HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Hyndford Mills, South Lanarkshire

NS94SW 149 (NS92901 42102)

View from south east of North Mill foundations with the South Mill (top right) [DP 237917, HES]

Miriam McDonald, Industrial Survey, Survey and Recording Section, Heritage Management Directorate, HES, 2017.

Background

Hyndford Mills are located some 3.2km (2 miles) south east of Lanark by the banks of the River Clyde. There has been a water powered **grain** (or **corn**) **mill** at Hyndford since at least 1596 as 'Coblehaugh Mil' is named and depicted on Timothy Pont's map. (1) The farm immediately to the north of the mill site still bears the name 'Cobblehaugh' (at NS92473 42633). Hyndford has also had a **lint** (or **flax dressing**) mill since the 18th century. (2) A **weir**- style **dam** (now gone) some 100m north of the remains of the mills' buildings fed the **lade** which powered the mills. The lade and its intake at its north end were destroyed in the 1930s, but is otherwise visible within the mill building complex. (3) The current access road to the site links into the modern road network, indicating good historical transport links both locally and nationally. (4)

A local heritage group, the Clydesdale Mill Society excavated the mill site a few years ago. (5) This uncovered the foundations and roofed structures of buildings broadly depicted on various editions of the Ordnance Survey 25-inch to the mile maps of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Site on Ordnance Survey Maps

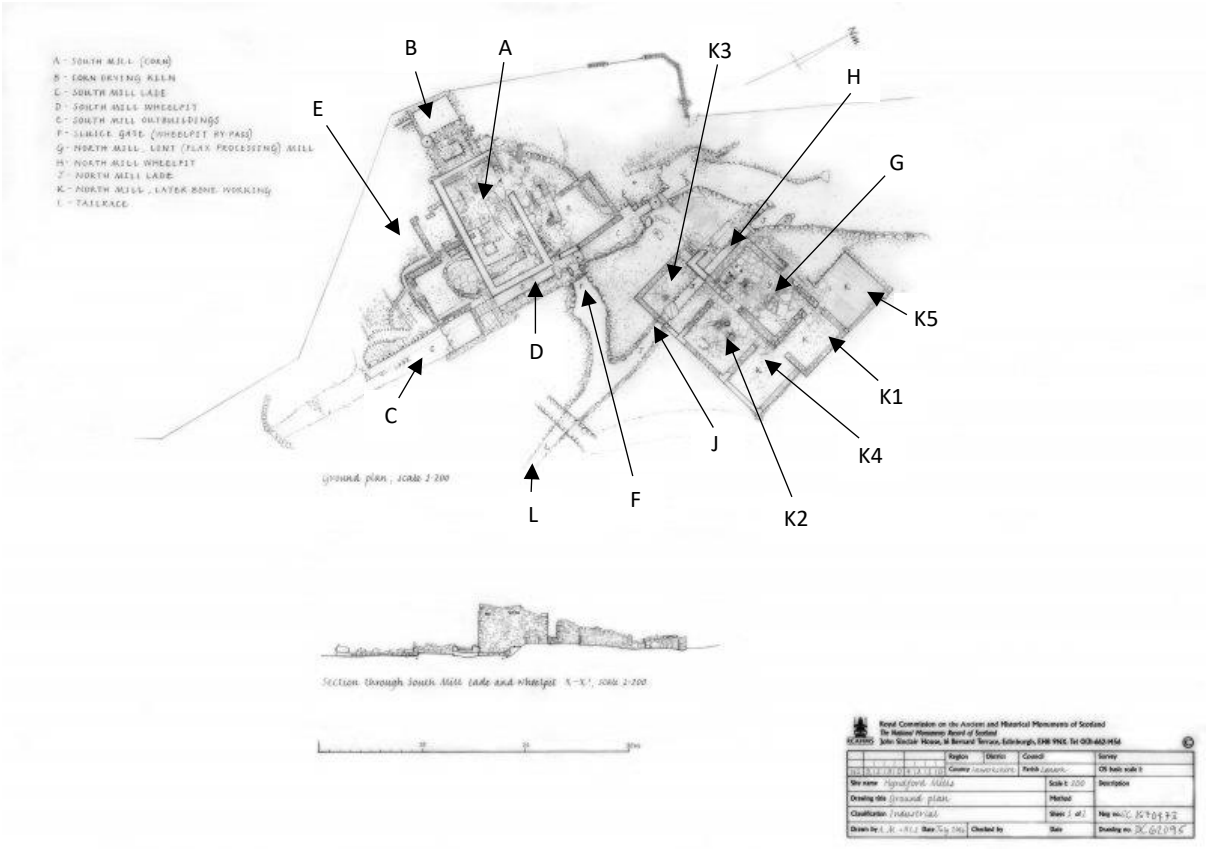
There are four depictions of the Hyndford Mills complex that have been published by the Ordnance Survey between 1864 and 1947. Together, these provide an indication of the development, abandonment and reuse of the mills during this period. Two roofed building complexes (referred to as North Mill and South Mill in this text) are depicted and named 'Hyndford Mills (Corn &c.)' on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1864. The Ordnance Survey also noted that Hyndford Mills were: "...a group of buildings, one of which is a corn mill, another a bone dust and carding mill, the remainder composing the dwelling and out offices to the same, all one storey high, thatched, tiled and slated (partly) and in middling repair. The mills are worked by water, the machinery of each about 10 horsepower, property of Sir Charles Ross'. (6)

The Ordnance Survey map of 1897 shows the still-roofed Hyndford Mills as 'disused'. (7) The North Mill (lint or flax dressing/ later bone processing) buildings show little change between the two map editions, but the South Mill (grain mill) has been extended to the north and the lade, supplying the waterwheel, is shown as having been modified.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1911 depicts the South Mill (which would have contained the millstones for grinding grain) as roofless. (9) The **corn-drying kiln** (grain needs to be dried before it can be ground into flour) on the west side, and two buildings to the north, are shown as roofed. (8). At the North Mill, two of the buildings (including the original lint or flax dressing mill) are shown as roofed. By 1947, South Mill (the grain mill) is shown as having been re-roofed. All the other South Mill buildings, including the corn-drying kiln and the buildings abutting the south wall, are no longer depicted. North Mill is depicted as ruinous with only the east and south wall foundations shown.

The North and South Mills were largely disused and the machinery scrapped by 1911 (or the remains did not meet the threshold for the Ordnance Survey depiction criteria) followed by a period of non-food processing reuse of South Mill by the late 1940s.

View of South Mill from south east, showing the lade on the left. [DP 237900, HES]



Annotated ground plan and section through South Mill Lade and Wheelpit [SC1570473, HES]

South Mill (see annotated ground plan above, A-H)

The South Mill (former grain mill, A) is on or near the original mill site as shown on Pont's 1596 map. The site is set back on an eminence from the river's edge to minimise the effects of flooding. It was a 2-storey, rubble-built grain mill with an associated corn-drying kiln (B). (10) There is documentary evidence from the mid-1930s that shows that the South Mill was a two or three storey building with a gabled roof (now gone). (11) The excavations carried out by the Clydesdale Mill Society uncovered features to the north of the main mill remains which may indicate earlier activity. (12)

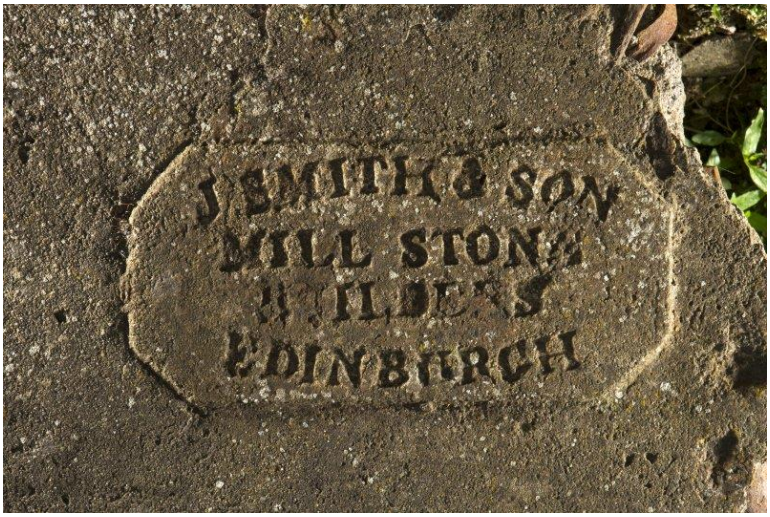
The South Mill would have contained the waterwheel-driven grain-milling mechanism (in its 'gear cupboard' and which would have been situated on the ground floor and parallel to the east wall with the waterwheel beyond), mill stones, hoppers and possible bag hoist for the mill. The millstones and hopper(s) which fed them with grain would have sat on the upper floor to maximise the use of gravity in the milling process. The flour (ground grain) would then pass down chutes to the bagging up area on the ground floor where it would be stored until uplift by horse and cart. Evidence for the roof and upper floors has been removed - the walls all show signs of having been rebuilt. It is presumed that the machinery had been removed by 1911. (13) The building was 'cut down' and converted to general agricultural use by 1947. (14) The waterwheel would have probably been a breast-shot type with iron buckets and shaft at the time of its abandonment. (15)

View of South Mill from west showing lade (right) and foundations of structures (right). The now silted up lade at this point has been part - concreted (date unknown). [DP 237897, HES]

The excavation carried out by the Clydesdale Mill Society uncovered some internal features in the main mill building. This included the foundations for an electric water pump (probably post-grain mill period) which possibly fed a nearby cottage and outbuildings (now demolished) at NS 92856 42144. (16) The 'gear cupboard' area for the grain mill mechanism is also visible, although the rebuilding of the upper part of the south gable has removed details of the aperture for the waterwheel axle. The remnants of a wooden barrel were found (17) and this appears to have been fed from the lade by means of a later pipe. This water barrel or butt was possibly the feed for the cottage water pump.

It is unclear as to the function of the structures which abutted the south wall of the South Mill. There is evidence of stone floors and underground drainage channels taking water away from these buildings and the South Mill interior towards the adjacent lade (D). The buildings (E) to the north of the South Mill may have been storage for grain awaiting drying and milling and sacks of flour awaiting uplift. There is evidence of earlier floor levels around the mill 6 building uncovered as a result of the excavation as well as later re-use of the buildings. (18) The South Mill is now a consolidated ruin.

View of interior of remains of South Mill from north. The lade is beyond the wall on the right and the remnants of the double door entrance can be seen (left) [DP 237910, HES]



Detail of escutcheon on broken millstone found in the South Mill: 'J SMITH & SON MILL STONE BUILDERS EDINBURGH' [DP 237909, HES]

North Mill (See PLAN above, H-K)

"...this manufacture...has of late years made a progress so rapid, as to become our chief manufacture, circulating more money than all other industries in conjunction."

Lord Kames on the linen industry of Scotland, 1766 (19)

"This mill is 2 miles from Lanerk upon the water of Clyde& sufficiently served with water through the year - This mill breaks the flax by rollers & sometimes by mellets & both can go by water when the mill goes - This mill scutches the horizontal way & 6 men can scutch at one time & 2 at the Rollers and mellets - no conveniency but the mill machinery & work of a good character - The miller keeps skilful hands through the year - Of crop 1770 dressed above 500 stones - no acco[unt] of the quantity half done - Charges 2/- for each stone of dressed flax & for Beetling [breaking] & Scutching 1/2d - This mill was built by the miller himself & pays £3-10 sterling per year - There are hecklers in the neighbourhood which dress for 10d per stone - This mill is not insured."

Report from the Stampmasters anent the Lint Mills in their Districts Summer 1772, Lanerk [page] 68, 2. Hyndfoord Mill (20)

In the 18th century the linen industry was undergoing growth in Scotland. The **Board of Trustees for Fisheries, Manufactures and Improvements in Scotland** actively encouraged research and development of ways to mechanise, amongst other things, flax dressing. (21)

Unlike the much older grain-milling site to the south, the water-powered lint mill at Hyndford (North Mill) was built as a result of the financial stimulus offered by the Board. The flax dressing processes of **breaking** (bruising the flax stems) and **scutching** (the release of

View of waterwheel house, west end of North Mill. [DP 237896, HES]

flax fibres after breaking) were carried out at the lint mill. (22) As with the grain mill, the lint mill would have processed material that would have been either grown on the farmland with which the mill was associated or bought from travelling salesmen. (23)

The lint or flax dressing mill located at Hyndford was in production by 1772 and was built by 'the miller himself' and had a workforce of eight men. The probability is that (as with most 18th century lint mills), it was a 1-storey, rubble-built building and is probably one of the roofed structures mentioned in the 1858 Ordnance Name Book reference. The carding mill (or combing mill) reference of 1858 may refer to flax dressing machinery surviving at the site. Flax dressing at such sites in Scotland had generally ceased by about 1830 due to the continuing problems encountered in the

non-viability of the linen industry in general within Scotland. It may be that the reference to the 'carding' may be an historical reference to, or locally persisting memory of, flax processing at the site.

The general dimensions of the original North Mill building (G), corresponds to the descriptions of the extent of such mills in the 18th century. A lint mill like Hyndford could have separate areas or chambers for bruising and for scutching the flax. Building 'G' is possibly the original extent of the lint mill. It has a stone floor which has been modified with the later insertion of what could be a whetstone pit at its west end. This may have been linked to the later working/processing of bone on the site. There are clearly delineated areas with larger paving stones (? work areas) flanking a cobbled walkway through the building and orientated north/south.

The evidence for the later additions of K1-5 which cluster around the possible original lint mill (G) on its eastern and southern flanks is based on wall-joint evidence. Subsequent remodelling/ stone robbing over the years obscures the broad phasing of the buildings. It could be argued that K1 and K2 pre-date K3-5. K1 looks to be the primary candidate for the original lint mill eastern extent as it aligns with the south wall and east wall of G. The features in K2 may be related to a later phase of the possible lint processing or the bone working mentioned by the Ordnance Survey 1858. K5 appears to be the final addition to this group of buildings and so possibly dates from the later bone processing mill.

The waterpower at Hyndford Mill (north) was being applied to the breaking of the flax stem according to a 1772 report prepared for the Board of Trustees of the Manufactures. (24) It is also noted in the Reports that Hyndford Mill had 'sufficient' water throughout the year and that the **rollers** and ‘mellets’ - mallets - or **stampers** for breaking the flax 'both can go by water when the mill goes' and that the rollers were operated by two men. (25) It is not clear from the entry if both were operated at the same time or that one method was used more regularly than the other. The Board of Trustees certainly preferred the use of rollers being used as it was felt to be more efficient. (26) It is also unclear as to the drive method and one assumes that the rollers/stampers were operated by direct drive from the waterwheel. The metal remnants at the north west end of North Mill (G) possibly relate to the bone mill crushing equipment, and could also indicate where the rollers and/ or stampers for flax dressing may have been placed. (27)

View from north east across North Mill foundations with the lade on the right [DP 237887, HES].

It is unclear if the scutching carried out at Hyndford Mill (north) was done manually. Mechanisation of this process was not explicitly mentioned in the survey of 1772. The report entry states that the *"mill scutches the horizontal way & 6 men can scutch at one time..."*, (28) Using the term 'the horizontal way' does suggest mechanised scutching involving a (usually) horizontal drum driven from a waterwheel and axle which could have several ports or stocks to protect the operators. Horizontal scutching (where the scutching 'swords' hit the material at right angles) was considered by some to be too harsh a method for dressing flax. (29) This could suggest a horizontal drive shaft from which the scutchers and stampers/rollers were driven. Alternatively, six scutchers could stands in a row with a scutching bench each at which they struck the **retted** and broken flax by hand. (30)

According to the Report from the **Stampmasters**, heckling was not carried out at the mill in the late 18th century as there were hecklers 'in the neighbourhood' of Hyndford carrying out the process as manual piece work. (31) The 1772 report on 'Hyndfoord Mill' also states that there was 'no conveniency' (in other words, no storage sheds or shade) for the undressed or dressed flax, the implication being that dressing took place continuously throughout the season (Autumn) and that the flax was stored in the open. (32)

At the north west end of the North Mill (G), there are the remains of what was probably an undershot waterwheel (H). Stones in what would have been one of the lateral waterwheel axle bearing walls has been cut into to take the axle and the slots for two separate bearing blocks. This may suggest the wheel axle bearing has been relocated/moved, possibly as a result of replacement of the waterwheel or other building work. The corresponding evidence for the bearing block of the waterwheel shaft on the adjacent support wall no longer exists.

The lade is 1.0m (3ft 3 in.) in width and so the waterwheel would have been about 0.7m (2.5 ft) in width. This would have stopped and started by the opening and the closing of the sluice gate at the entrance to the lade. There is a possibility that the building has been extended west to enclose the waterwheel pit area.

View from north of North Mill waterwheel pit. Here we see the remains of the metal 'shrouds' of the waterwheel. These 'shrouds' held the 'buckets' in place. [DP 237928, HES].

The North Mill's water management from the lade is less typical in its layout than the South Mill. It is very close to the river edge making the lint mill site susceptible to regular flooding. The fact that it is almost hemmed in between the line of the lade and the river's edge again suggests it is the later of the two mill sites.

There is no documentary evidence of a flax seed oil mill at North Mill. The oil derived from flax seeds (not used for propagation) was indeed sold as a by-product of flax dressing and was encouraged by the Board of Trustees. Shaw does not show any oil mills recorded in this part of Lanarkshire in the period 1730-1830. (33)

Bone Mill in North Mill buildings

It is known that artificial manure derived from crushed animal bone was produced at Hyndford by at least 1858 (34) and that the machinery was probably housed in the North Mill. Using crushed animal bones to increase agricultural yield in Scotland began in the late 18th century and was largely replaced by the introduction of chemical fertilisers in the late 19th century.

View of floor of 18th century lint mill with later features at the west end of the North Mill. The metal plates visible are the possible remains of the bone crushing machine with the waterwheel pit (extreme left) [DP 237893, HES]

View of remnants of waterwheel shaft and bearing mount - the stones has been cut to take the metal bearing components, west end of North Mill [DP 237890, HES]

Artificial manure from bone was an additional revenue stream for some farmers between after the 1820s until the 1870s. (35) For most of the 19th century imported, cleaned, boiled and calcined (dried) animal bones were crushed into a rough powder for spreading on fields as manure. While flax dressing in such relatively small, rural, water powered lint mills was largely abandoned in Scotland by the mid-19th century, it may be that the machinery from the dressing processes could have been re-used for animal bone crushing (stampers and rollers). This is speculation as there is little in the way of contemporary sources illustrating the adaptive reuse of such sites. Nor can it be ascertained when flax dressing ceased at the site, prior to bone processing in the mid-19th century. Finds made by the Clydesdale Mill Society may suggest bone being worked into handles (e.g. for knives) in the 19th century. (36)

Conclusion

Hyndford Mills illustrates the rich and complex history of such, once numerous, water powered mill sites in the Scottish countryside. This site perhaps typifies the agricultural buildings associated with rural economy in Scotland at a time of locally sourced food production as well as, in this case, an element of arms-length, national, centrally run, controlled plans for economic growth within the linen industry. Alongside this, we see the tradition of adaptive reuse of rural buildings within the Scottish countryside.

References

(1) *Glasgow and the County of Lanark*, Pont 34, 1596 (National Library of Scotland shelfmark, Adv.MS.70.2.9); Coblehaugh and the more modern Hyndford Mill name are probably one and the same site.

(2) Shaw, J (1984) *Water Power in Scotland 1550-1870*, 22. Water power in Scotland was probably first utilised in the grinding of oats and bere (barley). The earliest references date from the 12th century for both human and animal consumption. The first written evidence in Scotland to water power application to non- foodstuff milling is in the 14th century.

(3) The lade was substantially altered and infilled at its North end and modified at the Hyndford Mill site as a result of the River Clyde (Hyndford Bridge) Drainage Scheme under the *Land Drainage (Scotland) Acts of 1930 and 1935* (Scottish Office document No. 20275/201) to '...remedy injury by flooding and to improve the drainage of agricultural lands...'. Copies of this document are in the hands of Mr J Ness of the Clydesdale Mill Society.

(4) Ross, Charles, (1773) *A map of the shire of Lanark* (National Library of Scotland, shelfmark EMS.s.358, North East section), shows the general layout of the roads that became the A70 and the A73. Hyndford Mill was afforded reasonable road connections to other parts of the country in the 18th century. Further scrutiny of the Board of Trustees of the Manufactures records (ref: NG1) at the National Record of Scotland may provide further evidence but this is beyond the scope of this site survey. There is a Hyndford farm and 'Coblhaugh' farm named and depicted on the Charles Ross 1773 map. As the Ross map is at a small scale (covers a large area but not in great detail), the mill site south of Coblehaugh Farm is not depicted.

(5) http://www.clydesdalesheritage.org.uk/clydesdale-mills/ [accessed: 07/02/2017] 13

(6) See Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 25-inch map, Lanarkshire, 1864, sheet XXXIII.1 and *Name Book of the Ordnance Survey,* Lanarkshire, Volume 43, 1858, page 64 at http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-namebooks/lanarkshire-os-name-books-1858-1861/lanarkshire-volume43/64#zoom=3&lat=1416.34537&lon=2706.34537&layers=B [retreived: 10/02/2017]. The Name Books were compiled to verify the published cartographic names on Ordnance Survey maps.

(7) See Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, 25-inch map, Lanarkshire, 1896, sheet 033.01.

(8) See Ordnance Survey 25-inch map, Lanarkshire, 1911, sheet 033.01.

(9) See Ordnance Survey 25-inch map, Lanarkshire, 1947 (revised 1941/2), sheet 033.01.

(10) 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch plan, Lanarkshire, 1864, sheet XXXIII.1.

(11) See Scran 000-000-608-827-C and 000-000-608-828-C, from paper and ink drawings held by Royal Burgh of Lanark Museum Trust. This drawing by A. G. Croll Murray from the 1930s shows the east elevation of the roofless South Mill and partially roofed waterwheel house.

(12) The building was depicted as disused by 1897 see 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (Lanarkshire, 1896, sheet 033.01); contact Clydesdale Mill Society for further information, http://www.clydesdalesheritage.org.uk/clydesdale-mills/ [retrieved: 07/02/2017].

(13) Ordnance Survey 25-inch map, Lanarkshire, 1911, sheet 033.01.

(14) Personal communication, Jim Ness, Clydesdale Mill Society, August 2016; see Ordnance Survey 25-inch map, Lanarkshire, 1947 (revised 1941/2), sheet 033.01.

(15) This is surmised from evidence found in the wheel pit when cleared out in 2008 - personal communication, Jim Ness, Clydesdale Mill Society, August 2016.

(16) Remains of the pump were uncovered in 2008 at the north wall, interior - personal communication, Jim Ness, Clydesdale Mill Society, August 2016 (see archive held by the Society - reference no.: HM/15.05.08/Int N wall of grain mill, frame PICT0008.JPG)

(17) Found during 2008 excavation - personal communication from Jim Ness, Clydesdale Mill Society, August 2016.

(18) For example, the small hearth visible indicates a later bothy built into a structure that was roofless after 1911, and pre-1947 re-use, based on map evidence and from personal communication - Jim Ness, Clydesdale Mill Society, August 2016. Contact Clydesdale Mill Society to view images from the excavations 2008-2012.

(19) 'Progress of the Flax Husbandry in Scotland', in *The Gentleman's and London Magazine* for April 1766, 201; see https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=HPkRAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA201&lpg=PA201&dq=Lord+Kames+linen+manufacture+1766&source=bl&ots=n9nQlyO5LD&sig=GIZeGf9TNio7yzE43uOs79en6YQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiv_7j9j8zRAhXDCcAKHdZkDEEQ6AEIIjAD#v=onepage&q=Lord%20Kames%20linen%20manufacture%201766&f=false [retrieved:07/02/2017]

(20) *Reports from the Stampmasters anent the Lint mills in their respective Districts*, 1772. NRS NG1/19/1, as reported by Thomas Young, Stampmaster for Lanark, 14.

(21) The Board of Trustees for Fisheries, Manufactures and Improvements in Scotland was established in 1727 to guide industrial policy in Scotland. It sought to build a complimentary economy to England. England had wool and so Scotland's growth point in textiles was to be linen and the developments in many areas was the basis for the growth of the cotton, jute and wool industry in Scotland. Cultivation of flax in Scotland was in terminal decline by 1830, Shaw, 518. Lint mills were still being built until 1830, but in fewer numbers. By 1772, 350 lint mills had been built in Scotland and by 1830 around 700 had been constructed, Shaw, 182.

(22) *Reports from the Stampmasters anent the Lint mills in their respective Districts*, 1772. NRS NG1/19/1, as reported by Thomas Young, Stampmaster for Lanark; Shaw, 175.

(23) Butt, J (1970) *Industrial Archaeology of Scotland*, 58. If flax was retted on site after 1772 then it could have been in the tailrace of the South Mill or elsewhere on the site adjacent to a lade. Here the flax could have been weighted down in the water for several weeks to rot down and would then be dried in a shed. There are several large boulders along the lade edge to the south of the South Mill which could indicate some sort of ventilated covered shed, although there is no evidence of paired blocks in this area which could have supported a roof. There are , however, several of these large blocks scattered around the site.

(24) *Reports from the Stampmasters anent the Lint mills in their respective Districts*, 1772. Lanerk, No. 2 Hyndfoord Mill (NRS NG1/19/1). Using rollers to process lint production had been mechanised quite early as rollers for bruising had already been fitted to a water mill at Ceres in Fife by 1729; Shaw, 171.

(25) *Reports from the Stampmasters anent the Lint mills in their respective Districts*, 1772. Lanerk, No. 2 Hyndfoord Mill (NRS NG1/19/1)

(26) *Reports from the Stampmasters anent the Lint mills in their respective Districts*, 1772, Lanerk (NRS NG1/19/1). Of the other 30 entries covering 33 individual mills in the Lanark section of the 1772 report, only Hyndford has both stampers and rollers. About 55% of lint mills in the Lanark District covered by the report used mallets or stampers only and 18% used rollers only for breaking. Rollers were thought to be dangerous to operate.

(27) The breaking would have been done with dented water-powered rollers were usually arranged in threes, stacked horizontally. The flax would be pushed through the upper and middle roller by the operator (the middle roller moving more quickly the ones above and below) and returned by a guide plate through the middle and lower roller. Rollers were super-ceded, as they were dangerous to operate, see Brown, J, *Encyclpoedia parenthis, or, Universal dictionary of the arts, sciences, literature, etc.*, (1816) Volume 9, 581 (Edinburgh). The stampers would have worked in a vertical motion where the mallets would have used the weight of the wooden mallets dropping onto the flax to break the stems.

(28) *Reports from the Stampmasters anent the Lint mills in their respective Districts*, 1772. Lanerk, No. 2 Hyndfoord Mill (NRS NG1/19/1)

(29) Extracts from *Various Authors on the Culture and Preparation of Flax* (1839), 14

(30) By the early 19th century heavily capitalised, fully mechanised breaking and scutching mills would have been a two storey building with a relatively complex gearing mechanism with both machines running off the vertical drive of the waterwheel or two waterwheels running two machines, being the preferred layout of the Board of Manufactures by the early 19th century; see Shaw, 174. 15

(31) *Reports from the Stampmasters anent the Lint mills in their respective Districts*, 1772. Lanerk, No. 2 Hyndfoord Mill (NRS NG1/19/1)

(32) Shaw, 173

(33) Shaw, 209; 215

(34) Name Book of the Ordnance Survey, Lanarkshire, Volume 43,1858, page 64

(35) Shaw, 509

(36) Personal communication - Jim Ness, Clydesdale Mill Society, August 2016 and report on the finds from Hyndford Mill (2014) by Ian Paterson, held by the Society.

Glossary of Terms

Board of Trustees of the Manufactures - established in 1727 to guide industrial policy in Scotland breaking - part of lint or flax processing and involves the bruising of the flax plant stems

Corn drying kiln - a heated kiln in which grain dried prior to grinding into flour

Corn mill - also known as a grist mill, flour mill or grain mill where oatmeal or bere is milled into flour using mill stones

Dam - barrier built to impound a body of water

Flax - flax or linseed plant belonging to the genus Linum of the family Linaceae whose fibres are used to spin linen yarn for weaving cloth

Grain mill - also known as a grist mill, flour mill or corn mill where grain is milled into flour using mill stones

Heckling - processing of lint or flax where the fibres are combed to remove all residue of the stems of the flax plant after scutching as well as separating out short fibres (or tow)

Lade - man made water channel through which water is managed onto industrial or agricultural sites in order to run machinery to carry out manufacturing or agricultural processes

Linen - fabric made from fibres from the flax or linseed plant belonging to the genus Linum of the family Linaceae lint - name for flax widely used in Scotland, flax or linseed plant belonging to the genus Linum of the family Linaceae whose fibres are used to spin linen yarn for weaving cloth.

Lint (also known as flax and from whose retted fibres linen cloth is woven) was 'dressed' (processed) at Hyndford Mill (north). In the 18th century the linen industry was undergoing growth in Scotland. This was due to the work of the Board of Trustees for Fisheries, Manufactures and Improvements in Scotland and this explains the existence of the Hyndford lint mill.

Lint dressing - to release the lint or flax fibres (0.6 - 1.2 metres in length, harvested in August), the plant went through several processes any combination of which constitutes dressing. First, seeds were removed after harvesting. Traditionally the plant was retted or steeped in ponds to rot away the cellular tissue and pectins surrounding the fibre bundles in the stalk of the plant. The stalks are then dried and cured and then crushed in rollers to break up the stalks to be then cleaned of woody residue - known as scutching. This is then followed by the process known as heckling, which combs

that fibres to remove all residue as well as separating out short fibres (or tow). These refined fibres would then be sent for spinning into linen yarn for weaving

Mallets - a mechanical device used to break the stem of the flax plant also known as stampers

Retting – method whereby flax or lint plants are steeped in ponds to rot away the cellular tissue and pectins surrounding the fibre bundles in the stalk of the plant, prior to drying and breaking at a lint or flax dressing mill

Rollers - a breaking machine used to break the stem of the lint or flax stem

Scutching - stripping the woody matter from the stems to release the flax fibres after breaking, also used as a term in cotton processing (in preparation for spinning)

Stampers - another name for mallets which were a mechanical device used to break the stem of the flax plant

Stampmaster - an official engaged by the Board of Trustees of the Manufactures who carried out surveys of flax processing and linen production in Scotland and who also stamped linen cloth which could then be legally sold

Weir - a low dam built across a river or stream to raise the water level upstream or to regulate the water flow