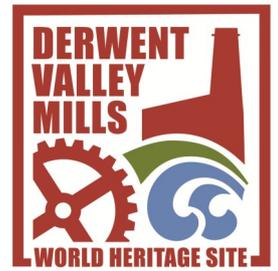


The Lower Mill and Annexe

1776 and c.1790—Listed Grade I



Richard Arkwright used the five years between the construction of his first Cromford Mill and the planning of the second to develop his mechanised cotton spinning processes, and the size and scale of the second mill bears witness to his need for additional space and additional power - and to his confidence in his new systems. The new mill, 36 metres long and 8 metres wide, comprised 16 bays and was 6 storeys high with an additional clerestorey attic. The lower courses were of stone, but it is not clear whether the upper section was built in brick or in stone.



Watercolour by Zachariah Boreman

Recent excavation has revealed the ground plan of the mill including the wheelpit, offices and two privies. Further research will ascertain whether the pit contained one or two wheels and whether the gable end, which remains to be investigated, included a heating system.

The second mill annexe, stone-built in 4 storeys, contains an unusually complete hot-air heating system. It was constructed within the staircase turret and adjacent to the lavatory block. Whereas in the second mill, the staircase and offices were placed within the main rectangle of the mill plan, thus reducing production space, the second mill annexe - by using a central service tower - left each mill floor unencumbered.



Annexe to the Lower Mill