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WILTSHIRE IN THE AGE OF STEAM

A HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF WILTSHIRE INDUSTRY, C.1750–1950

Peter Stanier

Wiltshire is renowned for its prehistoric monuments, yet its industrial heritage is also surprisingly rich and diverse. Sites of national importance include I. K. Brunel's Great Western Railway and Box Tunnel, once the longest in England, and the Kennet & Avon Canal with its majestic flight of locks at Caen Hill, fine aqueducts and the oldest working Boulton & Watt steam engine in the world at Crofton.

Trowbridge had important textile mills, Wilton is known for its carpets and there were also silk industries. Underground quarries at Corsham furnished building stone; there were limekilns, brickyards and even blast furnaces for Wiltshire iron ore. Farming has left remarkable water meadows, and industries based on agricultural produce were malting, brewing and corn milling by water or wind, and the dairy, condensed milk and bacon industries. Foundries and agricultural engineers supplied the county and foreign parts, while heavy industry was represented by the Swindon Railway Works which employed thousands in its heyday. The Swindon workers' village is one of the best of its type in the country. Other industries included paper, leather, snuff and rubber. Water, gas and electricity supply were important, including hydro-electric power. Military camps, stores and airfields were also significant. Goods were transported by turnpike roads, canals and railways, which all had an impact on Wiltshire's landscape and economy.

This copiously illustrated book examines these and many other aspects of Wiltshire's history in the industrial period, while the archaeology illustrates how the physical remains of industry are a fascinating legacy of the past, whether in the town or country.

Peter Stanier was born in Cornwall and has written a number of books and papers on industrial archaeology subjects, in particular mining and quarrying in southwest England. He has lived for some time in Shaftesbury, Dorset, where he is a lecturer and writer on archaeology, industrial archaeology and landscapes. He is editor of Industrial Archaeology News for the Association for Industrial Archaeology and is a member of the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society. He is also the author of *Dorset in the Age of Steam* and *Somerset in the Age of Steam*.



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The restored windmill at Wilton.

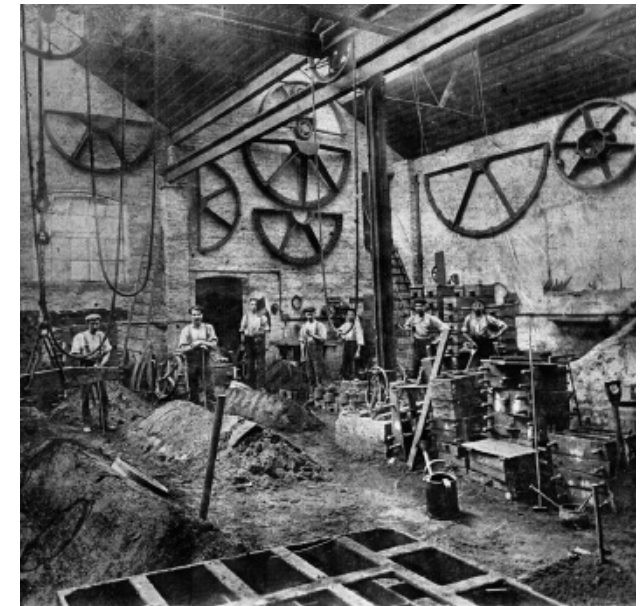
Example of a double page spread.



Thirty-nine houses around Prospect Square in Westbury were built by the Lavertons for their textile workers.



Bricks are stacked awaiting their use for constructing the Market Lavington Viaduct in the late 1890s.



The casting floor in the Avon Side Foundry at Pewsey.



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