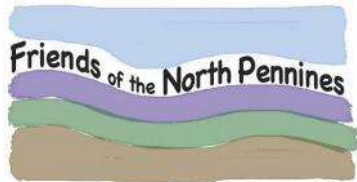


# Art Inspiring Arches

Dukesfield Arches and the people and places of the North East lead industry have inspired artists for over 200 years

**DUKESFIELD**  
Smelters and Carriers Project



[www.dukesfield.org.uk](http://www.dukesfield.org.uk)



# Contemporary Art

We know a lot about what people wore and the technology they used from paintings and sketches made in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

The artists captured the characters of the people and animals, and also gave a sense of how they felt about the hard work they were doing.

We think many of these pictures were drawn from life – the artist was watching the people and animals, making sketches of them as they worked.

# Loading bags of crushed ore onto horses at the mine



Look at the expressions on the horse and the man – you can tell what they are feeling!

Image © Science Museum, London

# Lead being smelted at a hearth

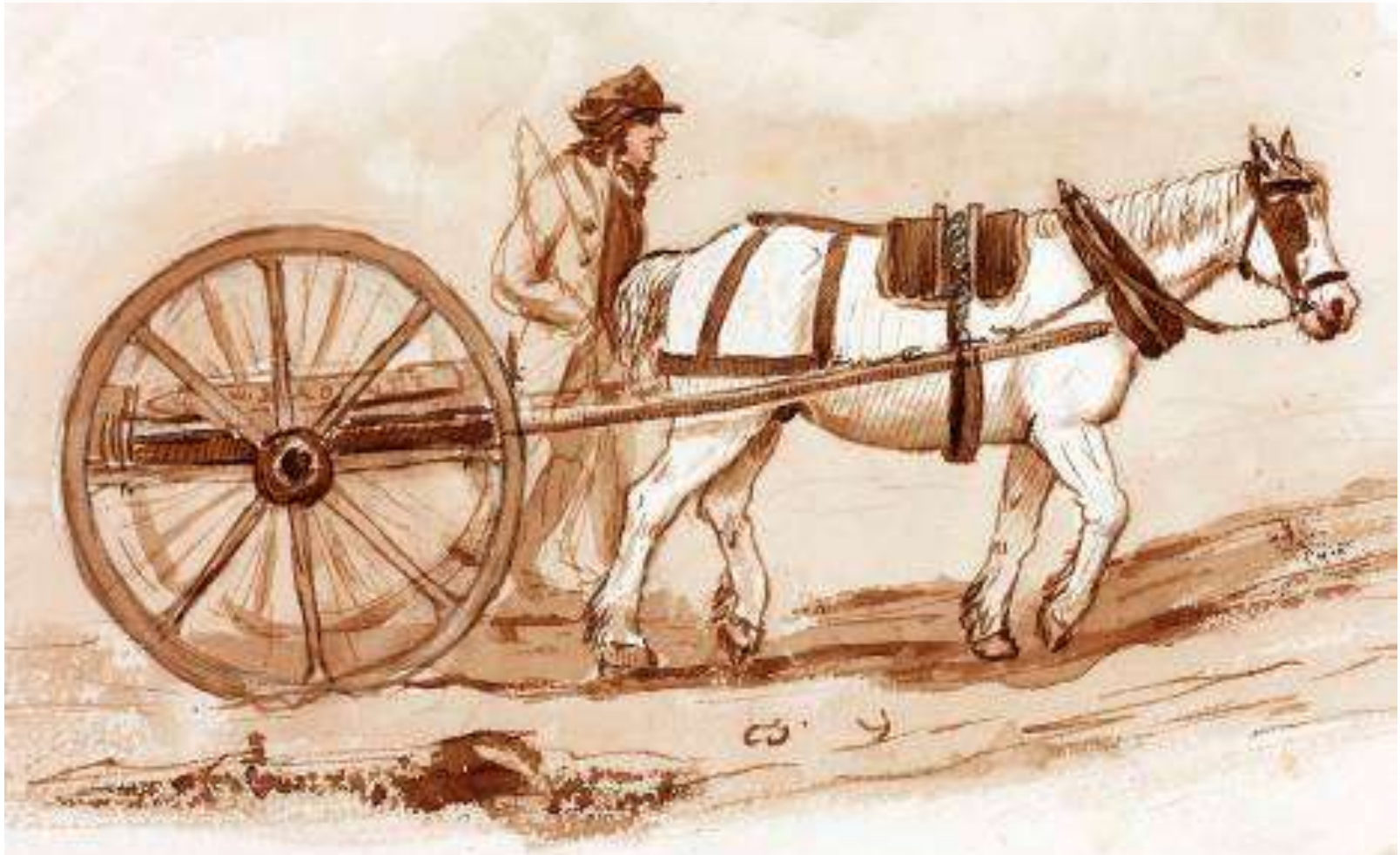


This picture is composed to show the liquid lead leaving the hearth and being poured into moulds

Image © National Galleries Scotland



# Horse and cart carrying lead pieces away from the mill



This picture uses only very few drab colours which could reflect the dullness of the work

Image © Science Museum, London



# Hexham station opened in 1835



This etching shows a cart being unloaded to take people and goods to Newcastle by the new railway

Image © Science Museum, London

# Reconstructions

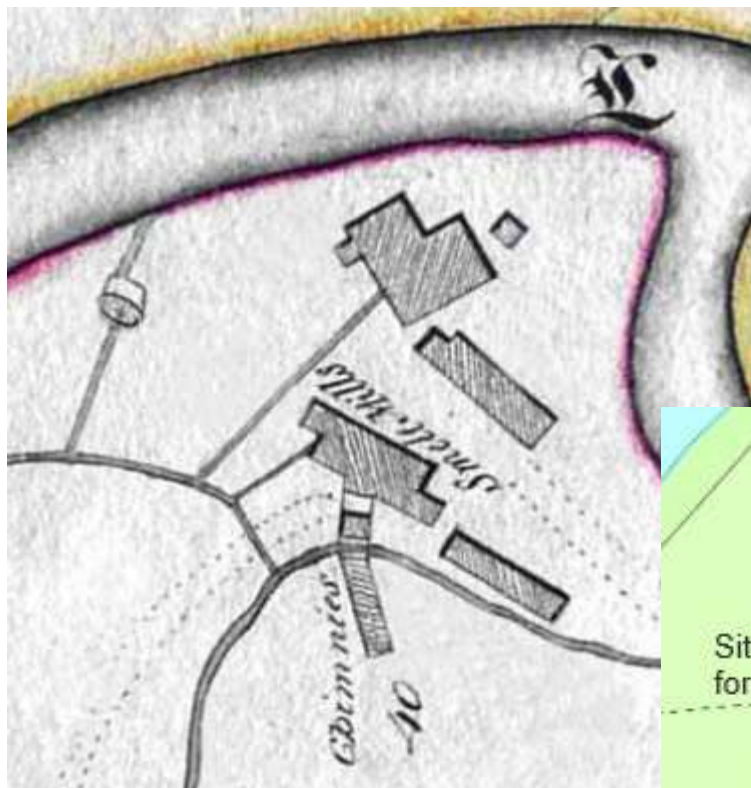
It is difficult for us to know what things looked like in history, especially from before cameras, video and sound recordings.

To understand Dukesfield we have used some things we know were made at that time like maps, paintings, and written descriptions. We know that these were not likely to be very accurate.

We also used archaeological excavations. We have dug into the ground to find the foundations of the buildings which were shown on the 1802 map. The map only shows what the buildings were like in one year, and the site was working for 170 years. So the remains we found don't exactly match the map and are a puzzle.

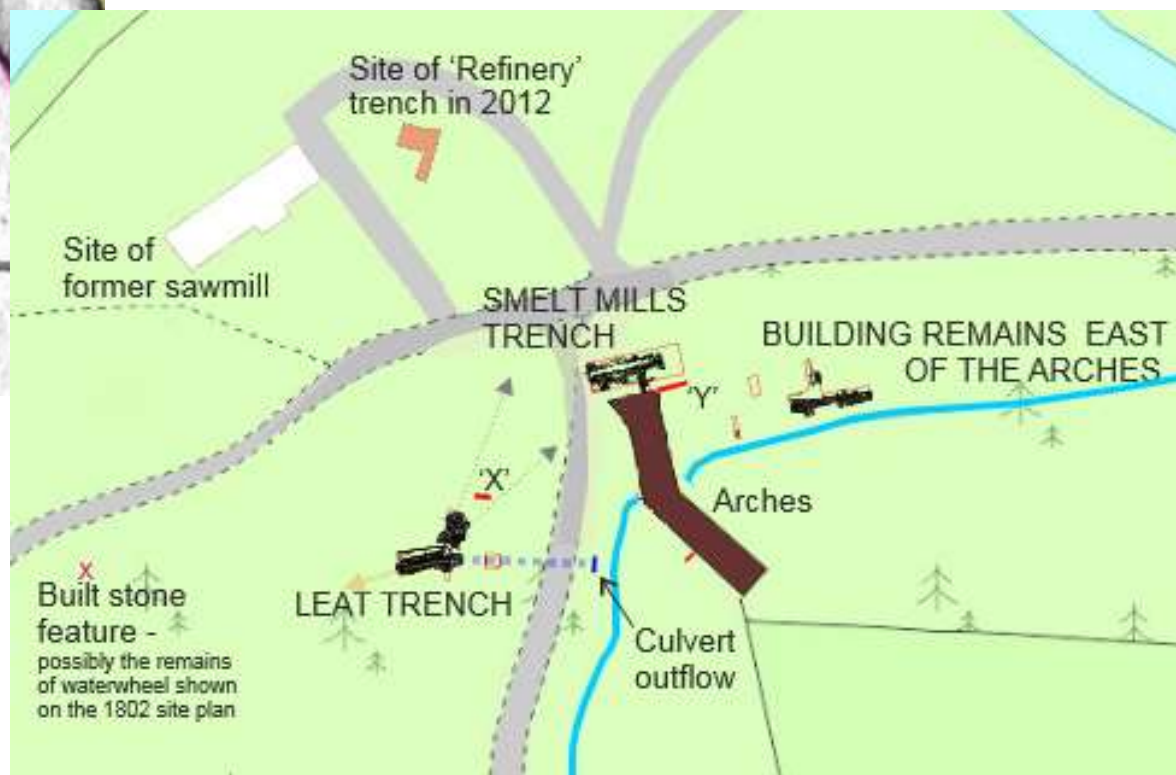
We used all the information to make the best guess at what the site looked like around 1802.





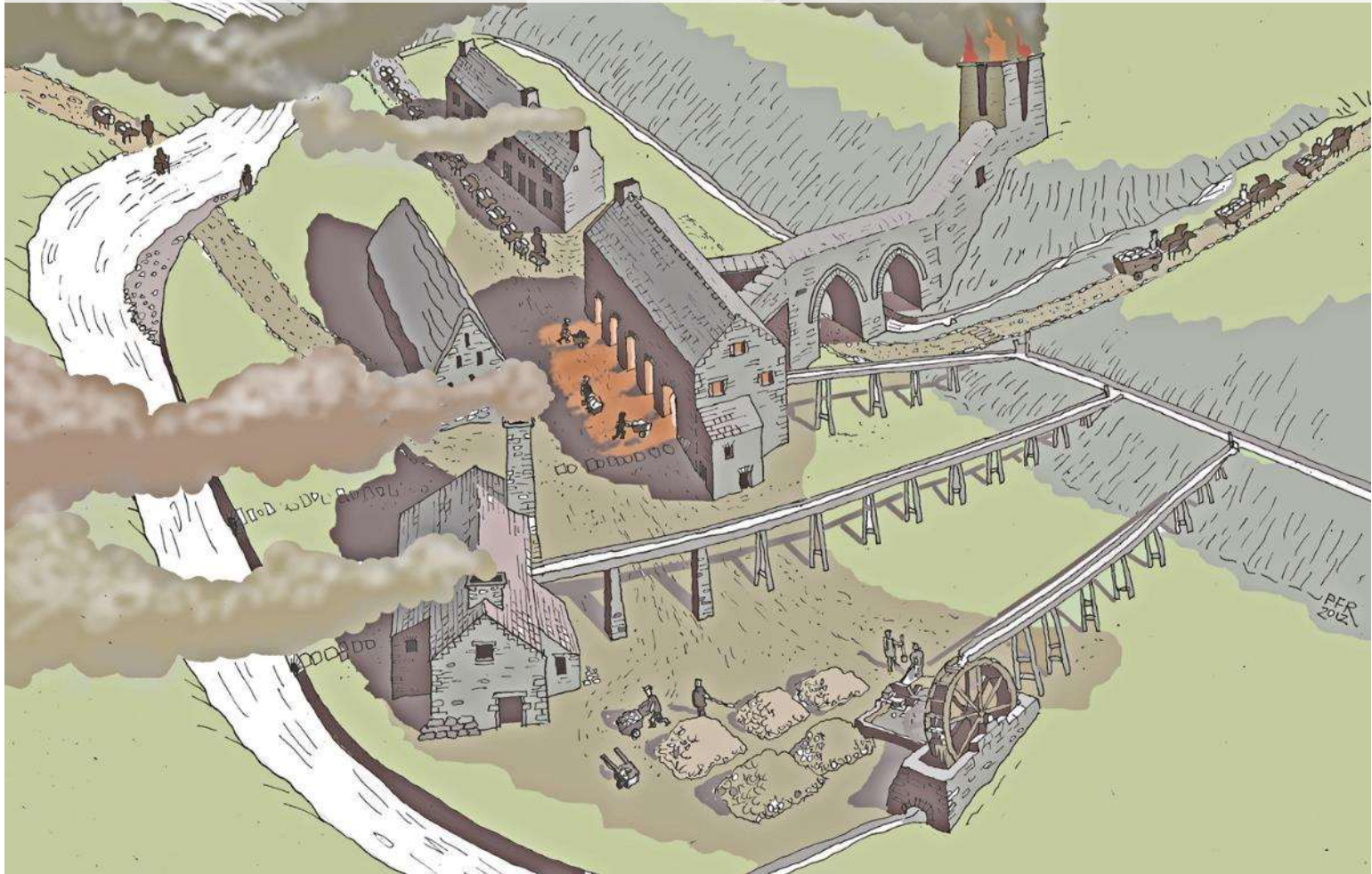
This map is from 1802 when Dukesfield was almost at its busiest.

This map is drawn by the archaeologists who excavated the site in 2014



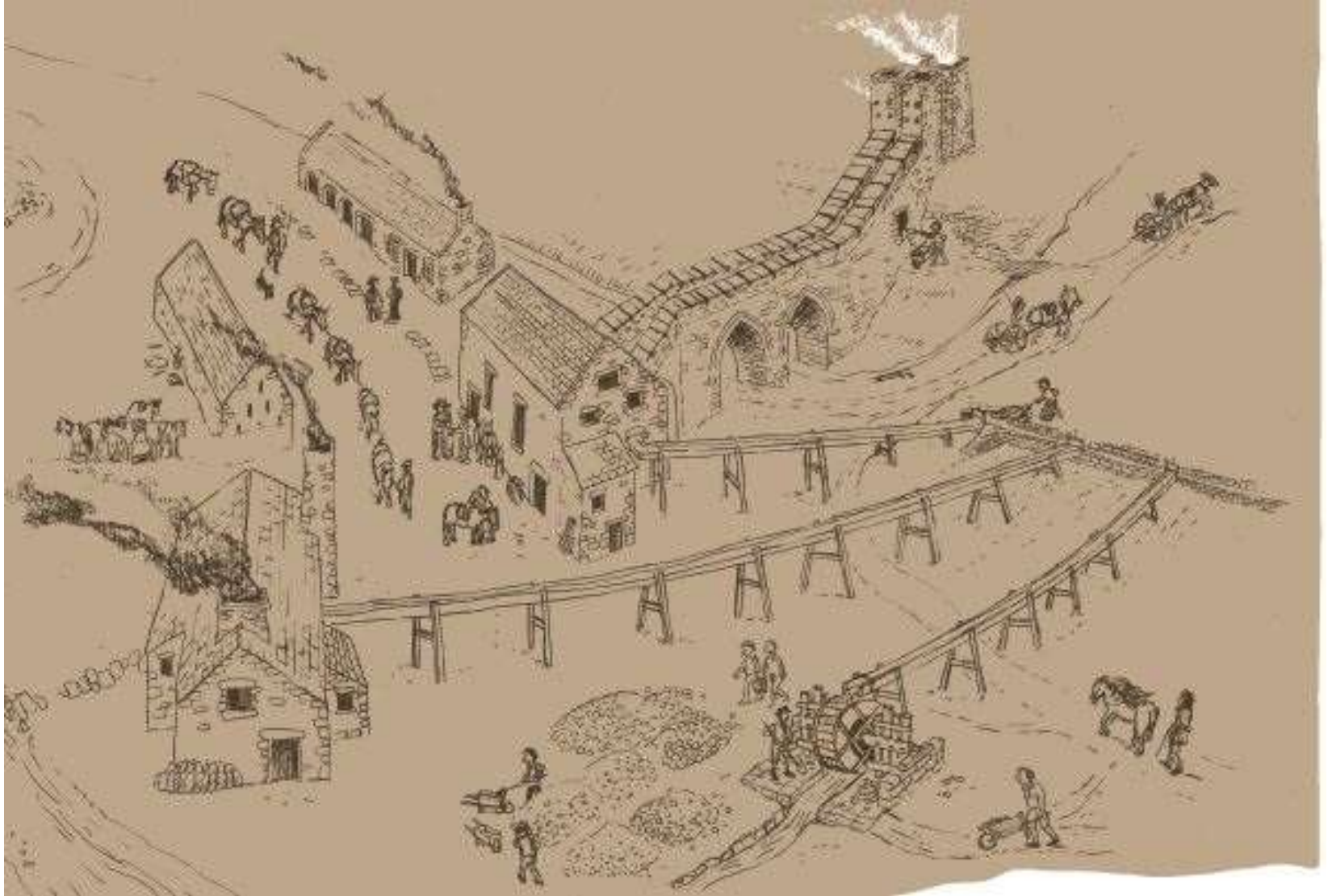


# Dukesfield Smelt Mill in 1802



This reconstruction drawing was done in 2012 and is based on the 1802 map. After our research we know some things are wrong.

Image © Peter Ryder



This reconstruction drawing was done in 2015 and is based on our volunteers' documentary research and archaeological excavations.

Image Marcus Byron



# Contemporary Art - Sculpture

Bridget Kennedy created these sculptures for the Institute of Mining in Newcastle. They are inspired by the geology of the North Pennines and Victorian mining engineer Thomas Sopwith. The title for her work *Knowledge in Darkness* comes from Sopwith's diary and the shape and form of the sculptures refer to an ornate typographical font used on a study he made of the geology of Alston Moor.

"These are the starting points for the work, what I hope is that they have a life and a meaning beyond their origins. In more ways than one they are coming home, as Allenheads and the surrounding landscape are so embedded in their making."







Bridget Kennedy's sculpture *Knowledge in Darkness* showing the letters decorated with symbols from geological maps

## Pupils art works inspired by *Knowledge in Darkness*



Ornate lettering decorated with lead-tolerant flowers that are special to this area

Catalogue of geological map symbols and the types of stone they represent





# Contemporary Art – Printmaking

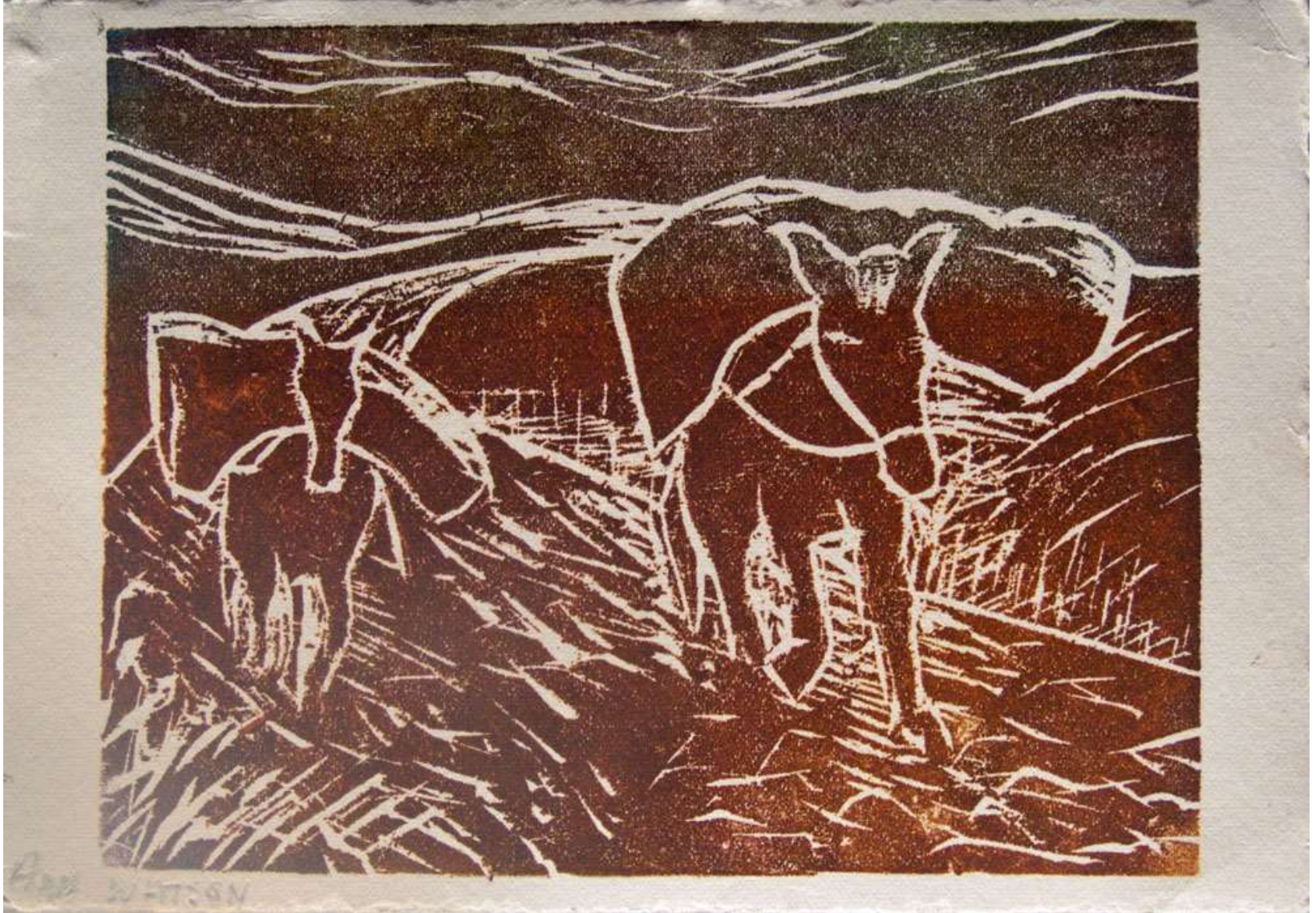
Jan Baxandall taught trainees how to make woodcut and dry point prints inspired by visits to Dukesfield Arches.

Allendale Primary School made prints by scoring images into polystyrene sheets.

Whitley Chapel First School made prints of the arches using geometric shapes



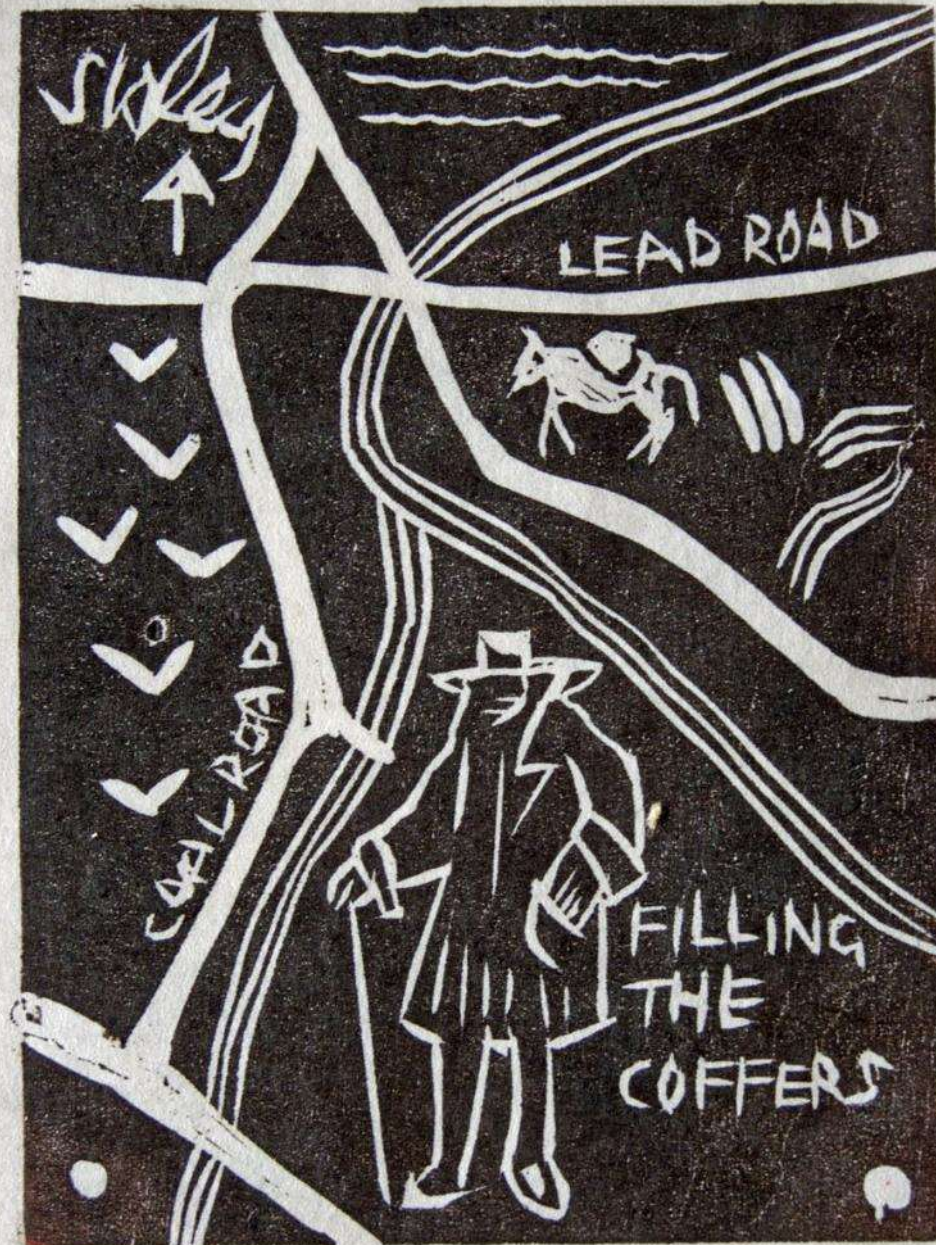




Woodcut of the pack ponies



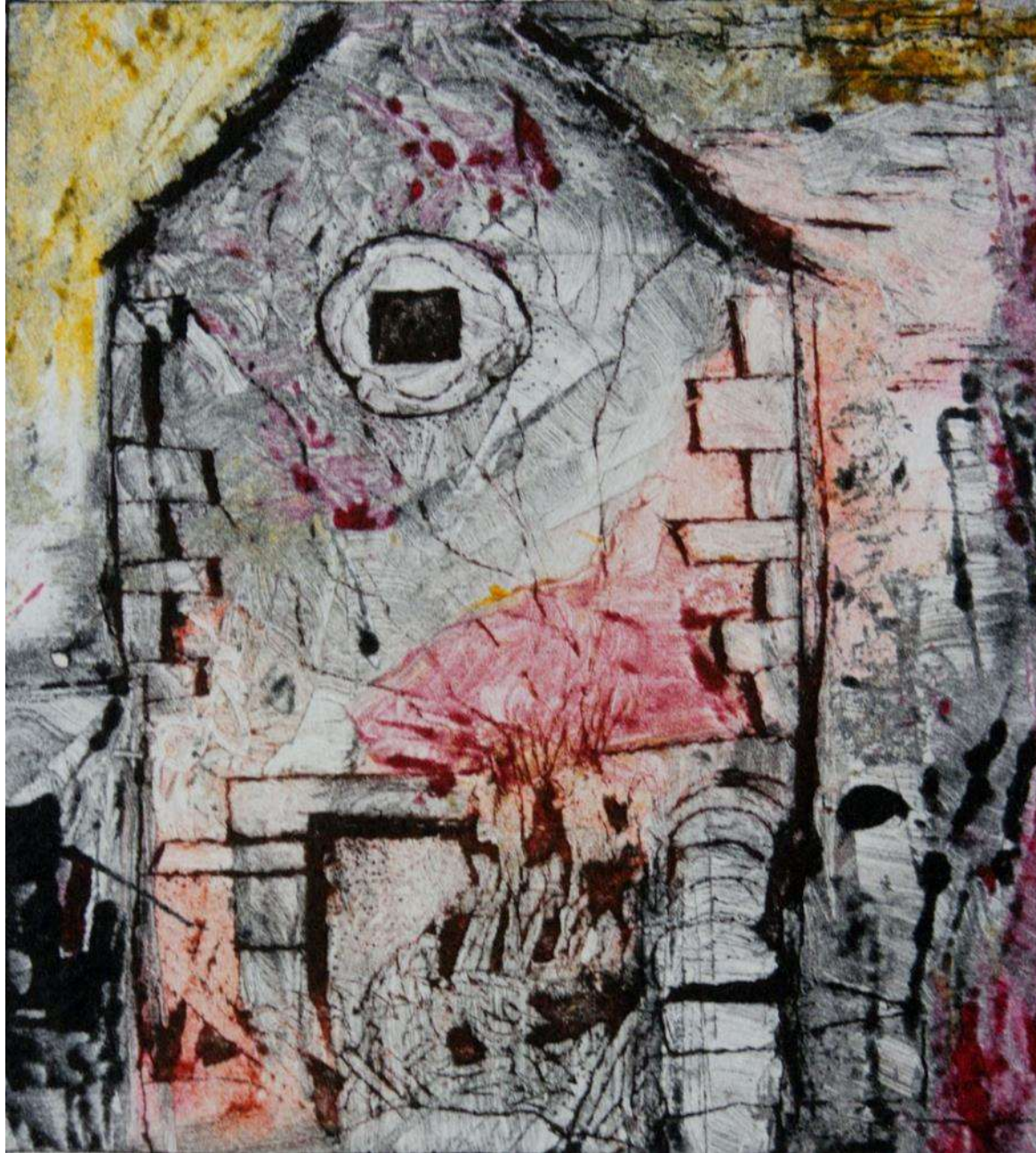
Woodcut of  
the Carriers  
routes



[www.dukesfield.org.uk](http://www.dukesfield.org.uk)



Dry point  
print of  
Dukesfield  
Hall

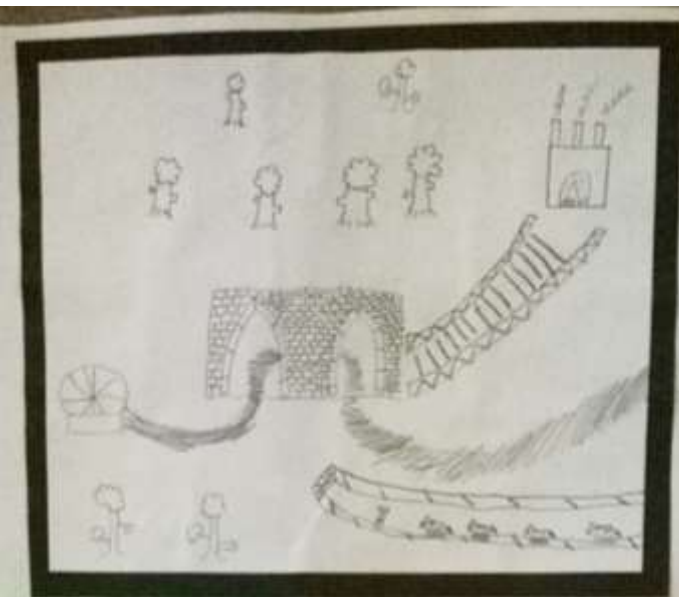






Printmaking using  
polystyrene sheets  
(pizza bases)





Dry Point Print making from sketches



# Contemporary Art – Painting & Drawing

Hexham Art Club visited the Arches and made sketches and rough drawings of the site.

They took their ideas back to their studio and worked them up into some beautiful paintings and drawings.



















IAN DAVIDSON





