

BATA Mill site - historical information on development and noise

1. The Mill, the brick building fronting Main Street now housing the offices, was built in 1862 as Newsham Mill, later called Parkes Mill. At the time of building the village was owned by the Thelluson Estate and landowners did what they pleased --planning permission did not exist. Transport of goods would have been by horse and cart or on the adjacent railway which was completed in 1853. The mill operations would have been traditional and small scale (compared to today). The closest dwellings at the time were Devonshire Cottage and Station Farm.
2. The Planning Permission system started with the Town & Country Planning Act 1947 which came into effect 1 July 1948. This granted Planning Title for all pre-existing uses and buildings.
3. There was some development of buildings at the east end of the site between 1950 and 1963 (see photos Station Farm 1950 and Station 1963). You will see on the 1963 photo that lorries were tiny compared to now. Most transport will probably been by rail. The railway closed completely in 1964.
4. The Parish Council started in 1975 so has no records before then. The first reference in the Minutes to any development at BATA is 16/9/1977 - "agreed PC has no objection to extension at Amotherby Mill." Unfortunately we do not have this application as all records pre-1983 were at some time destroyed. The reference is likely to have been 3/5/21 as applications at the time were connected to sites and we have records of following applications with this number and suffixes A, B & C. Our long-retired Clerk arrived in the village in February 1976 and states that the very tall grey building with the N - S ridge (shown on the 2008 photo) did not exist at the time but appeared not many years after and the application was therefore probably for this.
5. In 1977 permission for a bungalow at Line End was given (this is now Millfield Lodge). At some point after this was built and occupied the resident made a complaint about noise from the mill as it was being operated with the big doors facing the road open. This is verbal information only, any written evidence probably being destroyed at the same time as pre-1983 planning applications, and the resident is long deceased.
6. Minutes 25/8/1983 re. application 3/5/21A (July 1983) Construction of unit for bulk storage and outloading, record "concerns from Easterby Lodge (now renamed Millfield Lodge) that might increase noise levels from the mill."
7. Application 3/5/21B (Nov 1987) Erection of 2 grain storage bins (between boiler house & grinder house). PC letter 28/12/1987 - "will operation of these bins increase/decrease noise/dust levels which are already at times over acceptable limits."
8. Application 3/5/21C (April 1990) Erection of building to contain new bulk finished animal feed outloading system (this is part of the current building shown on the left of the 2008 photo). PC letter 19/5/1990 "the Parish Council are opposed to it. --- There will be extra dust and extra noise all in an area close to residents." The decision notice states in Condition (04) Noise generated by the operations conducted within the building by virtue of the granting of this permission shall not cause any increase in the pre-existing background noise level of 55d(A) (L90). (The level of noise exceeded for 90 percent of the time) as measured at the boundaries of the site. (Reason: In the interests of amenity). **This noise level is being exceeded at present and BATA is therefore in contravention of the planning permission. Our evidence of this was sent to Planning as Appendix 2 to our letter of 30 August 2020.**
9. Application 97/01078/FUL (Nov 1997) Erection of extension to outloading bins (this is extension eastwards of the above).
10. Application 03/01237/Ful (Dec 2003) Change Warehouse to offices. This is for conversion of the original brick building. Use of this as a mill ceased at some time in the past and the milling operations were moved elsewhere on site, probably to the building referred to in 4 above.
11. Further applications in 2004 (04/00891/FUL) and 2010 (10/00415/MFUL) have extended the activities on site. The latter is the first where the question is asked on the application form about hours of opening, before then the question was not asked. The plan attached to this application shows the production area within the tall grey building referred to in 4 above and this must therefore be from where most of the mill noise emanates. The Design & Access Statement for this application clearly states the expansion of activities and the intensification of use of the site over time.

Amotherby Station 1963



Amotherby Station
Site in 2008 Towards
East



Station Farm 1950

