



FAS
HERITAGE

DOWIE'S MILL WEIR

CRAMOND

EDINBURGH

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

REPORT

FEBRUARY 2016

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

DOWIE'S MILL WEIR
CRAMOND

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FAS HERITAGE

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Summary

This document presents a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) prepared to inform proposed works to Dowie's Mill weir, Cramond (NGR: NT 1790 7564). The CHA has been prepared by FAS Heritage on behalf of JBA Consulting.

The assessment aims to consider the potential heritage impact of removing the weir, in order to facilitate fish passage up the River Almond, and improve the ecological functioning of the River Almond.

Dowie's Mill weir is depicted on a plan of 1786, associated with one of four mills known to have existed on the east bank of the River Almond since at least c.1700. Initially constructed for grain production, the mills were appropriated to serve a burgeoning iron industry from the late 18th century onwards. The industry declined in the late 19th century, and after a period of alternative uses, including a saw mill and scrap yard, the buildings fell out of use and were largely demolished. Dowie's Mill is now represented by the weir, a few remnants of mill structure, and some of the former workers' housing (designated as two Category B and C Listed buildings).

The weir has historic and evidential value as a surviving element of the mill complex, providing the historic context for the surviving workers' housing, and also contributes to the visual setting of the Category A Listed and Scheduled Cramond Brig, c.150m upstream. The weir lies in a designated Conservation Area.

Designs are currently in preparation, but the preferred option is to remove the weir and install a stretch of boulder rapids. The heritage significance of the weir itself would be substantially impacted, and should be mitigated for by a programme of recording prior to, and during removal. The retention of an area of impounded water should reduce impact on the setting of the Category A Listed bridge, and also reflect the historic millpond.

The area has high archaeological potential, not only for the post-medieval industrial works, but for evidence for occupation and exploitation of riverine resources from prehistory onwards. Any groundworks associated with works to the weir will require appropriate archaeological mitigation.

Acknowledgements

FAS Heritage would like to thank John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council, and Nick Allin and Amanda Kitchen of JBA Consulting for input during the preparation of this assessment.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results of a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) prepared to inform the design of proposed works to the Dowie's Mill weir, Cramond (NGR: NT 1790 7564). The CHA has been prepared by FAS Heritage on behalf of JBA Consulting for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Desk-based research was carried out in December 2015, with a walkover survey undertaken on 15th January 2016.

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

Dowie's Mill weir lies on the River Almond, near Cramond (Figure 1; Plate 1) downstream of the historic, Category A Listed Cramond Brig. The weir, which provided water power to a now-demolished mill, is a slightly curved concrete and rubble structure (Plate 2), orientated approximately north-south on a curve of the river, and impounding the former millpond to the south. The site lies adjacent to the River Almond river walk.



Plate 1 Aerial view of the site © 2016 Getmapping plc

1.2 THE PROJECT

Dowie's Mill weir is the second barrier to fish on their way up the River Almond, and affects migratory species such as salmon, sea trout, eels and sea lamprey, and species that migrate 'in river' such as brook lamprey and brown trout. Although it is no longer used to supply water to Dowie's Mill, it impounds water, providing an area of still water which the local community values for informal boating and aesthetic reasons. The slower velocities may also provide a degree of scour protection to Cramond Brig, a high-pressure gas pipeline and right bank of Dowie's Mill Lane.

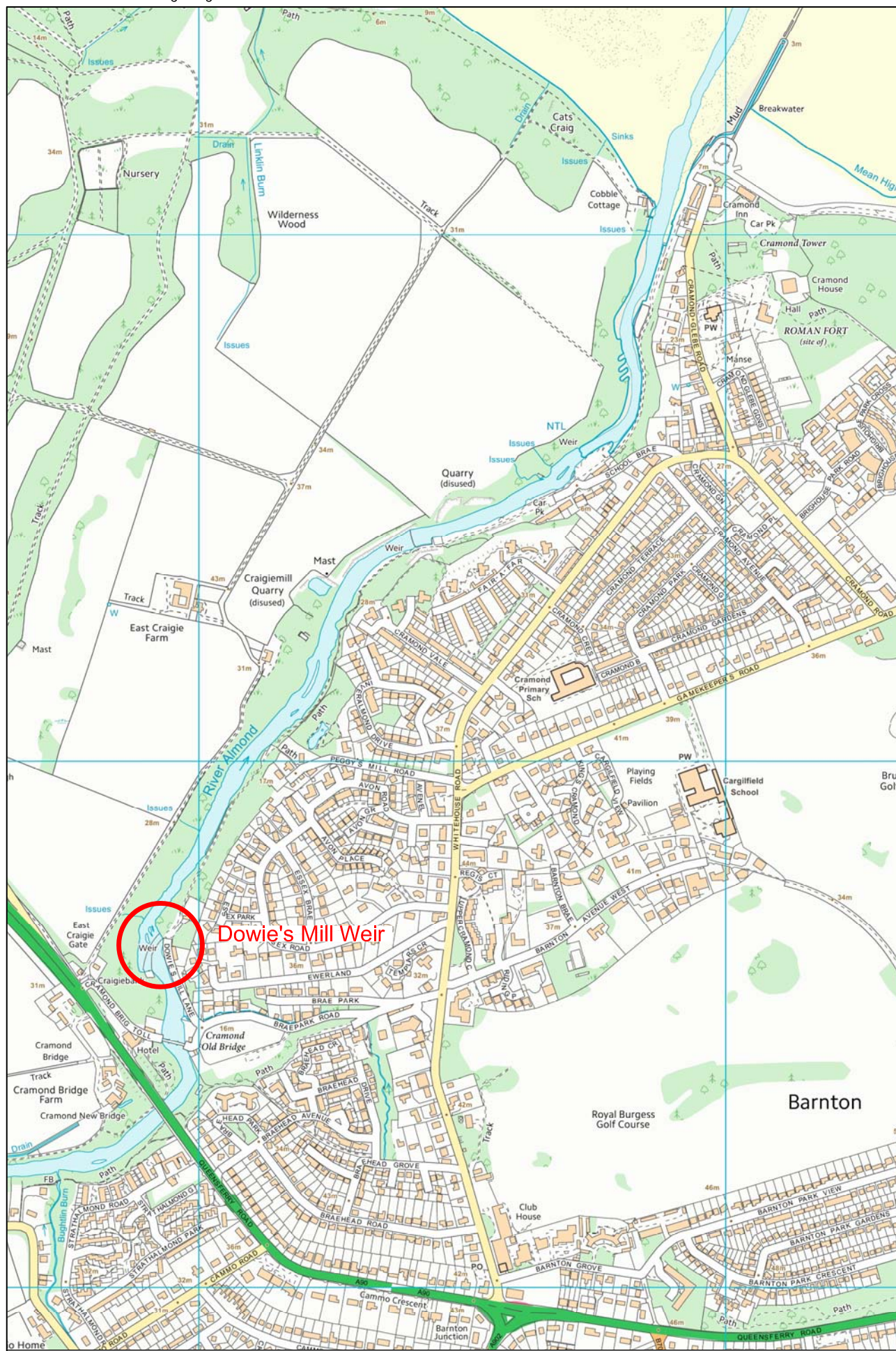


Plate 2 Dowie's Mill weir, looking south

The aim of the proposed weir removal is to remove a barrier to fish passage, reinstate natural processes within the impounded zone and reinstate natural sediment transport processes to downstream reaches. Improvements to fish ecology will promote achievement of the Water Framework Directive targets and have benefits for the ecological functioning of the River Almond.

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The CHA aims to set out the known heritage significance of the site, in order to assess the potential



Location map

Scale 1:10000



Figure 1

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heritage impact of the proposed works, and to inform the design of a programme of archaeological mitigation, if required.

2.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The CHA has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2015).

2.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND PLANNING GUIDANCE

The CHA aims to address the requirements of relevant legal frameworks and planning policy pertinent to the site and its proposed development. The following apply:

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas)(Scotland) Act, 1997
- Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, 1997
- Scottish Planning Policy, 2010 (SPP 2010)
- Scottish Historic Environment Policy, 2011

Guidance

- Managing change in the Historic Environment: setting, 2010
- Planning Advice Note 71 (PAN71) – Conservation Area Management

2.2 DEFINITIONS

2.2.1 Heritage assets

Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic significance can be termed heritage assets. Heritage assets can include any form of building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance because of its heritage interest.

Heritage assets may be formally designated, but also include those sites or monuments which are identified through documentary research or fieldwork, but which have not been formally designated.

2.2.2 Setting

SPP 2010 (para 112) states that:

Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from around, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building.

The setting of a historic asset can incorporate a range of factors, not all of which will apply to every case. These are set out in Historic Scotland's *Managing Change in the Historic Environment* and can include:

- current landscape or townscape context;
- visual envelope, incorporating views to, from and across the historic asset or place;
- key vistas, framed by rows of trees, buildings or natural features that give an asset or place a context, whether intentional or not;
- the prominence of the historic asset or place in views throughout the surrounding area;
- character of the surrounding landscape;
- general and specific views including foregrounds and backdrops;
- relationships between both built and natural features;
- aesthetic qualities
- other non-visual factors such as historical, artistic, literary, linguistic, or scenic associations, intellectual relationships (e.g. to a theory, plan or design), or sensory factors;
- a 'Sense of Place': the overall effect formed by the above factors.

2.3 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

In order to assess the impact of the proposed allocation, a four-stage approach was taken:

- Stage 1 - Desk-based research
- Stage 2 - Establishment of baseline conditions
- Stage 3 - Site visits
- Stage 4 - Assessment of significance and potential impact

2.3.1 Desk-based research

Dowie's Mill formed part of a thriving iron industry along the River Almond, and as such its historic context is well established. The aim of the heritage assessment is not to undertake further primary research, but to present the significance of the asset to inform the design of proposed works.

Information on statutory designations and heritage assets in the area was obtained from Pastmap. Initial appraisal work had been undertaken, which flagged up the key designations pertaining to the site.

Map regression was undertaken using historic maps available online.

2.3.2 Site visit

A walkover survey of the site was carried out on the 15th January 2016, and the setting of known heritage assets in the immediate area considered.

2.3.3 Assessment of potential, significance and impact

An assessment of the significance of heritage assets at the site was made, followed by an assessment of the impact of the proposed works that significance.

A combination of significance and impact allows the magnitude of effect of the proposed works on each heritage asset to be assessed. Based on this information, ways in which harm to the significance of heritage assets can be avoided or mitigated have been set out, to be agreed following consultation with the City of Edinburgh Archaeologist.

2.4 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

2.4.1 Assessment of significance

An assessment of the significance of known and potential heritage assets likely to be affected by works at the site was undertaken as the first stage in establishing heritage impact. Assessment of significance has been undertaken taking into account:

- **evidential values**
- **historical values**
- **architectural and artistic values**
- **landscape and aesthetic values** (see separate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment)
- **natural heritage values** (see Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)
- **contemporary/use values**

Contribution of setting to the significance of the heritage asset

The justification for assigning each grade of significance is presented in terms of these criteria (archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic). In addition to these intrinsic values, the level to which setting contributes to the significance is also considered.

The following grades of significance have been employed.

- **Exceptional significance** - elements which can be demonstrated to have international or national significance, special relevance to British history or culture, and/or are of extraordinary or unique archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic merit. This will include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments (or those monuments which otherwise meet scheduling criteria), Category A and B Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and Registered Historic Battlefields;
- **Considerable significance** - resources with importance within a national or regional context, due to special archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest. This category will include Conservation Areas, Category C Listed Buildings;
- **Moderate significance** - resources of local importance. This might include heritage assets with archaeological, architectural, historic or artistic interest, but which do not meet the criteria

for designation;

- **Some significance** - resources of limited local importance, due to their high frequency, lack of provenance or limited survival. This might include resources of local significance that have been partially destroyed by past land use, whether by agricultural activity or previous built development;
- **Unknown significance** - resources of uncertain importance based upon their type or condition;
- **Neutral** - Elements which have no heritage value but which do not detract from elements of greater significance; this may include resources that are so badly damaged or altered that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category;
- **Intrusive** - Elements which are identified as intrusive may include those which have a degree of heritage value, but which detract from elements of greater significance.

Assignment to a category of significance is a value judgement based on the knowledge and professional expertise of the authors of the CHA. This ranking of significance is designed to be of assistance in understanding the relative importance of different elements of the site or study area, and assessing the likely impact of future works. It is critical, however, that the designation of 'some significance' should not be regarded as a suggestion that individual elements might be removed or damaged without affecting the cultural heritage resource as a whole.

2.4.2 Assessment of impact

The impact of works upon the significance of a heritage asset may be adverse or beneficial. The significance of a heritage asset might be affected by direct physical impact, including destruction, demolition and alteration, but may also be affected by changes to its setting. This could include changes to the historic character of an area, alterations to views to and from a site, accidental damage from construction work, temporary loss of amenities (largely arising during development work and including air and noise pollution, visual intrusion, increased traffic, changes in the character of a landscape or townscape).

Categories of impact have be graded thus:

- **Substantial** - elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset, including its setting, are substantially harmed or lost;
- **Moderate** - elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset, including its setting, are harmed;
- **Slight** - there is change to elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset or its setting, but that harm is minimal;
- **Beneficial** - those elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset, including its setting, are enhanced or better revealed;
- **No change** - no change.

Following consideration of the value of the heritage asset, the attributes which contribute to its

significance, and the likely magnitude of the impact of development on those attributes, an assessment can be made of the overall effect of the proposed work on each asset and on the heritage resource as a whole. This is broadly based on the assumption that the most significant effect will result in circumstances where the very highest impact occurs to very important remains.

3.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

The cultural heritage significance of the River Almond is well known, and a detailed description of the history and development of the area is set out in the *Cramond Conservation Area Character Appraisal* (2011)(hereafter CCACA), which provides the framework for the following summary.

3.1 PREHISTORY

Cramond has produced some of the earliest evidence for human settlement in Lothian, with finds including lithic material and features of Mesolithic date, and Bronze Age burials and plough marks.

3.2 ROMAN PERIOD

In the Roman period, a fort was established at the mouth of the River Almond; a harbour has been postulated in this location, although no physical evidence has been found. Evidence indicates that the fort was situated close to the current church, and archaeological excavations have demonstrated that the fort was constructed c. AD140, during the Antonine period. At the start of the 3rd century, the fort became one of the key supply bases for the campaigns of Septimius Severus. Evidence for activity in the late 3rd and 4th century has been interpreted as reuse as an observation post or meeting place. Evidence has been found for industrial as well as domestic activity, including evidence for leather working.

3.3 MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Evidence for early medieval activity is typically scarce, although the reuse of the Roman fortress as the site of an early church has been suggested. Recent investigations in the Roman Bathhouse Latrine found evidence for occupation in the 5th to 7th century, possibly as a royal centre. Burials were found next to the church in 2008, indicating evidence for widespread occupation of Cramond through the 1st millennium AD (John Lawson pers. comm.).

In the 12th century, the lands of Cramond were given to the Bishops of Dunkeld. The CCACA notes that the medieval village of Cramond was formerly located in the area of the present church, but was removed in the early 19th century. Some of the structures along the river, including Cockle Mill, have documented origins in the medieval period.

Cramond Brig is likely to have been the main crossing point of the Almond at this time; the extant bridge has origins in the 15th century, was rebuilt in 1619 and repaired throughout the 17th, 18th and

19th centuries. In 1823, Rennie's eight-arched Cramond Brig was constructed, to take the increased traffic on the Edinburgh to Queensferry road, effectively bypassing the old bridge; this was in turn replaced in 1964.

3.4 17TH TO 18TH CENTURY

Cramond experienced rapid economic growth in the 18th century. Advances in agriculture saw changes to the landscape, as the scattered rig system was replaced with larger parcels of land.

By 1700, five mills were in operation between Cramond village and Cramond Brig, including Fair-a-Far, Peggie's Mill, Dowie's Mill, Cockle Mill and Craigie Mill. The basic commodity was initially grain, but with the arrival of the iron companies, the area was transformed into a pioneer centre of the industry. The area had the natural advantages of a harbour for transportation, and the river as a source of power. By the 1780s, four of the mills, including Dowie's Mill, had been converted to iron production. A plan of 1786 by Thomas Johnston shows the location of the mills, and details of the associated dam construction (Plate 3).

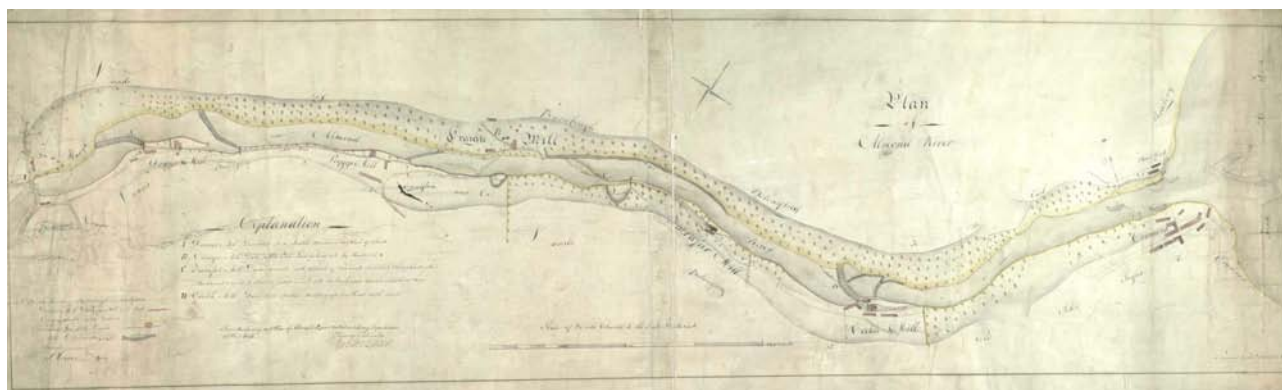


Plate 3 Thomas Johnston's Plan of Almond River, 1786

In 1794, Wood described the industry of the area:

'All the mills on the Edinburgh side of the Amon [Almond],...which are four in number, are the property of that company [Messrs Cadell and Edington]. Their works consist of two mills for slitting iron and rolling hoops, three forges, two steel converting furnaces (one them the first of the kind erected in Scotland...), spade, nail and file manufactories, warehouses for raw and wrought iron, houses for the superintending partner, his clerks and some of the workmen, and an accompanying house. At these works, bar iron is manufactured into blistered, square or faggot, and German steel, hoops and rolled iron, rod iron, boiler and pan plates for fire engines, sock moulds, anchor palms, bolts for ship building, spades, shovels, nails, files and other articles. These different branches employ above 80 men and boys, each of whom earn from 3s to 26s per week' (Wood 1794, 90).

3.4.1 Dowie's Mill

The following summary of the history of Dowie's Mill is largely provided by Cadell (1973, quoted on

Canmore NT17NE 98).

Dowie's Mill was one of the four extant mills by 1700, being the highest on the Almond below Cramond Brig. The mill was documented in a charter of 1697, when it was acquired with Peggie's Mill by John Menzies of Cammo; the two were referred to as the 'Old' and 'New' Mills respectively.

The name of Dowie's Mill is said to derive from the owner of The Whitehouse and its lands in the mid-18th century, David ('Dowie') Strachan. Strachan was a partner in the Smith and Wright Co. which bought the lower mills at Cramond (Cockle and Fair-a-Far Mills) in 1752. The lands at Dowie's Mill were bought in 1776 by Lady Glenorchy and two mills passed from her to William Cadell: Peggie's Mill in 1781 and Dowie's in 1782, to become part of the developing ironworking industry of the area. Dowie's mill was used for making spades, and included a saw mill which is said to have made the handles for the spades.

The 1786 plan by Johnston has a key labelling the weir: 'A. Dowies Mill Damhead is a Rubble Building or a Caul of Stones'. The plan shows the weir feeding a mill lade; the main mill structure appears to be situated on the west side, with two blocks, possible workers' housing, and a circular structure to the east, on what is now Dowie's Mill Lane (Plate 4). Downstream, a second weir provided water power to Peggie's Mill.

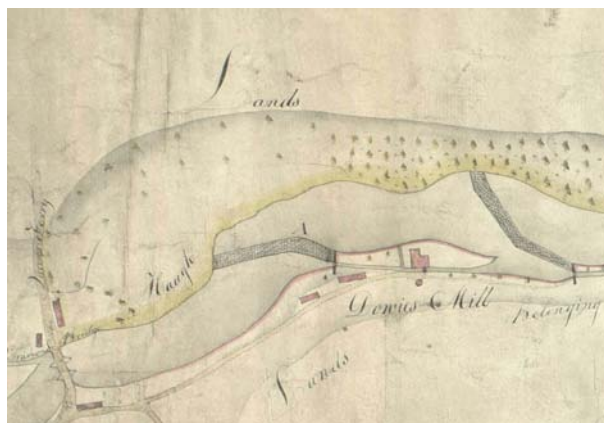


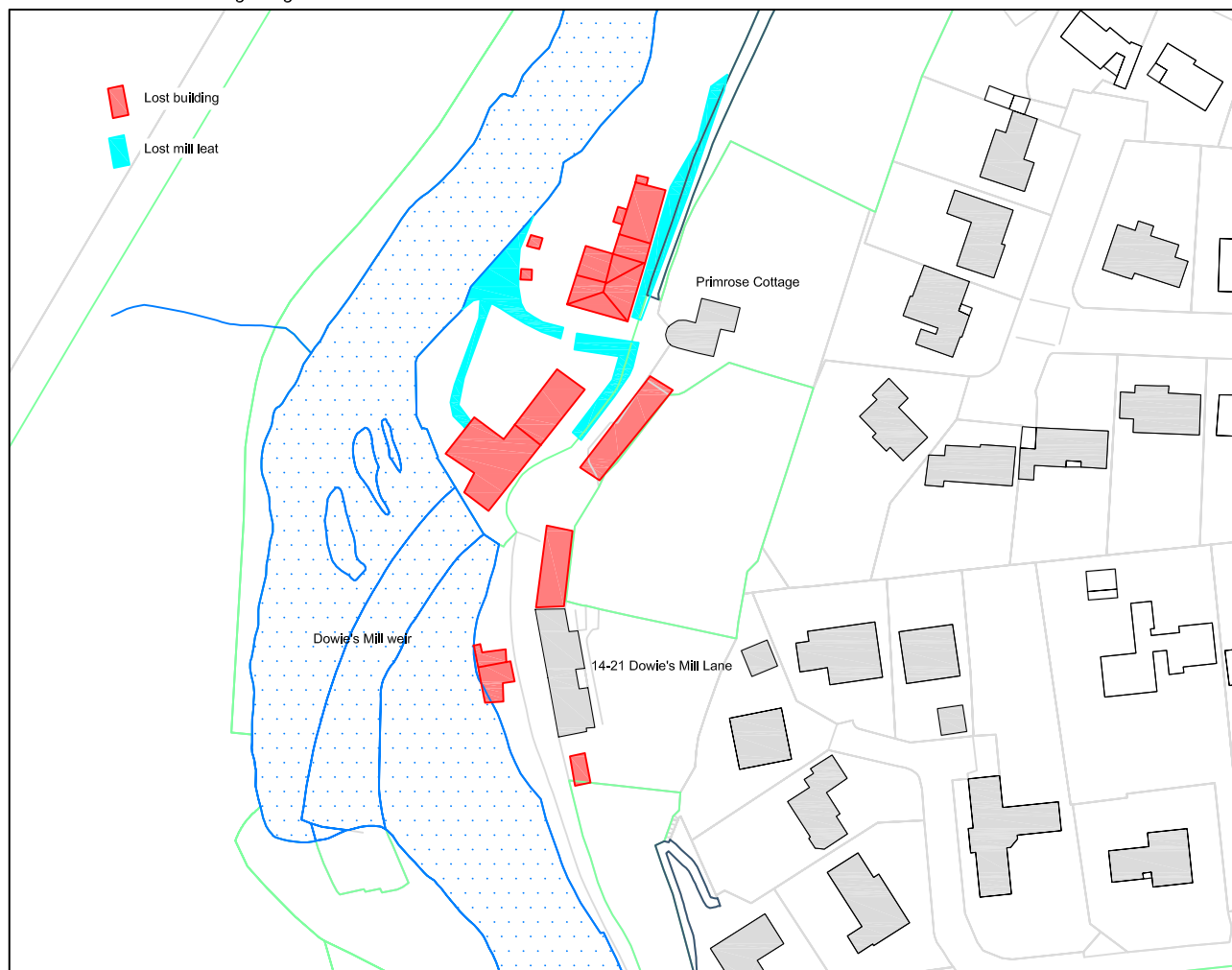
Plate 4 Detail from Johnston's plan, 1786

3.5 19TH CENTURY AND LATER

The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1853 shows the complex of weirs, lades and mill buildings at the site; those extant in 1786 are present, and a second mill structure is depicted close to the weir. Primrose Cottage had been constructed.

Caddell's study of the iron mills at Cramond (1973, cited Canmore NT17NE 98) states that in 1859, Dowie's Mill consisted of a forge and buildings, with a furnace and chimney, two hearth fires, an anvil, two waterwheels, blast fanners, etc, a waterfall of 7ft 10 (2.4m) inches with dam and sluices, an eight-roomed house, four smaller houses of which one was the foreman's, a turning shop with a warehouse above, the sawmill with a wooden waterwheel, shed and saw bench, a shaft-bending or boiler house, old nail and chain shops, foreman's workshop with three hearths and a spade finishing shop, with five fires and a warehouse above. A considerable quantity of spades continued to be made up to 1860.

The 1895 Ordnance Survey shows the layout of the complex in more detail; by this time a second weir had been added to Peggie's Mill. The workers' housing is shown in more detail along Dowie's Mill Lane; using the Ordnance Survey maps it is possible to locate these buildings (Figure 2). Historic postcards and images survive showing the mill as it appeared in the late 19th century (Plate 5 and 6).



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Dowie's Mill in the late 19th century

Scale 1:1000



Figure 2



Plate 5 1896 postcard showing Dowie's Mill (reproduced in Dods and Scholes, 2013)



Plate 6 Photograph of Dowie's Mill, 1944 (© Historic Environment Scotland)

The 19th century saw the decline of the iron industry which resulted in significant change to this area. The industries of the River Almond were unable to compete with large developments in the west, and after 1860, the mills were used for other purposes.

Cadell (1973) documents that later history of the mill. Dowie's Mill is recorded to have been leased as a sawmill from 1871-81 to a Henry Parker, and from 1896 to John Weller, who emigrated to America about 1916, taking all the machinery at the mill with him, re-leasing the mill.

In 1895, the Ordnance Survey label the site as a sawmill, and by 1908, the Ordnance Survey editions shows that the mill had been given over to upholstery. In 1922, John Weller, the former owner, returned and attempted to reacquire the mill, but when he failed set up a rival venture in Peggie's Mill. The 1914 Ordnance Survey shows that the weirs had been redesigned and the two effectively shared a single mill race (Plate 7). In 1934, Weller reclaimed Dowie's Mill; the latter was used from this date by a scrap metal dealer. The mill wheel was completely destroyed shortly after this period, possibly in the flood of 1935, and its use as a mill ceased.

In 1947, the mill is labelled as 'disused'; photographs of the early 20th century show some of the buildings at this time, including Primrose Cottage. Comparison with a modern photograph shows how much of the mill complex has been lost (Plate 8 and 9).

By 1964, the main mill buildings are no longer shown on the Ordnance Survey edition, with only the weir, and workers' housing surviving. The weir itself was breached in the 1960s to allow for the lowering of river levels to facilitate works to replace the Rennie bridge (Plate 10).

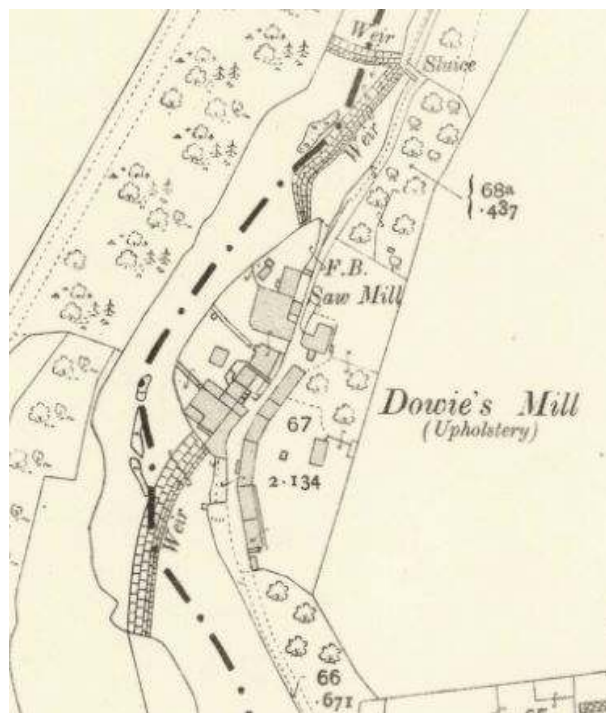


Plate 7 Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1914



Plate 8 Primrose Cottage, 1930s (© Historic Environment Scotland)



Plate 9 Primrose Cottage, 2016



Plate 10 Dowie's Mill weir, 1975 (© Historic Environment Scotland)



Plate 11 Extant workers' housing: 14-21 Dowie's Mill Lane

4.0 HERITAGE BASELINE

This section identifies those heritage assets, designated and undesignated, which would potentially be affected by works to the weir, either directly or through impact on setting (Figure 3).

4.1 DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

4.1.1 Listed Buildings

The weir itself is not Listed, but the extant workers' housing is designated as two Listed Buildings. Nos. 14-21 Dowie's Mill Lane (LB 28165) are Category C Listed, and Primrose Cottage, is Category B Listed (LB 28167)(Plate 11; see Plate 9). Works to the weir would affect the historic setting of these structures.

Cramond Brig, upstream of the weir, is Category A Listed, as well as being Scheduled (LB 27940). The bridge is intervisible with the weir/millpond and its setting must therefore be considered (Plate 12 and 13).



Plate 12 View of Cramond Brig, looking south



Plate 13 View from Cramond Brig, looking north

Structures immediately adjacent to the bridge are also Category C Listed, including Riverbank Cottage (LB 28166), Willow Bank Cottage (Cramond Brig Toll)(LB 5568) and Cramond Brig Inn, the former coach house (LB 5569). It is not anticipated that works to the weir would harm the significance of these buildings.

Scottish Planning Policy (2010, para 113) states that:

...The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas)(Scotland) Act 1997 requires planning authorities, when determining applications for planning permission or listed building consent, to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. Change to a listed building should be managed to protect its special interest while enabling it to remain in active use. The layout, design, materials, scale, siting and use of any development which will affect a listed building or its setting should be appropriate to the character and appearance of the building and setting. There is a presumption against demolition or other works that will adversely affect a listed building or its setting.

4.1.2 Conservation Area

The Cramond Conservation Area encompasses the River Almond with associated settlements (see Figure 2). Views within this area, close to Cramond Brig, are identified as being significant within the Conservation Area, including panoramic views up and downstream of the bridge, as well as across the open space of Brae Park. The remains of the mills are one the defining characteristics of the River Almond section of the Conservation Area, and the extant remains of Dowie's Mill contribute to this.

Scottish Planning Policy (2010) states that

A proposed development that would have a neutral effect on the character or appearance of a conservation area (i.e. does no harm) should be treated as one which preserves that character or appearance. The design, materials, scale and siting of new development within a conservation area, and development outwith the conservation area that will impact on its appearance, character or setting, should be appropriate to the character and setting of the conservation area. Planning permission should normally be refused for development, including demolition, within a conservation area that fails to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area.

4.1.3 Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

The site lies immediately adjacent to the boundary of Dalmeny, which is included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL 00130). The strong tree line atop the ridge that forms the western bank of the valley affords significant screening, and ensures that works to the weir would not impact the setting of the designated landscape.

4.1.4 Scheduled Monuments

Cramond Brig is designated as a Scheduled Monument (SM 1209). As noted, the bridge is intervisible with the weir and its visual and aesthetic setting must therefore be considered.

4.2 NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

The weir itself is a heritage asset, as a surviving element of the mill complex. It was breached in the 1960s, and is now of partial concrete construction, so its integrity as an 18th and 19th-century structure has been altered, but the form of the structure and the water that it impounds preserve elements of the historic industrial landscape.

In addition to the weir, the area has the potential for below-ground remains associated with the mill, some of which can be mapped from the Ordnance Survey editions (see Figure 2); some above ground vestiges of historic structures are still visible, including sections of the sluice and sluice gate sockets (Plate 14 and 15). There is also the potential for hitherto unrecorded archaeological remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date.



Plate 14 Vestiges of mill structures

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Dowie's Mill weir has heritage value as a surviving (albeit altered) element relating to a now lost mill, which formed part of the nationally significant iron industry along the River Almond. In itself, the structure would be considered to have moderate heritage significance, but this is enhanced by its group value as part of the wider River Almond iron industry, and its physical association with the historic Cramond Brig.



Plate 15 Former mill lade

The weir structure has intrinsic evidential value, as a surviving (18th-century) element of a 17th to 19th-century milling and ironworking complex, retaining information on the technological developments of the period. The weir and pond provide an easily legible element of the complex, albeit diminished by the loss of associated lades and buildings. The evidential value of the structure has been eroded by structural deterioration and deliberate breaching.

The weir contributes to the historic setting of the Category B and C Listed Buildings that represent the

only extant buildings associated with the former mill; the weir adds to their legibility and group value. The weir, as an element of industrial landscape, contributes to the character of this part of the Conservation Area, which is characterised by the relict mills and associated structures. The remains both contribute to, and derive significance from, the wider Conservation Area.

The weir and associated upstanding buildings have historical value; the structure and the water that it impounds and channels, demonstrate the waterpower that facilitated the growth of industry into the 19th century. The site has important associative historical value, through the companies that were involved in running the mill. The mill was one of a number that were taken over by the Caddell family, successors to the Carron Ironworks, which was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution.

Although the nature of the weir means that its rubble-built fabric is not highly visible, its form, with the impounded water and the sound and appearance of the falling water, lend the structure aesthetic value (see Plate 2). The weir, or the water that it impounds, also contributes to the setting of the Category A Listed and Scheduled Cramond Brig, in providing a body of water against which its aesthetic and architectural value can be appreciated (see Plates 12 and 13).

The river walk enhances the communal/use values of the place and the Cramond Association leaflet notes that the area by the mill is now an approved location for the scattering of ashes by Hindus and Sikhs.

6.0 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACT

Work to the Dowie's Mill weir has the potential to have an adverse impact on the heritage significance of the weir and surrounding heritage assets in a number of ways, through:

- **removal of historic fabric;** the removal or part removal of historic fabric would affect the integrity of the historic structure. This would result in the loss of evidential value relating to its structural make up and design, and impact on its aesthetic value;
- **loss of the millpond;** removal of the millpond would affect the legibility and understanding of the mill complex, and would also have an impact on the setting of Cramond Brig. There may be some scour impact on the brig;
- **use of unsympathetic materials and design;** intrusive elements may affect the aesthetic value of the weir/millpond, and may have a particular impact on the character of the Conservation Area, the setting of the Category A Listed Cramond Brig, and the setting of the Category B and C Listed workers' housing;
- **loss of archaeological resource;** without careful planning or design of an appropriate mitigation strategy, the groundworks necessary for works to the weir, including the creation of site access and associated landscaping may have an impact on below ground remains associated with the mill and earlier activity.

6.1 PREFERRED OPTION

The preferred option is to remove the weir, and replace it with a length of boulder rapids. This would retain an area of impounded water above the former weir site, and would aim to keep current water levels. A 12m length of the weir is to be preserved on the right hand (eastern) bank, which will allow its former location to be discerned. Further detail is provided in the Design Report.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the heritage significance attached to the mills along the River Almond, and the potential for impact on the setting of the Listed workers' housing and Cramond Brig, the ideal scenario in heritage terms would be preservation of Dowie's Mill weir *in situ*. However, retention of the weir may not be practicable, or consistent with the ecological aims of the project. If these aspects are found to outweigh heritage issue, the following recommendations are made:

- prior to removal or alteration, a pre-intervention record should be made of the weir structure and associated features. A structural watching brief would be recommended during works, to ensure that the historic fabric of the weir and any preceding structures are preserved by record; requirements for this, and any other mitigation, should be discussed with the City of Edinburgh Council archaeologist;
- removal of the weir, as a structure within a Conservation Area, is likely to require Conservation Area consent; the City of Edinburgh Council Planning Officers should be consulted;
- the final design should ensure that the character of the impounded water above the weir is altered as little as possible, to ensure that views to and from Cramond Brig remain unharmed, and the millpond can still be read, or is reflected, as a feature in the landscape;
- any new structures should be designed to be in keeping with the historic character of this landscape;
- any additional scour protection required for Cramond Brig should be sympathetic to the historic structure; Scheduled Monument Consent/Listed Building Consent will be required and Historic Environment Scotland and City of Edinburgh Council should be consulted;
- care should be taken during the planning of permanent and temporary works to ensure that harm to below-ground remains is avoided as far as possible. Any groundworks that are required should be undertaken with a scheme of archaeological mitigation in place, to be agreed in advance with the City of Edinburgh archaeologist;
- as the works may affect the setting of the Category A Listed Cramond Brig, it is recommended that Historic Environment Scotland be consulted.

References

- Caddell, P. 1973. *The iron mills at Cramond, EUEA studies in local history* (Edinburgh)
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- Wood, J. P. 1794. *The antient and modern state of the parish of Cramond* (Edinburgh)