

Excavations at Mytholmbridge Lower Mill

The Holme Valley Camping & Caravan Park is located on the site of Mytholmbridge Lower Mill, where a mill has existed since the 18th century. Over the succeeding centuries it experienced much change and expansion before being demolished in 1975.

Two sluices are visible from the footbridge across the river. On an 18th century plan these are shown feeding water to the mill by means of goits (or watercourses) crossing the present camping field. HDAS excavated the sluices and goits from 2017-18.



Each sluice was double-gated and constructed in dressed stone. The sluice further from the bridge was built first. Little now remains of its workings, with wooden and metal components severely damaged or eroded over time. Evidence was found of a gate, level with the top of the water inlet, which may have been operated by a rope or chain.

The second sluice revealed remnants of vertical and horizontal beams, together with provision for metal plates and ratchets. The river itself has accumulated considerable amounts of debris and silt over the years, particularly in flood episodes: its bed would have been considerably lower than it is now.



A weir is located in the river just below the first sluice. It has a surface comprised of stone setts and follows a dog-legged line, which may have helped to divert more water into the sluice inlet. Examination of the weir in the dry summer of 2018 revealed a

wooden beam with vertical iron stakes. These indicated that a wooden structure or boom was constructed along the top of the weir to raise its height, and consequently the height of the water level behind.

Excavations later that year in the adjoining field uncovered evidence of the goit leading from the first sluice towards the mill, and contained within a 2-metre wide stone tunnel.

