

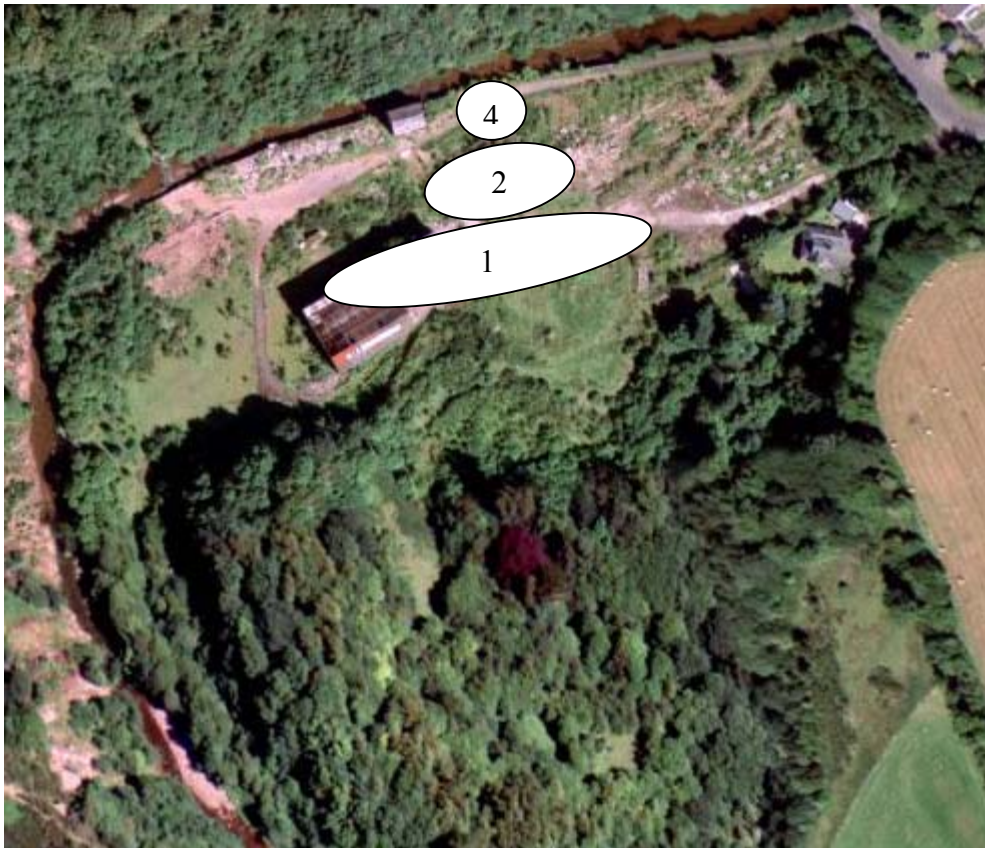
Springfield Mill Action Group

February 2008: This is the year!

SMAG is ten years old, and talk about an exercise in perseverance! However, it looks as if the work needed to restore the site is going to be done this year.

The original plan was for SMAG to own the project work after the site preparation phase. This has changed. Midlothian Council will now manage both the site preparation and restoration phases, and in doing so use the WREN funding SMAG initially secured and the landfill tax funding awarded to us by the Council. We will continue to meet and work with Geoff Mather and other Council officers to promote the ideas and objectives we have had since the start.

Initial site preparation including tree felling should begin during the week commencing 10th March. **The main works will begin on 25th March and will last for 4 to 5 weeks. Working hours will be Monday to Friday 7.30am to 6.00pm and Saturday 7.30 to 2.00pm.** Phase 1 of the works will:



- 1: Break up the remaining concrete plinths, leaving the rubble in-situ.
- 2: Re-grade and reshape the central area to remove dangerous slopes. Most of the self seeded trees will need to be removed to make this possible
- 3: Cut off and remove any dangerous metalwork
- 4: Expose, clean and infill a disused fuel tank and install additional bore holes to allow monitoring of possible movement of localised contaminants.
- 5: Treat several stands of knotweed

As the site re-grading gets underway, plans will be drawn up for Phase 2 that will involve, soiling, seeding, planting, paths and fencing work. This work must be completed by June 2009 otherwise the Council will lose the £50,000 WREN funding, but the goal is to do it this year. SMAG recently wrote to our 3 ward councillors and the Director of Strategic Services to emphasise this point. The Council still hopes to include the car park in the Phase 2 contract.

I'm looking forward to walking along the Firknowes ridge and the edge of Hewan bank this summer, and seeing the last vestiges of industrialisation being reversed. If you get a chance, plan to take a look yourself.

On behalf of the committee, and with thanks for the continued support of those who attended the AGM, Best Wishes for the remainder of the year,

Peter Cain SMAG Convenor