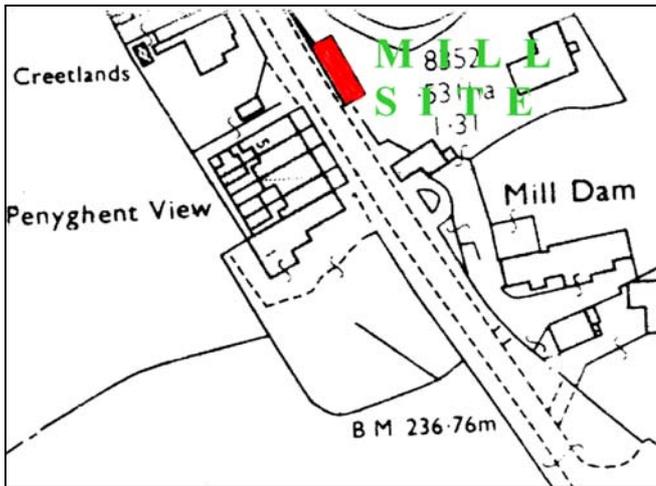


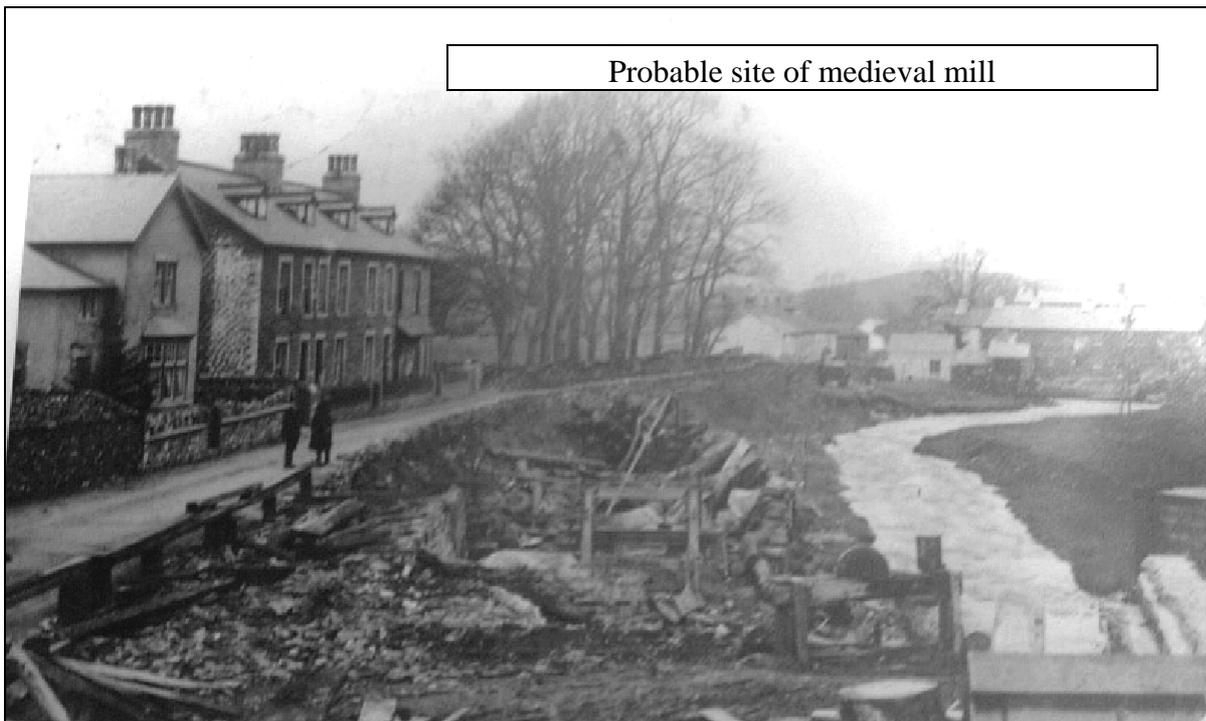
A WATER MILL AT HORTON IN RIBBLESDALE

In a grant of 1150 Roger de Mowbray gives William the right to the mills in his lands of Lonsdale, Kendal and Horton in Ribblesdale. In 1394 John de Pudsay was appointed by the monks of Jervaulx to farm the manor of Horton, paying £20 a year for the first 5 years and after that £23 a year; the deed makes clear that John is being appointed as successor to his father Henry, and lays down conditions that include keeping the tenants' houses in repair, and building two mills, one for corn and one for fulling. The miller is called John, recorded as deceased in the Poll Tax of 1379 as his widow Matilda pays the tax of 4d.



Neither of these early sites have been positively identified but the general opinion is that both sites would be powered from Brants Gill Beck and built in the croft below Mill Dam, where the last known water wheel powering a local electricity generator, and later a saw mill, was in operation.

A document of 1569 describes *'the Manor of Horton in Rybbelsdale with 50 messuages, 60 cottages and a mill with lands in the same... belonging to Matthew Earl of Lennox.'* At this time there is only the one mill mentioned, perhaps the fulling mill was now out of use. In 1690 Horton water-corn mill was owned one-third by John Tunstall and two-thirds by John Armistead, who were charged with not paying 4s tithes on corn ground during the previous year.



This is sound evidence that the corn mill does appear to have been working right through until the late 18th.c. when a miller was recorded in the mid 18th.c and the name of part of the works is recorded in the late 18th.c as a farm or house at 'Mill Dam' - a place name that survives today.



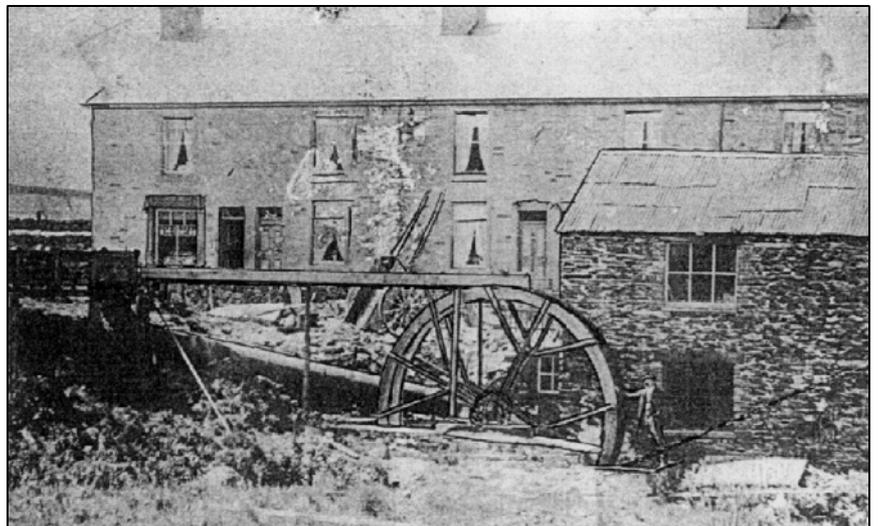
The corn mill must

have gone out of use and the mill site remained derelict until it was converted to a saw mill in the 20th.c



The ancient and the modern sites were not run off the Ribble but powered by water taken off Brants Gill beck using a weir, headrace and a small holding dam. There are no remains to be seen of any ancient workings on this long used site, but one account suggests that one of the older mill buildings was further up the water supply system than the last one to be used. It was probably built at the end of an old culverted headrace channel which was later renovated and extended to bring water down to the roadside site.

In the 20th.c the water system was repaired, extended, brought back into use and a water wheel installed. This was a redundant wheel brought onto the site from Sunny Bank Quarry, Helwith Bridge by Jim Ward in 1935. He dismantled this old wheel, repaired it and converted it to an overshot system; he also renovated the old water supply system to fit it. This was before



mains electricity was available in the village and the 'newly installed' wheel was used to run a

generator producing power for Ward's house and the village and also recharging accumulators, with a local delivery service later provided by the Davidsons.

