

# Reading & Wool



Scan of the Reading Coat of Arms granted in 1953, the year of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, reproduced with the permission of the Berkshire Record Office

The rams represent Reading's historic importance in the wool trade



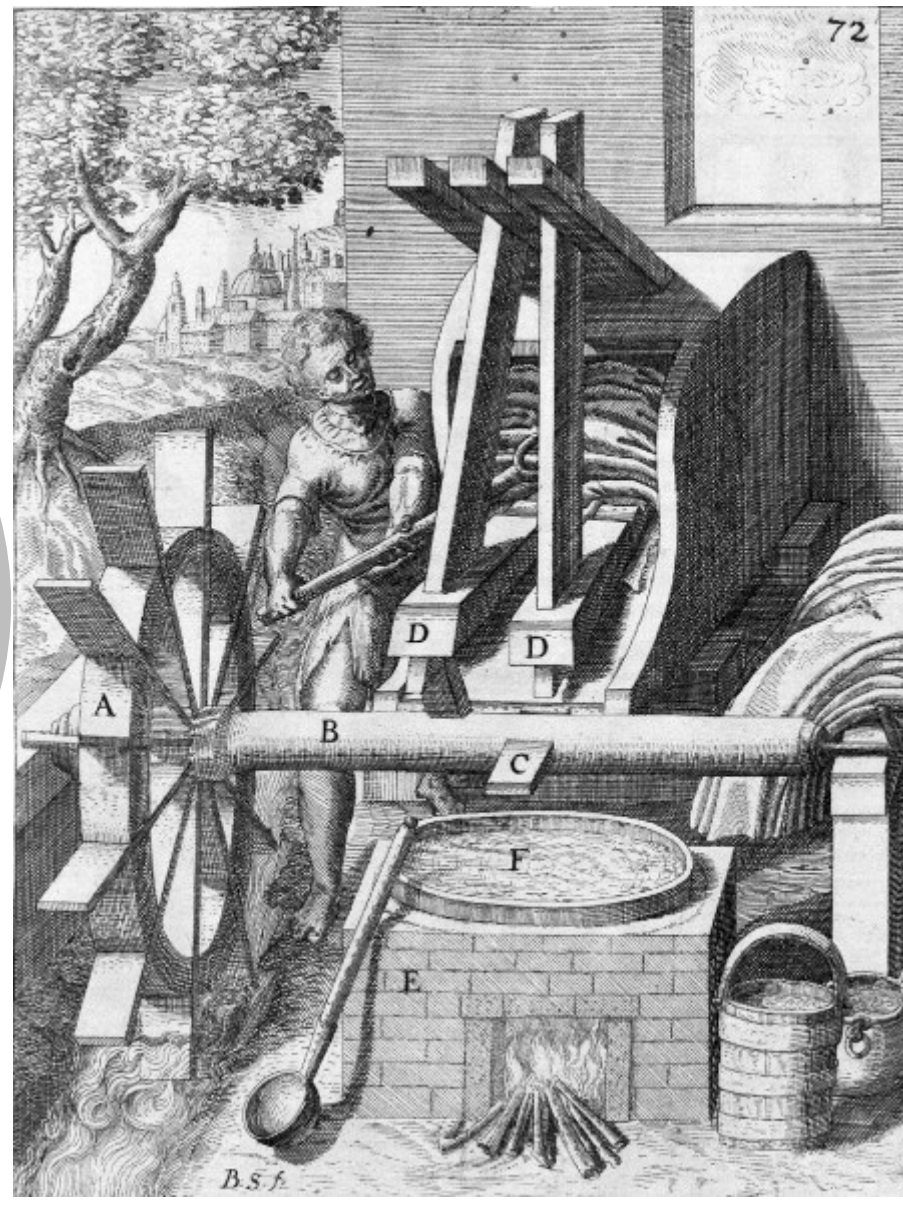
This symbol represents Reading's two rivers which had lots of wool-related uses

Wool from Berkshire flocks was brought to Reading by boat (though this one is towing tourists!)



Photo used courtesy Kennet Horse Boat Company

Fulling mills on the Kennet pounded cloth



Fulling mill by Georg Andreas Böckler via Wikimedia Commons

The Thames was used as a sheep bath



JMW Turner Washing Sheep c1806-7  
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Possibly the same stretch of river as that shown in two drawings in 'Thames, from Reading to Walton' sketchbook



Photograph HW Taunt (1843-1922) from 'In Thamesland' (1906) by HW Wack



Caversham Rd fire station crew rescuing a sheep from an outlet of the Kennet near Smallmead Photo March 2017 used courtesy Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

Sheep are still farmed near Reading (though this one came into Reading to take a bath)

They've been joined by other hairy animals



Photograph of prize alpaca Olympus Bozodown Farm between Whitchurch-on-Thames and Reading

There's a resurgence of interest in wool with lots of Knit & Natter groups in & around Reading



Rachel is a member of the Berkshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers and has demonstrated spinning at the Victorian Christmas in the Warehouse near Cemetery Junction. A computer programmer by day she works with wool to 'do something real'.



Two woolly swimmers backstroking up the Thames towards the lock during Whitchurch Bridge Yarnbombing May 2017 by the Thames Path Together Community Art Project



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Reading's traditional brickwork inspires new knitting patterns