

WAsc 2231

Booklet on  
The Mills Archive



# The Mills Archive

SAVING THE MEMORIES OF OUR MILLING HERITAGE

Christmas & Birthday Cakes to Order.  
Agents for Thorley's Cattle Food and Chicken Spice.

1.50  
March 28 1912  
Mr L Wise

EAST AND WEST END MILLS,  
SMARDEN.

Dr. to Thomas Cornes

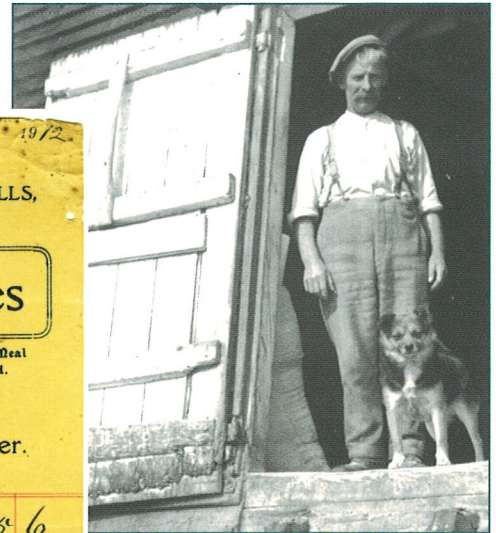
Spiller's & Baker's  
Dog Biscuits.  
Biscuit Meals.  
Meat Meals.  
Flint Grit.  
Oyster Shells, etc.

Hovis, Curog  
and

Whole-Meal  
Bread.

Miller, Cornfactor,  
Baker and Confectioner.

1/2 Cwt caked Cake	5 6
1 Sk Best W Oats	12 9
1/2 Cwt Flint grit	2 6
	<hr/>
	£ 1 = 9



Mills Archive Trust

**Discover the Mills Archive in action**

**Access our material on windmills and watermills**

**Help us to shape our future**



As mills succumb to the ravages of the weather, of neglect or deliberate alteration, archival records can often be the only elements of the structures to survive

#### Why are we fascinated by mills?

**Traditional mills** are of huge importance if we are to understand the ways in which our ancestors lived and worked. The UK has a long history of milling that spans a millennium, dating back to the early years of the first century AD when the Romans introduced the vertical waterwheel to Britain.

**The Mills Archive** is a permanent repository - of worldwide scope - for historical and contemporary material on traditional mills and milling. The subject of milling includes **millwrighting** and mills in social, technological and architectural history.



An Indian lady operates a rotary quern to grind the family's grain into flour, which is caught by the wide trough around the stones

#### What is a "traditional mill"?

A mill can be described as a device powered by **wind, water** or **steam**, or the **muscles** of humans or animals, to perform a milling function: the **grinding** or **crushing** of cereal grains, such as wheat, into flour, or meal, for human consumption.

In a wider sense, the term "mill" is used to describe a **source of power** employed to perform a range of industrial functions, such as mining, metal working, raising water, sawing timber, processing textiles, making gunpowder and crushing seeds for the production of oil.

#### Saving our milling heritage

Public interest in mills has gained momentum in recent years. This is perhaps because we have a better understanding of the value of our historic buildings, machines and structures, and the traditional crafts and techniques which were developed and grew alongside them.

The mill conservation movement depends heavily on the support of bodies such as the Mills Archive that supply vital details of the mills as they used to be.

## THE INCREASING NEED FOR A MILLS ARCHIVE

**The Mills Archive is a professional organisation born out of the need to provide a home for information relating to our heritage of mills.**

In this way, it is akin to the National Monuments Record, operated by English Heritage, which provides information on Britain's historic monuments and all its listed buildings. Prior to 2002, no subject-specific archive for mills existed. A mill is a unique structure – a working machine rather than just a building – and the Mills Archive recognises the need to maintain records of the machinery inside mills as well as the outer shells in which their working parts are contained.

The increasing need for an Archive dedicated to mills was confirmed soon after it had been established in April 2002, based on the three private Foundation Collections of Mildred Cookson, J Kenneth Major and Alan Stoyel. Almost immediately, the SPAB Mills Section provided our fourth Foundation Collection, and we received large bequests of material following the deaths of two highly-active mill researchers, Peter Dolman and Don Paterson.

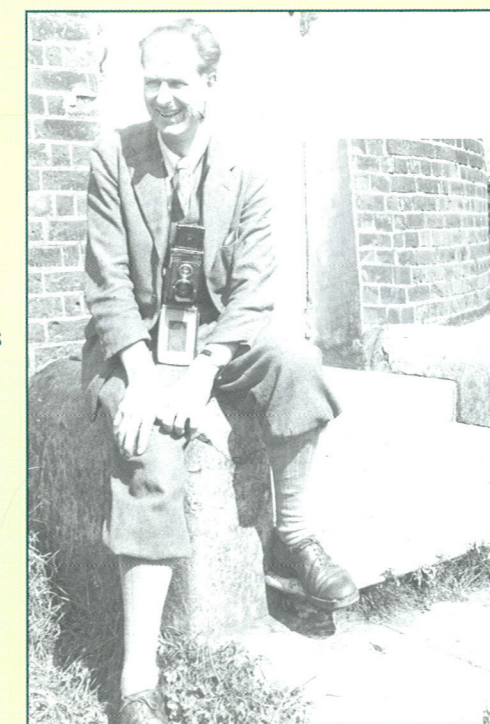
This growth trend has continued. We receive between 5 and 10 large collections annually, as well as several smaller donations from individuals. The use of our website catalogue has also gained momentum since it was launched in October 2003. The site welcomes 100 new visitors every month, and our registered users exceeded 7,000 in 2009.

### A pioneering preservationist

In the early 20th century, **Rex Wailes (1901-1986)** met and corresponded with the last generation of working millers and millwrights, many of whom had started in the trade during the reign of Queen Victoria. His interest in mills developed while apprenticed in Lincoln in 1923.

Rex's published work, detailed notes, photographs and correspondence form a vivid record of these individuals, as well as of the mills they were involved with. His best-known book, *The English Windmill*, was published in 1954 and is still considered by many to be the standard work on the subject.

Thanks to Foundation Trustee Alan Stoyel, whose efforts resulted in the rescue of the collection, Rex's research notes and correspondence are now preserved at the Mills Archive.





## We are working at speed to save vulnerable collections of material relating to our milling heritage

### Here are some of the things we have achieved in our first seven years:

- We have unearthed more than **1.5 million documents** and provide a safe haven for several large and vulnerable collections of mill-related material.
- We have brought all the information together under one roof in **permanent storage**, to keep it safe for the future.
- We provide a **research room and library**, located in Reading, for mill researchers to visit in order to examine original archival material (see page 21).
- We run three **websites**, including a regularly updated **online catalogue** which currently has 20,000 items, to bring our data to a worldwide user base (see page 20).
- We have successfully managed a series of **collaborative projects**, supported by public funds, to catalogue records of mills in several areas of the UK such as Dorset, Nottinghamshire, Suffolk, Kent, Sussex and north-east England.



The watermill on the left of this picture was demolished as part of a road-widening scheme, and is gone for ever. The wooden machinery inside the mill was taken out and destroyed. Archival records are the only elements of this mill to survive. In many cases, the Mills Archive holds the only records in existence of the hundreds of similar mills that the UK has lost.

## A SERIES OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

Since the Mills Archive was established in 2002, it has continued to deliver successful digitisation projects, often in collaboration with the organisations listed here:

Kent County Council  
National Monuments Record  
North East Mills Group  
Sussex Mills Group  
Templeman Library, University of Kent  
Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

### 2002

**Mills Archive Online**  
Dorset & Nottinghamshire Mills  
Millers & machinery

Our Internet catalogue

### 2003

**North East Mills Online**  
Northumbrian Mills

New Archive Store

### 2004

**Kent Millers' Tales**  
8,000 new items

Our first 60 collections

### 2005

### 2006

The Library and Research Centre

### 2007

The Friends of the Mills Archive

### 2008

Mill Memories

### 2009

**Frank Gregory Online**

35,000 new items



### 2010

*"An innovative use of technology to bring archival material closer to the public"*  
Mike Evans, Head of Archives, National Monuments Record, English Heritage

*"This excellent project... must rate amongst the best £50,000 we have spent so far"*  
Catherine Wilson, East Midlands Committee of the Heritage Lottery Fund



## THE MILLS ARCHIVE IN ACTION

The Mills Archive contains historic documents, photographs and information showing our preserved heritage of mills as they appeared in their working days. Our understanding of the mills that survive today can be greatly enhanced by comparing what is left with records of what has been lost.

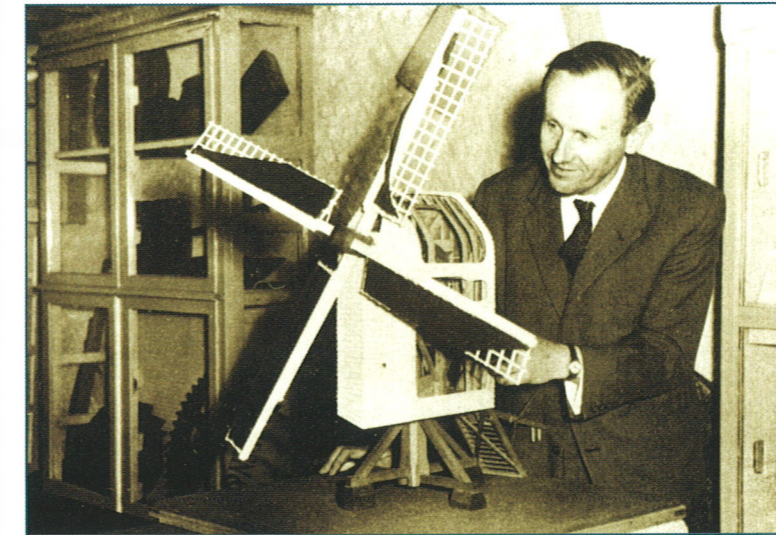
This windmill - at Brill, near Bicester in Bucks - has been restored to an authentic standard using photographic and documentary materials made available by the Mills Archive.



Photograph: © 2009 Mark Bailey

## THE FRANK GREGORY ONLINE PROJECT

Frank William Gregory (1917-1998) was the Sussex authority on traditional mills, happily sharing his information and knowledge with everyone who had a similar interest. He painstakingly sketched, photographed and took notes at each mill he visited. Over 65 years, he built up an unrivalled record of windmills and watermills in Sussex and beyond its borders, many of which have long since disappeared.



Frank demonstrates the scale model of a post mill that he built

Frank Gregory left his work to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum in 1998, since when the public has not had access to this important archive.

Combining the skills of mill experts from around the UK, **Frank Gregory Online** ensures the protection of these important regional heritage records and encourages their public use.

The extent and scope of Frank's collection is enormous. We are committed to cataloguing 35,000 archival items - our most ambitious target to date. This number includes 115,500 35mm slides, nearly 10,000 postcards and 1860 glass plate negatives and lantern slides. The material will be added to our existing web catalogue, and elements will be used to create a series of educational packages and stand-alone presentations.

The cataloguing work has been carried out by two teams of volunteers - those at the Mills Archive, and a group of local experts from the Sussex Mills Group, many of whom worked alongside Frank on various mill projects. More than 50% of the collection comprises unlabelled images of mills, taken on Frank's numerous trips around the UK and abroad, and their identification has demanded a great deal of teamwork!

### SUSSEX WATERMILLS



FRANK GREGORY and RON MARTIN

Only a fraction of Frank's knowledge of mills appeared in print. This book contains his lively sketches of many bygone mills



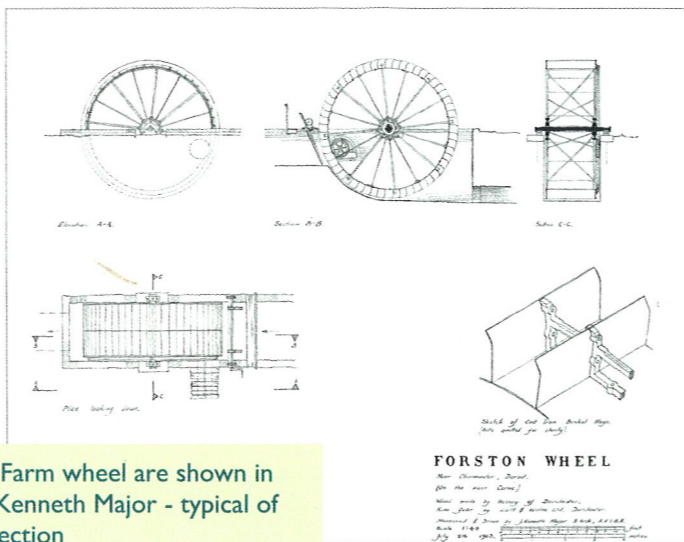
### DIVERSITY OF THE FOUNDATION COLLECTIONS

The diverse scope of the Mills Archive's collections is demonstrated by the wide variety of research interests of three of its Trustees. The Foundation Collections of Mildred Cookson, J Kenneth Major and Alan Stoyel are three of the UK's largest and most significant private collections of mill material.

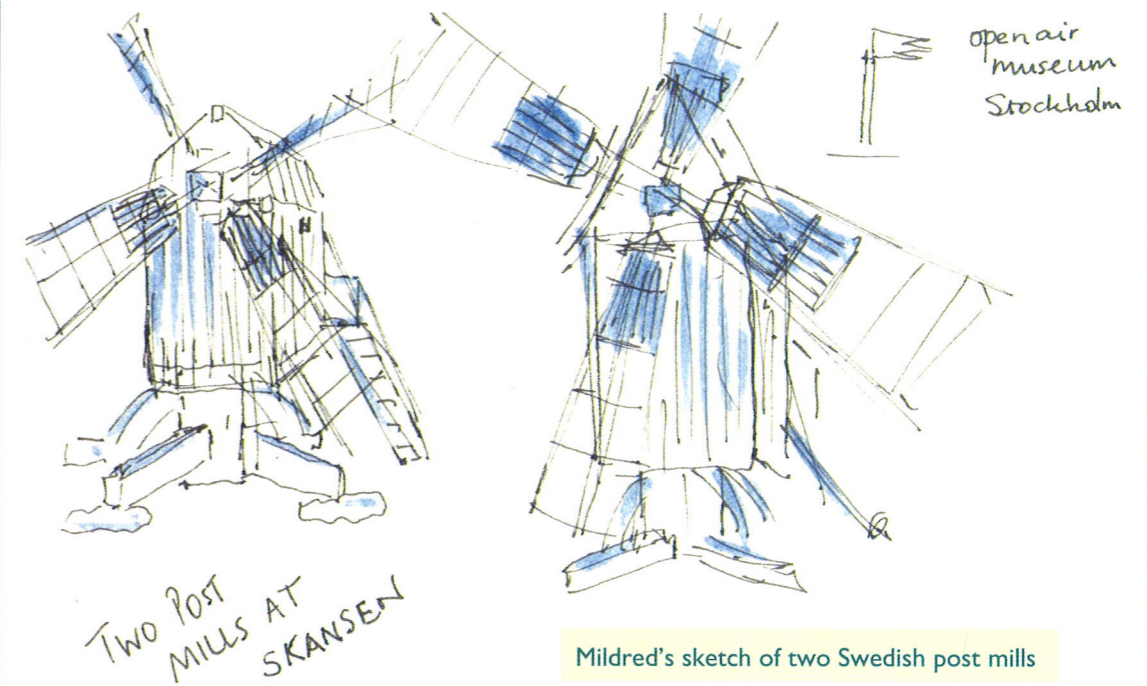


Photographed by Alan Stoyel, members of the SPAB Mills Section examine Forston Farm water-wheel near Charminster, during the Section's tour of Dorset mills in 1987

In addition to his keen interest in English watermills, Alan Stoyel's job as a geologist took him to Spain, Belgium and Scotland, providing opportunities for detailed studies of wind- and water-power sites in these areas. Born in West Kent, Alan has maintained a strong interest in the mills of the county. His detailed records of the watermills of his home area, a fraction of which have been published in a recent book, have added especial value to the Archive's Kent Millers' Tales project.

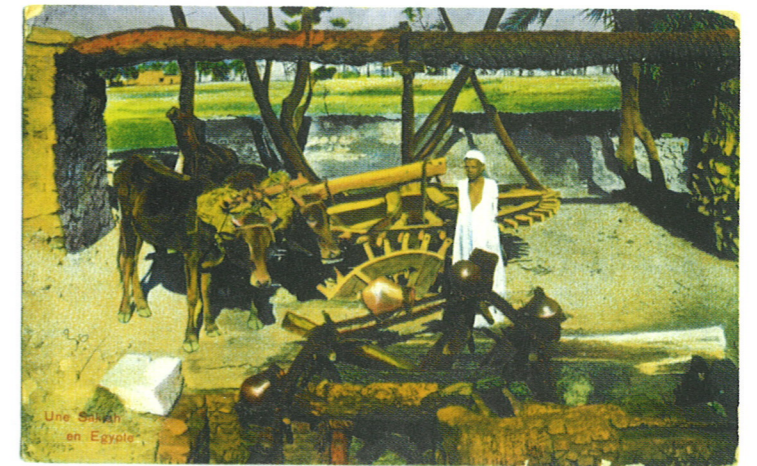


The technical details of Forston Farm wheel are shown in this large measured drawing by Kenneth Major - typical of many similar drawings in his collection



Mildred's sketch of two Swedish post mills

Since the 1960s, Mildred Cookson has built up an unrivalled collection of many thousands of historic postcards showing different types of mills in the UK and around the globe. These range from the camel- and bullock-operated Norias for water-raising in Egypt (right) to the sugar cane mills of Barbados. Mildred's interest in the different types of windmills and wind engines throughout the world has resulted in a collection of catalogues, illustrations and photographs from Russia, the USA, Europe and Australia.



Water is raised from a well to irrigate fields in Egypt using this machine, known as a Noria (Mildred Cookson Collection)

Closer to home, her collection of illustrated trade catalogues, billheads and sale particulars offer an insight into the operation and repair of traditional windmills and watermills in the UK. Growing up in Lancashire, the mills of Anglesey and north-west England have remained in focus throughout Mildred's life and this is reflected in her own drawings, paintings and illustrations. Mildred's diaries of her involvement with the Kent Windmills restoration project, and her experiences of running a traditional watermill on the Thames, add a uniquely personal element to her collection.



## DIVERSITY OF THE FOUNDATION COLLECTIONS

**J Kenneth Major's** collection reflects his longstanding interest in the mills of different parts of the world, as a former chairman and founder member of The International Molinological Society (TIMS). The contrasting approaches of engineers such as Ernest-Sylvain Bolleé, John Wallis Titt and E Lancaster Burne, each of whom were involved with the development of wind-power technology, are notable elements of this large collection. A prominent international theme is the origin and design of animal-powered machines and the variety of uses to which muscle power was applied.

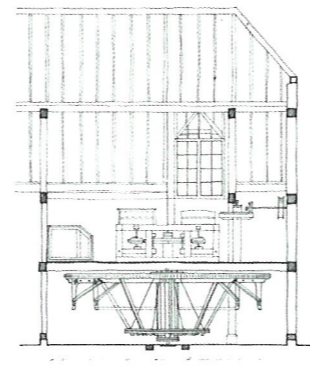


High water at Mapledurham Mill in 2007, photographed by Mildred Cookson

### Links between the Foundation Collections

The mills of Berkshire, Oxfordshire and the Thames valley are well represented, as all three Foundation trustees have local milling connections.

During the 1970s, **Alan Stoyel** purchased and fully restored Venn Mill, a small watermill at Garford, Oxfordshire. His collection includes records of the changing state of the mill and the work involved in its repair, as well as his comparative studies of other watermills in the area. **J Kenneth Major** undertook a survey of the surviving remains of Berkshire's watermills in 1963, producing detailed drawings of several examples including those in Reading and Wokingham. Since that time, the process of change has been rapid and many of the mills he surveyed have been demolished or irreversibly altered. The sole-remaining working watermill on the Thames is at Mapledurham, where **Mildred Cookson** has been the miller since 1983. Her diaries describe the life and times of a present-day corn miller and the challenges she has faced, including flooding, mill moth and broken paddles.



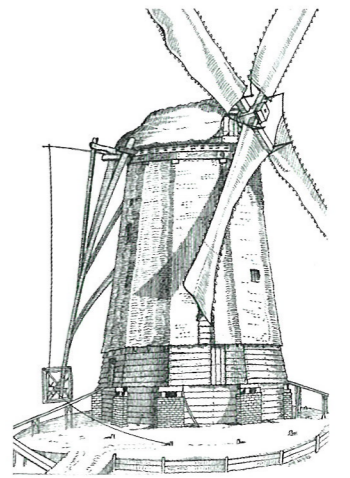
Kenneth Major's drawing of the unusual horse mill at Woolley Park, Berkshire

### The SPAB Mills Section Collection

The fourth Foundation Collection at the Mills Archive is that of the Mills Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The Section, founded in 1931, is the statutory body that campaigns for the future of the UK's heritage of mills. Based in London, the Section's archive had outgrown its premises and, in May 2005, the Mills Archive was asked to provide a home for the collection so it could be made available to the public. Many mill personalities are, or have been, members of the Mills Section and its collection contains the early survey work of individuals such as E Mitford Abraham, Hallam Ashley, Michael Dunn, Paul Baker, Miss E M Gardner and Lord Paul N Wilson.

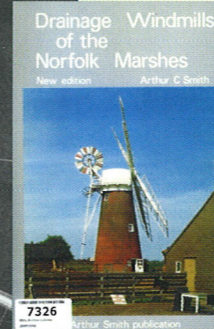
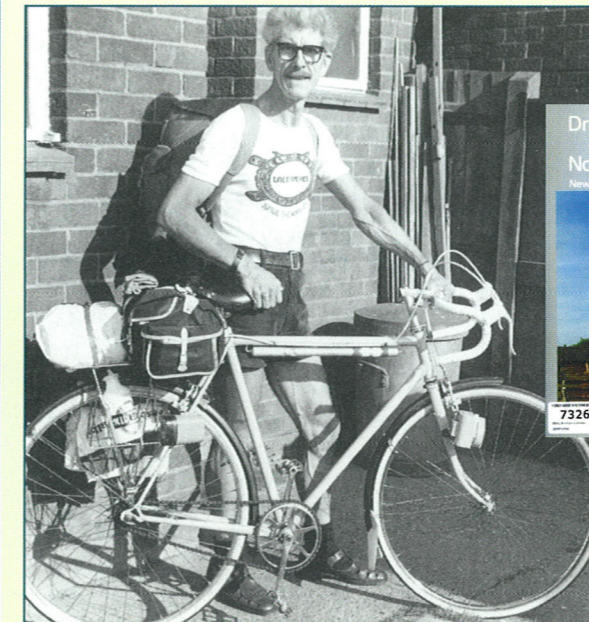
### Stephen Buckland and his collection

A Section member and one of the most lively and diligent mill researchers of recent times was Stephen Buckland (1935-2006). His inquisitive nature and eye for detail led Stephen to examine the windmill symbols on old maps and the depiction of mills in landscape paintings, in order to establish their accuracy. To gain a clearer understanding of what the artist aimed to depict, Stephen often drew his own versions of the illustrations, resulting in a remarkable collection of line drawings. The collection also includes hundreds of items of correspondence with other mill researchers. Stephen donated his entire collection to the Mills Archive shortly before his death in February 2006, and the task to catalogue it continues.



A Dutch smock mill, seen through the eyes of Stephen Buckland

### Dedication to the cause



During the 1970s and 1980s, **Arthur C Smith** travelled many thousands of miles around the UK in search of the remains of windmills. His photographs were published in a series of contemporary surveys covering fifteen counties in the south and east of England.

His meticulous site notes, 35mm slides, drawings and photographs have been catalogued and made publicly available through the activities of the Mills Archive.



## Digitising our images reveals a wealth of detail



The remarkable clarity of this A5-size photograph has been demonstrated by scanning it at high resolution - 1200dpi. Small details can be picked out and their size increased, allowing them to be clearly seen on a computer screen or printed at a large scale (top right).

## MILLWRIGHTING RECORDS

It is unlikely that the **millwrights** who built and repaired the mills in the heyday of their operation had time to document their work. For this reason and others, very few records of the work of traditional millwrights have survived into the era of mill repair. Although distinct millwrighting styles can be attributed to different regions of the country, details of these styles have only recently been committed to paper by mill researchers.



Suffolk millwright Jesse Wightman reveals components removed during the repair of Saxtead Green post mill

One such researcher was Peter Dolman, whose collection includes copies of technical drawings produced by the 19th-century firm of **Whitmore and Binyon**, millwrights and engineers of Wickham Market, who designed and built several mills in Suffolk and in neighbouring areas, many of which still exist. In addition to his own fastidiously-executed studies of mills, Peter amassed information on several 20th-century millwrighting projects to restore a variety of windmills and watermills in East Anglia - many of which were planned with reference to earlier archival records.

In other areas of the country, family history research has led to the discovery of fascinating evidence of millwrighting activity. Geoff Holman of Kent, in the course of his research into **Holman Bros, millwrights of Canterbury**, transcribed the contents of the Holmans' work diaries relating to several existing and bygone Kent mills, and donated the results to the Mills Archive. These have been published on our web catalogue as part of the Millers' Tales Project (see page 20).

## Millwrighting across the pond



In 1974, English millwright **Derek Ogden** emigrated to America, taking all his records with him, and set up a successful business there. Soon after the Mills Archive was established in 2002, Derek shipped his UK records back to us at his own expense, providing us with a fascinating perspective on the work of an English millwright in the 1960s and early 70s. To complete his legacy, Derek will also be donating to us the records of his work on the mills of the USA. The photograph shows one of Derek's best-known restoration projects - the unusual tower mill at Chesterton, Warwickshire.

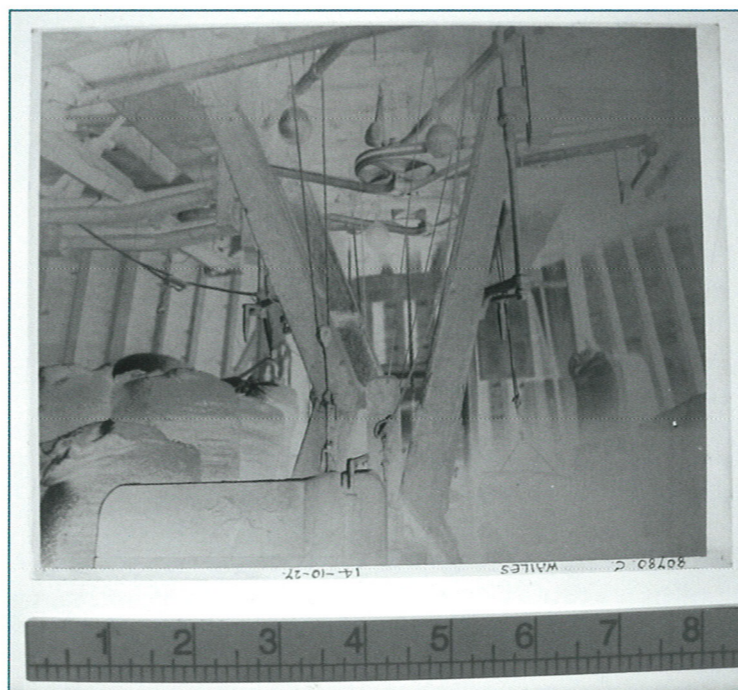


## PROBLEMATIC MEDIA

### Saving our archival originals

Currently, the collections of the Mills Archive contain over 1.5 million items. Each medium presents different problems of conservation and storage. The large quantities of items involved add a further complication to the work of organising and cataloguing the material!

Old photographs and documents deteriorate rapidly. We work to protect them by arranging appropriately-designed storage, and this can often be expensive.



A fragile glass plate negative showing machinery (scale in inches)

### Maximising the value of the collections

Once it has been brought to Reading, our skilled team of Trustees and volunteers work together to re-house, organise and index the material. The documents and images we receive are not always labelled, and the knowledge of our local experts is a valuable tool in identifying the material. Items that need special treatment are isolated before they can deteriorate further. In most cases we aim to digitise images and documents so we can keep a master copy safe and avoid the risk of damage from repeated handling.

### Types of archival item

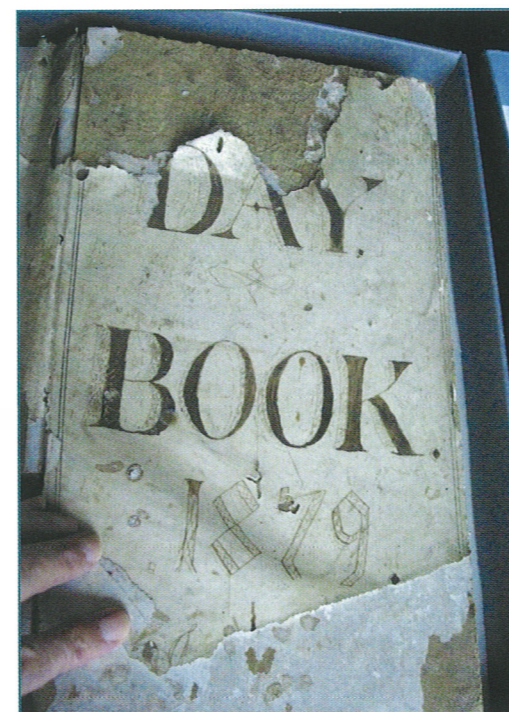
Our **glass plate negatives** (example above) vary greatly in size. They are fragile to handle and store, heavy to transport, and difficult and time-consuming to digitise. All this makes the cataloguing of glass negatives extremely costly. Specialist equipment is needed to view the thousands of negatives in our collections. They are much less accessible than photographic prints, but can contain valuable hidden information because not all images were always printed up. We also have many thousands of film negatives.

Scanning negatives at high resolution so they can be viewed on a computer screen is a practical solution to the problems of accessibility they present.

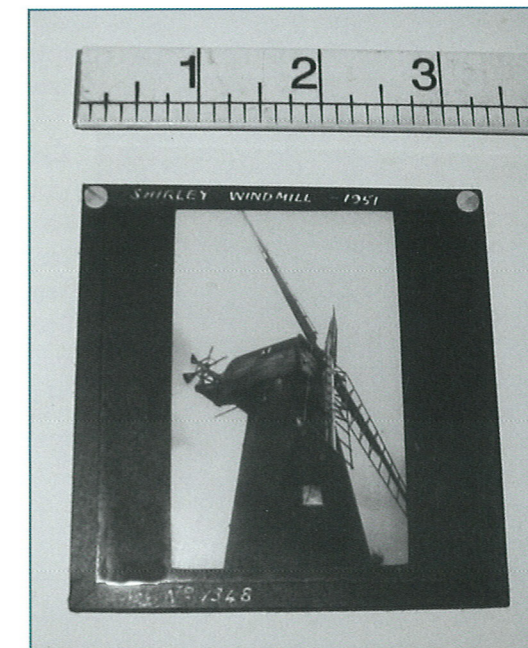
## Don't let records of mills fade away - support our care and conservation programme

Our collections include several hundred thousand **35mm slides**. Depending on the type of film used, the colour used in transparencies tends to fade. Digitisation of them is time-consuming but comparatively inexpensive, and is one solution to the problem of degradation of the images.

**Lantern slides** (example right) are more robust than glass negatives, but are consequently heavier. Many of the issues regarding storage and handling of glass negatives also apply to lantern slides.



The Mills Archive provides proper care, conservation and storage of fragile documents and artefacts. Historic ledgers, and day books like this one illustrate the typical daily operation of small rural mills, recording each individual transaction of milling activity. The size of the example above makes its digitisation a challenge



A glass lantern slide (scale in inches)

**Films** of mills are subject to decay after a certain amount of time, and should be digitised as soon as is practicable.

The sheer numbers of **press cuttings** relating to mills in our collections are time consuming to organise but provide a valuable research tool. The thin paper used for news print is prone to inevitable yellowing and decay within just a few years.

**Large drawings** of mills are best stored flat in plan chests, and consequently require large amounts of space. The digitisation of such large documents is possible, although expensive.



## MILL PERSONALITIES AND THEIR COLLECTIONS

The world of mills and milling is a small one – in that many of the people involved with the subject know one another! Consequently, a lot of fascinating correspondence about different mill topics has been generated, a considerable amount of which is now held in the collections of the Mills Archive.

Many prominent mill researchers, past and present, corresponded with one another. In certain cases, our collections contain correspondence from both parties, with the result that today's researchers can read an uninterrupted exchange of information.



Peter Dolman (1955-2002, left) and G C 'Chris' Wilson (born 1935), two East Anglian millers and enthusiasts, seen at Theltenham Mill, Suffolk, in 1996

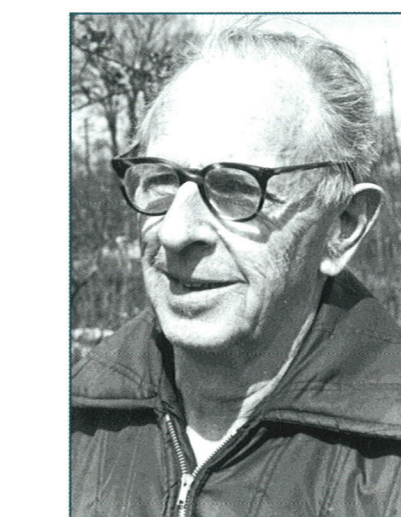
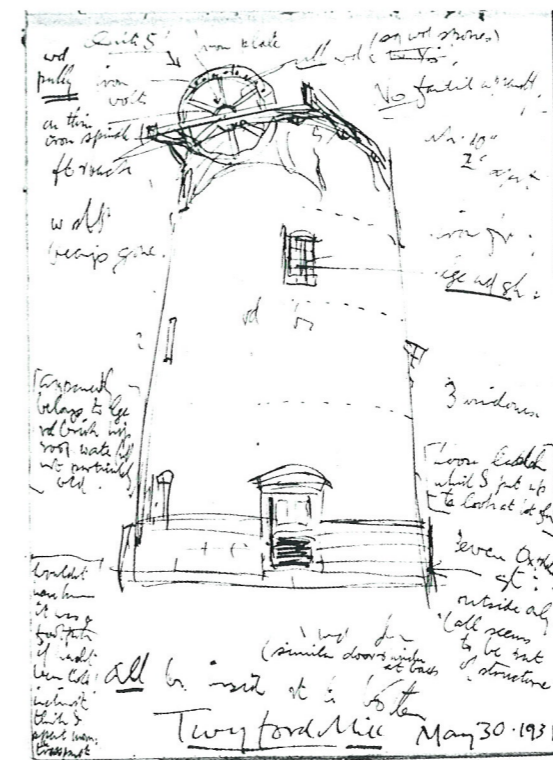
As a result, the information these researchers produced has a rare historical value. By bringing these early mill collections together under one roof, we can further increase the value of the material by establishing links between the collections. In many instances, the notes made by early researchers have proved invaluable in tracing the history of a mill's operation and establishing the details of its past owners.

### Establishing links between collections

In the 1930s, the discipline of photographing and recording the details of mills was at an early stage. Many mills were still working, and pioneers such as Syd Simmons, Donald W Muggeridge and Stanley Freese talked to the last generations of millers and millwrights before such rich sources of information were lost forever.



Donald W Muggeridge (born circa 1920, left) and H E S 'Syd' Simmons (1901-1973) pause during an excursion to Sussex in search of mills in 1938



Stanley Freese (1902-1972), enthusiast and author of *Windmills and Millwrighting* (1957), photographed during his retirement in Suffolk. The page of Stanley's notebook shows a field sketch of Twyford Windmill, Bucks

Occasionally, differences of opinion between mill personalities can be detected in some of the correspondence in our collections! This makes for interesting reading, as well as having the positive effect of correcting previous mistakes and misapprehensions.

Field sketches and notes, such as those shown above which date from the early 1930s, were often made shortly prior to the destruction of a disused mill to make way for rapidly spreading housing developments. Informal sketches like these can be of equal value to carefully-prepared scale drawings, as they may represent the last records of the structures ever to be made.



"Many, many thanks to the Mills Archive for making publicly available the images of the glass plates taken by my great-grandfather Dr Bernard Richardson Billings. My grandfather and his family moved to Canada and while it is possible to one day make the trip to England, it has been great to see the images that my grandfather spent many a summer vacation visiting with his father as Bernard took the images. No copies of any of these images exist in my grandfather's collection of photos, yet we had heard a small few number of tales associated with these photography holidays."

Diana Macdonald, Guelph, Ontario



## PROMOTING RESEARCH INTO MILLS AND PEOPLE

The Mills Archive encourages research into all aspects of mills and milling, and provides facilities and expertise to support a range of mill research projects.

Explore our website catalogue

Now viewing item #B460 - Exterior view 2

You can begin your mill research immediately by visiting our website and creating your own account which can be used to view the catalogued material in our collections. Use of our web catalogue is free to registered users. Our purpose-built **search page** (below) is easy to use and is designed to allow you to quickly access the information you are interested in. You can search for a specific person or mill, the mills of a particular region and type, or a particular milling theme using our keyword list.

Our website catalogue can be used to help you plan your visit to our Library and Research Centre. Each item in our collections has its own **ID number** (above). By quoting this in advance, we can retrieve the original material from our store for you to inspect. Although we aim to digitise as much as possible of our material, the majority of items in our collections are listed in **finding aid indexes** which appear on our website catalogue as text items. If you are not sure exactly what you are looking for, our browse facility allows you to explore the collections for that chance find.

Let us do the hard work for you!

If you would like to discover more about our collections but are unable to make the journey to Reading, we can offer to carry out the research for you for a modest charge. Details of this service can be found at [millsarchive.com/researchquestions.aspx](http://millsarchive.com/researchquestions.aspx). Our volunteers and trustees have diverse mill research interests, and the Mills Archive draws this knowledge together to provide a unique research facility.

"Thank you for the improved definition photographs which you sent last week. Having such items readily available online through the Archive is, it seems to me, just about the best encouragement any mills researcher can get. Regards, **Mike Beacham**"

Search the Archive (choose one option)

Type in your search term below  
 Use a full or partial text fragment; People searches will find names that "sound like" your search term

Search mills   
  Search people   
  Text Fragment

Select keywords from the 'Available' list on the left  
 [Double click to pick]

Available keywords	Keywords selected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mill race</li> <li>mill bill</li> <li>mill race</li> <li>Millers</li> <li>millstone</li> <li>Millwrights</li> <li>model</li> <li>N E Mills Online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mine wheel</li> </ul>

Part of the search page of the catalogue at [millsarchive.com](http://millsarchive.com)

## An unequalled research tool

To maintain our records of mills, the key tool developed by the Mills Archive is the nationwide **Mills Index**, which lists details of every location in the UK and beyond which contains, or formerly contained, a mill, together with important details of their structures and working parts. The Mills Index contains records of more than 10,000 mills, and is continually expanded and updated during the course of our activities.

Mill Name	Location	Type	Purpose	NGR1	NGR2	NGR3	River	Min Date	Max Date
Charlie Water's Mill	Acle	Tower Mill	Land Drainage TG	413	110	Bure			
Clippesby Mill	Ashby with Oby	Tower Mill	Land Drainage TG	409	127	Bure		1814	
Oby Mill	Ashby with Oby Great	Tower Mill	Land Drainage TG	409	138	Bure		1753	
Ashtree Farm Mill	Yarmouth Horning	Tower Mill	Land Drainage TG	507	095	Bure		1912	1953cw
Neave's Mill	Marshes	Tower Mill	Land Drainage TG	365	176	Ant			

A section of the Mills Index listing the drainage mills of the Norfolk Broads. Included are the earliest and the latest dates for which we have records of the existence of a mill at these sites

## Discover a milling connection in your family

Researchers interested in genealogy and the personal aspect of mills and milling are well served by the Mills Archive's collections. Our new **family history database** contains information on close to 100,000 individuals with a milling connection. This combines data relating to millers and millwrights collected over several decades by Tony and Mary Yoward, Eve Logan, Tom Hine, Mike Beacham, Don Paterson and many other researchers.

Entries in the database provide the person's name and trade, gender, place and county, as well as notes of interest and the source of the information (eg. a trade directory, census return or other record).

Use of our family history database is free to Friends of the Mills Archive (see page 22).



The Abraham family, photographed in the early years of the 20th century outside their mill at Upminster, Greater London. Such well-composed records of the last of the country's traditional milling families are valuable and rare



## OUR ONLINE RESOURCES

Our three websites have different tools to help you find the information you are interested in.

Our online catalogue at [millsarchive.com](http://millsarchive.com) (top) contains over 20,000 items related to mills - and it is growing all the time.

The **Kent Millers' Tales** website at [millsarchive.com/kent](http://millsarchive.com/kent) (right) is devoted to the milling heritage of Kent and contains specific information relating to every windmill, watermill and muscle-powered mill in the county for which there are records.

Use of our web catalogues is free to all registered users. Many images and documents can be viewed online, and those that cannot be listed in finding aids so internet users are aware of scope of the records that we hold. Records that are listed as reference items can be viewed, by appointment, at our premises in Reading.

Our website for the **Friends of the Mills Archive** at [millsarchivetrust.org](http://millsarchivetrust.org) (left) contains links to our library, online bookshop, family history database and **Mill Writing**, our news forum and blog.

Whatever your interests are, we are confident that our websites will contain something to appeal to everyone!

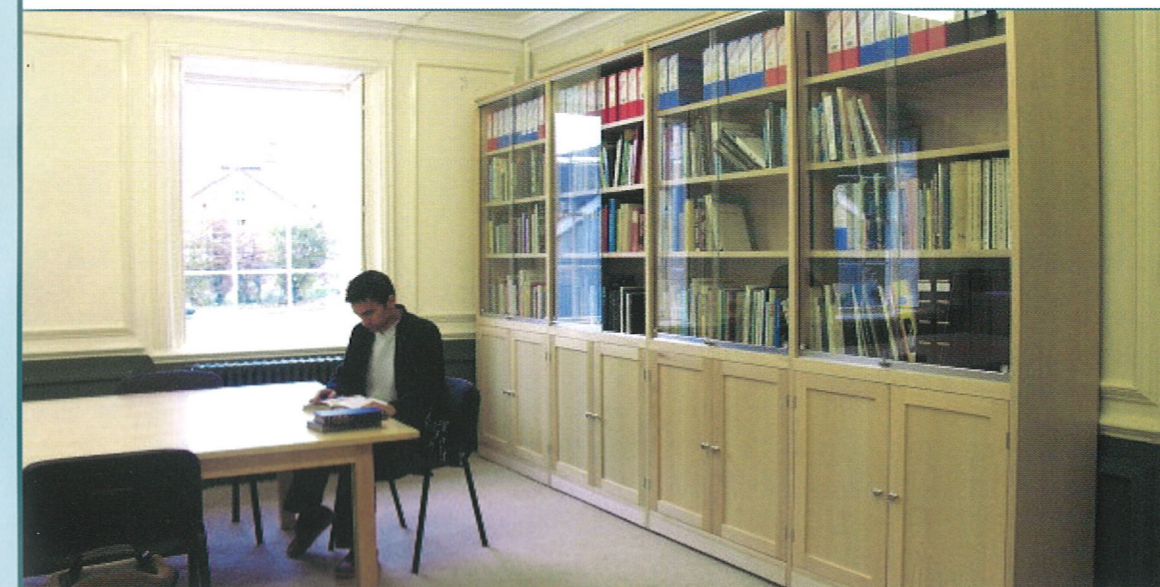
## OUR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH FACILITIES

Come and visit the national repository for material relating to traditional mills and milling.

The Archive holds an unrivalled collection of more than 1.5 million items of milling significance. Our catalogued items, which include research notes, photographs, transparencies and published material, are available for public viewing at our Library and Research Centre in Reading.



17th-century Watlington House in the centre of Reading, the home of the Mills Archive since it was established in 2002



By prior appointment you can view our original archival material or browse our extensive library of 2,000 mill books in various languages. Particular elements of our collections that cannot be made available online, such as large mill drawings and illustrations, can be examined in a professional and pleasant environment. To arrange a visit, send an email to [info@millsarchive.com](mailto:info@millsarchive.com), or write to us at the address on the back cover.



## THE MILLS ARCHIVE AND THE FUTURE

The need for a Mills Archive will not diminish in the future - it will grow. Our next achievements will be built on the successful results of our past projects and activities. To be able to respond to a changing future, and with increasing pressure on our storage space and resources, we must step up the pace of our activity by setting ever more challenging goals.



Some collections, like this one, are in a vulnerable state when they are handed over to us due to the way in which they have been stored. Old ledgers can often be damp and need to be allowed to dry out gradually before they are transferred to our archive store

We have only achieved so much because of the efforts of the people involved. Our volunteers, who carry the cataloguing forward, constantly challenge us to consider new approaches and to explore the areas we cover, discovering new information of interest to the mill world.

You can easily join our enthusiastic family of supporters, working at the Archive or from home. Many people want to help us without necessarily having much time to devote to our work, so we have created the **Friends of the Mills Archive** as a way for them to contribute and to stay in touch with what we are doing. Please write to the address on the back cover, or email us at [info@millsarchive.com](mailto:info@millsarchive.com), to find out more.

The Friends have their own newsletter, **Mill Memories**, and qualify for various privileges such as free high-resolution images, discounts on our book sales and unrestricted access to our family history facilities. Many essential archival processes, such as the organising and cataloguing of our material, are undertaken by volunteers from the Friends. Ask for our "Help to Save the Memories" leaflet to find out more, or visit [millsarchivetrust.org](http://millsarchivetrust.org). We hope you will feel able to join us!



Our first step is to re-package the material we receive, using acid-free storage materials like the grey boxes shown above. Although expensive, high-quality storage materials are essential for the permanent care of collections, allowing cataloguing to be carried out with ease

The Mills Archive is independent of government or any other organisation and receives no direct state grants or subsidies. The regular donations from the Friends cover much of our rent and storage costs and, more importantly, allow us to plan for the future. We depend on the generosity of people with an interest in mills who give their time and resources to help us protect the records in our care.

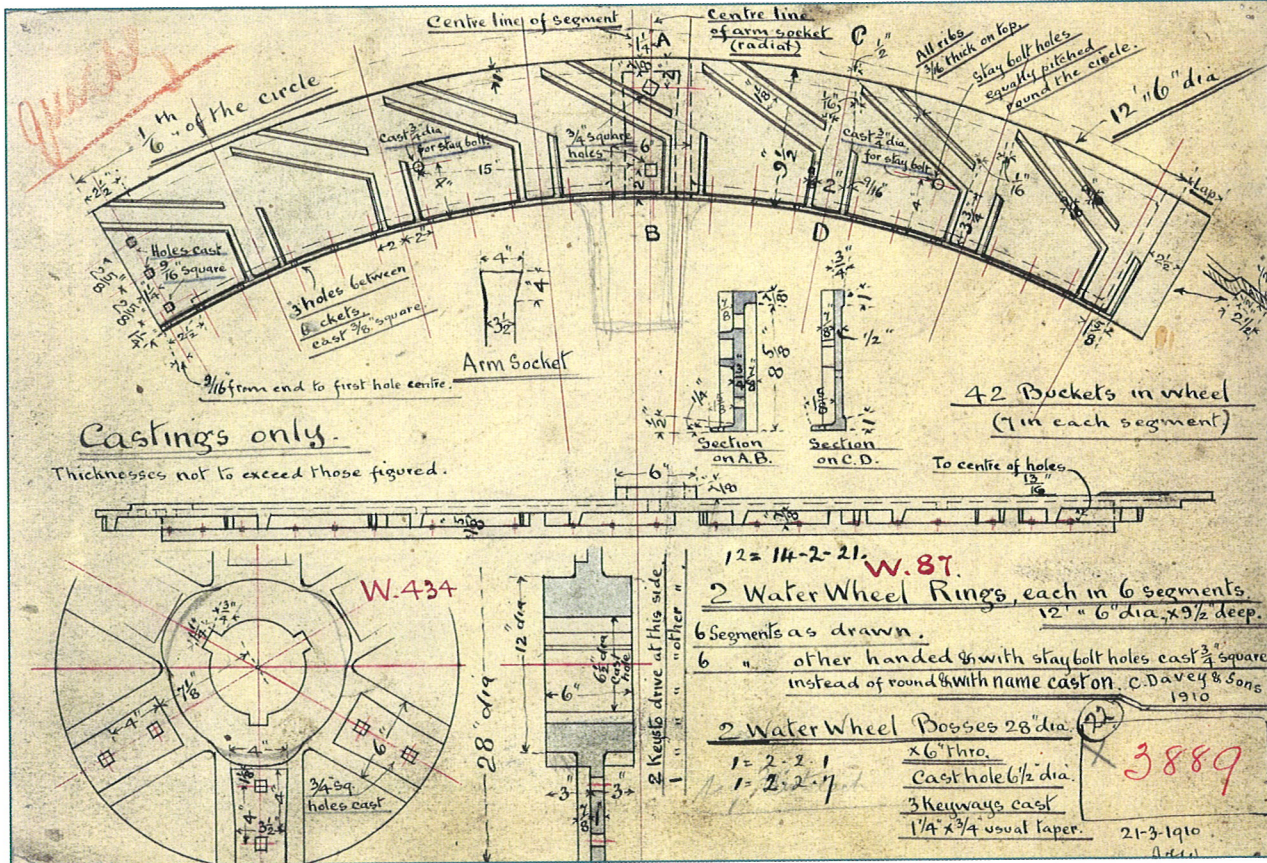
"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a volunteer at the Archive. The greatest reward has been to see valuable records saved from possible destruction, and to know I've played a part in the process." **Ken Kirsopp**



We have saved so much, so far.

With your help, we can save so much more.

Help us avoid the alternative.



## The Mills Archive

Registered charity no. 1091534

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[www.millsarchive.com](http://www.millsarchive.com)

[www.millsarchivetrust.org](http://www.millsarchivetrust.org)