from the *Gazetteer* of 1832:

> [The] more modern part of the town lies on the south side of the river which is the Galashiels proper and a considerable proportion of Roxburgh section consists of one long bent street and two shorter and newer streets – the whole dotted with detached buildings, winged with drying and bleaching grounds, and stretched along a narrow strip of plain between the river and neighbouring heights.[266]

In 1843, Fullarton's *Gazetteer of Scotland* declared: 'All the houses are built of blue whinstone, and, though a manufacturing town, it partakes not a jot of the dinginess so generally belonging to places of its class.'[267]

The lower ground of the town had been liable to flooding but this threat was lessened by the building of embankments, while the river bed was lowered by the removal of stone for building, making the area more favourable for permanent occupation.[268] Lewis, in his *Topographical Dictionary of Scotland*, published in 1846, describes an attractive, modern town: 'It is of a very pleasing appearance, consisting chiefly of houses built within the last fifty years in a neat and handsome style, the streets are very well laid out, and partially lighted.'[269] Many of the houses erected in this period still survive in the town centre, mostly inter-mixed with later buildings.

There was, however, an awareness of the fragmentary nature of the development alongside the river: any move towards a central focal point was counterbalanced by the tendency for housing to be built in clusters in the immediate vicinity of the various mills, resulting in an amalgam in the town centre of small terraces and industrial buildings of varying sizes. Groome, writing in the *Ordnance Gazetteer,* remarked that most of the town was 'either straggling or irregular'.[270]

The haugh to the north-west of the town was originally occupied as the separate village of Low Buckholmside, with High Buckholmside on the plateau above beside the Edinburgh Road. Mills were built on the narrow haugh between the steep bank and water, whereas the community – its houses, shops and churches – lay uphill. Farther east, the haughlands formed part of Ladhope, similarly (if not as spectacularly) divided between haugh and high ground. The land was sold and became available for building in about 1834, following which Stirling Street was laid out with its graceful and regular two-storeyed whinstone houses and apartments, and accompanying mills.[271]

In 1868 buildings were added in the following streets: Market, High, Overhaugh and Island.[272] By 1875 there were significant developments of workers' housing along King, Queen and Wood Streets, running up to Kilknowe Farm. These streets were referred to as Buckholm Cottages because the houses were built by the Brown brothers for the accommodation of their workmen at Buckholm Mill.[273] In 1881 there were 3123 inhabited houses in Galashiels, 114 houses lying vacant, and 82 being built.[274] In Park Street, some early nineteenth-century tannery workers' housing survives, along with the yellow sandstone-fronted cloth merchants' warehouse of 1880.[275]

The pollution caused by such obnoxious industries as the tannery between Channel and Overhaugh Streets, the primitive disposal of sewage, and the increasing use of coal encouraged the wealthier inhabitants to move a little away from the town centre.[276] Middle-class housing was constructed in the airier surroundings of the Old Town, where older properties could be 'improved' by being heightened or given new frontages, as occurred in Elm Row. The Scott family abandoned Old Gala House (which was altered c 1830 and again c 1860) and moved in 1876 to New Gala House, designed by David Bryce.[277] This house was demolished in 1985 but two of its lodges remain. The one on Scott Street (NT 4905 3590) is in Baronial style and is dated 1881. The highly decorative gate-piers survive, along with cast-iron railings and gates with Gothic detailing. A simpler lodge survives on Elm Row (NT 4924 3571), on the site of an earlier lodge belonging to Old Gala House. Shortly after the Scott family moved, part of the policy of Gala House was feued for housing, leading to the creation of Scott Street, Scott Terrace, St Johns Street, Livingstone Place, St Andrews Street, Lintburn Street, Victoria Street and Gala Park Road.[278]

Opulent nineteenth-century villas are evident in Barr Road, including Galahill (built for Henry Brown in the 1840s and then extended).[279] North of Scott Park (beyond Balmoral) lies another area characterised by Victorian villas: Mossilee Road serves as a good example. So does Burnbrae, a two-storey building constructed around 1860 for William Sanderson of Sanderson & Murray, and Woodlands House in Windyknowe Road, a two-storey Italianate villa erected c 1850 with additions made between 1884 and 1885 for James

Sanderson of Comelybank Mill.[280] Edinburgh Road was developed in the second half of the nineteenth century and includes villas such as Buckholm Burn, built *c* 1865 for Henry Brown.[281] Abbotsford Road has many villas funded by the textile industry, such as Elmbank and Blythorne, dating from *c* 1845; Netherby, built in the mid-nineteenth century and extended *c* 1875; and Fairnieknowe, erected in 1862 for Adam Cochrane. The opening of the new road to Selkirk encouraged development in that direction.[282]

Hydraulic engineering and bridges

The plentiful supply of water was fundamental to Galashiels' nineteenth-century prosperity, but it was not without drawbacks. While the turbulent stream of the Gala Water provided the motive power for the mills, it had the disadvantage of creating a barrier that needed bridging, especially when the river was high. In times of drought almost all of the Gala Water was drawn off by the factories, but when the river was full, it frequently flooded.[283] Galashiels was flooded in 1806, 1829, 1846, 1881 and 1891.[284] The 1891 flood destroyed property along the banks of the Gala and swept away wooden footbridges at Buckholm Mill, Comelybank Mill and Abbots Mill. The masonry work for the new bridge at Galafoot was also destroyed and several railway bridges between Galashiels and Heriot were seriously damaged.[285]

In order to prevent flooding, the river was embanked using a type of construction described in 1833 as 'puts':

> These are masses of stones loosely piled in the interior, but finished on the surface after the manner of a pavement, and shaped like the fore half of a shoemaker's last, pointing up the stream, and forming with the bank an angle of 45° … The main thing is to guard the base with piles well driven, for if one stone be suffered to give away, the whole scheme is futile.[286]

Such masonry still forms the base of the river embankment in Galashiels, with later walling raising the banks in places to a much greater height.

The water also heavily influenced the layout of the town, not only in the position of streets and building composition, but also in the numerous bridges throughout. The number and nature of the bridges changed according to population size and wealth; increases in both are reflected in developments in bridge construction during the nineteenth century.

Two footbridges crossed the Gala Water in the early nineteenth century. The first, and an example of local innovation, was the first modern suspension bridge in Britain, erected in 1816 by the woollen manufacturer Richard Lees. It was inspired by reports from America of James Finley's bridges, and a replacement in wire of one of these over the Schuylkill at Philadelphia in 1816. By December 1816 a wire footbridge in Galashiels provided a connection

between the workers' housing at Buckholmside and the Galabank Mill. The *Edinburgh Evening Courant* announced on 2 December 1816 that:

> A wire bridge for foot passengers, after the model of those constructed in America, which are so serviceable in crossing ravines, small lakes, etc., in that country, has just been erected across the Gala at Galashiels … to every appearance [it] may last for a number of years at little or no expense.

It spanned 110ft (33.5 m). This suspension bridge was destroyed in a flood in 1839 but another of the same type, King's Meadows Bridge, 1817, survived at Peebles until 1953.[287] There were to be few subsequent bridges of wire stays, as opposed to chain, until the later nineteenth century. The east abutment of the Galashiels Bridge was later absorbed into Buckholmside Skinworks (now B&Q). The second footbridge was a wooden one at Buckholmside, 'an ingenious and successful piece of workmanship, the timbers being all arranged to act by their absolute, and not relative, strength'.

A stone bridge was built from Market Street in 1841 and was replaced by a wider bridge in 1866 (**fig 28**), the crossing at this point having gained greater importance with the opening of the railway station in 1849. The continuing growth of the town prompted the erection of further bridges. An iron footbridge was constructed in 1879 across the river, replacing the wooden one. In the same year a bridge was built linking Island Street with Low Buckholmside.[288] By 1882, there were five bridges over the river, including two railway viaducts.[289]

Ladhope Bridge, a good example of late nineteenth-century engineering in stone, was completed in 1889, following the 1876 *Galashiels Municipal*
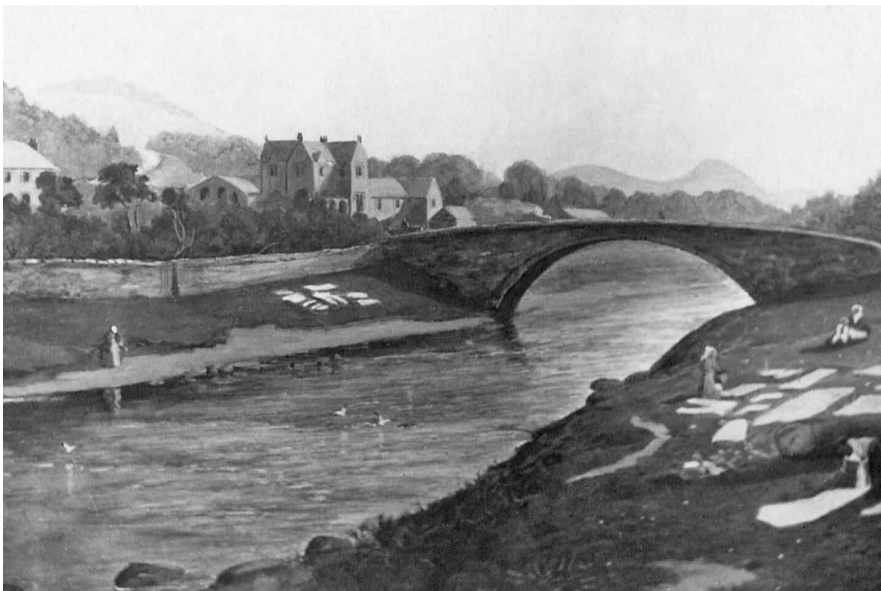
FIGURE 28
Painting of the bridge over the Gala from Gala bank, 1850s, with the bleaching of domestic linen on the river banks. (By courtesy of the Old Gala Club; © Old Gala Club)

Extension etc. Act which introduced a massive scheme of improvements to the town. This bridge, which replaced the earlier and narrower 'Stane Brig', allowed heavier traffic into the town centre and easier transport between the mills at the north-west of the town and the railway station. Designed by engineers Cunningham, Blyth and Westland, and constructed by Robert McAlpine, the bridge has a single span of 15m with a blocked secondary span to the north-east end, where the deck slopes upwards. It is made of squared buff sandstone with rusticated ashlar dressings and brick soffits, and there are buttresses at either end with dies above bearing decorative cast-iron lamp standards. The bridge has a recessed granite commemorative plaque on the inside of the south-east parapet.[290]

The railway also brought viaducts into and out of the town, notably the five-arch Tweed or Redbridge viaduct carrying the Waverley line over the Tweed at Galafoot, *c* 1849. The viaduct crossing the Gala Water to the north of the town has been rebuilt as a steel girder, with a subsidiary stone arch over the dam or lade taken from the nearby weir.

New buildings

The nineteenth century saw an explosion in the number and type of churches in Galashiels. With the numbers of people brought into the town by the success of the textile industry came more religious diversity. Changes in attitudes to education and communal social responsibility also encouraged a variety of schools, as well as the establishment of a poorhouse.

The dilapidated state of the original church necessitated the building of a new parish church in 1813 'in the semi-gothic style'.[291] It remained the parish church until it was closed in 1931. When it closed, the congregation combined with that of St Paul's Church (NT 4917 3577), built in 1881, to become the Old Parish and St Paul's. The building was demolished in 1960 and replaced by Church Square.

With the rise in population came a demand for a variety of different churches. Rutherfurd's *Southern Counties Register and Directory* of 1866 lists the following non-conformist churches: Free Church, Free Church (Ladhope), United Presbyterian Church (East), United Presbyterian Church (West), Congregational Church, Episcopal Church, Baptist Church, Glasite Church, and Roman Catholic Chapel. Many of these churches survive, although some have been converted to new uses.

The Glasite congregation had moved from the Old Town to Botany Lane in 1842.[292] The building is one of only three for this non-conformist sect to survive – the others are in Edinburgh and Dundee. It is a conjoined church and house of whinstone rubble with a projecting semicircular stair to the rear. The church has intersecting tracery in its windows, and the two-storey house may have included the hall to which the men repaired for servings of kail soup, as was the custom of the congregation.

The East United Presbyterian Church, built in 1844, is now St Ninian's Church (**fig 29**). The former West United Presbyterian Church, built in 1879–80, is now Hunter's Hall Bar and Restaurant (**fig 29**).[293] The Roman Catholic Mission Chapel was sited across the river in Stirling Street in 1853, serving the congregation until a larger church, Our Lady and St Andrew, was opened in 1856.[294] St Peter's Episcopal Church was built in 1853 in the Early English Style, the land on which it was built being a gift to the Scottish Episcopal Church from the Scotts of Gala.

Population increases and new attitudes to education brought demand for new schools. The Old Town School was built in School Close in 1806 and was demolished in 1937. In 1810 the parish school on the site of Hunter's Ha' was extended, and a subscription school was to occupy the market square between 1821 and 1862. Darling's Haugh subscription school, Whitson's school in Comelybank (later in Overhaugh Street), and the Ladhope Free Church School were all opened in the 1840s, although the last of these folded within the decade due to lack of funds.[295]

The fact that women worked in the mills necessitated the opening of Gala School for infants in 1847 in Roxburgh Street. The school was run as a private
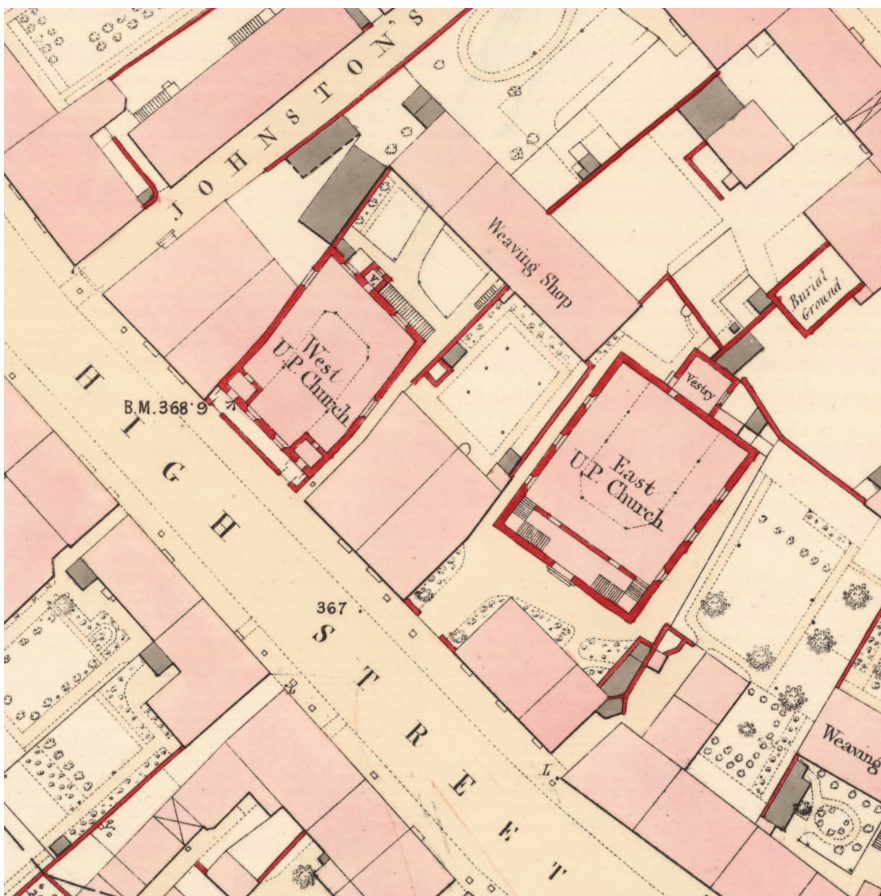
FIGURE 29
Detail from the 1:500 OS Town Plan of 1858, Sheet VIII.2.16 showing the West and East United Presbyterian Churches, remarkably close to each other. Each has galleries, but they face in opposite directions. The West Church is now Hunter's Hall and the East Church is now St Ninian's. There is a very small burial ground behind, and the near-neighbour of both churches is a hand weaving shop (Noble's from 1896) with an external stair (Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

GALASHIELS FROM WINDY KNOWE.

enterprise until 1873 when it was handed over to the School Board. In 1892 the building was replaced and renamed Roxburgh Street School.[296]

St Peter's Episcopal School (now council offices in Church Street) and St Andrew's Roman Catholic School were opened in the 1850s. Galashiels Academy opened in 1861 in a leased building in Bridge Place, moving in 1870 to a site in Croft Street; in 1883 it was taken over by the Burgh School Board. The town's westward expansion led to the need for the new Ladhope School in 1866 (taken over by the Burgh School Board in 1880) and the Burgh Primary School, built at Gala Park 1874–75. Glendinning Terrace School was erected by Melrose School Board in 1876 and was taken over by the Burgh School Board in 1891. The school was completely rebuilt in 1939. The Moat House kindergarten and school for girls opened in 1882.[297]

In 1882 the Manufacturing Corporation decided to form a weaving class, which held its first lessons in 1883 and by 1891 had become the Galashiels Technical School.[298] Gala High School opened in 1891, and Gala Public School in 1894.[299]

Galashiels Combination Poorhouse was formed *c* 1859, serving the parishes of Galashiels, Bowden, Melrose, Selkirk, Yarrow and, *c* 1900, Caddonfoot. The total population of the member parishes in 1881 was 28,944. The Combination Poorhouse, designed by James Campbell Walker, was erected on Kirkbrae in Galashiels in 1859–60 (**fig 30**). After 1930, the poorhouse was renamed Windyknowe Public Assistance Institution, then in 1950 became

the Eildon View Home. A residential care home for the elderly now operates on the premises. The building has two storeys with upper breaking eaves and consists of one five-bay principal block linked to a three-bay former stables by a single-storey block. Initially, the principal and service blocks were separate. The house is known to have been extended *c* 1875 and this extension probably included the current single-storey block with a large greenhouse to the front.[300]

Local government

Galashiels was made a burgh of barony in 1599 and until 1850 it was administered by a baron-bailie (under the Scotts of Gala, who succeeded the Pringles in 1622). From 1836 discussion began about the introduction of municipal government, since half of the town lay outwith the barony. Galashiels was also situated in two counties, which caused much inconvenience, especially in regards to policing, and was located a considerable distance from the two county towns of Jedburgh and Selkirk.[301] The town became a police burgh in 1850 and was constituted a parliamentary burgh in 1868.[302]

In 1864 the burgh boundaries were extended to include every house in the town and its immediate district, except Appletreeleaves and Netherdale cottages.[303] In 1893 the wards were rearranged due to the growth of the town, especially the Gala Park district.[304]

The flourishing nineteenth-century town needed new civic buildings: the Burgh Chambers were built in 1867 (with an imposing extension in 1923–24 designed by Robert Lorimer), while the public library was erected in Lawyer's Brae in 1874 and was extended in 1889.[305]

Public amenities

Despite the relatively slow progress of public developments in nineteenth-century Galashiels, there were improvements in the provision of gas and water.

Galashiels Gas Company was founded in 1833, with the aim of lighting the town with gas. In order to do this, a regular supply of coal was required to manufacture the gas, the same commodity that was needed to create the steam power used by the tannery, the brewery, the millwright and the blacksmith.[306] Coal remained expensive until the railway opened in 1849, and yet by 1848 there were already 100 gas lamps in the town. In 1866 the Gas Company moved from Paton Street to Galafoot.[307]

Galashiels Water Company was founded in 1839, but it was another 40 years before the town had a guaranteed supply of clean drinking water.[308] When the Town Council took office in 1868, the residents of Galashiels were dependent on various wells within the town for their water supply. These provided an inadequate supply for the growing population and some were polluted. In 1876 an Act was passed which authorised the construction

of a water supply system fed by the Caddon Water, with contracts being undertaken the following year for the construction of reservoirs and the introduction of piped water into the town. Work began in January 1877 and water was finally brought into the town in 1879 from the Stantling Craig and Knowesdean reservoirs – at a cost of *c* £60,000. The Meigle Hill reservoir also dates from this time.[309]

A sewer scheme was proposed in 1862.[310] However, it was never built and in 1882 there was still no drainage system whatsoever, the Gala still serving as a common sewer for refuse from factories and houses alike 'a fact which at times is unpleasantly impressed upon the olfactory nerves of visitors to the town'.[311] The installation of a drainage and sewage disposal system was only carried out shortly before the First World War.[312]

Despite the huge industrial developments of the nineteenth century, which saw the burgh transformed from a small mill-town to one of the most important textile manufacturers in Britain, Galashiels was the last town in the Borders to invest in a clean water supply and drainage system.[313]

The twentieth century

Galashiels today is almost unrecognisable as the great nineteenth-century mill-town. Although much of its past is still in evidence, the extent and the look of the town and the employment of its population are substantially different.

The twentieth century saw the continuation of a long decline in the textile industry which had begun in the 1890s. Demand for Galashiels' produce continued to fall, resulting from increased American tariffs and greater competition. Following the First World War many of the mills lost their local connection as outsiders took over. There was a marked drop in production during the Great Depression of the 1930s, from which the industry never fully recovered, although the textiles industry remained the main source of employment in the town until the Second World War. Further serious decline in the 1960s and 1970s effectively marked the end of the industry.[314] Closures in the 1990s ended spinning at Bristol, Comelybank and Ladhope Mills, but weaving and dyeing does continue (eg in Gala Mill) and the Scottish College of Textiles ensures Galashiels still plays an important role in design and innovation in textiles.

The physical evidence for each mill can be elusive. Some mills, such as Victoria Mill in 1905 and Langhaugh Mill in 1911, were destroyed by fire while still in operation and were not rebuilt.[315] The site of Victoria Mill (see **fig 61**) became the South of Scotland Central Technical Training College, established in 1909.[316] Also in 1909 the corn mill at the south end of Bank Street was removed in favour of a landscaped water feature by Robert Lorimer.[317] Waulkhead Mill was similarly landscaped into Bank Street Gardens in 1949,

the lade being a key feature. Several mills were vacated as the industry contracted, including Buckholm, Netherdale and Abbots, and were pulled down in the 1970s.[318] Others, such as Wilderbank, kept standing till the 1990s, with parts reused for high technology by Exacta Circuits, while some survived until more recently. Ladhope Mill was demolished in 2003; Nether (or Waverley) Mill and Valley Mill were replaced by the Tesco superstore in late 2006.[319] Industries associated with the wool trade also contracted, such as the Sanderson & Murray Skinworks (see **fig 26**) which closed in April 1980.[320]

Most of the mills still standing have been converted to new uses, such as Tweed Mill, where spinning stopped in the 1930s but dyeing and weaving continued. Part of the mill has since been converted into houses.[321] Another residential conversion took place at a part of Beechbank Works. Compare earlier view, **fig 27**.

With the demise of its textile industry, Galashiels had to find new ways to survive. While it has established new manufacturing areas such as the production of leather clothing and fish processing, the town has also diversified into medical research and software development, as well as hosting the headquarters of Scottish Enterprise Borders. Electronic factories were established in the town as early as the 1960s, by which time Galashiels had become an administrative centre for the area, with government departments as well as local government being based there.

After 1966 some of the workers' housing was demolished, making way for

retail parks and industrial estates,[322] although much of the nineteenth-century workers' housing remains, for example in Park Street, and there are many mill-owners' villas still in use. The majority of the population, however, lives in twentieth-century houses, built to meet the modern expectations of space and amenities.

Population size has remained remarkably constant since the sudden decline in the late 1800s: in 1901 there were 13,615 residents, and in 2001, 14,361.[323] However, twentieth-century housing required much more space than that of the previous centuries and consequently, despite no increase in population, the town has continued to expand, with post-war housing at Langlee and Tweedbank, both built by the Scottish Special Housing Association. Langlee was started in 1953 with 1200 houses, this number being added to throughout the 1960s and 1970s.[324]

Improvements in housing were begun at the end of the First World War.[325] The Lucy Sanderson Cottage Homes, built in the early 1930s on the eastern outskirts of the town, are an early example of sheltered housing.

One of the major changes to Galashiels in the twentieth century was the building of a sewage system. An official report of 1906 declared that it was 'impossible to find a river more grossly polluted that the Gala as it passes through Galashiels'.[326] In response to this, the sewage disposal works at Galafoot were built between 1908 and 1912. The works were modernised in 1961–64 and further changes in 1975 included the improvement and expansion of the whole system. The Galafoot plant and associated buildings are still in use as the main sewage treatment plant for the burgh.[327]

With the rise of automotive transport, roads in and around Galashiels were widened and surfaced with tarmac and new roads were built. The railways were dismantled, the Duns and Selkirk branches closing to passengers in September 1951 and to freight in 1964. February 1962 saw the closure of the Peebles route and finally the Waverley line in 1969.[328]

The twentieth century saw the introduction of cinemas, such as the Pavilion, built in 1911 and demolished in 1970, and the Playhouse, opened in 1920 and still in operation, its frontage restored and going by the name of the Pavilion, having previously been called Capitol and then Kingsway.[329]

The original town hall, built in 1869, was in High Street. Initially owned by a private company, it was purchased by the town council in 1920. In 1963 the Council declared the building inadequate for its needs and acquired the Volunteer Hall. The Town Hall was demolished in 1969 and the site incorporated into a High Street car park.[330]

Robert Lorimer's war memorial was dedicated in October 1925, replacing the Gala Cenotaph.[331] Lorimer was also responsible for the Corn Mill Square fountain and for the design of an extension to the Burgh Chambers on the south side of the new square, with the addition of a tall clock tower facing Albert Place.

The history of Galashiels in many ways encapsulates that of the Scottish textile industry: utilising natural resources, growth through innovation, and creative responses to the challenges of an ever-changing environment. While the textile industry has declined, these characteristics remain.

Notes

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2 RCAHMS: NMRS site no NT53NW 26

3 R Hall, *The History of Galashiels* (Galashiels, 1898), 151

4   J Wood, 'On British cists found at Galashiels in 1878', *Hist Berwickshire Natur Club*, **8** (1876–78), 441–3, 434

5 Hall, *Galashiels*, 157; Mrs Wood, 'On an urn found at Galashiels', *Hist Berwickshire Natur Club*, **11. 2** (1885–86), 487

6 Ordnance Survey Map of Galashiels, surveyed 1858, published 1861. Sheet VIII.2.22

7 J M Coles, 'Scottish Middle Bronze Age metalwork', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, **97** (1963–64), 144

8 R Heawood, 'Knowepark, Galashiels: Archaeological Evaluation' (online, 2006) (accessible at www.scotborders.gov.uk/pdf/16483.pdf)

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11 RCAHMS, NMRS site no NT53NW 2

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13 Old Gala Club, *Britain in Old Photographs: Galashiels* (Stroud, 1996), 5; A Spence, *Discovering the Borders* (Edinburgh, 2 vols, 1994), ii, 115

14 *The Charters of King David I: the written acts of David I King of Scots, 1124–53 and of his son Henry Earl of Northumberland, 1139–52*, ed G W S Barrow (Woodbridge, 1999), nos 120–1; *APS*, i, 387; *RRS*, ii, no 236

15 Hall, *Galashiels*, 2; T Craig-Brown, *The History of Selkirkshire, or Chronicles of Ettrick Forest* (Edinburgh, 2 vols, 1886), i, 480; *CDS*, i, 2679

16 Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 480

17 Hall, *Galashiels*, 3; Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 480

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126 Lawson, *Guid Auld Galashiels*,79; Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 577
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132 The Board placed twelve such people in total, of whom five went to Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, Peebles and Lauder

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144 A Moffat, *The Borders: a History of the Borders from Earliest Times* (Selkirk, 2002), 351–2; Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 54–5

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160 J Shaw, *Water Power in Scotland, 1550–1870* (Edinburgh, 1984), 289

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163 Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 567–8

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166 Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 524

167 Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 59

168 Reavely, *Galashiels*, 27

169 Giles and Goodall, *Yorkshire Textile Mills*, 78, 168

170 Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 569

171 Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 119

172 Hall, *Galashiels*, 303

173 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 310

174 Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 566–7

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191 Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 104–05 and see Brown, Joe, in http://galashielshistory.com/

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193   Hall, *Galashiels*, 299

194   Hume, *Industrial Archaeology*, i, 21

195   Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 64

196   OS Town Plan of Galashiels, surveyed 1858, sheet VIII.2.11; Hall, *Galashiels*, 397–8; Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 314; Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History* (1983), 57

197   Oliver, T, 'Traditions of the Rise of Wool Manufacture in Galashiels', in *Scotch Tweed* No **1** vol X, 1932

198   Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 576

199   Hall, *Galashiels*, 315; Lawson, *Guid Auld Galashiels*, 66–8; Reavely, *Galashiels*, 20

200   Hall, *Galashiels*, 390–3

201   Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 80

202   Hall, *Galashiels*, 399

203   Old Gala Club, *Galashiels*, 28; Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 80

204   Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 78

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208   Old Gala Club, *Galashiels*, 30; Hall, *Galashiels*, 382–3

209   Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 40

210   N Murray, *The Scottish Handloom Weavers, 1790–1850: a Social History* (Edinburgh, 1978), 60; Hall, *Galashiels*, 404; Scottish Borders Council, *Town Trail*, 7

211   Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 68; Butt, *Industrial Archaeology*, 78; Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 70–3; Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 564

212   Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 86

213   *Ibid*, 68

214   *Ibid*, 111

215   Hall, *Galashiels*, 121

216   Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 86

217   Wilson, *Imperial Gazetteer*, ii, 705

218   Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 86

219   Oral history recorded in 1932 reported that Mrs Sligh, who worked at Comelybank Mill in 1854, recalled four pairs of mules besides the carding and slubbing in the under flat and on the upper floor two witch and two harness looms and about 20 broad treadle looms: Oliver, T, 'Traditions of the Rise of Wool Manufacture in Galashiels', in *Scotch Tweed* No **1** Vol X, 1932. Therefore the weaving employed foot and hand power to a greater extent than steam, although the mill was connected to an engine

220   Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 38

221 Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 103; Hume, *Industrial Archaeology*, i, 21–2; Murray,
     Handloom Weavers, 71

222 *Ibid*, 102

223 *Ibid*, 86

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225 *Ibid*, 57

226 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 68

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229 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 86

230 Strang, *Borders and Berwick*, 202

231 Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 90

232 Old Gala Club, *Galashiels*, 7; Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 96

233 Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 140–3; Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a
     Modern History*, 57

234 Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 139

235 *Ibid*, 47

236 *Ibid*, 46

237 Hall, *Galashiels*, 100–01

238 *NSA*, iii, 24

239 *NSA*, iii, 27; Hall, *Galashiels*, 113

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241 Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 47

242 *Ibid*, 117

243 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 66

244 Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 4

245 Old Gala Club, *Galashiels*, 45

246 Murray, *Handloom Weavers*, 60

247 Gulvin, *Tweedmakers*, 167

248 Lawson, *Guid Auld Galashiels*, 10

249 Hall, *Galashiels*, 88

250 Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 506

251 Hall, *Galashiels*, 100–01

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253 Hall, *Galashiels*, 103, 508; Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 67

254 Hall, *Galashiels*, 121

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     and Wool Merchants, 1844–1954* (Galashiels, 1954); Reavely, *Galashiels*, 183–4;
     Hall, *Galashiels*, 80

256 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 307–08

257 1st edn Ordnance Survey map (*c* 1856). 2nd edn Ordnance Survey map (1897);
     Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*; Cruft, Dunbar
     and Fawcett, *Borders*, 309; Hall, *Galashiels*

258 2nd edn Ordnance Survey map (1897); Town Plan of Galashiels, 1858

259 Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 21; Hall, *Galashiels*; Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 167; Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 310

260 Reavely, *Galashiels*, 179

261 Craig-Brown, *Selkirkshire*, i, 503; Hall, *Galashiels*, 579

262 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 20

263 Lawson, *Guid Auld Galashiels*, p vii; Hall, *Galashiels*, 98–9

264 Bulloch and Urquhart, *Third Statistical Account*, 307; Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 307

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266 Reavely, *Galashiels*, 176

267 Hall, *Galashiels*, 121

268 *NSA*, iii, 13

269 S Lewis, *A Topographical Dictionary of Scotland* (London, 1843), 459

270 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 66

271 R Hall, *The History of Galashiels* (Galashiels, 1898), 21

272 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 20

273 Lawson, *Guid Auld Galashiels*, 25; Reavely, *Galashiels*, 182

274 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 68

275 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 309

276 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 26–9, for details of sewage disposal

277 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 303–6

278 Lawson, *Guid Auld Galashiels*, 42; NAS, RHP82813

279 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 310

280 *Ibid*, 311

281 *Ibid*, 312

282 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 313; Reavely, *Galashiels*, 89–90; Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 67

283 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 67

284 Hall, *Galashiels*, 88–9, 105, 578–9

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286 *NSA*, iii, 13

287 T Ruddock, 'Galashiels wire suspension bridge, 1816', *The Newcomen Society*, 71:1 (1999–2000). The location is at NT4873 3668, linking two properties of Mr Lees as shown on the Wood Plan of 1824. RCAHMS Canmore places the bridge at NT 4948 3600, assuming the bridge on the 1st edition OS map to be this one, but it would not have served Galabank Mill

288 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 20

289 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 67

290 1st edn Ordnance Survey map (*c* 1856); 2nd edn Ordnance Survey map (1897); Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 20; Strang, *Borders and Berwick*, 199; Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 309

291 *NSA,* iii, 24

292 Hall, *Galashiels*, 247

293 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 67; Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 300

294 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 297

295 *Ibid*, 309–10; Hall, *Galashiels*, 454, 463, 465–6

296 Hall, *Galashiels*, 467–9; Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 40

297 Hall, *Galashiels*, 469–76; Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 301–02;
     Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 50

298 Hall, *Galashiels*, 476

299 *Ibid*, 475–6

300 SBAS, SBA/83/4, 'Typescript notes on the Combination Poorhouse,
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     Families of Galashiels* (Galashiels, 1997), 38

301 Hall, *Galashiels*, 117

302 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 68; Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels:
     a Modern History*, 15

303 Hall, *Galashiels*, 136, 578

304 *Ibid*, 158

305 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 33

306 Hall, *Galashiels*, 113

307 Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 8

308 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 68

309 2nd edn Ordnance Survey map (1897); Galashiels History Committee,
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     Galashiels, 136–45

310 Hall, *Galashiels*, 135

311 Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer*, iii, 67

312 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 16

313 Moffat, *The Borders*, 358

314 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 11

315 Lawson, *Guid Auld Galashiels*, 66–8; Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels:
     a Modern History*, 56

316 Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 12; Old Gala Club, *Galashiels*, 26

317 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 307; Strang, *Borders and Berwick*, 198;
     Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 46; Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels:
     a Modern History*, 20; I W Mitchell, *Selkirkshire in Old Photographs: From the
     Clapperton Studies* (Gloucester, 1989), 31

318 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 83–4; Cruft,
     Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 315

319 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 86

320 Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 54

321 Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 38

322 Cruft, Dunbar and Fawcett, *Borders*, 312

323 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 15; Rutherford,
     Galashiels, 29

324 Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 43; Old Gala Club, *Galashiels*, 7; I H Adams, *The Making of Urban Scotland* (London, 1978), 247; Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 40

325 Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*, 16

326 A Lang and J Lang, *Highways and Byways in the Borders* (London, 1913), 237–8

327 Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 10; Galashiels History Committee, *Galashiels: a Modern History*

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4 Archaeological potential and architectural character analysis of Galashiels

Archaeological potential

While sites of the prehistoric and medieval periods are recorded in Galashiels, the greatest archaeological potential lies in the town's more recent past, in the evidence of the late sixteenth-century burgh and the early industrial town. The archaeological evidence for these consists not only of buried structures and deposits but also the wealth of surviving buildings that embody the history of Galashiels and help to give the town its character. Archaeological investigation can record the details of this historic environment and provide information that could lead to its better protection in the face of potential redevelopment. This was the case with the development of the Nether Mill site on Huddersfield Street (NT 49575 35843), where standing building recording in 2006 and analysis of the historical development of the complex has contributed to a wider understanding of the growth of the town.[1] In 2005, the *Scottish Borders Finalised Local Plan* in its Structure Plan Policy N16 (p 35) stated that:

> Where there is reasonable evidence of the existence of archaeological remains, but their nature and extent are unknown, the Council may require an Archaeological Evaluation to provide clarification of the potential impact of a development before a planning decision is reached. Where development is approved which would damage an archaeological site or feature, the Council will require that such a development is carried out in accordance with a strategy designed to minimise the impact of development upon the archaeology and to ensure that a complete record is made of any remains which would otherwise be damaged by the development. Such a strategy might well include some or all of the following:
>
> i.   the preservation of remains *in situ* and in an appropriate setting,
> ii.   surface or geophysical survey,
> iii.   archaeological excavation,
> iv.   study of the excavated evidence and publication of the results.
> v.   The preferred solution will be influenced by the value of the site in national, regional or local terms.[2]

In the following section, the town has been divided into six distinct areas (**fig 32**) and the archaeological potential and architectural character of each is discussed. Named sites are indicated in **fig 33**. The phases in the evolution of the town are mapped in **fig 34**.

Figure 32 Study areas (prepared by Kirkdale Archaeology. Based on OS mapping. © Crown copyright)

Figure 33 (opposite) Sites mentioned in *Historic Galashiels* (prepared by Kirkdale Archaeology. Based on OS mapping; © Crown copyright. All rights reserved)

01 Bank of Scotland
02 Burgh Chambers
03 Church of Our Lady & St. Andrew
04 Cloth Mill
05 Co-op
06 Cornmill Square
07 Cuddie Green
08 East United Presbyterian Church
09 Glasite Church
10 Hunter's Ha'
11 Ladhope Tower
12 Mercat Cross

13 New Gala House (site of)
14 Old Burial Ground
15 Old Gala House
16 Former Poorhouse
17 Post Office
18 Railway Station (site of)
19 Rose Cottage, Woodneuk & Belhenden
20 Suspension Bridge of 1816 (site of)
21 Tolbooth (site of)
22 Walled garden of Gala House
23 West United Presbyterian Church

M01 Abbots Mill
M02 Botany Mill
M03 Bristol Mill
M04 Buckholm Mill
M05 Comelybank Mill
M06 Deanbank Mill
M07 Gala Mill
M08 Galabank Mill
M09 Huddersfield Mill
M10 Ladhope Mill
M11 Langhaugh Mill
M12 Mid Mill
M13 Nether Mill
M14 Netherdale Mill
M15 Rosebank Mill
M16 Tweed Mill
M17 Victoria Mill
M18 Waulkmillhead Mill
M19 Waukrigg Mill
M20 Waverley Mill
M21 Wheatlands Mill
M22 Wilderhaugh Mill
M23 Beechbank Works
M24 Gala Dyeing & Finishing Works
M25 Victoria Dyeworks
M26 Buckholmside Skin & Tan Works
M27 Roxburgh Street Wool Store

GALASHIELS

Glenfield

Netherdale

Balmoral

N

0   100
Metres

71

GALASHIELS

Glenfield

Netherdale

Halliburton

Balmoral

Legend

	Early Burgh		c.1850
	c.1780		c.1895

N

0   100

Metres
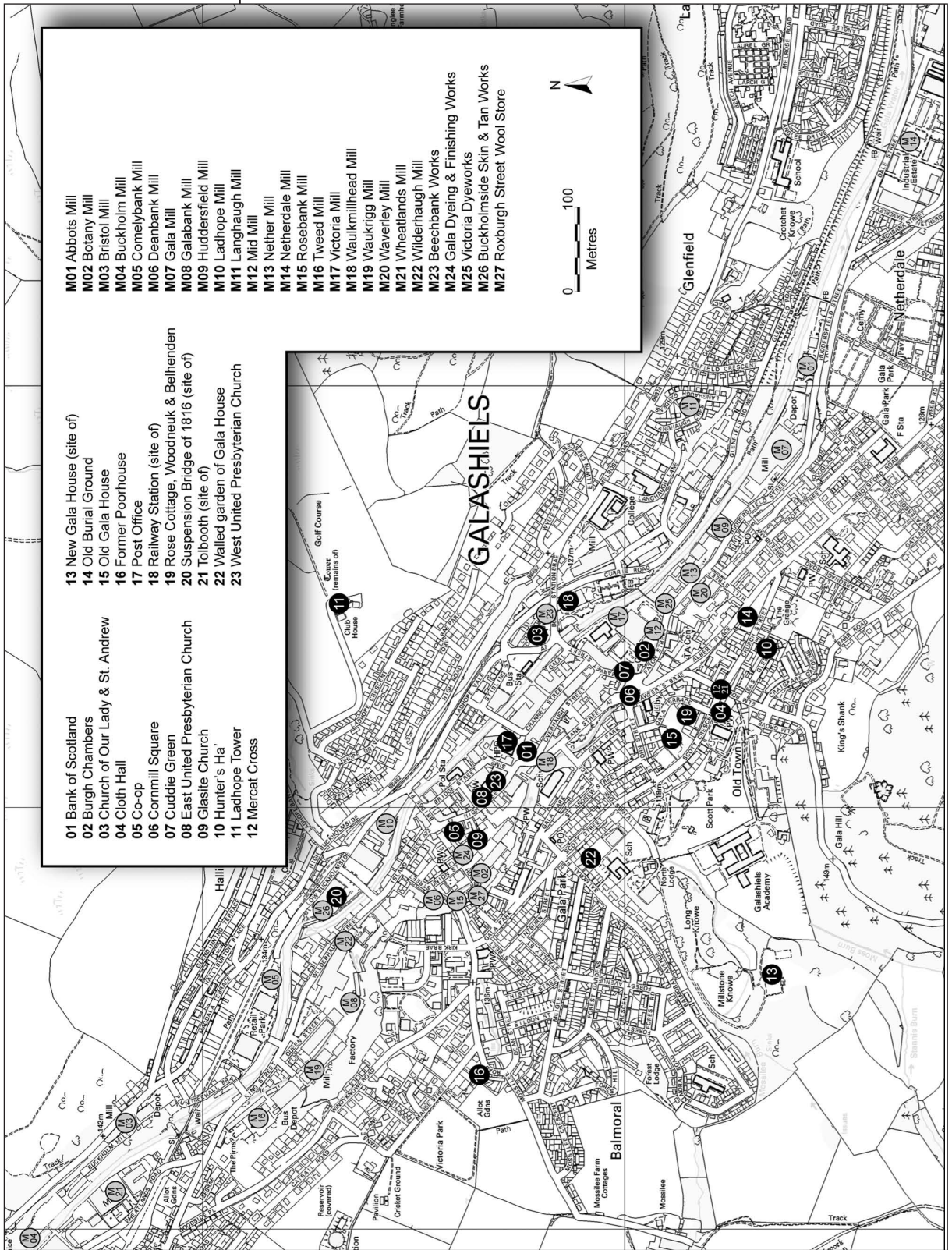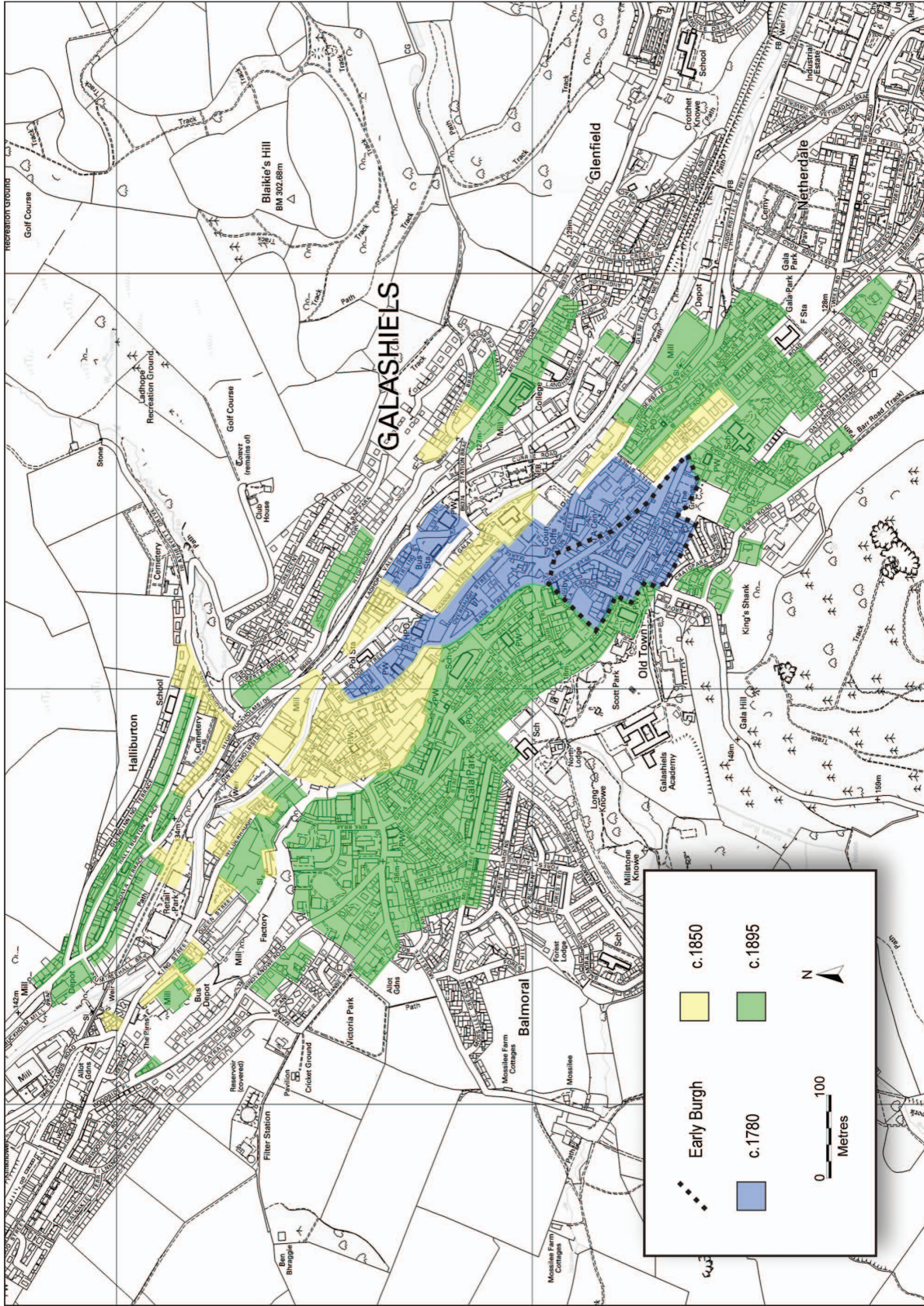
Area 1: Town Centre

The town centre occupies a site on the valley floor, adjacent to the Gala Water. Until the late eighteenth century the area was dominated by the volatile nature of the river, with frequent floods limiting settlement to patches of higher ground. The topography has been altered over the last two centuries and today the river has been tamed, canalised, and confined to a canyon-like course. Former irregularities of height have vanished with the progressive buildup of the land, mainly as a protection from flooding. Settlement associated with the early burgh seems to have extended into the area of Corn Mill Square and includes Green Street and the southern part of Market Street. There is the potential for survival of evidence of this occupation, which includes a late medieval tower said to have been in this area.

Some of the surviving buildings in this area (**figs 35 & 36**) date from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and may incorporate parts of earlier structures. The town centre retains much of its layout from the late nineteenth century and the buildings reflect the prosperity of Galashiels during that period. Commercial property is intermixed with light industrial buildings and housing, a mixture typical of nineteenth-century urban development. The earliest houses are constructed in a simple vernacular style, often with raised margins to the windows. This simplicity has made them vulnerable to unsympathetic alterations, such as a variety of replacement windows, doors and dormers that are not in keeping with their earlier appearance. Early buildings survive intermixed with later structures and it is the latter, often more distinctive architecturally, that have, in some cases, received protection in the form of listing.

The mix of property is illustrated by the area between Bank Street and Overhaugh Street where a number of nineteenth-century weaving shops, now joiners' or plumbers' shops, builders' and decorators' yards (**fig 36 & broadsheet map**), can be found in the backlands (eg *c* NT 4920 3613). Other examples of weaving shops survive off High Street, Ladhope Vale (the largest used by Ballantyne's before their move to Walkerburn), and Roxburgh Street (eg *c* NT 4893 3639). The independent loom shops were concentrated in the heart of the town. There is no evidence, documentary or physical, of domestic loom shops, which makes the Scottish woollen industry distinctive from that of Yorkshire.

The value of these buildings as an archaeological resource includes not only their exteriors but also their internal layout and fixtures which provide evidence of their changing use. The archaeological potential of these areas is not confined to particular individual buildings: the group value should be considered, including exterior spaces such as courtyards and lanes. Details worthy of recording and, if possible, preservation include the wide variety of

Figure 34 The development of Galashiels, derived from historic mapping (prepared by Kirkdale Archaeology, based on OS mapping. © Crown copyright)

Early nineteenth-century
houses in Bank Street
(© Kirkdale Archaeology)

FIGURE 36
A nineteenth-century
workshop between Bank
Street and Overhaugh Street
(© Kirkdale Archaeology)

surface finishes within the exterior spaces, such as stone drains and cobbling.[3] These are found elsewhere in the town but are particularly notable in this area, and are extremely vulnerable to destruction, for example, during the installation of services.

Workshops ancillary to the textile industry, such as Herbert's engineering works, were converted to residential use in the late 1990s, and others, not textile-related but nonetheless of considerable interest for their plant, layout and decorative detail, include the yard of Sutherland's Monumental Sculptors behind the town hall.

The nineteenth-century town included open spaces that functioned as tentergrounds, with long racks used for the drying and stretching of full lengths of cloth (see **fig 20**). One example is the space to the south of High Street, at present used as a car park and formerly the tenterground of Botany Mill (NT 4896 3631) (**figs 6 & 37**). While there would be little archaeological evidence remaining of the actual tenter posts, a study of the role of these sites in the development of the wider townscape would assist in a better understanding of the dynamics that formed the present town.

FIGURE 37
Aerial photograph of the northern part of the town centre showing Botany Mill, left centre, and Ladhope Mill, top right (By courtesy of RCAHMS; © Crown copyright RCAHMS)

There is some survival of larger industrial units close to the town centre, such as the Botany Mill complex (**figs 21 & 37**) and its associated lades, but others have been demolished in advance of the recent development south of Market Street. North of Botany Mill was Rosebank Mill, begun in 1803, and part of its walling survives against the hillside. Its tail race ran parallel, and to the east of, the Galashiels Dam.

Architectural character analysis

The first and earliest location of the settlement lay between the Old Town and the ford at the south-east end of town, along Sharp Street.[4] Another urban cluster emerged from the opening in 1764 of Ladhope Bridge, and extends south into Roxburgh Street, although in 1826 greater things were planned for it.

The river haugh (low-lying meadow in a river valley) formed by the Gala Water supplied the new town centre. It follows a winding route from Huddersfield Road and Paton Street north through Overhaugh Street to High Street and then north-west along Island, Wilderhaugh and King Streets, each of which were developed at different times. The urban form of central Galashiels follows that line, paralleled by Bank and Bridge Streets. These streets also acted as a screen to the variety of industrial activities that lay behind them. The principal spinning mills were built on the Gala Dam to the north and south of this area. Other lades attracted industry: a channel for tanneries was covered over and urbanised to become Canal Street. This linear route was twice crossed to meet bridging points.

Gala's improved streets sometimes disguise and encase earlier structures behind them, such as the house lying behind 38–40 High Street, or the hosiery shop lying between High and Bridge Streets. Routes between the street and the industrial enclaves behind usually took the form of nicely paved and cobbled closes, typically the width of one cart. Several of these survive and form part of Galashiels' particular identity.

An early area of the town lay in Sharp Street, the winding space between what is now Corn Mill Square and Market Street bridge. It later became the town's market square when it superseded the one at the head of Overhaugh Street. This was also the location for the town's first subscription school. The oldest section lay at the head of Paton Street by the Mid Mill.[5] Older properties behind Bank Street, and behind Market Street by Gala Lane, are probably relics of that early/mid-eighteenth-century period.

The first, if sporadic, expansion was north-west along Brodie's Raw, later called Cowgate and now Overhaugh Street. This was the first part of the northern haughs to be built upon. Possibly seeking a more formal urban grandeur, in the 1790s the Scotts feued out what later became the High Street across the lade, land previously part meadow and part morass. Nos 57–59 High Street, built of dark whin, is one of the remaining examples from this

era, and still retains its original glazing bars. The lane on its immediate left is attractively cobbled.

Bank Street seems to have been laid out parallel to the mill lade running through the Upper Haugh by George Craig in 1813 when he walled in the lade to prevent flooding. However, there is no evidence of any feuing at that site in that year. Judging from the comment that 'under Mr Craig, the village had become a budding town', contemporaries regarded his improvements in Scott's Place and Bridge Street (as well as the rebuilding of the Old Town), rather than the emergence of the High Street, as representing Gala folk's new aspirations to gentility. Being more formal than elsewhere on the haugh, these streets attracted as residents the craft elite (joiner, tailor and shoe-maker). Its eastern end projects out from the street line to mask earlier structures accessed from the lane at 12–16 Market Street. The corner design of recessed curves, seen both here and in Bank Close, was typical of the 1820s.[6] Given the absence of evidence from sasines, it is possible that the Bank Street houses may originally have been built for rent.

Feuing for sale in the proper manner appears to begin in Bridge Street, feued out on the lands of Appletreeleaves in the 1820s. Its architectural style – characterised by the corner of Bridge and Sime Streets – helps date similar corners in the rebuilt Old Town: the corners of Lawyer's Brae, Elm Row and Church Street;[7] the eastern end of Bank Street; and Bank Lane with Overhaugh Street. At both Bank and Bridge Streets the gardens were located across the road. It is not clear whether Bank Street was ever completed with the consistency of style of Bridge Street, given the latter's *cachet* as the professional end of town, with residents like clothiers and surgeons.[8] Evidence of the accelerating quantity of building lies in sasines of property in the haugh in the late 1820s.

Overhaugh Street was relegated by a new street. Scott Place/Bank Street was laid out at a different angle to Overhaugh, as the kinked close at nos 15–16 Bank Street demonstrates. Much of the charm of central Galashiels today lies in the surviving closes and alleys, although most are no longer through routes. The two streets were joined only by Bank Close, which is adorned by one of those fashionable curved set-back corners, but Overhaugh Street's fate was probably sealed by the creation of Channel Street, since the backs of Channel Street buildings now dominate its north end. Looking to the future, there is a clear opportunity for the re-creation of this street.

Channel Street's prominent ashlar urban monument at its western end (the 1864 Bank of Scotland) substantially predates the street's creation and was almost certainly built to face the lower town's original market place. Indeed, the design of the adjacent post office (built 1894) appears to relate more to the bank than to Channel Street. Channel Street is predominantly later nineteenth century in character: no 64 has *art nouveau* details and its 1887 neighbour has stained glass windows. The contemporary Douglas Hotel

is exotically French, built using sandstone with flamboyant mansard roofs and cast-iron cresting. Burtons dates from 1885, whereas the curiously blank concrete facade of Channel House leads up to the tallest structure – the red sandstone and half-timbered gabled Victoria Buildings on the gushet facing the High Street, which despite its Victorian appearance was not built until 1927.[9] **Figs 27 & 31** show the evolution of this gushet.

Sporadically, high-status commercial buildings (particularly banks) break the High Street's predominantly two- and three-storey domestic scale: the imposing 1880 British Linen Bank, nos 46–48 High Street, in bankers' Italianate opulence; the 1869 Commercial Bank by David Rhind; the 1923 former Royal Bank by J & J Hall; and the three-storey no 69, designed by Andrew Black in 1897 as the Unionist Club. Despite these examples, the High Street appears never to have become Galashiels' commercial centre. For all its smaller scale, Channel Street was where the town's commercial growth gravitated in the 1890s, dispersing the economic centre of the burgh.

Almost all of the larger industrial buildings that once lay on either side of this principal route have been removed, but many of the smaller elements in the industrial landscape remain. The area between High Street and the mill lade is now a mixture of car parking and commercial service: New Reiver House. More industrial character survives on the west side, such as the delightful 1842 Glasite Church with its attached house, circular staircase and timber-glazed Gothic windows (so deeply anachronistic as to imply that the windows were brought down from their original church when the congregation quit the Old Town). Other examples include the later Victorian parts of Botany Mill (marking the site of one of Galashiels' oldest mills, founded in 1797). This neuk, with its enclosed lanes and buildings, bounded on the west by Roxburgh Street, projects Galashiels' industrial character well. Restoring the lanes, reusing the sheds, opening up the lade (perhaps for a footpath – the original main road to Peebles used to follow its southern bank) could in some way recreate the original context of the Glasite Church.

As the town expanded north-west along the haugh, the streets – such as they were – were composed of plain, decent, two-storey whinstone houses or tenements built right against the pavement, as for example in King Street.[10] Wilderhaugh, however, further north, was lined by semi-detached houses and tenements, with some elaborate architectural details around the windows.[11] The cul-de-sac of Queen Street also comprised well-built, respectable and substantial houses. The long experimental terrace of concrete houses and flats built in Island Street in the 1870s (approximately contemporary with the concrete tenements in Dundee) was demolished in the 1960s. Little now remains of the main route from Island Street westwards, and virtually nothing of Low Buckholmside.

Area 2: Old Town

The Old Town is situated on a prominent platform overlooking the valley of the Gala Water, its northern edge defined by the small valley of the Mossilee Burn. This was the area of the late medieval settlement that became the burgh of Galashiels in the late sixteenth century. Here, there is the potential for archaeological evidence to have survived in the area between the two watercourses that would provide further information about the layout and development of the early burgh.

While the two foci of Old Gala House (**fig 9**) and the Old Burial Ground (**fig 10**) survive as visible structures from the early burgh, these are not the only pieces of evidence from this time. There has never been an excavation of a street frontage in Galashiels but recent excavations in comparable burghs have shown that these areas offer huge potential to further our knowledge of the town. Evidence of earlier buildings may survive sealed beneath the eighteenth- or nineteenth-century standing buildings. Excavations in similar burghs have also shown that the width and alignment of the main street can change over time, sometimes considerably. Earlier cobbled street surfaces and contemporary buildings may be preserved up to 3–4m behind the line of modern street frontages. Therefore, the site of any proposed development or ground disturbance along the pre-nineteenth-century frontages must be accorded a high archaeological priority, and arrangements should be made for the site to be assessed, monitored and, if necessary, excavated in advance of the development scheme. Similarly, any proposed ground disturbance of the streets themselves (for instance, essential repairs, access to services, or environmental improvements) should also be routinely monitored.

Buried evidence of other prominent buildings associated with the early burgh, such as the late medieval tower of Hunter's Ha' (NT 4935 3567) and the tolbooth (*c* NT 492 357), may survive. Another tower is said to have stood close to the former nineteenth-century parish church (*c* NT 4935 3585) and further documentary research may determine its precise location. The present Old Town has seen many alterations to its form but some of the present property boundaries may be on the line of the original burgage plots. These could indicate the survival of the original layout of the burgh. This is particularly the case with nos 15–28 Church Street (NT 4938 3571), situated immediately to the north of the Old Burial Ground. Here, some of the houses appear to be of a later date but others are earlier, single-storey cottages that have been heightened. Tea Street (NT 4935 3567) (**fig 17**) survives as a picturesque terrace. Other older houses may survive in an altered form among later development, particularly in Elm Row. Two properties on the west side of Gala Terrace, Woodneuk and Belhenden (NT 4921 3586), are former service buildings for Old Gala House. The Old Town is known to have extended north of the Elm Street axis and there is potential

for the survival of evidence of former houses in this area, particularly in Elm Grove and the adjacent parkland (*c* NT 492 356).

Old Gala House has considerable archaeological potential both in the changes to the structure of the building and in the buried evidence of associated courtyards and service buildings. The northern part of the Old Town area contains the remnant of the designed landscape associated with the now demolished New Gala House, and of the earlier Old Gala House. A large walled garden, of probable eighteenth-century date, was a notable feature in this landscape and parts of its walls appear to survive in the angle of Balmoral Place and Scott Street (NT 4887 3605). A modern primary school occupies part of the site, but fragmentary evidence of the early seventeenth-century designed landscape may survive, either as buried features or as associated structures such as walling.

Architectural character analysis

The Old Town

The layout of the Old Town was formalised in the late eighteenth century. The seventeenth-century church was replaced in 1811 by a new parish church at the centre of a regularised village: a bright, flat-roofed, plasterer's gothic church by local architect John Smith of Darnick, who might also have advised on the reconstruction of the town. This formalised, coherent layout is demonstrated by the fact that the corner of Lawyer's Brae, and the corner of Elm Row and Church Street (now demolished) had the same architectural detail as those of Sime and Bridge Streets, and Bank Close. Tea Street, with its row of imprecisely dated cottages, also follows the new grid plan and thus could date from that period. The smart new flats designed by Peter Womersley in 1963–65 were pioneering of their type and remain crisp and bright. There may be older fabric behind later frontages in the Old Town, for example in the house on Elm Row whose stonework indicates that it dates from 1890 but which looks as though it has been refronted. The two buildings immediately east of Old Gala House are likely to be of some antiquity since they appear on the old maps. The sign indicating the Bow Butts may be misconceived, since the 1795 map implies that they were originally on flatter lands further west, by the track to Selkirk.

Gala Park

Once the Scotts had moved into their new house, the parklands of Old Gala House were ripe for development. The first new house was erected in Gala Park in 1875 and seven years later the Gala Park district had a population of 3000 with appropriate churches, public library, Volunteer, Masonic[12] and Good Templar halls, as well as the necessary schools. The construction of Gala Park – embracing Gala Park, St Andrew and St John Streets, Livingstone Place, Lintburn Place, Meigle, Lintburn, Victoria and Stanley Streets – resulted in

probably the most splendid and most coherent industrial artisan suburb in Scotland: wide streets of predominantly two- and three-storey flatted houses constructed of horizontally proportioned yellow ashlar blocks, sometimes with red sandstone dressings, and sometimes harshly tooled. Like the various Colonies in Edinburgh, the upper storeys are reached by passageways to paired external stairs at the rear: a standard pattern of three main doors to the street and six first-floor doors behind. Unlike the Colonies, these street fronts conceal spacious cultivated back areas.

Area 3: Balmoral and Torwoodlee

The topography of this area is in two distinct parts: the valley floor and the terrace overlooking it, the two separated by a steeply wooded slope. Windyknowe Road follows the line of an older road along this terrace, through an area that remained agricultural land until the later nineteenth-century expansion of the town. Prehistoric burials have been recorded in this area, one in the approximate area of Victoria Street (c NT 486 363), and there is the potential for other burials and the associated settlement to have survived.[13]

The boundaries and tracks associated with the earlier landscapes, both prehistoric and medieval, have influenced the form of modern development and, despite the overlay of recent housing, there is the potential for the survival of evidence of this earlier settlement.

The farm of Mossilee (NT 479 359) is recorded on that site in the eighteenth century and may be earlier in date. The nearby field boundary between Mossilee and Victoria Park appears to follow an ancient course. In the late eighteenth century, it formed the boundary of the parkland associated with Old Gala House, but it may be a continuation of the earlier earthwork of unknown date known as the Catrail.

The farm of Kilnknowe (c NT 478 372) is recorded in the late eighteenth century; structural changes to the farm buildings were proposed in 1803–04.[14] Here too, evidence of the earlier farm may still survive amongst later development.

To the north, the site of a tower is recorded at Blindlee (NT 4706 3730), to the south of the present Balnakiel House. The associated settlement is known to have been in existence in the fifteenth century and is depicted on eighteenth-century maps.[15] This area has high archaeological potential as an example of a rural settlement dating from the late and post-medieval period, possibly similar to Galashiels before the development of the latter as a burgh in 1599. Part of this area is designated for housing development in the Galashiels Development Plan.

The nineteenth century saw the construction of housing in this area with the development of Gala Park and ribbon development along Windyknowe Road. Prestige housing was built on the higher ground overlooking the

valley, in the area of Kirk Brae. The latter includes the villa of Woodlands, developed in the late nineteenth century by James Sanderson of Comelybank Mill. In 1895 electric lighting was introduced into the mill from which it was conveyed to the house by means of an underground cable, Woodlands being the first house in Galashiels to be so illuminated. Rowantree Butts in Kirk Brae (NT 4856 3651) is a fine example of a large, late nineteenth-century villa with associated grounds and outbuildings remaining in an unaltered condition. Built for the MP Adam Brown, it is similar to the villas commissioned by mill manufacturers in the mid- to late nineteenth century, but few were in such large garden grounds. Many villas were demolished in the late twentieth century to make way for housing developments so the immediate setting of this building is now unusual. It was built on the site of Claydubs farm and a late twentieth-century ground collapse revealed an eighteenth-century well immediately to the west of the house, suggesting there is the potential for further evidence of the earlier occupation of this site to have survived.

From the late eighteenth century, mills formed the focus of development along the floor of the valley. These depended on the water of the great mill lade (or Gala Dam) for their power, the first section of which runs through this area. This structure, of sixteenth-century date (or possibly earlier) was an essential component of early industrial Galashiels. Workers' housing was erected very close to their place of work. Evidence of this industrial infrastructure of water power, mill and housing still survives, despite complex modern developments such as a tunnel through the later railway embankment. The lade is a multiphase structure incorporating a variety of building materials and evidence of associated races and sluices, but it is a resource that is vulnerable to modern culverting. A hydrological study for Borders Regional Council in 1995 noted seven falls (stepped locations of water wheels) along its route[16]. As long as water still flows through parks and into a remarkable water feature by Sir Robert Lorimer at Corn Mill Square it is likely that the lade will continue to function (**fig 38**). Galashiels' Dam or lade survives wet, like that in Innerleithen, and in a better state than those in Selkirk and Hawick which are now dry. The excavation of drained water systems elsewhere has, however, been archaeologically productive.[17]

Upstanding mill buildings are a valuable resource that is still more vulnerable to alteration or demolition. Such buildings need to be recorded in detail in order to achieve a complete picture of the whole. Often only parts of mill complexes survive, such as the steam-powered Tweed Mill where 'The Pirns' has been converted to housing but the rest of the mill has been demolished (**fig 39**). The warehouse and weaving shed at Waukrigg (or Tweed Place Mill), Duke Street (NT 4839 3672), begun in 1866, survives, as does adjacent housing. The site of Galabank Mill (NT 4857 3666) was
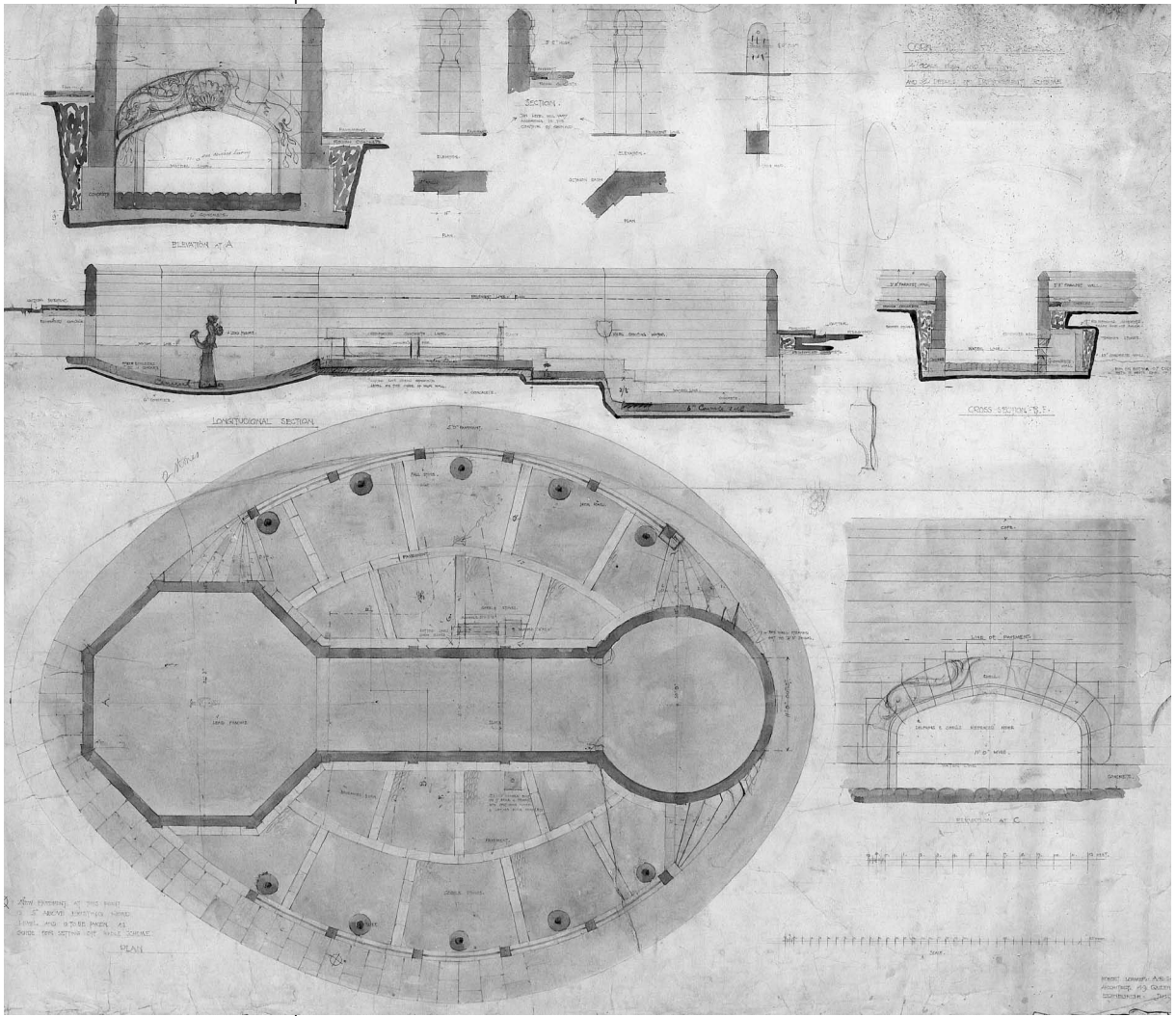
being developed at the time of writing (May 2007). Most of its associated buildings are demolished, but one, recorded as a store on the Ordnance Survey map of 1858, survives. Nearby, Wilderhaugh Mill (NT 4868 3661), built in 1790 by George Mercer, has also been demolished. The mill lade still flows and the foundations of the mill may survive under the present surface.

Architectural character analysis
Balmoral
The lower parts of the area are of a similar age to the buildings in the Park – particularly the very respectable terraces such as Meigle Street and Forest Gardens – with short stretches of later terraces picturesquely adorning the slope. With its fine views over the valley, the 'urban-suburban' character of this hillside should be cherished. The district continues up into the hills with

increasingly remote inter- and post-war semi-detached cottages and some late 1930s/early 1950s blocks of flats. The pattern of housing, ironically, appears to be that the further the flats are from the town, the greater the density of housing. As in Langlee, there is no sense of urbanism or shelter, but the surrounding landscape is exceptional.

Kilnknowe
Balmoral and Kilnknowe are joined by Windyknowe Road, a high curving road through a mature Victorian landscape, with brief but spectacular glimpses over the town. Here, as in Manse Street, is another pleasant Victorian townscape of tall trees, garden walls and coach houses, but smaller, and more dense: managers' rather than owners' suburbia. Along Manse Street, there is a mix of Victorian and Edwardian large houses with high walls, some of brick. The larger Woodlands House, dating from the mid-1850s, is the exception: early for Galashiels' suburbia, its original Italianate villa character was aggrandised into Elizabethan by George Henderson in 1884. It can act as an exemplar for other Galashiels' mansions. The value resides in the setting and the view, the openness around the house itself, the great Mackenzie & Moncur 1884 conservatory (of which Galashiels has several), the mature foliage, and finally the sense of walled enclosure. Such character appears to be under threat in this area, with the demolition of houses and the construction of blocks of flats in the large gardens.

The north-western edge of Galashiels, extending along the A72, contains several mills down in the haugh at the town end, off Paton and Wheatlands Streets, including Tweed Mill (**fig 39**) (from 1850, The Pirns, part now converted to housing), the 1867 Wheatlands Mill, and the 1884 weaving shed of Buckholm Mill, later known as Riverside Mill, each of which had fine engine houses because they relied on steam, not water power. Along Lee Brae and Wood Street the development is again linear and sporadic, the houses dating from the 1920s and 1930s. The houses on Wood Street are of rough whinstone with sandstone dressings.

Area 4: Buckholmside, Ladhope and Glenfield
Settlement and development in this area was limited by the steep sides of the valley at this point but evidence survives of late medieval settlement. The remains of the tower of Appletreeleaves (NT 4947 3669) survive adjacent to the club house of the Galashiels Golf Club. Other towers survive at Buckholm (NT 4828 3790) and Torwoodlee (NT 4669 3774). Remains of associated earlier structures may survive in their immediate vicinity, and likewise evidence of former gardens.

The combined water-power resource of the Gala Water and the Ladhope Burn encouraged the development of industry on the valley floor, served by housing in Buckholmside, initially a separate settlement
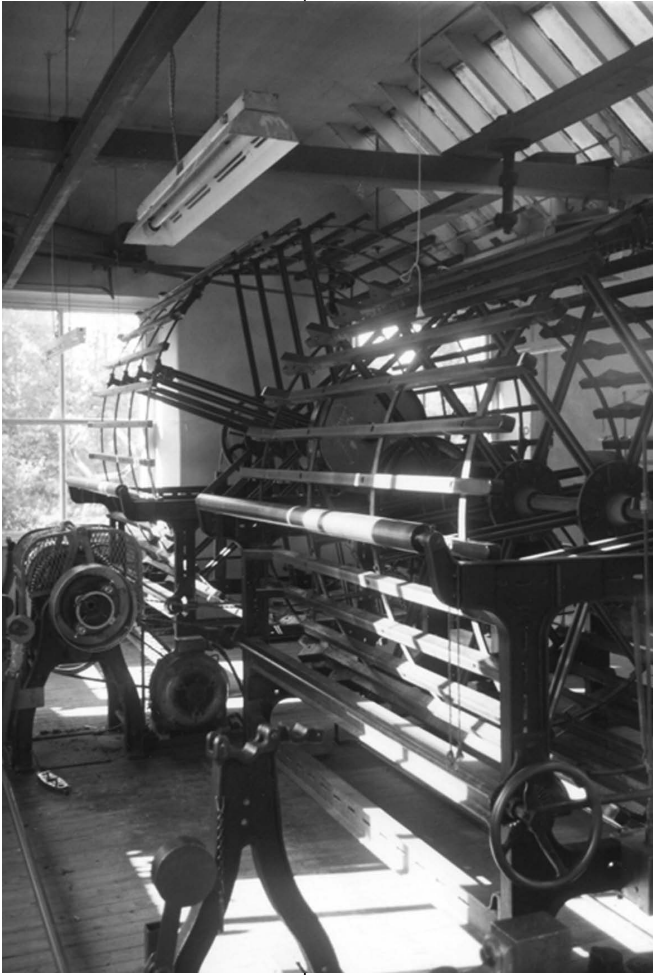
from Galashiels. Here the housing is on terraces with nineteenth-century houses rising steeply above the embankment of the former railway. Steep flights of steps ascend the hillside, providing direct access from the houses to the former industrial sites below, now occupied by retail outlets. Buckholmside Skinworks was the biggest fellmongers in Scotland, but suffered repeated fires before being demolished in the 1980s. This site (along with Comelybank Mill) has given way to new retail units, but foundations of the mills may survive under the platforms on which the present structures stand.

Evidence of the mill lades associated with these buildings also survives. Water for the now-demolished Ladhope Mill (NT 4895 3656) was taken off the Gala Water at a weir upstream. The mill was begun in 1793, so the first stage of the lade must be of the same date. The weir and the first part of the head race of the lade are still visible (NT 4875 3675), along with parts of an associated sluice, but most of the lade is covered with made-up ground, emerging at a still-extant tailrace arch under Ladhope Mill. The turbine at one

time fed electricity to the town and was retained on standby until the mill closed in 1998. The water of the Ladhope Burn crossed the Ladhope Mill lade at right angles before entering the Gala Water.

Buckholm Mill had its own lade, the course of which may still be traced, and an aqueduct spanning a burn. The wheelpit, with a 28-foot (8.5m) head – the largest in Galashiels – and the various turbines[18] that were installed there may repay archaeological investigation even though the big mill has been demolished.

The high embanked sides of the river bear the traces of a variety of construction methods. The sloping stone embankment that forms much of its base shows the method employed locally in the eighteenth century. The upper courses display evidence of the subsequent history of the town, often incorporating parts of former buildings. There is also evidence of former bridges, in particular the site of the early suspension bridge (NT 4873 3668), erected in 1816 to link Galabank Mill with the workers' housing at Buckholmside.

Architectural character analysis
Ladhope
Downhill in the haugh, there was an inn, a brewery, Blaikie's skinworks, Sanderson & Paterson's woodyard, and Buckholm Mill. Stirling Street was developed from the later 1830s to serve this industry, and its standing was represented by a formal layout equivalent to another 'new town'. Ladhope was divided into two in 1849 by the arrival of the railway, which was excavated right into the northern slopes and was protected with an enormous retaining wall. Divisions within Ladhope were furthered by the 1989 Ladhope Vale by-pass which put the Church of Our Lady and St Andrew on a traffic island. The adjacent school was also demolished, but the elegant whinstone manse survives. Chapel Street and some square whinstone houses with sandstone or painted margins survive to indicate the formal layout of Stirling Street.

High Buckholmside retains the character of a stone mill village – albeit damaged by the main Edinburgh Road running through it – with periodic relics of its industrial past, such as the 1885 Bristol Mill, on the south up against the hillside. There is nothing quite like its coherent Victorian character (with a mixture of industry, commerce and housing) surviving elsewhere in Galashiels. Ladhope, uphill from High Road, has the atmosphere of scattered suburbia with its stone walls and steep slopes. The cul-de-sacs of variable terraced housing loosely linked by Ladhope Bank and Ladhope Drive are strongly reminiscent of a Yorkshire mill town. The key to their contemporary character is that the scale is rarely more than two storeys, and they have fine views looking south over the valley; they are otherwise various in both date and architecture. Some of the new development is to a much more suburban layout but Ladhope Inn appears to be Victorian, and Florentina's cafe, with its columned entrance, now inhabits what was once a post office.

Melrose Road

Melrose Road winds between the high walls surrounding Victorian and Edwardian villas which can be glimpsed through trees, their presence often heralded by gate piers. Architecturally they vary from Jacobean to standard Victorian, some ashlar like Linwood, and some bargeboarded, but the character of the street is found more in the landscape than the buildings (which are mostly hidden behind it). The large 1868 mansion, Thorniedean House, is now part of Borders College.

Area 5: Langlee

This area, along with Netherdale on the other side of the Gala Water, occupies the gentler slopes of the Gala Water valley, close to its confluence with the Tweed. Most of this area has been developed for residential property but Iron Age and Roman occupation has been noted here (at NT 520 359 and NT 5210 3608). The potential exists for remains to have survived in areas where the early ground surface has not been destroyed by either later building or quarrying. The present Melrose Road follows the line of an earlier route, near which were the farmsteads of Easter and Wester Langlee.

Architectural character analysis

Langlee represents continuous, concentrated, post-war social housing. It occupies a long south-west-facing slope and its spine – Melrose Road itself – has the sporadic development typical of minor industry: electricity substations, filling stations, and car dealerships. There is no urban enclosure: the buildings themselves (largely Scottish Special Housing Association)[19] vary from 1950s blocks downhill to larger ones uphill, with later variations on this theme. Easter Langlee, crisply Scandinavian in appearance, was designed by Wheeler & Sproson in 1967[20] and won the approval of Bernat Klein, the celebrated textile designer.[21] Denser developments, like the wall of Beech Avenue, appear very solid, as large blocks with garages on the ground floor and 'infrequent entrance' single doors – all of orange harl above brick columns.

Area 6: Netherdale

The valley floor of the Gala Water widens here near its confluence with the River Tweed, in what was a predominantly rural area. Barr Road, and its continuation south as a track, follows the line of an early road from Galashiels to Boleside. The early nineteenth-century farm buildings of Netherbarns (NT 5022 3434) are on the site of an earlier farm steading and evidence of this earlier occupation of the site may survive.[22] The site of another early farmstead, that of Burns, appears on Roy's map of 1747–55 in the area of the Raid Stane (NT 5062 3508).[23]

The surviving mill buildings in this area are an important aspect of Galashiels' industrial heritage: they are the reason why the town expanded and achieved its modern form. Much of the Gala Mill complex survives, including an early nineteenth-century handloom shop, and the wheelpit of the spinning mill (**fig 40**). Still occupied by textile businesses, the mill has archaeological potential to elucidate the development of the woollen industry in Galashiels as it contains evidence of handloom weaving and the oldest powerloom shed in the Borders. Further south-east is Netherdale Mill, established in 1857. The first Netherdale mill, latterly the Scottish College of Textiles Production Unit, was demolished in 1976. A twin to that first mill, a huge nineteen-bay four-storey whin and sandstone building of 1873, is still used to train students in textile technology. Galamoor House is the former office of the mill and parts of the shed also survive. One of the partners of Netherdale Mill, Archibald Cochrane, had a large house, Abbotshill (NT 5020 3485), erected on the

FIGURE 40
Gala Mill, from *Scotland's Industrial Souvenir*, 1905 (Dundee Archive and Record Centre)

higher ground to the west of the mill. A footpath known as 'Archie's Walk' still connects Abbotshill to the mill site and the path itself forms a part of the archaeological landscape. Villas of late nineteenth-century/early twentieth-century date, such as Binniemyre (NT 4995 3511) and Maplehurst (NT 5002 3506), survive along Abbotsford Road, evidence of the aspirations and lifestyle of their owners.

Architectural character analysis
Netherdale principally occupies the haugh running south-east along the Gala Water before it joins the Tweed near Abbotsford. It includes possibly the largest industrial area within Galashiels, and as such is eclectic in character and building styles, each representing different phases of growth. Moving south from the town centre, Paton Street turns into Huddersfield Street and then Dale Street (see **fig 33**). The former haugh land on the northern side of the street has been developed for modern light commerce, such as a large supermarket.

Huddersfield Street until recently contained the heart of Galashiels' textile landscape. Industrial buildings lay in close proximity to each other: the 1866 Mid or Valley Mill, the 1804–05 Nether Mill with its 1866 extension, Waverley Mill and Ironworks, the extensive 1826 Gala Mill, and the tall banded chimney of the burgh refuse destructor.[24] These buildings were generally of whinstone and red sandstone. Dale Street contains some small regular cottages of whinstone with sandstone dressings which are reminiscent of a 'new town' development. Galafoot Drive has a scrap yard and Galafoot Lane the gasworks and sewage works, placed as far downstream and downwind as possible, albeit in a wonderful setting. Heriot-Watt University's annexe in the area has brought a splash of contemporary architectural colour, and the Gala Fairydean football stand, designed by Peter Womersley in 1964, is regarded as one of the finest in Scotland.

The eastern edge of the town is represented by Boleside Road, an extremely picturesque avenue of beech trees running along the Tweed, with Abbotsford House clearly visible on the opposite bank. The Southern Upland Way passes along it, crossing the eastern edge of Galashiels. This area, which developed around Abbotsford Road, the town's principal route east, comprises Galashiels' main district of high bourgeois suburbia, balancing the artisan suburbia in Gala Park to the west. Many of the mansions were those of mill-owners. In urban terms, it is a landscape of privacy, walls and mature gardens allowing only glimpses of distant houses unless they have subsequently been made accessible as residential homes or hotels. Of the latter, the farthest out is the flamboyant red baronial confection now known as the Kingsknowes Hotel, designed in 1869, probably by William Hay, with an outstanding conservatory (**fig 41**). Pollenca, no 23 Abbotsford Road, is more typical of the mid-nineteenth-century smaller villas facing the main road out of town. Built of whinstone with lighter
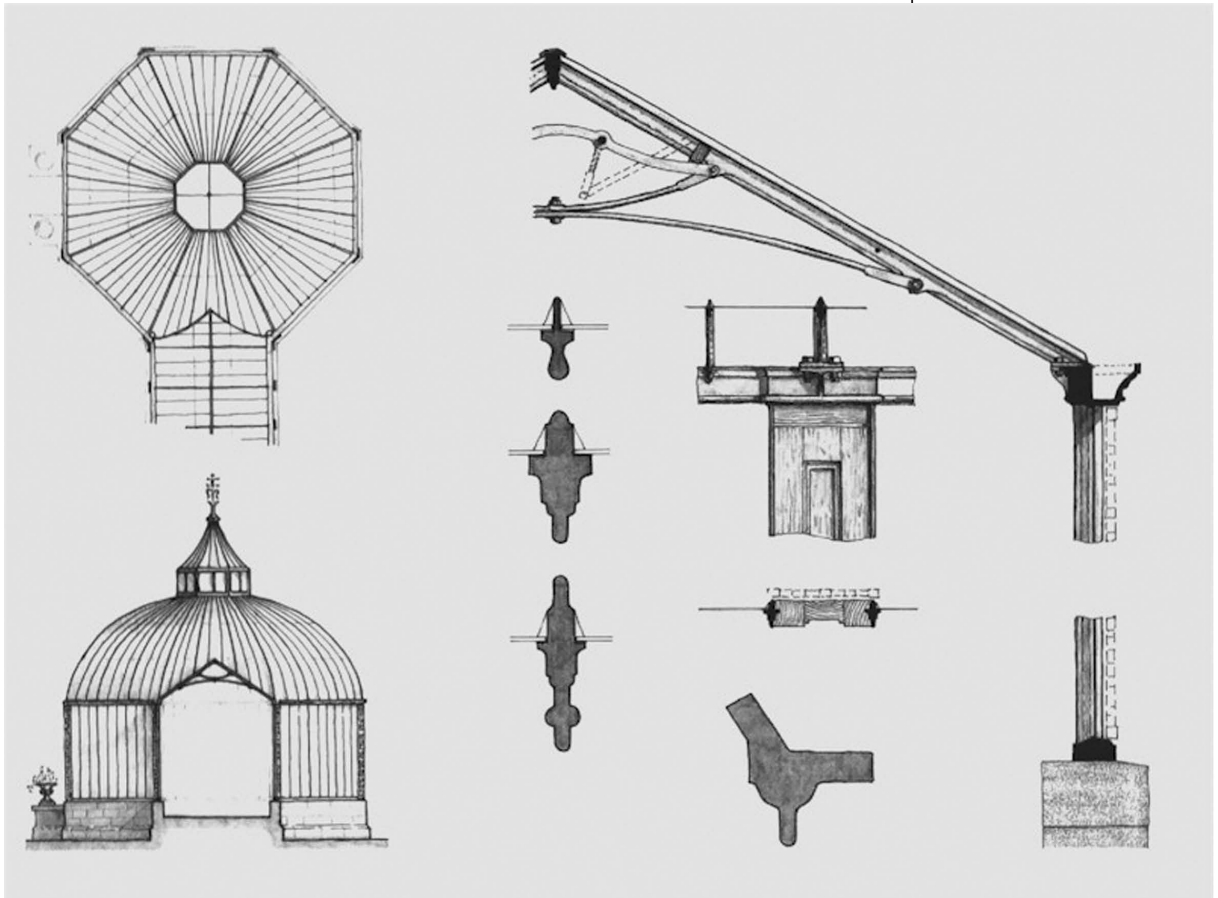
sandstone dressings, it is fairly plain compared with some of its more opulent successors, and is encompassed by mature policies and boundary walls. Some large villas are situated on the corner of Douglas Place with Abbotsford Road, and there are two blocks of substantial 1880s terraced houses.

From the late 1880s, the platform of Tweed Terrace between the haugh and Abbotsford Road was colonised by substantial terraced sandstone houses with roofs of blue slate and red tile in blocks of two – probably those of managers from the mills below. These were joined later by 1930s bungalows and semi-detached apartments (four in a block). Sheltered against the hillside are the quite exceptional Lucy Sanderson Homes, dating from 1930, an estate of retirement homes for mill workers with a communal hall, designed by Mears and Carus Wilson.

Conclusion

Galashiels' rich history is encapsulated in both surviving buildings and hidden structures. Those from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries are of particular interest as records of the town's development into one of

Britain's most important wool manufacturing centres. Further archaeological investigation, building on that already carried out at Nether or Waverley Mill, would greatly enhance appreciation of the town's distinctive qualities and its significant historical role.

Notes

1   G Geddes, Waverley Mill, Huddersfield Street, Galashiels. Architectural Survey (www.scotborders.gov.uk/pdf/14354.pdf)

2   Scottish Borders Council, *Local Plan Finalised 2005*, 35 (www.scotborders.gov.uk/pdf/9088.pdf) Scottish Borders, 2005

3   Their significance is noted in the 'Galashiels: Settlement Profile', in the *Finalised Local Plan: Galashiels*, 268 (www.scotborders.gov.uk/pdf/9528.pdf) Scottish Borders Council, 2005

4   N Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels* (Ochiltree, 1993), 22

5   Old Gala Club, *Galashiels*, 13

6   See also R Oram, P Martin, C McKean, T Neighbour, A Cathcart, *Historic Fraserburgh* (2011) in the Scottish Burgh Survey series, and examples in Rothesay amongst many towns

7   Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 42

8   Register of Sasines, Roxburgh/Galashiels 1825, 1017

9   Scottish Ministers' Statutory List of Buildings of Historic or Architectural Interest, Historic Scotland

10   Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, cover

11   Henderson, *Bygone Galashiels*, 27

12   The Hayward Scout Centre in St John Street is the 1876 former Masonic Hall.

13   J Wood, 'On British cists found at Galashiels in 1878', *Hist Berwickshire Natur Club*, 8 (1876–78), 441–3

14   RHP82822: architectural plan of Kilnknowe farmstead, 1803–04

15   RCAHMS NMRS No NT43NE 6; W Roy, *Military Survey*; NAS RHP 140068 W Fairbairn, *Plan of the lands and barony of Galashiels …*, 1795; NAS, GD328/30, charter of 1540 to brother of Robert Hoppringle of Blindlee

16   Crouch and Hogg Job No 4138 'Supplementary report on flooding and general condition of mill lade' (unpublished report, September 1985). Historic mill sites are not named but the falls identified have been interpreted by Mark Watson as being Galabank, Wilderhaugh, [Rosebank, Botany and Waulkmillhead, access not possible]; Corn Mill, Mid Mill, Nether Mill, and Gala Mill

17   Notably to date at Wilton Mill, Hawick, by GUARD, and Stanley Mills, Perthshire, by Structural Perspectives and SUAT

18   Plans for the turbines at Buckholm Mill are among those in Scottish Borders Council Archive, Aimers McLean collection

19   Cruft, Dunbar, & Fawcett, *Borders*, 314

20   Cruft, Dunbar, & Fawcett, *Borders*, 314

21   B Klein, *Design Matters* (London, 1976)

22   W Fairbairn, *Plan of the lands and barony of Galashiels...*

23   W Roy, *Military Survey*

24   Cruft, Dunbar, & Fawcett, *Borders*, 314–16; Hume, *Industrial Archaeology of Scotland I* (London, 1976) 239–41; George Geddes, Headland Archaeology Ltd, *Burgh Yards, Huddersfield Street, Galashiels* (commissioned by Scottish Borders Council, 2007) (http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/pdf/20704.pdf)

5 Inventory of Galashiels mills

by Mark Watson, Historic Scotland

The mills are numbered M1–M27 in **fig 33**, and the power systems used in 1858 are indicated by icons in **fig 42**. The last five entries are dyeworks, finishing works and fellmongers related to the woollen industry. Arranged alphabetically, each entry begins with owners or tenants (note that many mills were shared by groups of partners) and the date they are known to have first been present.

The second paragraph briefly describes buildings and ascribes them a date; this may be precise or, if derived from map or other evidence, will appear as a range, eg, 1851–58 means not shown on the Mitchell map of 1851 reproduced in Hall, p126, but shown on the First Edition OS map seven years later.

Third come specific references to archives such as: NAS (National Archives of Scotland, Register House Plans: the records of James Melrose, millwrights, Hawick) or Scottish Borders Archive Service (SBAS) which has

FIGURE 42
(a) Textile sites, wheels and engines along the Gala Water derived from the 1858 First Edition OS map (prepared by Kirkdale Archaeology, based on OS mapping. © Crown copyright)

Textile industry related features present on 1858 Ordnance Survey map:

Steam engine   Water wheel   Hand loom shop   Hosiery

N

0   100
Metres

Textile industry related features present on 1858 Ordnance Survey map:

Steam engine   Water wheel   Hand loom shop   Hosiery

N

0   100
Metres

Textile industry related features present on 1858 Ordnance Survey map:

Steam engine   Water wheel   Hand loom shop   Hosiery

N

0   100
Metres
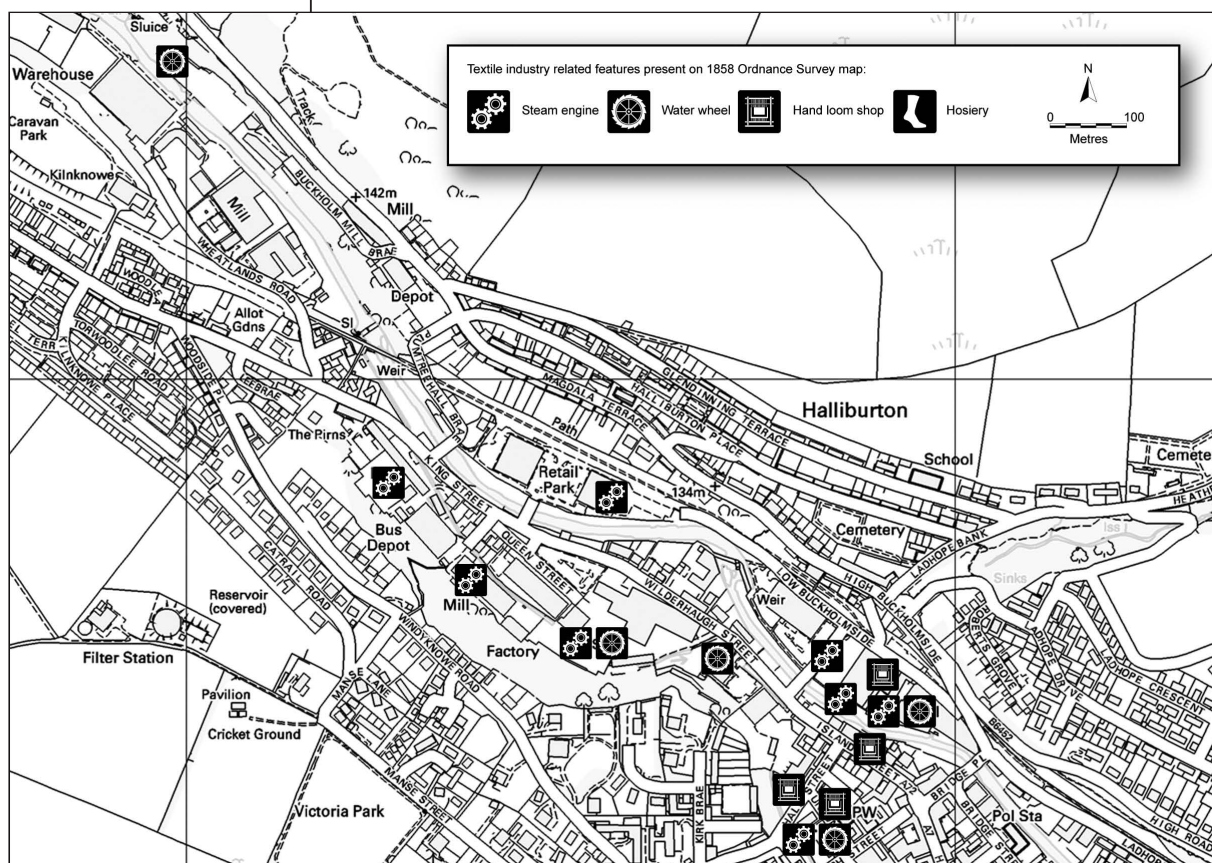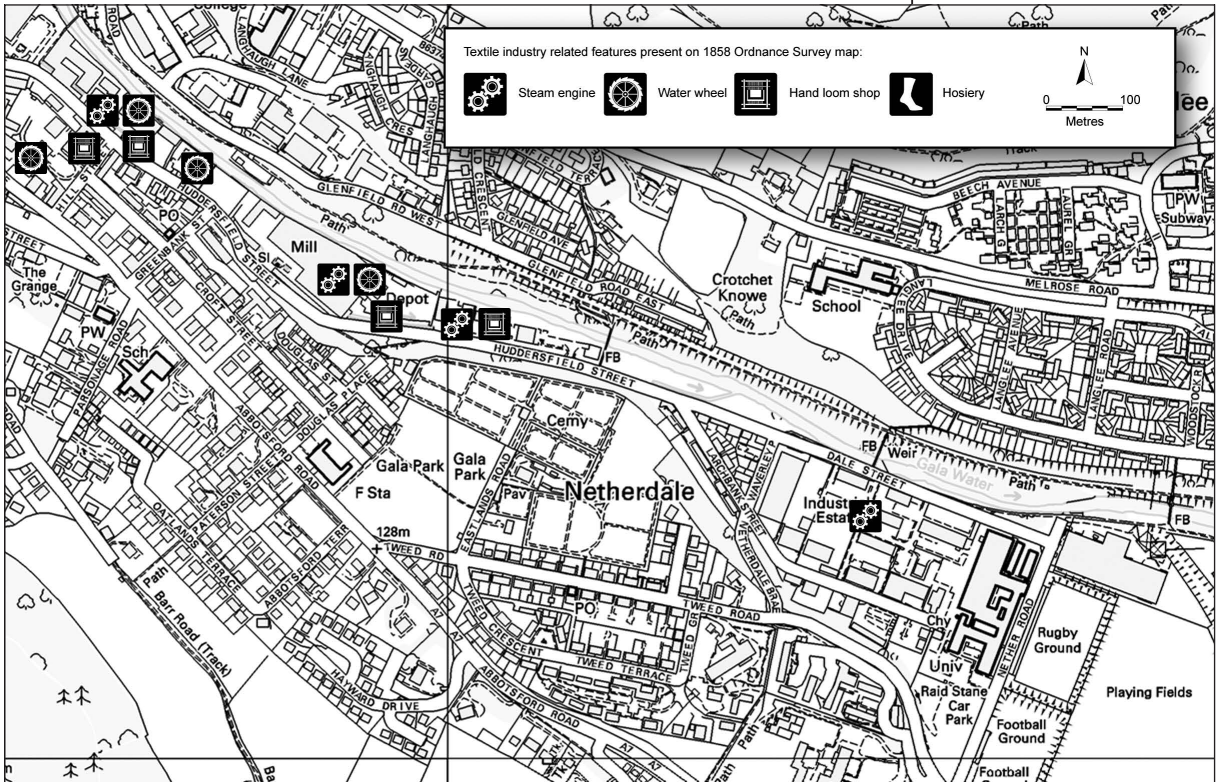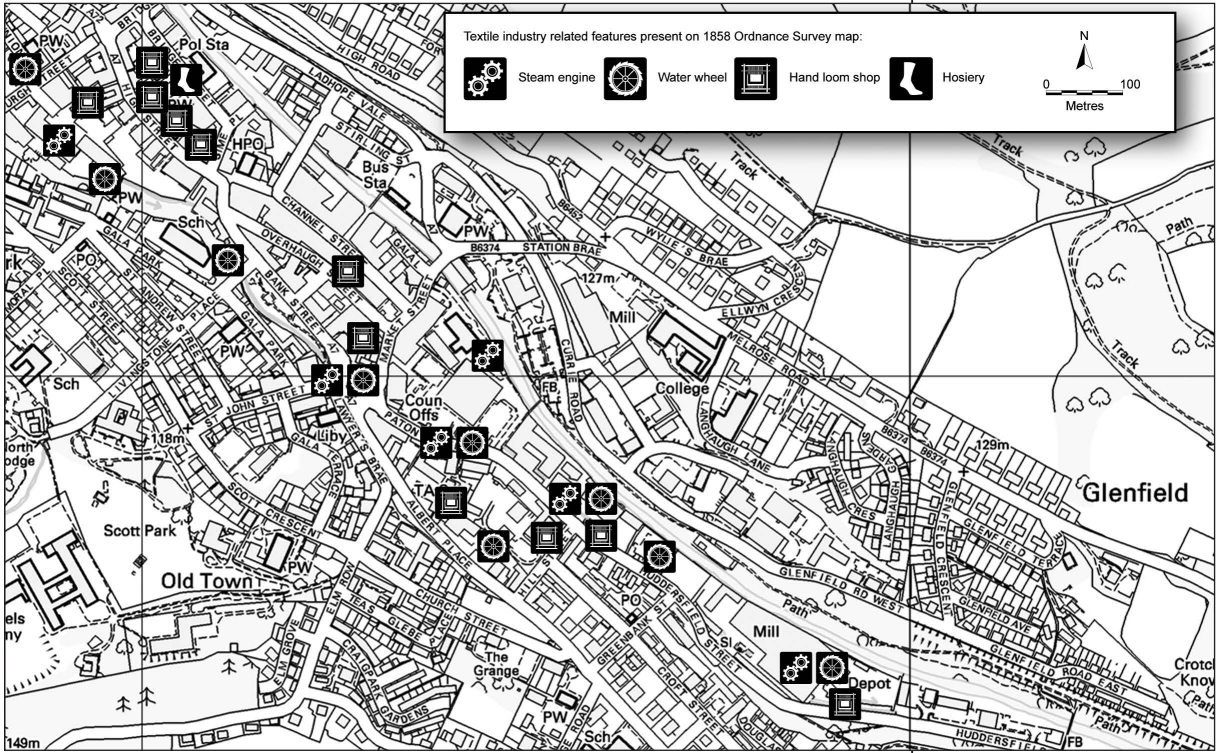
the extensive plans of millwrights Aimers McLean. These were consulted before the archive was catalogued. Hall's *History* (1898) and Galashiels History Committee (1983) are standard sources for each site and so are not individually cited. Where the firms are now shut, references to plant are to machines recorded in 1989.

Waterwheels They are not labelled as such on the OS map. Twelve of these are deduced from the presence of a bypass at each mill that lies astride a lade. One is the corn mill, eleven are at woollen mills. Dyehouses are shown close to the wheels at Abbots, Gala, Nether, Mid, Waulkmillhead, Botany, Rosebank, Wilderhaugh, and Galabank Mills. Victoria, Tweed and Comelybank Mills also had dyehouses but no waterwheels.

Steam engines Twelve are indicated by the Ordnance Survey. Seven engines had been added to existing water-powered mills and one to the corn mill. Also a brewery, a sawmill, a millwright's and a builders' yard had one engine each in 1858. There were at that time four purpose-built steam-powered mills: Victoria, Tweed Mills, Comelybank and Netherdale Mills but engines are only labelled at the first two. Comelybank Mill is known to have been steam powered from its start, and although the OS map does not label it, the first engine house was north of the mill (from physical evidence, and see **fig 22**). Netherdale Mill was then under construction so is shown in outline by Ordnance Survey. Ladhope is documented as having an engine by 1858, and maps show chimneys and likely engines at Rosebank and Nether Mills (which retained ashlar engine foundations in its north gable), so they are added even if not labelled. So about seventeen engines had been installed, evidence of the fall in coal prices with the opening of the Waverley Line.

Handloom shops Eleven independent shops, without obvious power sources, are marked 'Woollen Factory (Hand)'. Added to these is the Ladhope Vale or Back Road Weaving shop (later McCaig's), shown but not labelled on the map. It 'had about 70 handlooms, let out to several manufacturers, who found the handloom weavers there so obstreperous that they moved to Walkerburn in 1854 and built a mill there' (Oliver 1932). It had perhaps been vacant at the time of the Survey. Now it is an accountants' office. Another six are included that were parts of mills and are shown on the map (eg Abbot's, Gala and Ladhope Mills). Several other mills are known from documentary and oral sources to have had handlooms, such as on the first floor at Comelybank Mill, but are not shown here.

Hosiery shops are not marked in the OS map but the same source – Dr Oliver of the Scottish College of Textiles in 1932 – said 'The hosiery trade was well founded in Bridge Street. Noble's wool store at one time accommodated 70 hosiery frames while Hislop was also a hosiery manufacturer.' A tall building in Bridge Street, not labelled by the Ordnance Survey, corresponds to the small-windowed examples remaining in Hawick and Denholm and so may be identified as for hosiery, not weaving. A hosiery frame takes less space than a handloom.

Combining physical, documentary and map evidence gives a full picture of the range and extent of the industry. The OS snapshot in 1857–58 captures a town in transition, already harnessing its industry to steam. Water had dictated the location of the mills and would continue to be important for washing, dyeing and some power. The town was also on the point of switching from handloom to powerloom weaving but so far only one conventional powerloom shed existed, at Gala Mill, with another under construction at Netherdale.

1. Abbots Mill, Huddersfield Street   NT 501 356
   Image: J R Hume 1969 (fig 43)

1841	Sanderson and Sibbald
1851	Sibbald
1875	Alexander Craig Lang
1877	Thomas Ovens, spinning
	Blenkhorn Richardson & Co, of Hawick leased weaving department
1935	Closed
1970	Demolished: Exacta Circuits Ltd on the site
1841	Spinning mill built: 4 storey and attic, 10-bay Lade lengthened due to backwater in floods
1851–58	Engine added; separate weaving shop
1858–97	2 sheds and 3-storey 12-bay mill added
1897–1930	1 shed lengthened

Ref: *Souvenir of Industrial Scotland II* (*c* 1900: then 'driven entirely by steam')

Abbotsford Mill: see *Gala Mill* and *Nether Mill*

2. Botany Mill/Weirhaugh Mill, Roxburgh Street   NT 488 364
   Image: Historic Scotland 2005 (fig 44)

1797	Sanderson, Clapperton, Sime & Thomson
1831	Gill, Sime & Co
1866	Sime, Sanderson & Co
1989	Small businesses and South of Scotland Electricity Board
1797	Waulk mill: 40ft by 18ft by 18ft; demolished
1829	Spinning mill: 57ft by 28ft by 4 storeys; T-plan
By 1858	Second mill, with an engine at right angles to the first
1870	Fire (£10,000 damage)
1879	Circular knitting frames introduced and discarded

Surviving 2007:
2-storey offices, stone and brick
Boiler house, cast-iron drying floor
1870s 4-storey, 6-bay M-roofed slow loom weaving mill, later a wool store (1932 plan)
Part of carding shed and millhouse; larger area of sheds demolished
Scouring and finishing sheds: brick
1897–1930 brick-built spinning mill, 2-storey, 4 by 16 bay

NAS RHP 48826 (sale brochure 1932)

FIGURE 43
Abbots Mill photographed
by J R Hume 1969, now
in RCAHMS (© Crown
copyright RCAHMS)

FIGURE 44
Botany Mill in 2005, showing
the carding shed and four-
storey weaving mill added
in the 1870s (© Crown
Copyright Historic Scotland)

FIGURE 45
Left: Bristol Mill, 2005
(© Crown Copyright
Historic Scotland)

FIGURE 46
Centre: Platt Brothers
spinning mule powered
from a line shaft in Bristol
Mill, Wright and Jobson
Ltd, installed here in 1919.
Photographed in 1990
(© Crown Copyright
Historic Scotland)

FIGURE 47
Right: Sample carding
machine in Bristol Mill
without its covers,
Wright and Jobson Ltd.
Photographed in 1990
(© Crown Copyright
Historic Scotland)

Bridge Mill see *Huddersfield Mill*

3.   Bristol Mill, Edinburgh Road   NT 483 372
    Image: Historic Scotland 2005 (figs 45, 46 & 47)

1885	Roberts Dobson and Co
1895	William Roberts and Co (closed after fire in Victoria Mill, 1905)
1921	Wright and Jobson Ltd
c 2000	Closed

Surviving 2007:
4-storey spinning mill of 1885; M-roof with dormers for mule headstocks added in
    1949
Engine and chimney at south end, altered for new engine and boiler in 1889
George Burns steam box outside the engine house. A Burns vertical engine was
    removed in 1949 (Mr Hirstwood, owner, pers comm)

1885	2-bay boiler house with perforated iron floor for wool drying
1885	teaser house: curved corrugated roof
1890	office and lodge
1923–24	waste and teaser houses of sheet metal, timber and brick by R Hall & Co
1928	mill extended in brick to west (loading and carding)

Plant in 1989:
4 carding setts, Tatham and Platt; one 1878 ball and bank (earlier type than Scotch
    feed)
6 Platt mules 1919, driven by line shafts; 6 more replaced by frames
J and T Boyd twisting frames

NAS RHP 38104 and subsequent numbers in that series

Ref: *Stratten's Glasgow* 1891: 40–50 hands, 4000 spindles spinning Cheviot and
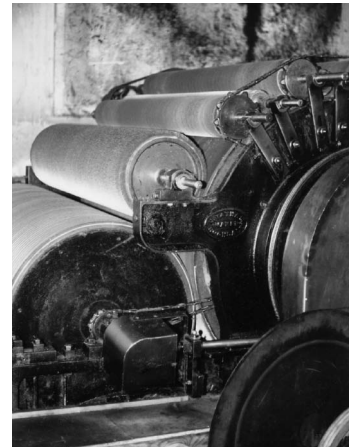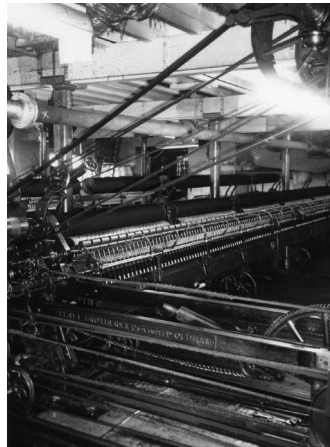   Saxony yarns. 1889 plans in SBAS

4. Buckholm Mill (Riverside Mill), Buckholm Mill Brae   NT 481 373
Image: J R Hume 1974 (fig 48)

1846	Henry Sanderson
1850	Messrs J and H Brown (of Ettrick Mill, Selkirk, sons of W Brown of Nether Mill)
1859	Brown Brothers (sons of James Brown)
1972	Closed
1975	Main mill demolished, except Riverside Mill on Wheatlands Road

Spinning mill built 1846 on the lade of Buckholm Corn Mill, which crossed a burn. A fall of 28 ft (*c* 8.5m) allowed 210hp generated from two Leffel Turbines, installed 1870. A 5-storey 4 by 20 bay M-roofed mill, with octagonal chimney and adjacent louvred dyehouse with its own circular-section chimney

Surviving 2007:
Lade with sluice at NT 474 378
2-storey ancillary buildings on north-east bank beside spinning mill
1884 large weaving shed on south-west bank of river with separate engine house (had a 250hp compound engine and a roofed water tower). From 1943 this was known as Riverside Mill, owned by Broadhead and Graves Ltd; used for spinning and weaving from 1948 to 1970; now a wool store for Stewart and Ramsden Ltd

Ref: NAS RHP GD276/15 (James Melrose engine spec)
SBAS: Drawings of turbines in Aimers collection, 1870

5. Comelybank Mill, Low Buckholmside   NT 486 367

Image: Historic Scotland 1990 (fig 49)

1852	A & R Watson
1858	Watson & Bogue
1880	Hugh Sanderson
1943	Arthur Dickson (of Wheatlands Mill, and Munro and Co, Restalrig)
1996	Closed and demolished: now MFI etc

Surviving in 1990:
1852 2-storey mill – spinning at ground floor, treadle loom weaving above, columns 4in diameter at ground floor, 3in at 1st floor; extended by 6 bays in 1860s; new mules installed 1880. Mill connected to new weaving shed by cast-iron beam that carried shafting
1867 (dated) boiler house by Aimers
1881 new engine and 3-bay boiler house: tandem compound horizontal engine; Mather and Platt sprinkler pump

1882 weaving shed built (plans by Aimers dated 1880)
1880s new warehouse and office with clock
1914 electric motors fitted
1921–24 new single-storey spinning mill
1895 electric light in mill and owner's Woodlands House – first domestic
    electricity in Gala
1896 steel lattice bridge and lodge replaced a timber bridge
1974 new dyehouse (which experimented with space dyeing)

Plant in 1989:
Hattersley, Dornier and Somet looms
Platt brothers mule of 1880 and modern ring frames
Finishing machinery: Milling machines and a Watson Laidlaw (Glasgow)
    hydro-extractor

Ref: RCAHMS B41001–41033 (photographs taken in March 1990)
SBAS D30/16/7

6. Deanbank Mill, Hall Street   NT 488 365
   Image: Historic Scotland 1990 (fig 50)

c 1840–50 erected by Robert Hall, builder, leased to handloom weaving firms
        Henry Sanderson, Robert Frier and others. Next occupied by
        Hugh Sanderson (with part of Rosebank Mill)
1863–80   James Sanderson (later of Comelybank Mill)
1882–94   Gibson and Lumgair, who moved to St Mary's Mill, Selkirk, in
        1894. Later a fruit market
early 1990s Demolished

FIGURE 50
Deanbank Mill, 1990
(© Crown Copyright
Historic Scotland)

Wool store and handloom
shop, 4-storey (upper 3 flats
for handlooms); remodelled
as 2-storey, 6-bay with wide
gabled attic; narrow 2-bay
wing. In 1869–71 James
Sanderson introduced steam
power and built weaving
sheds behind Hall Street for
weaving, dyeing and finishing.
This modest building was the
seedbed for two important
firms

Ref: SBAS Aimers archive
(1869–71)

Eildon Mill see *Rosebank Mill*

7. Gala Mill, Huddersfield Street   NT 498 355
   Image: Historic Scotland 2005 (fig 51)
   (Also known as: **Wakefield/Abbotsford/Greenbank Mill**)

1826	Robert Sanderson
1831–1957	R & A Sanderson
Also:	
1932–64	Galavale Silk Fabrics Ltd

From 1959 Gala Mill was the seedbed for several firms, broadly spilt into:
1. The office and warehouse
1959–69 Lochcarron Products (which then moved to Nether Mill)
1965–89 Tweedglen Woollens (in warehouse and office as 'Greenbank Mill')

2. The weaving and carding sheds:
1960s   Keddie Gordon and Co/Grampian Tweeds/Scoon & Hood
1973 to date   Abbotsford Fabrics (former Hunter & Co)

3. The finishing department
1958 to date   Maxwell Schofield

1826 spinning mill 65ft by 28ft by 28ft; 3-storey, 13-bay; demolished but mill bell
   salvaged. In 1883 new purification processes were introduced here

Surviving 2007:
Wheelpit in car park; wheel was 18ft by 10ft with a fall of 8ft (it held a turbine in
   1924)
Narrow 2- and 3-storey 16-bay handloom shop, 15ft inside width;
   roof altered 1874 (dated roof timber)
1851–58 6-bay weaving shed to north, columns 4in diameter, of 2
   types. The first weaving shed in Gala
Post-1858 main carding (now weaving) shed at right angles, 6in
   columns with knobs, 24ft spans; cast-iron gutter beams
Shed to east, of similar design (former Tweedglen premises),
   crosses lade
Old beam engine house, now a canteen
Large engine house, which held a gas engine from 1912–50; site
   of gasometer to west (gas lighting also continued here to 1950)
Boiler and economiser houses; reduced circular stalk
Office/design studio, narrow 4-storey 5-bay roof
Engineers' shop and office, 2-storey
1920 mill and wet finishing house, 1-storey, reinforced concrete
   roof (was to have carried dry finishing at 1st floor, but unbuilt)
2-storey weaving shed, M-roof, lengthwise beams

Ref: *Scotland's Industrial Souvenir II* (1905)

FIGURE 51
Gala Mill, 2005 (© Crown
Copyright Historic Scotland)

8. Galabank Mill, Princes Street
NT 486 367
Image: Historic Scotland 2005 (fig 52)

1818	Richard Lees (also of Buckholmside and Mid Mills)
1838	Robert & George Lees
1865–1961	George Lees & Co
1973	Bepi (Electronics) Ltd
1970s	demolished
1818	mill, machinery house and waulk mill 42ft by 28ft by 25ft forms T-shape

1818	famous wire bridge erected for access from Buckholmside by William Bathgate, millwright. 111ft span; destroyed in flood, 1839
1837	large extension: a dinner and ball to celebrate the accession of Queen Victoria was held here before machinery was installed
1858–97	shed built to north

4-storey 2- by 10-bay mill (1837?) flanked symmetrically by 2-storey and attic 7-bay buildings (shown in views of 1845 and 1855)

9. Huddersfield Mill/Bridge Mill, Huddersfield Street   NT 486 357
Image: J R Hume 1974 (fig 53)

1818	Patterson, Walker, Fairgrieve & Gledhill (of Huddersfield until 1825)
1860–64	Adam Patterson buys out the other shareholders
1876	George Patterson & Co
1907	Peter Anderson: steam- and water-powered weaving, later carding, spinning and finishing added
1970	moved to Nether Mill; demolished
1818	3-storey 2- by 5-bay mill
By 1858	2nd block added north of lade

Later shed 5- by 5-bay, extended in 1897 by new weaving shed by James Melrose 5- by 6-bay, spans 18ft 7in and 17ft 4in over 11ft lade, cast-iron gutter beams, 28 powerlooms
Cylindrical chimney stalk
By 1930 small shed added to south

Ref: NAS RHP20192 (Melrose's weaving shed, ND)

10. Ladhope Mill, Low Buckholmside   NT 489 367
Image: Dundee Archive and Record Centre (fig 54)

1793	Robert Walker, dyster (*sic*, in Hall, meaning dyer)
1811	George Lindsay, Earlston: multi-tenanted
1834	Sanderson and Patterson, builders: multi-tenanted
1847	William Sanderson purchased the whole property
1864	Laidlaw and Fairgrieve
1920	Laidlaw and Fairgrieve Ltd (part of Joseph Dawson from 1961)
1998	mill closed
2002	demolished

Buckholmside Dam formed 1788 by Mr Pringle for a waulk mill tenanted by Robert Walker (Wood, 1824, shows it further north of current site)

1836	25hp engine (the first in Gala) installed to supplement water power made inadequate by the raising of Dam head in 1831. Here were the first wool scouring, drying, burring, milling and tentering machines, and scribbling machines with metal cylinders
1881	new horizontal 250hp steam engine (on Aimers' plans 1882 and 1884)
1912	electric driving from the turbine. In 1930s the turbine supplied power to the town and also used the town's supply when required. By then this was the biggest yarn spinning mill in the Borders

Buildings at west incorporated walls of Hall's builders' yard and woollen manufactory

1830s?	5-storey mill with bellcote, gabled roof, extended 1863
1871	2nd mill, M-roof; sheds to north 4-storey 4-bay roofed wedge-shaped yarn store (demolished 1982)
1914	East scouring and spinning department: reinforced concrete, 4-storey front, blind curved rear, flat roof, 7+2 later bays, between 2 and 5 pillars deep
1928	Fire destroys the two older mills but not ferroconcrete mill
1929	4-storey 9-bay reinforced concrete mill with steel-framed N-lights
1920s	Office enlarged
1980s	Tall circular stalk demolished

Plant in 1989:

Large horizontal turbine for a Peebles 440 volt generator; line shafting for chain drives to carding under floor in West Mill by 'Aimers McLean & Co, Waverley Ironworks, Galashiels'

13 continuous carding setts

26 spinning frames

Ref: *Scotland's Industrial Souvenir II* (1905) [then had 11,000 spindles and 15 setts]

Plans held by the company

SBAS D/30/16/13

FIGURE 54
Ladhope Mill from *Scotland's Industrial Souvenir II* (1905) (Dundee Archive and Record Centre)

11. Langhaugh Mill, Langhaugh Lane   NT 498 358
Image: Historic Scotland 2005 (fig 55)

1875	Currie, MacDougall & Scott
1973	J Armstrong (Textiles) Ltd
	Armstrong Vickers (Textiles) Ltd
1989	Castle Warehouse and Bemco electrical distributors

1875	Spinning mill, 4-storey with shed and double windows. Burned down in 1911, now the site of new unit
1889	Weaving began (as retail manufacturers) in small weaving shed
1902	Alterations to teaser house, scouring and spinning. New economiser (to preheat water entering the boiler by piping it past heat on its way to the chimney), tweed warehouse and wool store. Was the first in the district to make loop and knot yarn in mohair, lustres and silks

Extant in 1989 and now:

c 1889	2-storey 7-bay building, extended to rear as sheds after 1897

Ref: SBAS D30/16/14

12. Mid Mill/Valley Mill, Paton Street   NT 494 359
Image: RCAHMS 1980 (fig 56)

1793	Grieve, Cochrane, Gill & Lees
1831	John, Walter and Archibald Cochrane
1833	John & Walter Cochrane
1866	Adam and Kenneth (sons of John) Cochrane
1922–35	Mid Mill: Ovens and Shaw
	Valley Mill: HP Cochrane; A Dickson and Co
1989	Co-op Superstore, later Tesco

1793	Mid Waulkmill 40ft by 29ft by 16ft, on site of 1 of the 3 waulkmills mentioned in 1581. Wheelpit is in car park, gifted by Dr Oliver to the town on condition it be kept open
1824	Buildings across Paton Street were occupied by J & W Cochrane, A Clapperton (acquired 1831) and others
By 1851–52	Parallel gabled mills, 1 T-shaped, linked 1871 by a bridge. Demolished 1953
1866	4-storey 3- by 17-bay spinning mill (with weaving on top floor: Dobcross looms installed 1895). Collar-beam roof on 2 rows of cast-iron columns with bell capitals. Projecting central stair with bellcote, oculus and weather vane demolished

c 1980 on conversion to supermarket. Known as Valley Mill, demolished in 2006

1866   Dated engine house: twin beam engine with 4 Doric columns, cast-iron tank. Adjacent 3-bay boiler house with wool drying over and scouring/dyeing sheds

1870   Wool store over arched lade

Warehouse and office now used by the TA

Claimed to be first in the town to introduce powerlooms, self-acting mules and improved Houldsworth's and Wilson's condensers in the carding process

Ref: Photos RCAHMS and J R Hume
SBAS D30/16 (including detailed plans of 1866 mill)

13. Nether Mill, Huddersfield Street   NT 496 355
   Image: J R Hume 1974
   (Also known as: **Abbotsford/Waverley Mill**) (**fig 57**)

1805   Brown, Bathgate, Clapperton & Roberts
1843   James Bathgate & Son (Clapperton sold out 1816, Roberts 1836, and Brown 1843)
1868   Brown & Shaw (of Wilderbank Mill)
1874   James Shaw & Brothers
1970   John Buchan/Peter Anderson (of Bridge Mill) with a museum
2006   Demolished (production transferred to Gardiner's Tweed Mill, Selkirk, now renamed Waverley Mill)

1805   Mill: 2-storey and attic 2- by 4-bay (near the site of one of the original waulk mills: 43ft by 28ft by 22ft)
c 1824–51 Raised by a storey and extended to 9 bays beyond tie plates. Timber floors (evidence of join) and collar beam roof. 2 arches, 1 to wheel pit, 1 for overflow. Leffel vortex water turbine used 1880–1950, restored to working order for museum display. Ashlar blocks for beam engine at N gable
1866   Spinning mill 3-storey and attic, 8- by 4-bay. Stair tower at left with oculus and space for date of unbuilt extension. M-roof with gables at east, parapet at west. Interior: 3 by 7 grid of columns with bell capitals, shafts crosswise at ground floor, lengthwise above, single row of columns at attic. Had 4000 spindles in 1891.

FIGURE 57
Nether Mill (Abbotsford/ Waverley Mill) photographed by J R Hume 1974 (© Crown copyright RCAHMS)
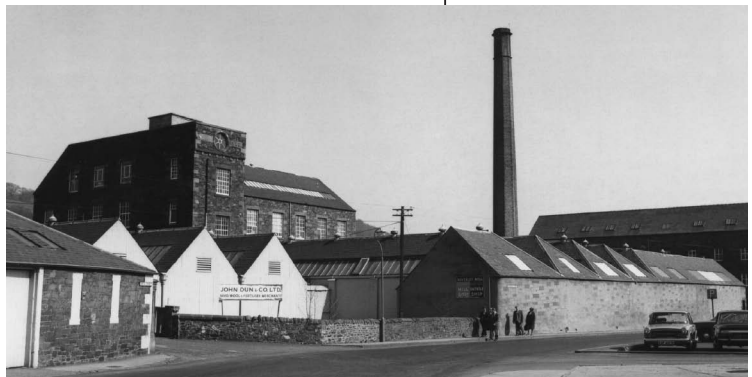
Sheds: *c* 1866 Inspection, finishing department and mill house (perhaps once also for weaving) (by Gala Water, between engine house and 1866 mill) 6 bays with ornate ventilators over mill house. Cast-iron columns with swept capitals and bearing blocks. Timber cross and iron gutter beams

1878   Engine and boiler house; T-shape with arched openings and piended (hipped) roofs. Engine house 2- by 3-bay, extended to 4, with cast-iron tank by Thomas McLaren, Victoria Foundry, 1887. Steps. 3 cast-iron beams in engine house and one outside for drive to Old Mill. Held a 300hp horizontal engine. Boiler House: 3-arched fan lit doors, 2 oculi to drying room on cast-iron frame with pierced floor-plates. Steambox outside by George Burns & Son, 1889. Octagonal chimney stalk demolished *c* 1985

Later C19th Weaving shed 5-bay and L-shape by lade. Different columns and cross-beams; walls partly brick, rendered to street

After 1897   Warping shed, brick-built, 3 bays north gable pebble-dashed, south gable timber-boarded. Timber roofs on cast iron columns

Assorted small sheds east of Old Mill built between 1869 and 1897. Dyehouse formerly part of Aimers' foundry: high single storey. (Aimers moved to this side of the road in 1885)

Plant in 1989:
2 Whiteley warp mills and Sulzer looms
Brushing machine by George Burns, Galashiels, 1925
Milling machines, teasel gig
Small Hattersley loom in museum

Ref: Geddes G, *Waverley Mill, Huddersfield Street, Galashiels Architectural Survey* (2006)

14. Netherdale Mill, Dale Street   NT 506 353
Image: J R Hume 1974 (fig 58)

1857–66   J & W Cochrane (of Mid Mill)
1866–1917 Adam L Cochrane & Brothers
1917–25   Charles Sykes and Sons Ltd

1925–32   Netherdale Scottish Woollen Mills Ltd
1948–73   (in first mill) Scottish Woollen Technical College Production Unit (second mill) Bernat Klein (1952–66) under a number of names: Colourcraft/Imperial Tobacco Ltd/Gibson & Lumgair/ Brydon Thompson
1968–98   Scottish College of Textiles
1998–present Heriot Watt University, Scottish Borders Campus, occupies the High Mill. Several firms lease weaving sheds, office etc in Netherdale Industrial Area

FIGURE 58
Netherdale Mill photographed by J R Hume 1974 (© Crown copyright RCAHMS)

1857	(R & A Stirling, Architects) 4-storey 2- by 19-bay mule mill with M-roof, central castellated stair tower with angle turrets and oculi to tower and to gables. This became the College Production Unit, demolished in 1976. Tall pilastered beam engine house with roof tank (1888), detached from mill but attached to shed, boiler house and stalk
1911	Horizontal engine house with round-headed windows added at west

1873 High Mill 4-storey 2- by 17-bay mule mill, M-roof with central stair tower and oculi (matching the first mill but with castellated parapet and turrets since removed). 3 rows of columns carry lengthwise flitched beams

Weaving shed, 13 bays: part inscribed JWC, 1866, majority 1893

1-storey M-roofed building by Gala Water, by 1897

1-storey and attic M-roof 13-bay block (yarn store?), built 1897–1930. Single row of columns on timber cross-beams

Office: 2-storey, 3-bay, crow-stepped gable dated 1919

The largest mill complex in Gala

Ref: Photos J R Hume and RCAHMS
SBAS D/30/16/20

15. Rosebank Mill (Linnburn/Eildon Mill), Union Street   NT 488 365
   Image: Historic Scotland 1990 (fig 59)

1804	D & W Thomson
1825–37	Partnership dissolved: lawsuit between brothers
1837–79	Dalgleish, Rutherford and Frier etc, tenants
1882	Keddie, Gordon & Co
1883	Robertson & Blake: considerable addition, renamed Eildon Mill
1885	Boyd, Robertson & Co (moved to Selkirk, 1887)
1894	Reacquired by Keddie, Gordon & Co
1973	Larissa knitwear/Gala Process Engravers
1814	Installed the first mules in Gala (probably hand powered)
By 1845	Small mill built in 4 phases wrapped around lade (a 3-storey 9-window mill in view of 1845; see fig 20). Dyehouse with square chimney in roof
By 1897	Extension towards Union Street corner, 3 by 3 bays
1952–56	Handlooms given up; wheel and engine removed in 1953
1972	Demolished, but a 2-storey and attic block against bank on opposite side of Roxburgh Street was retained until demolished in 1980s

FIGURE 59
Rosebank Mill (Linnburn or Eildon Mill), 1980 (© Crown Copyright Historic Scotland)

16. Tweed Mill, King Street
NT 483 369
Image: J R Hume 1974 (fig 60)

1852	P & R Sanderson
1920	The dyeworks was run separately by J Dobson, and from 1930 Kemp Blair & Co (incorporating James Dobson)

1932	Spinning stopped under Sanderson: became a garage and had other uses. Weaving carried on under small firms: EY Johnston and (1945–89) Andrew Stewart in 'the Pirns'
1996–2003	Weaving department (2 blocks) converted to housing. Rest demolished

3-storey and attic 3- by 33-bay mill, originally 10 bays with south-east projecting stair by Randolph, Elliot and Co (later Randolph and Elder, Fairfield Shipyard, Govan)

By 1858	Extended to north-west by 11 bays with central clock tower
c 1860	Extension by 8 bays to north-west with projecting stairs: symmetry achieved
1949	2-storey lean-to rear extension
1870	4-bay extension to south-east as mill house by Thomas Aimers
1876	Carding shed, yarn store and smoke house

Interior: 2 rows cast-iron columns (1 row at 2nd floor of north-west extension). Timber lengthwise (1852) and cross-beams. 1852 arrangement: cards at ground, mules at 1st floor and attic. Powerlooms at 2nd floor

Cast-iron tanks behind: one with fish-bellied cast-iron beams. Other to south on straight I-section beams by Aimers dated 1870

Teasel House, 1870 single-storey M-roof with louvred ridge ventilators, north of tank. Cast-iron columns

Boiler House, 3-bay, with lower links to High Mill
Enlarged in later C19th. Retains a wide elliptical arch. Covered extension to south. Economiser and Lancashire boiler still in use in 1990
c 1870–97 Cylindrical chimney, with cornice

Dye / Scouring House: 4 bay, built in 2 stages. Cast-iron columns and beams. Restarted by Kemp Blair with steel beams and cranes inserted

Large shed, *c* 1870–98, carding and weaving, to rear with high parapet walls

c 1870–97   3-storey 10-bay weaving mill added to north-west. M-roof. Off-centre hoist- and stair-tower to rear. Tie and collar-beam roof; single row of columns. Trussed timber floor beams. Converted to housing as 'the Pirns'

1870–98   Tenter House single storey detached, beside lade and sludge tank

Plant in 1989, Kemp Blair: ground-floor dolly and milling machines, 1st floor dry finishing machines. Old teasel gigs, modern dyeing plant and tenters. Platt Bros sample card, 1871. Economiser and Lancashire Boiler by J & J Horsfield of Dewsbury, coal-fired, still hand-fed

Andrew Stewart: (auctioned 4 October 1989) 3 Hattersley Standard looms, with dobbies (for weaving patterns, simpler than a Jacquard). 5 Kapps rapier looms (1972–74) with Staubli dobbies, ground floor of west mill. 2nd floor 2 William Whiteley warp mills. Scheeter coning and pirn winding machines. 25 Singer Lockstitch sewing machines in attic of High Mill

'The first factory in the town driven by steam alone' (Hall).

Ref: Plans, March 1852, Scottish Borders Archive
Robert Hall, *History of Galashiels* (1898), 385–6
J R Hume (1976), 240
Scotland's Industrial Souvenir II (1905)

Valley Mill see Mid Mill

17. Victoria Mill, Market Street   NT 494 361
   Image: Old Gala Club 1905 (fig 61)

1853   J T Roberts
1885   Henry Roberts
1896   William Roberts & Co

Long gabled 4-storey and attic steam-powered mill with engine at east end
Burned down 1905
1909   South of Scotland Technical College built on the site

18. Waulkmillhead Mill, Bank Street   NT 492 363
   Image: Old Gala Club (fig 62)
   (Also known as: **Waulkmill Head Mill** on 1st edition OS map)

C16   Upper Waulk mill
1802   John Roberts added carding and dyeing
1896   William Roberts & Co (also of Bristol and Victoria Mills)

1920 Bought by Dr Oliver, Principal of the Technical College, and in 1943 sold to improve the amenities of the town of Galashiels, and if demolished 'shall be kept as an open space in perpetuity'. This it was in 1949, forming part of Bank Street Gardens

Once measured 48ft by 28ft by 22ft, but is taller than that in Old Gala Club photo, so perhaps was enlarged after a fire in 1841

FIGURE 62
Waulkmillhead Mill (By courtesy of the Old Gala Club; © Old Gala Club)

FIGURE 63
Waukrigg Mill (Tweed Place Mill), 2005 (© Crown Copyright Historic Scotland)

19. Waukrigg Mill (Tweed Place Mill), Duke Street   NT 484 367
Image: Historic Scotland 2005 (fig 63)

1866	James Mitchell
1890	J & JC Dorward (ex-partners of the Cochranes at Mid Mill)
1973	J & JC Dorward
	Stewart's Spinners Ltd

Front offices retained for current use as a bus depot

1866 Weaving shed. 5- by 11-bay, 90ft by 121ft, by Thomas Aimers, millwrights

1866 Engine house: twin tandem, tank removed, entrance enlarged. 2-storey boiler house with louvred oculus (2 boilers); chimney. Mill house and tentering house adjoin. Dye and willey houses (to open bales of wool) not built until 1890, presumably by Aimers
1871 covered link between the 2 blocks
1872 office and warehouse (birling, finishing, hydraulic and steam press, also made caps). 2-storey and attic, 2- by 9-bay by Adam Stirling, architect, adapting Aimers' plan
1890 spinning mill (as planned in 1860): 2-storey and attic, 4- by 10-bay, M-roof. Flitched timber floors on 3 rows of cast-iron columns. Ground floor 3 carding setts. 1st floor 2 pairs mules, attic 1 pair. Some space left over. Cast-iron beam carried line shaft across roadway. Mill demolished, late 1970s

Ref: NAS RHP 43091–RHP 43106

20. Waverley Mill/Waverley Ironworks, Huddersfield Street   NT 495 358
    Image: Historic Scotland 1980 (fig 64)
   (See also Nether Mill)

Handloom shop and Thomas Aimers' Engineering works
    1886   J & W Roberts (ex of Victoria Mill)
    1900   Galashiels Hosiery Co
    1989   Border Microsystems Ltd

Built *c* 1824–51, shown on OS as a Woollen Factory (hand)
    and Millwright's yard

Woollen Factory 2-storey 7-bay

Waverley Ironworks: 2-storey 8-bay, more widely spaced windows. Right-most bay
    was a steam-engine house. Left wing to rear added 1851–57

1886 weaving and finishing block added, 1-storey and attic
11- by 2-bay roof. Flitched beams on cast-iron columns with curved capitals

21. Wheatlands Mill, Wheatlands Road   NT 482 373
    Image: Historic Scotland 2007 (fig 65)

1866–67 Arthur Dickson (of Peebles, Stow, then Huddersfield and Waulkmillhead
    mills, moved to Comelybank Mill in 1940s)
South: Ballantyne Sportswear Co, Border Dyehouse and electronics firm
North: Stewart and Ramsden (BWMB), Borders Wool Centre and wool store

3-storey and platformed attic double High Mill, 16 bays, burned down 1942, but
    surviving are:
Single storey 14-bay shed. 7 bays on the right slightly taller
Triple-arched engine house and boiler house to rear, altered. Adjacent tank by
    Tweed Iron Works, Berwick, 1867 (so engine was possibly also from Berwick)
1-storey 5- by 11-bay block with re-clad shed roof
1-storey 4 bay block
Small lodge

Plant seen in 1989:
Wool sorting stalls, fearnoughts and willeys to open
    the fleece, by Haigh and by Hopkinson & Son of
    Milnsbridge. Large modern bale press

22. Wilderhaugh Mill (Wilderbank Mill), Wilderhaugh Street
NT 487366
Image: J R Hume 1974 (fig 66)

1780	George Mercer
1820	Thomas Mercer
1830	Rented to Clapperton, Metcalf and Ballantyne, Walker, Frier
1862	William Brown and James Shaw renamed it Wilderbank Mill
1874	William Brown & Sons
	Arthur Dickson & Co
1955	A F Stoddart & Co
1962	Bernat Klein

Demolished in 1970s except 4-bay shed – Exacta Circuits/Viasystems

Waulk Mill and willow house 65ft by 27ft by 16ft, extended by 27ft by 24ft by 16ft to accommodate carding machine
1811 and 1819 fires. Rebuilt. Demolished 1864
1827 'slated spinning house of two stories' was erected (Hall 1898, p392)

1851 and 1857 maps show 2 small mills perpendicular to lade. 1 was 3-storey and attic single gabled 3-by 9-bay mill. Engine added by 1857

By 1897 (1864?) 4-storey and attic M-roof 4- by 8-bays plus 8 bays to north-west forming T with earlier mill. Cylindrical stack

Ref: J R Hume photograph
In 1790 a scribbler carding machine was introduced here from Leeds by John Mercer. 'The first woollen factory, in the modern sense of the word, in Scotland' (Bremner 1869, p191)

FIGURE 66
Wilderhaugh Mill (Wilderbank Mill) photographed by J R Hume 1974 (© Crown copyright RCAHMS)

23. Beechbank Works/London Shrinking Works, Station Brae
NT 495 363
Image: Historic Scotland 1980 (fig 67)

c 1880–93   Lowe, Sons and Co, a tweed warehouse later relocated to Peebles

c 1900–89   J Gladstone & Co Ltd, London shrinkers, relocated to new factory at Currie Road *c* 1988–99

Two blocks are shown on 1897 map, unlabelled

2-storey 8-bay, extended 4 bays to west in brick, converted to houses in 1989, roof altered from M to gabled. Probably earlier than:
1893 2-storey 8-bay with chamfered corners. Office originally for Lowe at bridge level, harled brick with round-arched openings, demolished in 1990s
1960 and 1974 further additions, and a branch in Huddersfield which continues

Ref: Hall, *History of Galashiels* (1898), p413; *Galashiels: A Modern History*, 1983

24. Gala Dyeing and Finishing Works, Plumtreehall Brae   NT 483 371
Image: J R Hume 1969 (fig 68)

1883   John Kemp & Co renamed Gala Dyeing Works
1888   Kemp, Blair & Co
Demolished 1987

Founded as Kemp & Walker at Rosebank Mill (? replacing Brownlee). Firm moved to Tweed Mill, where Dobson's dyeworks had been a partner, *c* 1986

2 tall wide louvred bays. Other sheds. Tall cylindrical corniced stalk
Small brick building survives
Ref: J R Hume photographs

Plumtree Dyeing and Finishing Works (Not located so not mapped: possibly in fact the same site as Gala Dyeworks, although Hall lists both separately)

Built 1870 for Gray, Ballantyne and Co (who started business in Nether Mill in 1869)

25. Victoria Dyeworks, Paton Street   NT 495 359
Image: J R Hume 1969 (fig 69)

By 1882– c 1975	James Brownlee & Sons Ltd
c 1980	Demolished

On site of gasworks, retaining some of the buildings
Brownlee moved from Rosebank Mill when Gas Company moved to Gala Foot

Louvred shed with alternating slates. Tall brick stalk

26. Buckholmside Skin and Tan Works, Low Buckholmside
NT 488 367   Image: J R Hume 1974 (fig 70)
(And see below, Roxburgh Street)

|	
1844	Sanderson & Murray (established at Roxburgh Street)
1856	Skinworks started on a small scale in 'Mr Lees famous garden' (Hall, p414)
	Tanning carried on for a while in rented premises at Selkirk
1873	The building extended to 7 storeys and 28,000 square yards, when a fire consumed the entire building
1874	Rebuilt, largest of the kind in UK (20,500 sheepskins per week), big castellated building with clock tower and 195ft stalk
1879	Purification works built (swept away by flood, 1881)
1882	Fire, so works rebuilt again but 'modified considerably in regard to height'. Additional ground acquired for storage of bark and wool
c 1920	Fire, so top floor rebuilt in reinforced concrete with N-lights. (No change on maps of 1897 and 1930)
1982	Demolished: site now B&Q
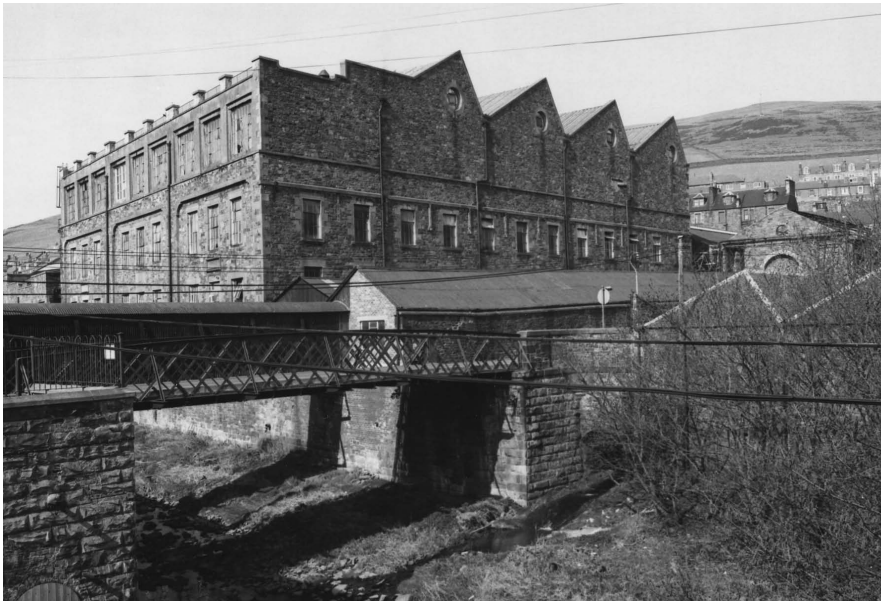
FIGURE 70
Buckholmside Skin and Tan
Works photographed by
J R Hume 1974 (© Crown
copyright RCAHMS)

From 1858 branches were set up in Australia and New Zealand. Glenmayne, the
largest house in Galashiels, was built for John Murray in 1866

Ref: M McLaren, *Sanderson and Murray: Fellmongers and Wool Merchants, 1844–1954*
(1954)

27. Roxburgh Street Wool Store, Roxburgh Street   NT 489 364
Image: Historic Scotland 2005 (fig 71)

1844	Sanderson and Murray, tanners
c 1960–70	Galashiels fire station
By 1973	Morrison and Murray, textile engineers

2 ranges (that by street pre-1845, that to rear post-1857) of deep 3-storey buildings
with few windows and a covered yard between them. Mill-type construction
Retained as the 'colonial wool department' store by Sanderson and Murray
Was a fire station until new one built
   c 1970 on Abbotsford Road
Glasite Church (1842) is used as a store
   (see **fig 20**)

Ref: M McLaren, *Sanderson and Murray:
Fellmongers and Wool Merchants, 1844–
1954* (1954) pp36–7

FIGURE 71
Roxburgh Street Wool Store,
2005 (© Crown Copyright
Historic Scotland)

Glossary of technical terms

artefact	Anything modified or made by people, including pottery, objects made from bone, wood or metal, carved stone etc.
backland	The area to the rear of the burgage plot behind the dwelling house on the frontage. Originally intended for growing produce and keeping animals; the site of wells and midden heaps. Later housed working premises of craftsmen and poorer members of the burgh society.
bailie	Burgh officer who performed routine administration.
broch	Late *Iron Age* fortified circular drystone tower.
Bronze Age	The prehistoric period between the *Neolithic* and the *Iron Age, c* 2000–500 BC in Scotland.
burgage plot	A division of land, often regular in size, allocated to a *burgess*.
burgess	A person who enjoys the privilege and responsibilities of the freedom of the burgh.
close	Alley; narrow lane.
dobby loom	Allows the weaving of patterns by an overhead device, rather than treadles, derived from 'draw boy'. Introduced from 1843.
drabs	Cloth of a dull greyish or unbleached natural colour.
economiser	Energy-saving device that pre-heats water entering the boiler by first piping it past waste heat on its way to the chimney.
fellmonger	A dealer in fells, or sheepskins, who pulls the wool from the pelts.
feu	A perpetual lease at a fixed annual payment for a piece of land.
flesher	A butcher.
frontage	Front part of a *burgage plot* nearest the street, on which the dwelling was usually built.
gley soil	Gleys develop in areas of intermittent or permanent waterlogging. The soil is greyish or bluey-grey with orange mottling appearing on exposure to air – caused by changes in the iron compounds due to very low oxygen levels. Gleys require draining for agricultural use.

greywacke	A sandstone, hard and dark-coloured, consisting of tightly packed pebbles and sand.
gushet	Scots for gusset, a flattening between two corners.
indwellers	Unprivileged, non-burgess dwellers in a town.
Iron Age	The final prehistoric period in Britain, running in Scotland between *c* 500 BC and AD 500, although the latter half is often termed the Roman Iron Age.
jacquard loom	Invented in France in 1801, weaves patterns programmed into a punched card.
kindly tenants	Kindly tenants paid little or no rent and were able to pass on their tenancy to their heirs; 'kindly' stems from 'kin'.
lade	A channel designed to lead water to a water mill.
listed building	A historic building protected in law under the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997*.
lithic scatter	A collection of prehistoric stone tools and debris found on the surface.
Mesolithic	The prehistoric period prior to the *Neolithic*, running in Scotland from the end of the last Ice Age, *c* 10,000 BC to 4000 BC.
midden	Refuse heap near dwelling.
mule	The spinning mule, developed by Samuel Crompton in 1775, was a combination of the spinning jenny and the water frame. It produced a strong, fine and soft yarn ready for weaving or knitting.
Neolithic	The prehistoric period beginning with the introduction of farming *c* 4000 BC until the *Bronze Age*, *c* 2000 BC.
piended	Hipped roof, having a ridge shorter than the long walls.
post-medieval	The period from the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries.
powerloom	A weaving loom worked by mechanical power.
sasine	The act of taking possession of a property, recorded in a document called a sasine.
scheduled monument	A monument protected under the terms of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*.
short cists	Graves lined with stone slabs and containing a crouched body, often dating to the *Bronze Age*.

self-actor	A spinning mule in which the moving carriage of spindles returns to wind on after spinning without being propelled by hand, patented 1825 and 1830; 'self-acting' equivalent to 'automatic'.
slow loom	An early powerloom, adapted from a handloom.
stank	Small slow moving or stagnant sheet of water such as a moat, ditch or tank (Scots)
teasing, scribbling and carding	These are all stages in the processing of wool. Teasing is usually done by hand. The wool is pulled apart, separating the fibres and removing debris on a willey. During scribbling the fibres are cleaned and mixed together, before they are passed to a carding machine. Carding opens the fibres, knots and impurities are removed, and then the fibres are combed and blended to produce a loosely twisted 'sliver' that can be spun into yarn.
tenterground	Land occupied by tenters which stretch and dry cloth after manufacture.
tack of teinds	A tithe paid to the clergy.
tolbooth	The most important secular building in a town, which housed the meeting place of the burgh council; a room for the collection for market tolls; and often the town jail.
toll	A payment for use of a burgh market, road or bridge.
walker	A fuller, someone who raises the nap in woollen cloth.
waulk mill	Fulling mill where water-powered hammers felt cloth.
watching brief	The archaeological monitoring of excavation works conducted by others.

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