

Excavations at Mytholmbridge Lower Mill

The 1893 and 1906 OS 25-inch maps show a well at this site. Excavations were conducted from 2018-20. The site is near the former mill (now occupied by the Holme Valley Camping & Caravan Park).

First uncovered were the tops of the walls, now left visible by the footpath. Digging down, we found that they extended to a depth of 5 feet.



To the left, below the noticeboard, a flight of steps was discovered which turn through 90° as they descend.



Overlooking the feature is a supporting wall, which extends down below the back wall and probably predates it. Above it are the remains of a 19th C cast iron pipe.

The walls of the well appear to have been constructed at different times. We are unsure of its true age or purpose, but it does not appear on the 1854 OS map. It may have been constructed on the side of the original tail goit (watercourse) which took water from the old water mill.



The excavation found possible evidence for it lying above a later tunnel, whose mouth is visible a little further downstream by the river. This would suggest that the original tail goit was reduced in width.

Its location and characteristics also seem untypical of a well, though the 1841 census does record families living in cottages near to the mill. It may have been used for a process associated with woollens rather than for fresh water.