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COMBE MILL SOCIETY

WATERWHEEL & GEAR ROOMS METHOD STATEMENT

CMS-MS-10/4

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1. Gear Room

- a) The gate giving access to the gear room containing the pitwheel gearing should be kept fastened and padlocked at all times while members of the public are on site.
- b) Climbing on the fence is prohibited.
- c) The waterwheel must be stationary and its water supply stopped before any work is carried out on the pit wheel or in its pit.
- d) Work may only be carried out on the waterwheel and gearing by volunteers having been approved for the task. A warning notice to this effect is posted in the gear room and in the waterwheel room.
- e) Items stored in the area must be stacked in a safe and tidy manner.

2. Waterwheel Room

Climbing on the fence is prohibited.

- a) The removable fence section giving access to the interior of the wheel must be kept in place at all times when it is unattended and members of the public are on site.
- b) The water wheel must be stationary and have its water supply stopped before any work is carried out on it or in its pit.
- c) No one person must be left working alone inside the wheel or in its pit.
- d) Items stored in this area must be stacked in a neat and safe manner.

3. Running the Waterwheel

Only switch on the pump(s) that feed the waterwheel after first checking that the wheel is in a fit condition to run.

- a) Check that the gear room safety gate is shut and padlocked and that no materials are stacked that could interfere with the rotation of the gear wheels.
- b) Check that the river water level is sufficient to avoid running the pump dry.



- c) Inspect the wedges that hold the metal wheel to the wooden shaft. Do not run the wheel if any wedges are seen to be loose or missing.
- d) Inspect the bearing gudgeons and check that none of the holding wedges have worked loose and now stand proud of the end of the shaft. Do not run the wheel if a problem is seen.
- e) If the condition of all wedges is satisfactory the pump should be turned on.
- f) Depending on which combination of water pumps is used, check that water does not run onto the exposed bearing gudgeon such that lubricating oil is washed away.

4. Maintaining the Waterwheel

As the wedges holding the metal wheel and gear castings to the wooden axle shaft dry out they tend to work loose.

Before each steaming event or group visit the wedging should be checked and loose wedges secured. This check should be done no less than once every two weeks regardless of events or visits.

When a check has been made the person doing it should record the fact in the members' signing in book before leaving the Mill.

5. PPE

Risk Assessment identified no special PPE requirements to work in this room.

NOTE: *When the line shafting spur gear is moved then special safety precautions must be considered.*