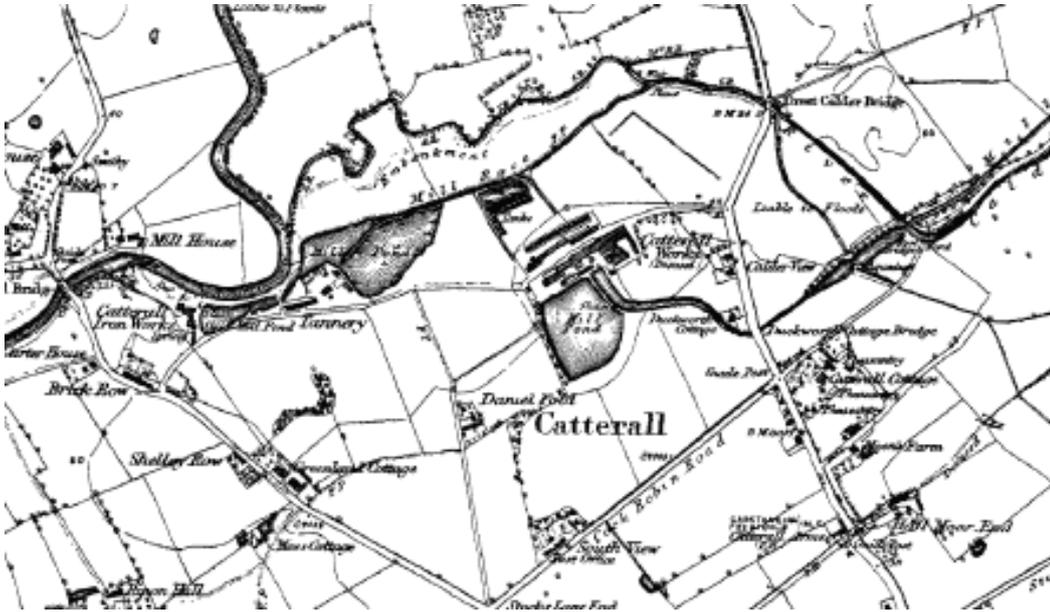


# Catterall Mill Race Sluice Gate



The sluice was constructed to supply water from the River Calder, via a series of lodges (ponds) to Catterall Mill. The mill, once part of Messrs. Fielding's calico printing works on Stones Lane, closed in 1830 when it began worsted wool production. In about 1859 it was converted to Catterall Bobbin Mill and after 1891 became Catterall Iron Works. Holden's Tannery and Curriers Works was also supplied via the sluice gate.

Catterall Mill was described in the sale of 1880 as *'The water supply which is indispensable to a good paper mill is one of the finest in the Kingdom both for purity, quality and quantity, being brought from the River Calder by a large sluice and stored in 4 large reservoirs – there are ample settling provided for purifying the water before it is returned into the river.'* The mill also had 64 cottages, one of which was used as a shop.

The water rights were so coveted that Mr. A. Simpson of Elmhurst purchased the land in 1885 on behalf of the Fylde Waterworks Company. He considered that the River Calder, on which the mill stood, would be required by the company. The buildings were gradually demolished and the only survivors are the terraced houses called Brock Place on Catterall Gates Lane, which are the remnants of the two rows of terraces built as dwellings for mill workers, and Lodge House, Calico Drive.

The population of Catterall fluctuated greatly, dependent on the success of the Mills. In 1801 the population was 560; in 1841 it was 1,102 and in the 1891 census records it was 336. Many kinds of industry took place in Catterall, from calico printing, bleaching, cotton spinning and papermaking, but they came and went; and all were disastrous for their owners.

Photographs of the excavation work and re-construction can be viewed at: [www.catterallparish.org.uk/reconstruction](http://www.catterallparish.org.uk/reconstruction)



During the work on the sluice Catterall Parish Council asked residents for information on the history of the mills and received a number of reports the result of some painstaking and dedicated research.

The first was kindly sent by John Waite, Newhaven Drive, Catterall;

## **Catterall Worsted Mill, Pymont Works, Catterall Works and the sluice gate**

**The sluice gate was used to take water from the River Calder via a mill race which fed a series of lodges or ponds to provide water, primarily, to a mill which had been part of the calico printing works of Watson, Myers, Fielding & Co (1) located on the present Collinson's manufacturing site. Baines describes the former printing works as "one of the oldest and most flourishing print works in the County of Lancashire.... employing between 400 and 500 inhabitants" (2)**

**Originally, there was a weir in the river just downstream of the sluice gate to raise the water level to feed into the mill race. (3)**

**The Yates 1786 map (surveyed 1779) shows that the calico printing works may have been fed originally from the Little River Calder (then shown as "Balton Brook").**

**Later, Fielding's works were fed by a watercourse from the R Calder near the Old Print Works by the Lancaster Canal, to a large lodge or lodges on the south side of Catterall Gates Lane(4)The printing works appear to have covered several sites i.e. near the River Wyre, at the Old Print works near the canal and, probably, a part of what would become Pymont Works.(4A) The printing firm closed in 1830 when the two remaining partners, Joseph and Jeremiah Fielding, were declared bankrupt.(5)**

**The printing works premises were acquired by Messrs Behrens, muslin manufacturers, in 1835(6) who transformed part of it into a cotton weaving mill (7). Mr S L Behrens also operated a cotton spinning mill (Pymont Works) which was sited between Calico Drive and Lodge Park, on Catterall Gates Lane.(8). This new mill was constructed on land owned by Henry Borrton Fielding, son of Henry Fielding, senior partner at the calico printing works.(9)**

**By 1841, the part of Fielding's printing works near the Wyre had been converted to Catterall Worsted Mill (10) operated by William Lambert of Manchester (11). The mill was probably in operation at the end of the 1830's as a newspaper article of 1838 refers to the worsted mill. (11A)**

**There was a bobbin mill on the site of the worsted mill site in 1861 operated by the Haresnape family from Kendal, and this mill would have drawn water from the lodges.(16)(16A)The Nickson Family later operated the bobbin mill. (17)**

**In 1891, the old bobbin mill was bought by Thos. Crossley who established Catterall Iron Works. (18).He was described as a roller maker and machine repairer. (19)**

**Around 1850, the Catterall family from Preston, cotton spinners and manufacturers, acquired Pymont Works (cotton spinning and weaving mills) which together were known collectively as "Catterall Works". (7)(12). They continued in business at the two mills until the late 1860's. (22)**

**A smaller calico printing works was in operation between 1867 and 1877 called Catterall Print Works, run by Edwin Ramsey of Catterall (20) and it is likely that this firm operated from Pymont Works.**

**"Catterall Paper Mills was established at Pymont Works before 1877 (13) When the Paper Mills closed in 1880 (14), the Pymont Works (Catterall Works) were not used again and were demolished**

before 1912 (15). The works were purchased by the Directors of Fylde Waterworks Company in 1885 to acquire the supply from the R Calder and the mill lodge (Pyrmont Pond).(23)

A tannery and curriers works was established by the Holden family close by the worsted mill in about the sometime before 1861(21) No doubt water for washing the animal skins was drawn from the mill lodges, two of which abutted the tannery works.

The history of the sluice gate could be summarised as follows:

**This sluice gate was constructed to supply water from the R. Calder via a series of lodges to Catterall Mill. The mill was once part of Messrs. Fielding's calico printing works and, after it closed in 1830, was used for worsted wool production. The mill was converted to Catterall Bobbin Mill in about 1859, and became Catterall Iron Works after 1891. Holden's Tannery and Curriers works was also supplied via this sluice gate.**

Mr. Waite has also supplied all the references he used to glean this information and piece together in a chronological and easy to read document.

## References

1. C Russell *Lancastrian Chemist* (1986) p 27 & p28
2. E Baines *History of the County Palatine of Lancashire 1824/1825* p640
3. OS Map 1:10000 1847-1853
4. Greenwood's Map of Lancashire (1818) and Hennes's Map of Lancashire (1829) both show a large lodge or lodges between Catterall Gates Lane and Daniel Fold.  
Henry Fielding had a right to use water from the R Calder by the canal, as, in 1789, he gave permission to the Lancaster Canal Company to take water from the Calder at this point to fill the future canal. (R Swift A Walker's Guide to the Lancaster Canal 1998 p 76).  
John Rennie's survey for the canal of 1791 states that the works are a calico printworks. (Lancs County Archaeological Service SMR No.PRN4558-MLA4558)  
Fielding and Myers bought land adjacent to the R Calder, near Sturzaker House Farm, in 1795 where the "Old Print Works" were built. (Lancashire Record Office Ref DDFZ/557). This purchase would have enabled them to form a watercourse to feed the lodges shown on the Greenwood and Hennes maps; this mill stream ran parallel to Stones Lane and crossed the turnpike road at Duckworth Cottage Bridge.  
When the Printing Works were put up for sale in 1832, the notice of sale mentions "an abundant supply of water from the River Calder with a fall of 18ft" (Lancaster Gazette 23 June 1832). The "Old Print Works" and the machinery contained therein are described in a legal case concerning the sale of the printing works in 1831. (D Barton Analytical Digest of Cases Published in the Law Journal Reports Vol. 3 1834).  
  
4A – Preston Chronicle 24 May 1838 – A legal case, Seddon v Behrens, mentions the alteration of Catterall Print Works to convert the establishment to a cotton mill by installing power looms. Machinery brought there in June 1836 and weaving started March 1837. Bricks were made and upwards of 30 cottages built. This seems to suggest that the mill is at Pymont site (see note 8)
5. London Gazette 1831 p 2136 refers to the Commission of Bankruptcy issued against Joseph Fielding and Jeremiah Fielding on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 1830.  
([www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/18734/pages/2136/page.pdf](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/18734/pages/2136/page.pdf))
6. Lancaster Gazette 5 Dec 1835
7. Preston Chronicle 21 Feb 1863 The writer states that the works were formerly called the Pymont Print Works. The article also states that Paul Catterall became the possessor of the mill 13 years ago i.e. 1850.
8. Pymont Works is shown on the OS Map 1:10000 1847-1853. Edwin Butterworth's Parish Surveys of 1835 refers to "A new mill is now being erected in the parish for cotton spinning". (Butterworth's Parish Surveys Vol 6 Ref BA1B68 at Harris Reference Library.)
9. Lancashire Record Office Ref. DX 2020 entitled "Plan of mill owned by H B Fielding in Catterall. Pymont Works"
10. Lower Catterall Census of 1841
11. Mannex & Co. History, topography and directory of Westmorland, Lonsdale and Amounderness in Lancashire 1851 p 562

12. Lancaster Gazette 17 Feb 1855 An article describes the steam engines in the works of Messrs Catterall & Co previously occupied by Messrs Fielding.
13. Lancaster Gazette 20 June 1877 describes a "frightful accident" at Catterall Paper Mill
14. Lancaster Gazette 6 March 1880 Closure of Catterall Paper Mills
15. OS Map 1:2500 1912 shows the Old Mill Pond but Pymont Works has been demolished.
16. Lower Catterall Census 1861
  - 16A. Lancashire Archaeology Service SRM No. PRN4755-MLA4754 states that the mill was put up for sale in 1859 and probably converted to a bobbin mill then.
17. Mannex & Co Directory 1866
18. E Collinson's notes on the Worsted Mill provided by Canon R Greenall
19. A Hewitson Northwards (1900) p 48
20. Manchester Courier & Lancashire General Advertiser 12 May 1880 Account of the bankruptcy of E Ramsey, Calico Printer, declared bankrupt in 1877
21. Lower Catterall Census 1861
22. Lancaster Gazette 10 Feb 1866 states that "Catterall factories after being closed for four years are again commencing work. Machinery is in pre-preparation and the carding rooms are nearly new. Cotton is now on the premises ready to commence on Monday next"
23. C Arthur History of Fylde Waterworks 1861 to 1911 p.130

Further information was received from Mrs. Linda Walker of Calico Lane, Catterall;

### **Catterall Mill – a potted history**

1794. – Henry Fielding inherits £1000.

1796 – Preston Lancaster canal was opened

The mill was built by Henry Fielding as a calico printing mill. I presume the raw materials were brought via the canal, down Stones Lane.

According to Anthony Hewitson, who was a local historian, at the turn of the century (1899 – 1900) wrote for The Preston Guardian and published “Northward” in 1900. He wrote about the Catterall Works that it was “of a very ancient date” and housed “many kinds of industry” including calico printing, bleaching, cotton spinning and paper making all ending disastrously for the promoters. In 1880 the mill was in a ruinous state and was put up for sale as part of the late Henry Fielding’s estate.

Mr Simpson (MP) of Elmhurst bought the land in 1885 for the water rights.

As can be seen from the 1880 map, the water for the mill was fed from the River Calder from what is now Stones Lane, under Duckworth Cottage Bridge and into a Mill pond on the mill site. This is now part of the Parklands estate.

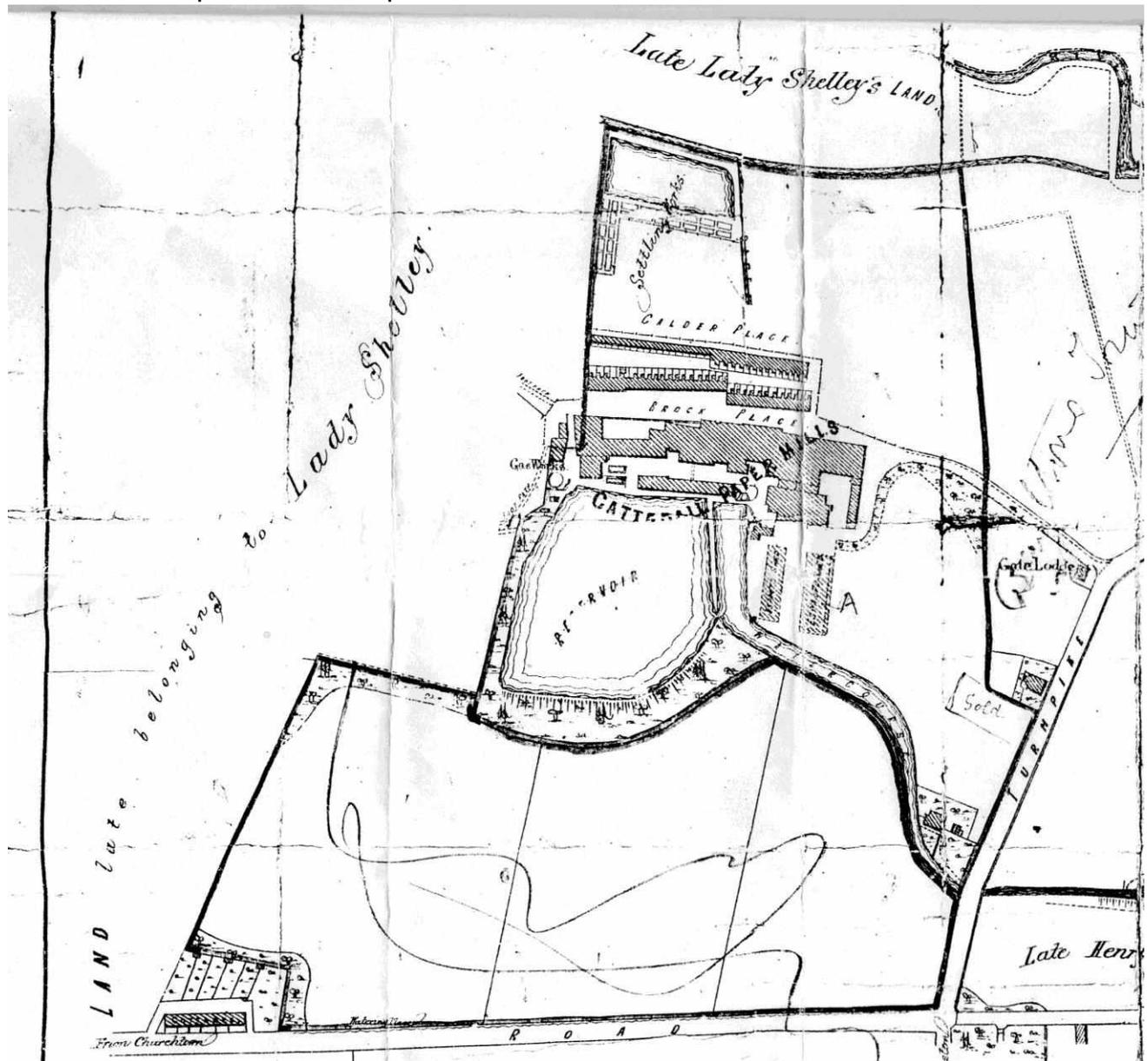
The terraced houses called Brock Place are the remaining remnants of the two rows of terraces built as dwellings for the mill workers. Lodge House, Calico Drive is the only part of the mill remaining today.

The now restored sluice gate is shown as “Mill Race” on 1847 and 1893 maps running to a pond which I believe fed the tannery (shown on 1893 map).

Catterall must have been a very busy, smelly place 200 years ago.

Linda Walker

Linda has also provided a map of the sale of the mill dated 1880:



### Lot 1

Freehold Works and Premises known as "The Catterall Paper Mills" together with the land forming the site thereof and the Farm Land adjoining the same and occupied therewith containing in the whole 24a. or.1p; and also the valuable Water Rights, Reservoirs, Growing Timber, Priviliger and Wharfage on the Lancaster Canal connected therewith; also 64 cottages one of which is used as a shop, adjoining the works.

The mill is a two machine paper mill having ample accommodation for the whole of the Machinery and Plant with storerooms of every description for the storing of raw material finished paper stores etc. large

*esparto\* shed machine shop, smithy, offices watch house and cottage  
gashouse, roasting shed to.*

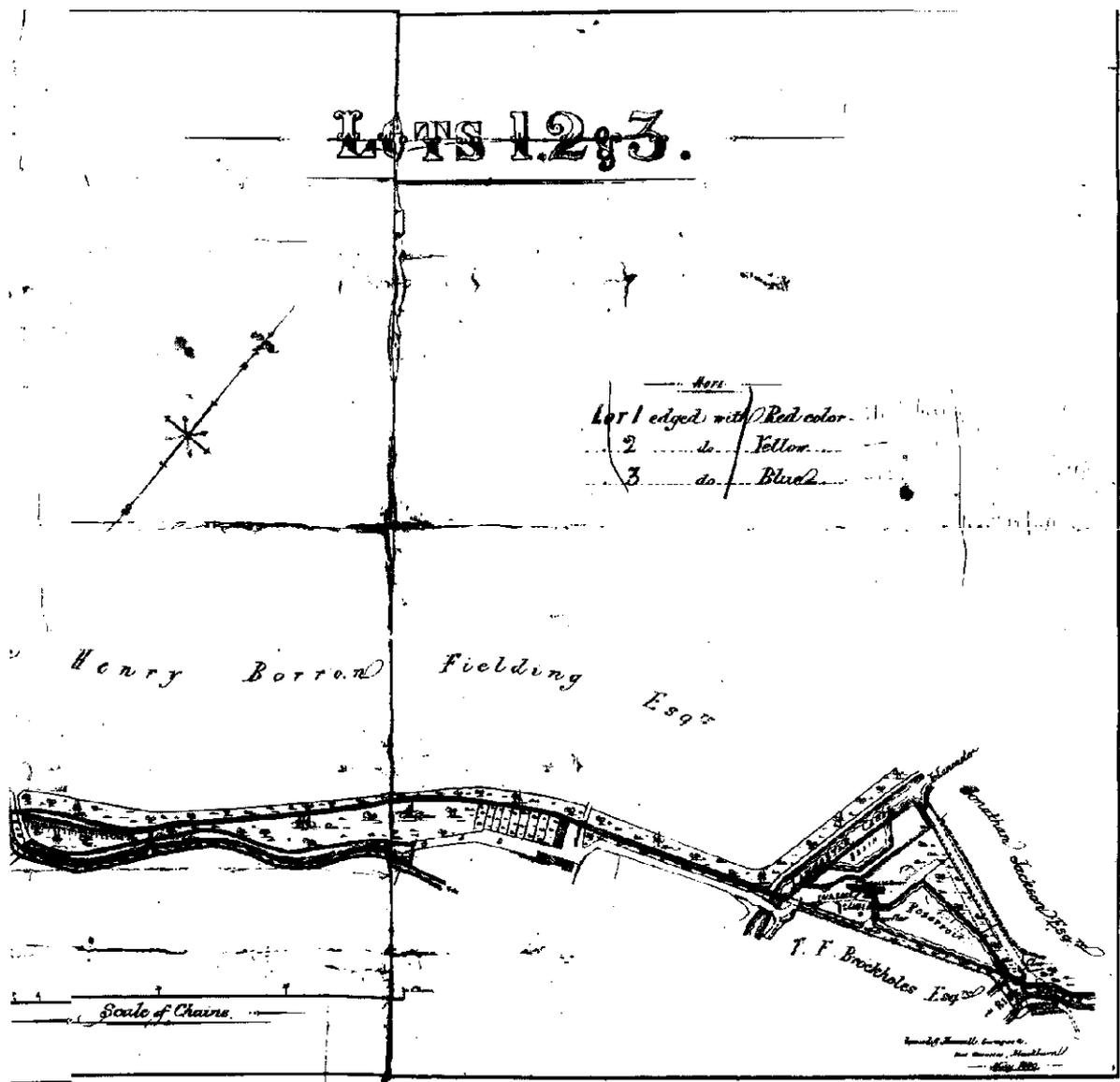
*The Water Supply which is indispensable to a good paper mill is one of  
the finest in the Kingdom both for purity quality and quantity, being  
brought from the river Calder by a large sluice and stored in 4 large  
reservoirs - there are ample settlers provided for purifying the water before  
it is returned into the river.*

*The Mill is a very short distance from Garstang Station on the London  
and North Western Railway and a siding might be constructed to the mill.  
There is a plentiful supply of straw and other materials used in paper  
manufacture to use.*

\* Esparto is a coarse grass, native to Europe and northern Africa.

Latin name: *Stipa tenacissima*

Used on the manufacture of paper, rope, mats etc.



### Lot 2

The Freehold Estate adjoining Lot 1, containing 2a 1r 39p situated fronting to and having a right of Wharfage on the Lancaster Canal and close to the London and North Western Railway Station at Garstang together with the Buildings erected thereon, formerly a Bobbin Mill but lastly used as a Print Works with the Steam Boiler, Waterwheel and other attached fixtures therein and the growing timber. Also the cottage store adjoining.

There is a good supply of water for every purpose running through the estate from the River Calder.

This is taken from the Victoria and Albert Museum online and shows the patterns produced by Catterall calico mill in 1824.

