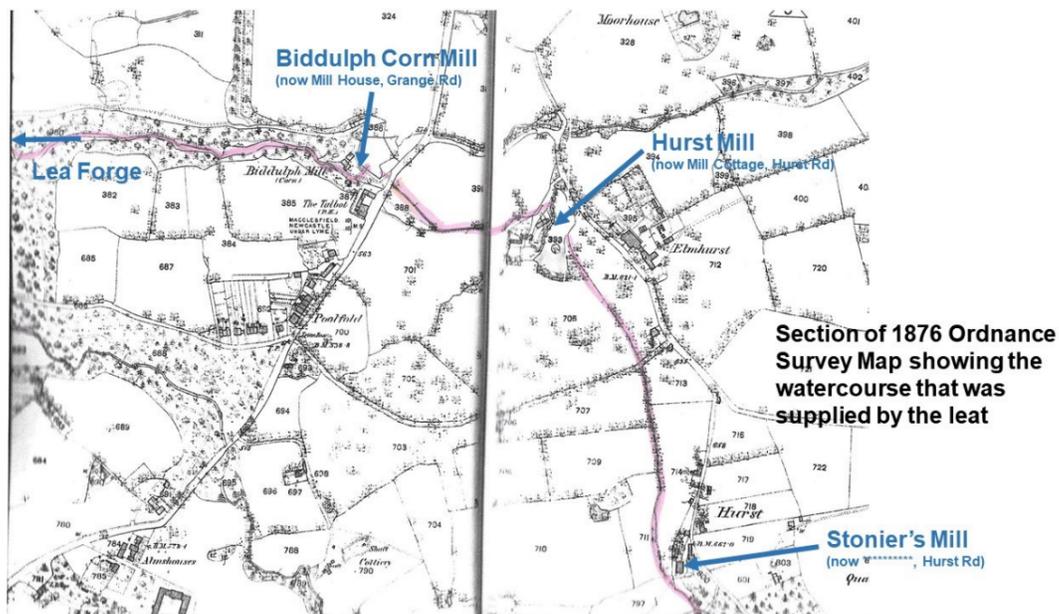


3.

Site	The Leat
Grid Reference / Post Code	SJ899, 594; SJ 897, 597; SJ 895, 599
Brief Description	The Ordnance Survey Map of 1876 shows the route of the leat from within the confines of Biddulph Grange Country Park and onwards, exiting the Country Park at the Hurst Road entrance. It continues its course through fields running parallel with Hurst Road until it enters the Mill House pool on Grange Road. The leat had fallen into considerable disrepair within the Country Park and this year the Biddulph Grange Country Park Friends group raised the funding to have repair works carried out (supported by High Peak Borough Council & Staffordshire Moorlands District Council). Due to this work the integrity of this water source further downstream has been secured.

Criteria.		
Location <i>In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves</i>	√	The leat's story starts at the weir towards the top of the Himalayan Walk in Biddulph Grange Country Park where there is a simple mechanism diverting water off the stream sourced from the moorlands. A further project is underway preparing to prepare an Interpretation Board to be installed at this point to tell the Leat's story. At the point where this important feature exits the Country Park it can be clearly seen from Hurst Road at various points. More importantly it can be viewed via footpaths 158, 36 and 89.
Local Significance <i>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.</i>	√	Almost immediately after the Leat exits the Country Park we find the site of the first mill powered by the leat, Stonier's Mill (ref. Driven by the Dane by Tony Bonson Page 78). Records show that this mill was in existence in January 1813 and was mainly used for cotton spinning. It contained 1,248 throstle spindles which were turned by a powerful waterwheel. From here the leat courses through farmland running parallel to Hurst Road until it reaches Hurst Mill (now known as The Mill Cottage). Here it runs into the mill pool which is still in existence. In Driven by the Dane (page 81) Tony Bonson says it is thought that this mill dates back to the same period as Stonier's Mill since their water supply arrangements are interdependent. In 1840 this mill was listed as a silk mill. The mill was turned by a waterwheel with power sufficient to turn 250 dozen spindles. Water currently still exits the mill pool at Mill Cottage and continues its original course. From the Talbot carpark the original stone structure allowing the leat's onward journey can still be seen. The Mill House pool, originally constructed to serve Biddulph Corn Mill appears on numerous large scale maps from 1770 onwards. According to Tony Bonson in Driven by the Dane (page 84), this mill was also mentioned in a document confirming the Biddulph family's holdings in 1644. This mill was turned by a waterwheel 10ft in diameter and 2ft 6in wide. It powered up to two pairs of millstones and corn was still being milled there in the early 20 th century. The watercourse then leaves the mill pool via a weir and continues its journey through a woodland area, The Clough.
Size, Scale <i>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</i>	√	This is not an extensive tract of land, measuring no more than ½ mile in its total length. It is very local in character having played an essential role in Biddulph's industrial past.
Recommendation	√	Suitable for Local Green Space Designation

Pictures:



Map:

