

WAsc 1858

Cornmill Stream  
History  
Note 22-3-2007



## Archive Note

### The Cornmill Stream

The Cornmill Stream was man made, *based on an existing water course.* Its origins lie in two parallel needs for a new and more powerful flow of water to the Abbey. Both arose when Henry II created his great monastery in 1177 and both were connected with the greatly increased number of canons which this brought.

This created a requirement for an organised sanitation system. This was achieved by the construction of a system of culverts under the Abbey buildings. These required a strong flushing source which was achieved by the building of a water course with a high head utilising the gravel terrace to the east of the Valley with branches to the sewers. Evidence of site raising/levelling within the Abbey possibly connected with this stream has recently been uncovered in the shape of layers of dumped materials in the Abbey Mead - diagram attached.

Secondly there was a greatly increased food requirement. The existing water flow to the Abbey corn mill was light and a more powerful flow was required to ensure regularity and sufficiency of supply - neatly solved by directing the new stream into the mill channel.

Reflecting this usage, the new stream became known as the Cornmill Stream, rather than, not surprisingly, its lavatorial function.

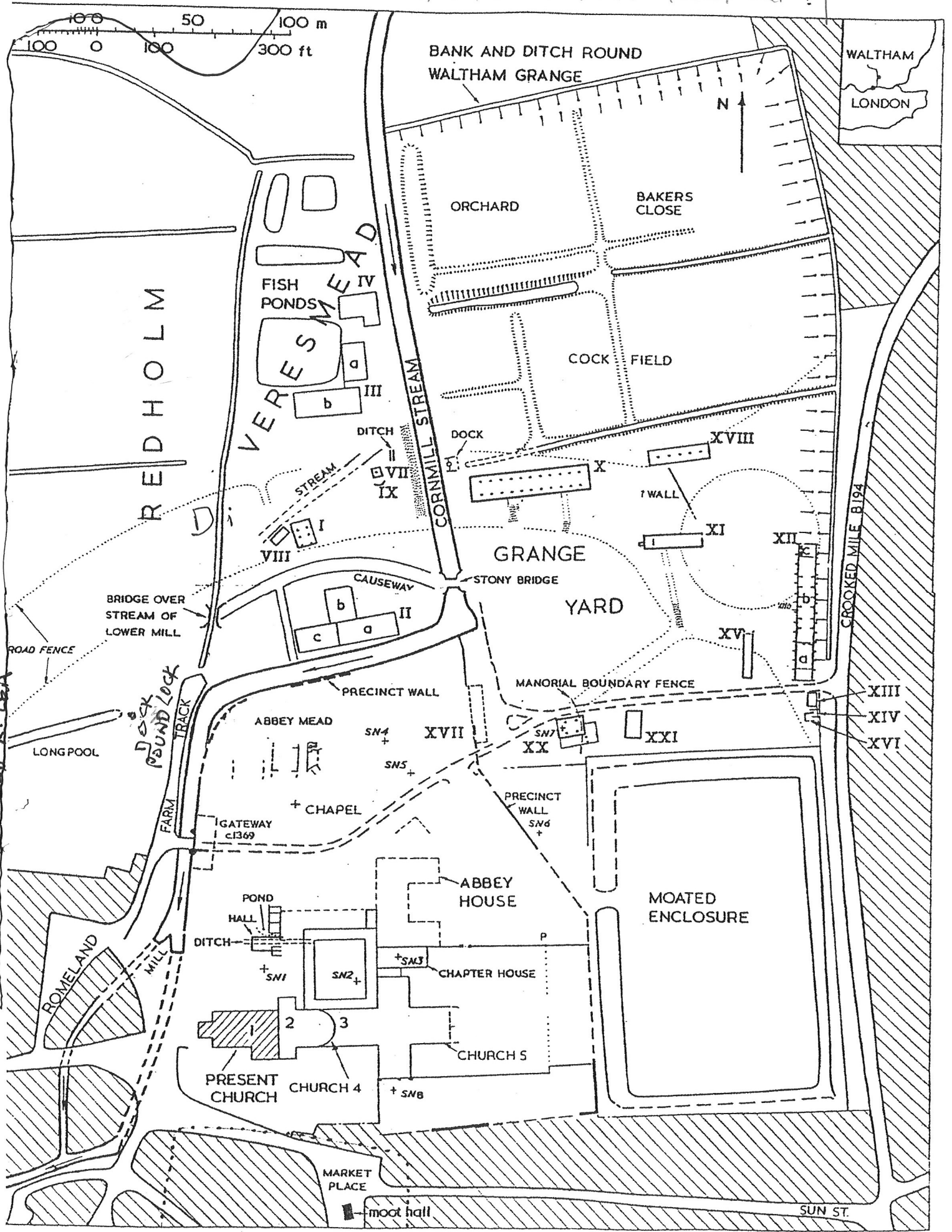
The line of the old watercourse serving the mill, the 'one mill' existing in 1066 mentioned in the Doomesday Book, is still visible in the form of a ditch, marked Di on the map.

**Les Tucker**

22-03-2007

# SHAPES IN THE LANDSCAPE

SAXO-NORMAN WALTHAM ABBEY LEFT PAGE



SN2 ETC ARE PLACES WHERE SAXO-NORMAN OCCUPATION IS KNOWN

DUMPED, SITE  
LEVELLING  
DEPOSITS

