

3. GREENFIELD MILLS SITE

How old is the site?

This was the first and biggest of the mill sites in the Valley. The Battery Pool and 4 brass and copper mills were opened in 1765 by the Warrington Company.



What was made here?

Copper and brass bowls and pans were made here by 'battering' sheet metal with large hammers.

In the 1780s the Greenfield Copper and Brass Company took over the site. This was owned by Thomas Williams- the 'Copper King' who also ran the Meadow Mill site .

In the 1780s 35 terraced cottages, known as Battery Row, were built for the workers at the Mill. They were demolished in the 1960s.

Later industries on this site included...

Red lead works • Holywell Textile Co• Gwalia Hosiery Company• Snuff grinding mill

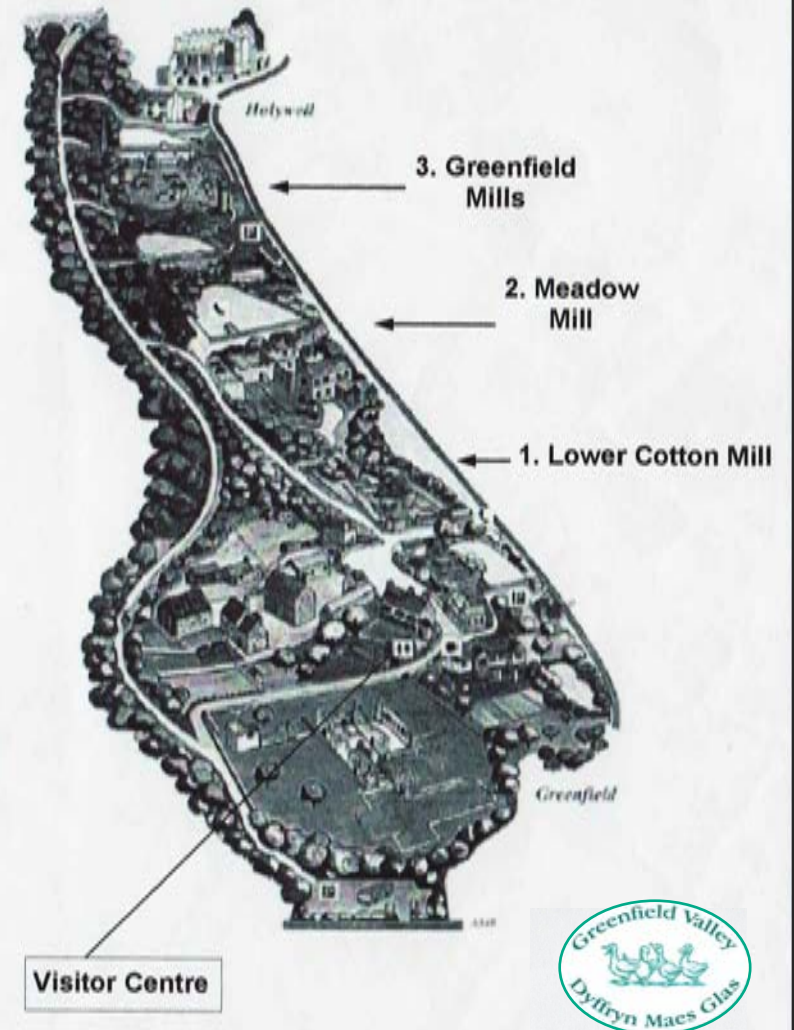
Today

You can see the places where the waterwheels once stood. The large building still standing is the shearing shop where copper sheet was cut up.

In 2001/2 work was undertaken to preserve the remains of this important piece of industrial history. The work was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, CADW, Greenfield Valley Trust and Flintshire County Council.

The Greenfield Valley Heritage Park is run by the Greenfield Valley Trust Ltd under a Management Agreement with Flintshire County Council.

A QUICK GUIDE TO... THE HISTORIC MILL SITES IN THE GREENFIELD VALLEY



The Greenfield Valley Guide Map will help you to find the sites. Following the main trail it is about a 10 minute walk from the Visitor Centre to the Lower Cotton Mill Site

1. LOWER COTTON MILL

What was made here?

This was one of the many mill sites in the valley that contributed to the local textile industry.



A six storey cotton mill was built here in just 10 weeks in 1785 by John Smalley, a former partner of Richard Arkwright. The Cotton Twist Company employed up to 300 apprentices, many of them under 10 years old. The large rectangular building shell you can see is what remains of this mill.

The cotton mill closed in 1840 and the building reopened as the Victoria Corn Mill in 1850. The corn mill produced flour and the pool alongside it, the 'Flour Mill Pool' was extended to supply it with more water power. The flour mill operated until the early 1900s.

Today

The old mill warehouse building was restored in 1982 and today houses a display about the industries of the valley and a recreated steam pop bottling plant— another industry that flourished in the Greenfield Valley. This display opens regularly through the year, check the events programme for details.

The other buildings are the remains of the cotton and flour mill operations. You can clearly see the different ways that the water of the Holywell Stream was diverted into the mill to provide power to its machinery.

In 2003 work was undertaken to preserve the industrial history remains here. The work was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, CADW, Greenfield Valley Trust Ltd and Flintshire County Council.

2. MEADOW MILL

How old is this site?

The site was first used in 1787 when a copper rolling mill was built by the Greenfield Copper and Brass Company.



It is known as Meadow Mill because a building of that name was built in 1787 to manufacture copper rollers for printing patterns onto cloth.

What was made here?

Copper sheets, nails and bolts. These were used to protect the timber of Royal Navy ships from attack by parasites in tropical waters. The Greenfield Copper and Brass Company invented this system of protection and it earned Thomas Williams of the Parys Mine Company the title of the 'Copper King'.

Three enormous waterwheels, 20 feet in diameter, provided the power for the copper rolling machinery.

The site went on to have many uses. Its final use was as a coal yard until it was bought by Delyn Borough Council in the 1970s

Today

The buildings you can see today date from the 1800s when there was a rubber grinding works and tin plate works on site.

In 2002/3 work was undertaken to preserve the industrial history remains here. The work was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, CADW, Greenfield Valley Trust Ltd and Flintshire County Council.