Mill Dam Lead Mine

Many buildings near the site were originally part of the lead mining enterprise known as the Mill Dam Mining Company formed about 1855 by a consortium of investors hoping to make a handsome profit.

The company was beset with drainage problems and disputes with neighboring companies. It was mining the same area as the West Mill Dam Mining Company, which was already in financial difficulties. Drainage problems were exacerbated by the wet clay and peat deposits, which made it difficult to operate the mine.

The company was eventually dissolved in 1861, and the buildings were left to fall into disuse. The site was later taken over by the Foundry Adventure Centre, which uses the buildings as a museum and visitor center.

The main building of the current Foundry Adventure Centre was a store for the smelting mill. In 1874 Caleb Hignbotham sued the smelting company for damage to his crops caused by the poisonous fumes emitted by the 80-foot high chimney and won £11 10s 6d in damages. However, the smelting company allowed him to continue until at least 1891 in spite of the alarming report of the medical officer of the Sanitary Authority. Eventually in 1903 the store was sold to the Great Hucklow Village Players and served as their Playhouse until 1971.

The building to the right of the stone shed housed the blacksmith who was important for making and repairing the mining tools and equipment. The great-grandson of one of the blacksmiths still lives in the village.

Behind the Foundry Adventure Centre and the cupola building are the extensive hills of waste material from the mines.

Mineral extraction methods old and new:
1. Modern tunnelling mining in Mill Dam Mine.
2. The decaying remains of an ore wagon in an old working in Black Edge Mine on Evan Edge. This scene would be typical of the working condition in the old Mill Dam Mine—just a waste material behind the mill dam house. The mine is now closed but is currently open to the public.

The old blacksmith's shop in the garden of Mill Dam House.