

How to use this booklet

The three case studies in this booklet – Howk Bobbin Mill, the Leven Valley and Greenside Lead Mine – were selected to demonstrate the wealth of industrial archaeology within the Lake District.

Greenside Lead Mine and Howk Bobbin Mill are examples of two highly significant industries within this locality. The Leven Valley case study demonstrates the wide range of industrial activity to be found within one Lakeland valley.



Locations of the sites described in this booklet

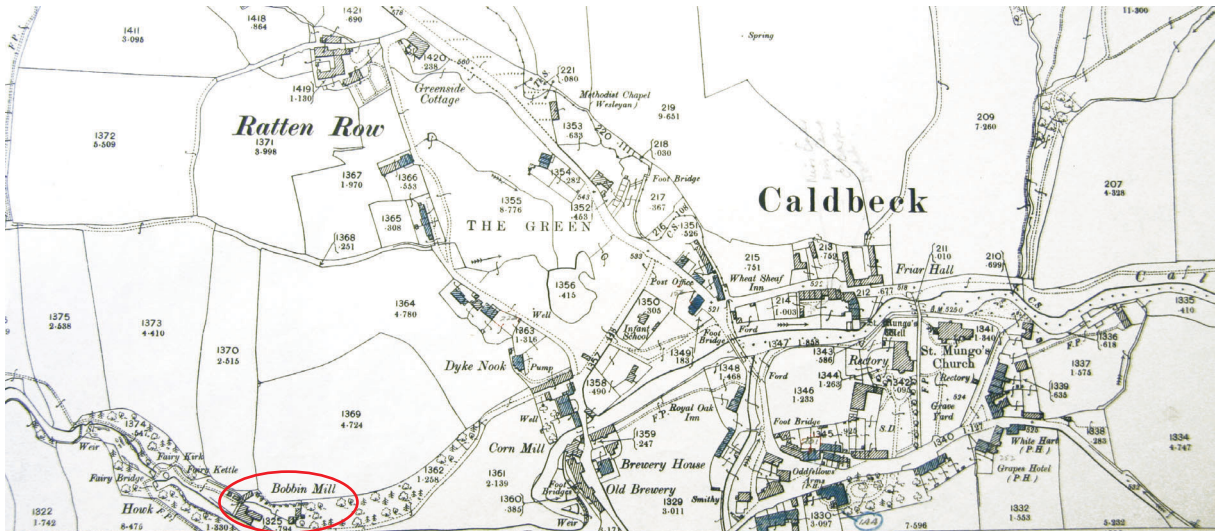
The presentation of the case studies is designed to support teaching and learning in several ways:

- They can be used as a student resource to supplement other sources of information.
- They may serve as an inspiration and guide to producing similar resources for industrial sites of your choice. They illustrate the potential for creating resources for local sites, without having to rely on existing educational material. Primary and secondary sources used include: photographs, OS map extracts, library books, census websites to research employee details, Local Record Office archives, Parliamentary papers (including commission reports) and online newspaper archives.
- The resources may inspire a field trip to one of the many standing industrial sites in the Lake District. Great care should be taken to only visit those which have been made safe for visitors. Some sites, including Stott Park Bobbin Mill and Honister Slate Mine, offer guided tours and educational resources.

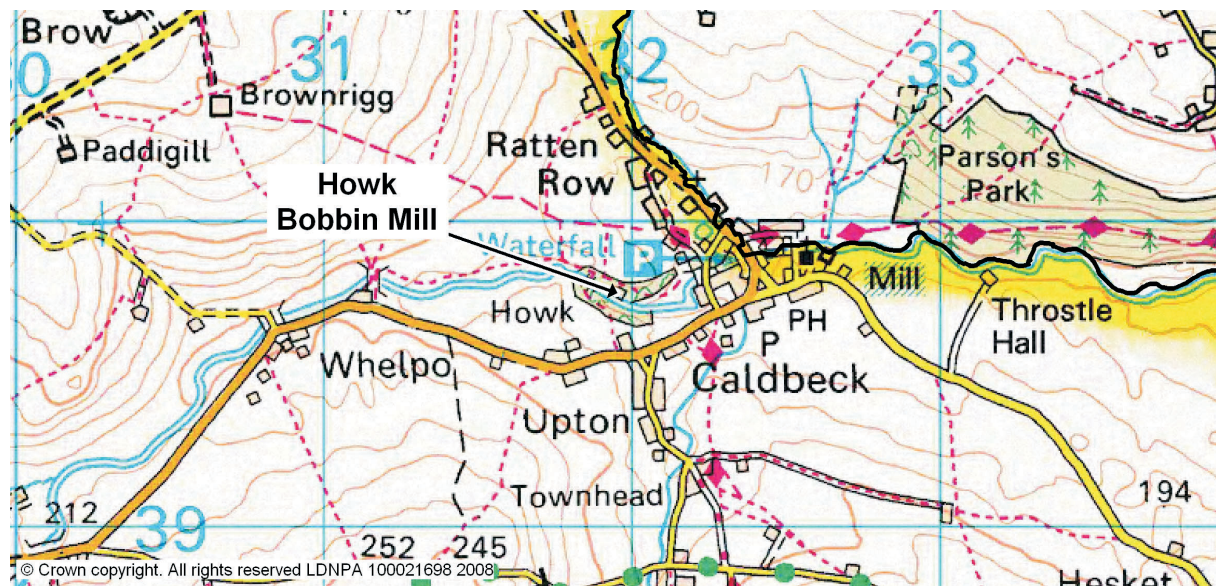
Maps: Howk Bobbin Mill



Howk Bobbin Mill and Caldbeck village, OS Sheet XXXVII, Cumberland, 1st edition c.1863



Howk Bobbin Mill and Caldbeck village, OS Sheet XXXVII, Cumberland, 2nd edition c.1900



Howk Bobbin Mill, OS Landranger 96, 2007

Background information

The Industrial Revolution in the Lake District

The Industrial Revolution began in the early eighteenth century. Its effects were felt in Britain and throughout the world. Steam-powered machinery replaced the need for manual labour, transport systems – canals, railways and improved roads – were created and the socio-economic situation changed forever.

The Industrial Revolution brought with it innovations and opportunities, which the Lake District was quick to benefit from. Natural resources were exploited on a massive scale, new jobs were created and settlements expanded to accommodate industrial workers.

Natural Resources

The Lake District is rich in natural resources.

Mineral resources

There are many types of rock in the Lake District, including slate, granite, sandstone and limestone, which were quarried for building purposes. Minerals such as copper, lead, zinc, iron ore, barytes, graphite, tungsten, arsenic and diatomite have also been mined in the last 400 years.

Woodlands

People have managed the Lake District woodlands for many centuries. Timber was very important for early industries as it could be turned into charcoal and used for smelting metal ores. It was also used to make bobbins for the cotton industry. To ensure a constant supply, people created sustainable woodlands by coppicing: cutting young tree stems to quicken and encourage growth.

Water

Water was readily available in the Lake District from the lakes, rivers and becks. It was a natural power source for corn mills and fulling mills (where wool was washed and processed and turned into woollen cloth). Later, mills were used for other industries including cotton, paper and flax, tanning, brewing, pencil making, iron manufacture, gunpowder, bobbin turning and sawmilling.

Modern traces of our industrial past

By the twentieth century, industrial maturity had been reached. New, improved and less expensive methods of manufacturing were developed. Some industrial activities moved to other parts of the world, while some raw materials were imported from cheaper sources. Industrial activity became centralised and was concentrated around urban centres like Manchester. This eventually led to the closure of many of the important industrial sites in the Lake District. The remains of this once thriving industrial landscape can be seen all over the National Park.