

## ORIGINAL MILL GEAR CASTING PATTERNS FOUND IN THE ROOF SPACE OF DULVERTON LAUNDRY.

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A recent visit of Dr Matt Edgeworth from Leicester University to see Dulverton Leat and Weir watermill landscape led to the discovery of the original mill wheel casting patterns used at Dulverton Laundry when it was a working mill. These patterns will be used to calculate the approximate size and horsepower of the waterwheel.

"The patterns would have been pressed into sand to make moulds into which molten cast iron was poured to make gearwheels attached to the waterwheel itself." Explained Dr. Edgeworth. "When the casting was finished the patterns would have been put somewhere safe so that they could be used again to make spare parts if required. In this case they were put in the roof space where we found them some 200 or 300 years later. Clearly Dulverton was a major industrial town for a significant period of time before its renaissance as a sporting/tourist town in the later 1800's."

Dulverton Laundry Owner Sue Pugsley commented "Some of my staff told me that they had seen some old looking cog wheels in the roof space, but I had never been up there to look. All of us were thrilled when Dr. Edgeworth and members of the Dulverton Leat and Weir Group lowered the patterns down into the factory through an access hatch. It's a real piece of Dulverton history."

Pictured with the casting patterns are left to right Dulverton Laundry staff Dan Mortimore, Di Grover, Stacey Amos, Sally Gale, Sue Pugsley, Ellie Stokes and Luke Bennett.

