

Bringing the Page to Life

Water of Leith

Mill Sites

- 1 **James Inglis & Co:** This mill which specialised in Boards, wrappers and crayon papers began operation in 1889. For most of the twentieth century it was owned by the Williamson family until 1987 when it was taken over by Stirling Fibre. When it closed in 1989 Inglis Mill was the last papermill in operation on the Water of Leith.
- 2 **Canonmills:** The first record of this mill is 1659 when it is recorded that the mill was visited by Edinburgh dignitaries. In 1681 Peter Bruce of Canonmills was given a monopoly for playing card manufactory and in 1682 he was appointed the King's printer. However, shortly after this he gave up the mill.
- 3 **Dalry Mill:** The first papermill in Scotland was started in 1590 at Dalry and in 1594 it was given an 11 year lease to produce paper. There are no further records of the mill until 1675 when Alex Daes took over producing paper on the site. The mill is now part of Roseburn House.
- 4 **Lumsdaines / Jinkabout Mill:** This site was first used as a mill in 1506. Between 1714 and 1737 the mill produced paper, but it was converted to produce barley between 1737 and 1755. Jinkabout mill was then demolished for the construction of a kitchen garden.
- 5 **Bog's / Vernours Mill:** A waulk mill was on this site from 1598; but by 1717 paper was being produced at the mill. In 1816 Bog's mill was converted to a snuff, grain and spice mill, it continued production until 1924 when the mill burned to the ground. There is now a private house on the site of this mill.
- 6 **Waulk Mill of Colinton / Kate's Mill:** This mill began production as a waulk mill in 1518. In 1783 John Balfour was granted a 57 years lease for the production of paper. Balfour named the mill after his wife Catherine Cant of Thurston and the mill continued production until 1890.

- 7 **Redhall Mill:** In 1718 Redhall began making paper for banknotes. In 1742 the mill changed to the production of barley and later became a plastics factory. In 1970 Redhall Mill was converted into flats.
- 8 **Kirkland Mill:** This mansion house was converted into a Lint mill in 1777. It subsequently changed use many times including being used as a meal and snuff mill. In 1870 Kirkland Mill was converted to a board mill.
- 9 **West Mill:** From 1699 this mill undertook 3 production activities; that is waulk, grain and flax. In 1799 the mill began production of paper and grain. However, from 1909 to 1971 the mill solely produced grain.
- 10 **Mossy Mill / Wester Waulk Mill:** In 1595 Wester Waulk Mill was leased by Imbre and Alex Mosie. By 1664 it had been renamed Mossy Mill after William Mosie or Mosey. Cloth was beetled at Mossie Mill until 1838 when it was converted to a paper mill by Mr McWhirter who was also a tenant of Inglis Green. The mill made wrappings until it closed in 1972.
- 11 **Upper Spylaw Mill:** This mill produced paper between 1682 and 1765. In 1765 it became a Snuff mill; by 1880 the site was used as a dairy and latterly a riding stables
- 12 **Woodhall Mill:** Woodhall began its industrial life as a waulk mill in 1677. It was briefly used as a lint mill between 1779 and 1792 when it became a papermill producing wrappings and browns. Woodhall was taken over by Inveresk in 1954 and in 1957 was converted into a board mill producing board for the whisky industry among others. Woodhall ceased production in 1984.
- 13 **Kinleith Mill / Henry Bruce & Sons:** A mill has been located on this site from 1618, but there is no record of its use until 1792 when it began producing paper. In 1844 Kinleith was bought by

Henry Bruce and in 1928 the mill was absorbed into the Inveresk company and was producing featherweight book papers. However, in 1966 Inveresk closed Kinleith and moved production of bookpapers elsewhere.

- 14 **Balerno Papermill / Kinauld Leatherworks:** In 1770 Nisbet and MacNiven founded Balerno mill making Browns and Cartridges. In 1875 Balerno Mill burned down and the buildings were used as storage space until 1904 when it became a glue works. From 1913 until the present day it has been the site of a working tannery.
- 15 **Byrnie Mill:** Byrnie mill produced tea and grey paper between 1799 and 1905. In 1905 it was converted to a sawmill.

16 **Balerno Bank Mill / John Galloway & Co Ltd:** Balerno Bank mill began producing tea paper, grey paper and printings in 1805. In 1909 the mill burned down, but it was rebuilt and reopened in 1912. In 1925 it was bought by John Galloway who began the production of high quality art paper. The firm ceased production in 1971

17 **Townhead Mill:** 1825 William Blaikie was registered as the owner and tenant of this one-vat papermill making tea and grey paper. 1832 James Bain was registered as the owner of the mill and this site was incorporated into Balerno Bank. By 1842 the mill was used as a storehouse for rags and later a private house.

