

# Preston Mill for schools

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Preston Mill is one of the oldest water-driven meal mills in Scotland. There has been a mill on this site for centuries and this one was the last commercially in operation as late as 1957. A century ago there were many mills operating along the River Tyne, serving the farmlands of East Lothian. The site comprises two pan-tiled buildings; the conical-roofed kiln for drying the corn and the mill containing the machinery for grinding it. A large iron water wheel believed to have been produced by Alex Mathers & Son 1910, powers the machinery. There is an exhibition on milling with working models of a quern stone and a gearing system in outhouses.

Phantassie Doocot, a short walk away, has nesting places for 500 birds. Ducks, chickens and geese live around the mill pond and roam freely. (Access is possible with a key from the mill.)

## ● education programme

Preston Mill is an important primary resource that offers cross-curricular learning opportunities for key areas of the Environmental Studies 5-14 curriculum

### a site visit offers

- a guided tour of the property - see the mill working and have the process explained
- an exhibition of the history of milling with working models
- a 5-14 study box with handling material (available for use at the property)
- self-guided walk to Phantassie Doocot (pond-dipping equipment available)

### classroom resources

- 5-14 study box with original artefacts for handling (available for use in the classroom)
- 5-14 resource pack (available on request)
- illustrated guidebook (available on request)
- video and support pack for schools *Preston Mill: a Focus for technology* (available free of charge to teachers in East Lothian, Mid Lothian, West Lothian and City of Edinburgh Councils - contact your curriculum support service)

## ● practical information

### planning your visit

- pre-booking is essential
- maximum class size: 30 with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 children
- cost for school parties: children £1 - accompanying adults admitted free of charge
- Educational Membership of the National Trust for Scotland allows free entry to all NTS properties
- preparation: we welcome a free preparatory visit by the teacher

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## ● for more information contact

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