

## THE MILLS ON THE RIVER SOWE

### 126. FOLESHILL MILL

SP 358831

There may have been a mill here in 1367, when there was a dispute between a miller named Geoffrey atte Green and the miller at Henley Mill, a short distance downstream. In 1698, Foleshill Mill was named as the point to which a proposed canal was to run. The mill was owned by the Palmer family in the early eighteenth century.

By 1770 the miller was George Eld, and his family is thought to have worked the mill until the 1830's. T. Reader was the miller in 1845, followed by Joseph Calloway in 1850. He worked the mill until c. 1884, by which time Isaac Falconbridge had taken over the business. The Falconbridge family have lived in the fine nineteenth century mill house ever since, and still use the mill to produce animal foodstuffs.

The present mill dates from the eighteenth century, but shows many signs of later alterations. In 1965, fire destroyed the roof of the building and it has been rebuilt with corrugated asbestos. Many of the beams are badly charred. The mill once had an iron overshot waterwheel, the arms of which were crucked by a severe frost in the 1890's. The wheel was repaired, but did not run well afterwards, and was replaced by a turbine in c. 1911. A separate turbine house was built a short distance from the mill, and the head race diverted to it. External shafting connected the turbine to the mill and some small workshops nearby which housed looms. The turbine has since been removed, though the house and part of the shafting remain. All the old machinery in the mill was removed in c. 1911 and the wheelpit is used as a garage. Modern milling equipment is now driven by electric motors.

### 127. HENLEY MILL

SP 360813

There was a mill at Henley in the early fourteenth century, and it is mentioned several times in later years.

By 1845 J. Halkins was the miller, followed by W. Baker in 1850. J. W. Achurch worked the mill from 1860 until c. 1880. The last miller was Joseph Calloway Jnr. in 1884. The mill ceased to work shortly afterwards. It stood derelict for some years but has since been demolished. Foleshill Sewerage Works were built close to the site in the early twentieth century, since replaced by allotments.

Only the wheelpit and the foundations of the building can still be seen. The nearby mill house is still occupied.

### 128. SOWE MILL

SP 377806

Sowe Mill was recorded in the Domesday Survey, valued at 2s. The mill seems to have belonged to the manor of Wyken from the thirteenth century. In 1845 J. Walker was the miller, followed by T. and W. Wale in 1854. Later occupants were J. Jackson in 1860, John Morris in 1868, J. A. Gardner in 1876 and J. Carrington in 1884. The last known miller was John Fenimore who was recorded in 1900 and 1904. The buildings remained until demolished c. 1969.

Few traces remain on the site.

### 21. ALDER MILL

SP 308994

There was a mill at Alderstone in 1633, and it may have stood on this site.

Samuel Mallaby was the tenant from the 1820's. In 1849 the property was offered for sale. The description in the sale catalogue reads 'the Mill contains an excellent undershot wheel and three pairs of stones, two of which are French and one grey'. In c. 1860 Mallaby was joined by a partner, Thomas Alkin. In 1896 T. Cordelle is recorded as the miller, followed by Frank Vincent in 1900, and Albert Vincent in 1904. The last known millers were Abel Spare in 1912, and Eli Crichtow in 1916. The mill is thought to have become disused in the 1920's. It was later used as a dwelling though the machinery remained in position. It was finally condemned as unfit for habitation and demolished in 1970.

The site is now marked by piles of rubble. The outline of the building and the wheelpit can be traced. Several millstones lie within the site, and others were used many years ago to build a wall. The watercourses near the mill are intact.

### 22. GRENDON MILL

SK 289006

A mill at Grendon existed in 1086, valued at 5s. At the death of William Chelwynd, lord of the manor, in 1546, the mill was part of his estate.

By 1828, Samuel Mallaby was the miller and he retained control until the business became known as Mallaby and Alkin. The mill seems to have become disused by the late 1880's. Mallaby and Alkin operated three mills, Alder, Grendon and Polesworth. It is likely that Grendon was bought to ensure a good supply of water at Polesworth Mill. The buildings were demolished many years ago, and only the foundations remain.

### 23. POLESWORTH MILL

SK 262023

The Abbey of Polesworth held two mills at Polesworth in 1291. By 1533 they were leased to William Hunt, and were granted to Francis Goodere in 1545.

In 1828, as at Alder and Grendon, Samuel Mallaby was the miller. From 1864 the firm of Mallaby and Alkin is recorded. In 1896, B. Mallison is named as general manager of Mallaby's Roller Flour Mills Limited. Polesworth Mill seems unlikely premises for a firm with such a grand title. It is probable that the steam powered mill, built some years previously beside the canal, had become the centre of the firm's operations. Polesworth Mill certainly continued to operate well into the twentieth century, being used by Wilsons of Polesworth in 1928.

The buildings stood idle for many years before being demolished in the course of river improvements. The site has been landscaped and now forms an attractive river-side area.

### 24. ALVECOTE MILL

SK 253044

This may be the site of the mill at Shuttington recorded in the Domesday Survey.

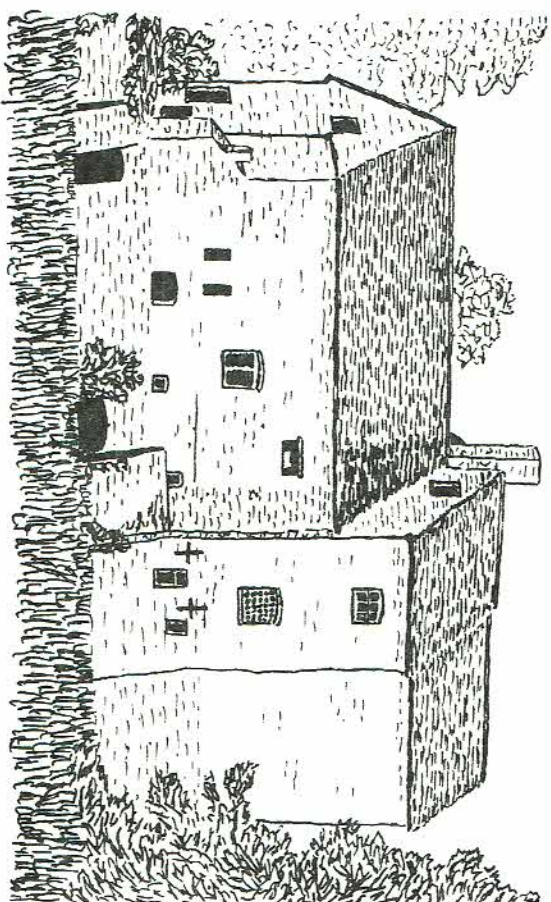
By 1291, Alvecote Mill belonged to Alvecote Priory, and was valued at 14s. Thomas Robinson owned the manor and mill in 1566. In 1609 the mill was leased to Edward Ferrers.



William Shillock was the miller in 1850, followed by F. and J. Shillock in 1864. Forester Shillock was the miller in 1884. Thomas Grimley worked the mill from 1892 until 1896 when Levi Viggers occupied the premises. The mill is thought to have ceased working c. 1910.

Only the brick foundations of the mill survive. It was obviously demolished many years ago. A few outbuildings remain, but these are in very poor condition.

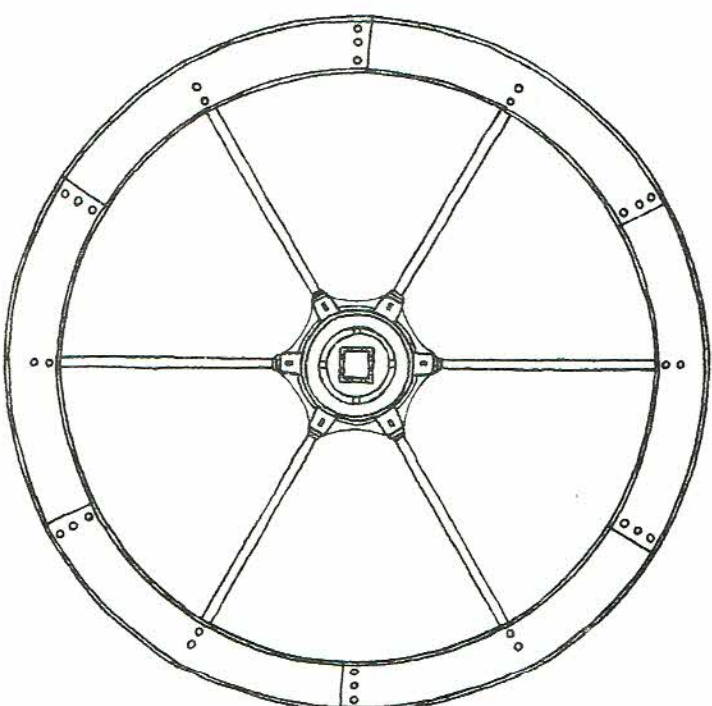
Alder Mill (21) before demolition in 1970



known as City Flour Mill in the nineteenth century. In 1860 the mill was worked by Francis Robbins, and by Robbins and Power from 1872. It is thought to have operated until the 1940's, but has since been demolished.

Prior's Orchard Mill stood near this site from the early fifteenth century until it was absorbed into Swansell waterworks.

The waterwheel at Allesley Mill (117), designed by Robert Summers and installed in 1884 at a cost of £75. It was broken up for scrap in the early 1960's.





Haddon and Grimes from 1896 to 1904. The last miller was Frederick Wright in 1908. By 1914 the mill buildings were being used for the manufacture of car bodies. The buildings suffered bomb damage during the Second World War and were demolished in the 1950's.

Dilecock's Mill and Alderford Mill were the next two mills downstream. Both had totally disappeared by the 1880's.

#### 121. SWIFTS CORNER MILL

SP 346776

Licence to build a mill here was granted in 1596. It continued to work until the mid-nineteenth century. It is thought to have been worked by George and John Liggins from the 1820's until c. 1850. By 1886, the watercourses had been obliterated by Coventry Sewage Works, and the mill must have been using steam power. It was certainly out of use by 1910, and the buildings have since been demolished.

#### 122. WHITLEY MILL

SP 349768

This mill was first recorded in 1678. By 1828 the miller was John Howard, followed by Thomas Beck in 1835. James May and James Evans were recorded in 1841. J. Hamerton is thought to have worked there from c. 1845 until c. 1860, when J. Hopkins occupied the premises. By the late 1880's the mill was described as 'in ruins' and the watercourses had been filled in. The buildings were later used as a dwelling, and finally demolished in 1955. The building was partly timber-framed, infilled with brick, on a stone base, and thought to date from the seventeenth century. Some of the machinery was still in place at the time of demolition and was taken to the City Museum in Coventry for preservation.

#### 123. STIVICHALL MILL

SP 344761

There was a mill here in the twelfth century and it is thought to have worked until c. 1900. Nothing else is known about it. Until recently the site was occupied by farm buildings.

#### THE MILLS ON TRIBUTARIES OF THE RIVER SHERBOURNE

##### 124. HILL MILL - RADFORD BROOK

SP 329795

The mill on this site in the twelfth century was a fulling mill held by one Herbert son of Jordan. It was a corn mill in the early nineteenth century, but was used for silk throwing after 1860. The mill was demolished in c. 1900 and replaced by the corporation stables.

Another mill, known as Radford Mill, stood a short distance upstream. It was mentioned in the mid-eighteenth century but had disappeared by 1800.

##### 125. CITY FLOUR MILL

SP 338794

There was a mill south of Swansell Pool in the eighteenth century, and this became

#### THE MILLS ON THE RIVER ARROW

##### 25. WASHFORD MILL

SP 072650

There may have been a mill on, or near, this site in the twelfth century. In 1185 the Templars were paying 6s. rent for a mill which had been granted to them by Peter Corbizan. The Earl of Warwick seized two mills in Studley from the Templars in 1315. In 1708 the mill was known as Hurst Mill, owned by Dame Mary Shelley. Up to this time the mill had been used for corn grinding, but in about 1730 John Matthew Mills converted it for use in the manufacture of needles. In 1785 Michael and Abel Morrall and John Archer took possession, later moving to Priory Mills, Studley. By 1850 George Hartles, who was described as a needle scourer, was running the mill. In 1900 William and George Hartles are named, William Hartles continuing until 1912. From 1916 until the mill closed in the early 1930's, it was operated by Henry Milward and Co., who had owned the buildings since at least the middle of the nineteenth century. After ceasing operations, all the machinery was removed and the building converted to provide extra accommodation for the adjoining mill house. In 1973 it was planned to convert the buildings into a hotel. This has since been effected, and the waterwheel has been restored to working order.

The mill buildings, which date mainly from the eighteenth century, are of brick. The adjoining mill house is a fine half-timbered structure built in the mid-seventeenth century. A new wing has been added in the recent conversion. Of the machinery, only the waterwheel and a driving pulley remain. The wheel is low breast-shot, measuring approximately 15ft. diameter by 4ft. 10in. wide.

##### 26. PRIORY MILLS - STUDLEY

SP 077640

In 1086 the mill at Studley was valued at 5s. Of the two mills owned by Peter Corbizan in the twelfth century, the one on this site was granted to Studley Priory. In 1504 it was leased to William Crawley at a rent of £2 2s. 6d., being then known as "Cane Mill". Sir Edmund Knightley owned the mill after the dissolution. In 1685 Thomas Uncles is recorded as the miller at Studley, probably at this mill. Three mills, then known as Priory Mills, seem to have belonged to the manor of Holt in the eighteenth century. By 1805 these mills belonged to the Marquis of Hertford, being leased to John Langston of Alcester. The buildings were described as a water corn mill and needle works. John Langston took the lease at a rent of £140 per annum.

By 1828 James Pardow held the mills. He may have been both a corn miller and a needle manufacturer. Later in the nineteenth century he was manufacturing needles at Aston Canlow. In 1845 C. Taylor was at the mills, followed by Thomas Hemmings in 1850. These two also seem to have been corn millers, as part of the buildings was used as such until the 1870's. No further corn millers are recorded, but James Pardow continued to manufacture needles at Priory Mills until 1872, after which time the firm of Abel Morrall is recorded. In about 1890 this firm built a new scouring mill next to the older buildings. Power from the waterwheel was carried to the new building by long shafting. The older building was demolished and the waterwheel removed many years ago, but the scouring mill is still operating. The mill contains three banks of eight scourers, two of which are now run by electric motors. It is intended to expand operations and restore the third bank to working order. The large pool which once fed the water wheel has been drained.



## SPERNALL MILL

In 1086 the mill at Sperrall was valued at 4s. and seven sticks of eels. It was mentioned again in 1328 as being part of the manor. No traces remain to suggest the exact location of the mill.

## 27. COUGHTON MILL

SP 086604

This mill was valued at 32d. in 1086, but nothing else is known of its early history.

Charles Morgan was the miller in 1845, followed by George Sheppard in 1860. Mrs. Jane Sheppard and John Sheppard are recorded in 1872. John Sheppard was at the mill until c. 1880 when he moved to King's Coughton Mill. On the 1886 O.S. 6in. map the mill is marked disused, and seems to have been demolished early this century.

At the site the watercourses are still intact, but of the buildings only foundations remain. On Henry Beighton's map of 1725, another mill site is shown near Mill Farm at SP 088599. It is labelled 'old mill' and must have become disused by the end of the seventeenth century.

## 28. KING'S COUGHTON MILL

SP 086593

Although the watercourses are marked on mid-eighteenth century maps, no mill buildings are shown. A needle mill was built here in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The earlier watercourses were probably remnants of a corn mill which had become disused many years before. In 1799 John Kettle of Birmingham was the owner of a mill 'situate at King's Coughton in the parish of Alcester'. It was described as 'that messuage a tenement with barns, stables and outbuildings with a needle mill and a farm. . . . The tenant at this time was John Greaves. Greaves bought the mill when John Kettle died in 1801 and leased it to Messrs. Johnson and Mascoll. The lease was later sold to Stephen Chambers. By 1850 Henry Haynes had occupied the mill. During this period both corn grinding and needle making were undertaken as Haynes had leased part of the building to John Pinfield, a needlescutter, and later to Fred Harman of the same trade. John Sheppard became the miller at King's Coughton by 1880, operating as a corn miller and baker, remaining there until the early 1920's. The last corn miller was T. Gluen, recorded in 1931. After the Second World War Messrs. Guillaume bought the mill and used it for wire-drawing until the mid-1950's. At this time the waterwheel was being used to generate electricity. The buildings were converted into dwellings by the early 1960's.

The mill buildings date from the end of the eighteenth century but show many later alterations, especially during conversion to dwellings. All the machinery has been removed, including the internal waterwheel. The head-race has been filled in completely, though the tail-race is still traceable back to the river.

## 29. RAGLEY NEEDLE MILL - ALCESTER

SP 086580

There was a mill in Alcester in 1241 which was granted to the monks of Alcester. In 1545 the miller was named Bartholomew and he was paying a rent of 5d. for its use. William Allwood and Son are recorded as needle manufacturers at Ragley Mill in

## THE MILLS ON THE RIVER SHERBOURNE

## 117. ALLESLEY MILL - HAWKES END

SP 294827

There was a mill here in 1411, but little else is known of its early history.

Robert Godward was a miller at Allesley in 1692. By 1860 T. Cross was the miller, followed by J. Cross and A. Allen in 1864. Joseph Cross continued there until 1872 when Henry Allen Jnr. became the miller. Although no further millers are known, the mill certainly continued to work for many more years. In 1883 a new waterwheel was installed by Robert Summers. By 1953 the mill was still complete with its machinery, but not working.

The small brick building still stands, though completely derelict. Most of the machinery has been removed, but some millstones remain. The watercourses around the mill can be traced.

## 118. SPON END MILL

SP 322792

There was a mill in this area in the thirteenth century.

From the 1820's until c. 1860 it was operated by Joseph Jordan, followed by his son, C. Jordan, until the mill closed c. 1900. It was worked by a steam engine from the 1880's.

The head race has been filled in and the mill site is occupied by a chain works.

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In 1841 the River Sherbourne was described as 'one of the filthiest streams that ever existed'. The dams of the many watermills within the city hindered the flow of its polluted water, and were held responsible for the many outbreaks of disease in certain areas of the city. In 1844, the Coventry Improvement Act was passed, allowing the purchase and demolition of the remaining mills in the city. Earl's Mill and Priory Mill, downstream from Spon End Mill, were shortly demolished. Both had existed since the thirteenth century.

## 119. SHUT LANE MILL

SP 343787

Allegder Mill, on this site, was in existence by 1200, and continued to operate until the 1880's. The only known miller is Richard Barnwell who was at the mill in 1828 and 1830. In 1844 the mill was condemned under the Coventry Improvement Act, but survived, working by steam power only. The buildings were demolished in the 1920's.

## 120. CHARTERHOUSE MILL

SP 344784

There was a mill here in the twelfth century.

In 1828 Joseph Wheeler was the miller, being followed by Thomas and Charles Rotherham in 1835. Charles Rotherham continued at the mill until Watson and Burton took over the business in 1872. The firm became Burton and Haddon in 1884, and



# 115. PEBBLE MILL - BOURN BROOK

SP 063836

There was probably a fulling mill here in the sixteenth century, but it was being used for blade grinding by the middle of the seventeenth century. By 1850 it had become a corn mill, and continued as such until c. 1880.

The site of the mill is now occupied by the Birmingham Natural History Museum, and the site of the pool by the B. B. C. Television Centre.

# 116. OVER MILL - CHAD BROOK

SP 056837

There was a mill here in the sixteenth century. By the middle of the seventeenth century it was being used for blade grinding. In 1843 it was a metal rolling mill, operated by John Spurrier. The Spurrier family occupied the premises until the 1870's when they moved to Bournbrook Mills.

The mill was driven by the lower pool in Edgbaston Park, which has since been drained. Some of the derelict buildings remain.

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Near the centre of Birmingham stood Moat Mill and Town Mill. These were driven by a small stream which filled the moat of the old manor house of Birmingham. As the name suggests, Moat Mill's pond was the manor house moat. In its last working years it was a thread mill, and finally disappeared when the area was cleared for the building of Smithfield Market in the early nineteenth century. Town Mill was built in the sixteenth century and remained a corn mill until the eighteenth century when part of the building was used as a slitting mill. On Westley's map of Birmingham of 1731, it is shown as Lloyd's Slitting and Corn Mills. The mill was still operating in the 1820's but became disused shortly afterwards.

1872, followed by Charles Hunt in 1892. Allwood, Blackband and Co. were the last firm to work the mill, ceasing operations in the 1920's. The buildings have since been converted for use as cattle sheds and a dwelling.

The mill buildings are of brick, dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The oldest part, now used as a cottage, was probably the original needle mill. There is a dry tail race leading away across the field in front of this building. The majority of the buildings appear to have been added in the mid-nineteenth century, and the site of the waterwheel was probably changed at the same time. The wheel still remains in position behind the buildings. It is a breast-shot wheel measuring 18ft. 6in. diameter by 5ft. 6in. wide. There are two 4ft. diameter driving gears, one on each end of the axle. All the machinery that these operated has long since been removed. The head race which fed the wheel is partially choked with rubbish, but the tail race is still clear.

# 30. OVERSLEY MILL

SP 086567

In 1086 the mill at Oversley was valued at 4s., and by 1287 two mills are recorded. The Court Roll of 1585 mentions £5 12s. 4d. as the rent of 'the Milners of Oversley Mills.'

From 1825 to 1844 part of the buildings was used as a needle mill by Holyoake's of Redditch, but seems to have reverted entirely to corn grinding after this time. By 1828 William George Hopkins was the miller, followed by E. C. Hopkins in 1876. Spencer and Elvins were at the mill in 1884, and James Leonard Sisam in 1888. J. L. Sisam ran both Arrow and Oversley Mills until Henry L. Sisam took over the business in 1916. The last millers were Adkins and Thomas who then operated the mills at Oversley, Arrow and Broome. Oversley Mill became disused after 1923 and has since been used as a cattle shelter.

The three storey brick building has been considerably altered to serve its new purpose and all the machinery, including two turbines, has been removed. Both the head and tail races have been filled in although the site of one of the turbines is still clear.

# 31. ARROW MILL

SP 083560

This mill was worth 6s. 8d. in 1086 and was mentioned in 1210. Nothing else is known of its early history.

By 1828 William Sisam was the miller, followed by H. Sisam in 1845, William H. Sisam in 1872, J. L. Sisam in 1884 and Henry L. Sisam in 1916. Adkins and Thomas Ltd. had taken the mill by 1921 and continued to operate there until December 1962. The buildings were then bought by Par Gas Construction Company for conversion to an inn and restaurant. All the milling machinery was removed in the course of conversion, but the waterwheel, gearing and stones from Bubbenhall Mill (SP 357724) were later installed for show purposes.

The mill buildings date from the eighteenth and nineteenth century, but there have been several alterations and additions to suit them to their new use. The extensive range of outbuildings, including stables and cartsheds, can be seen at the end of the drive leading to the mill. Until conversion the milling machinery was driven by two turbines, each said to be capable of generating 25 h. p. Each turbine drove two pairs of composition stones and much other machinery. The machinery installed during the conversion comprises an undershot waterwheel of composite construction which can be seen turning



from the cocktail bar. The iron pitwheel drives an iron wallower on a wooden upright shaft. There is a wooden clasp arm spur wheel which drove two pairs of stones. These stones, complete with tuns, can be seen in the restaurant on the first floor.

#### WINFORD MILL

There was a mill at Wixford in 1086 valued at 10s. and 20 sticks of eels. In the twelfth century it belonged to the Abbey of Evesham. It had certainly fallen out of use by the beginning of the eighteenth century, and no traces remain today.

#### 32. BROOM MILLS

SP 0085535

There were four mills in the manor of Bidford in 1086, and as Broom then formed part of this manor it is likely that one or more stood on, or near, the present site. The mill was said to be in poor condition when mentioned as part of the manor in 1363.

Rice Griffin conveyed a water-mill commonlie called Broome Mill' to Thomas Throckmorton in 1594, but had recovered it by 1611 when he leased the buildings to Thomas Piers of Alcester for twelve years.

By 1854 Anthony Burrows was the miller at Broom, being followed by J. W. Wall in 1868, and Hancock and Bomford in 1888. John Adkins was at the mill in 1892, followed by F. J. Adkins in 1908. The firm became Adkins and Thomas Ltd. by 1916 and they operated from Broom producing animal foodstuffs until 1977. The mill is currently used by J. E. Hemmings & Son of Barford.

The large five storey mill dates from the nineteenth century but has been extended and altered considerably since erection. There is a large covered loading bay against the downstream wall and a dust extraction plant within the roof area. There are two Armfield turbines within the building, one of which was used to generate electricity for lighting until 1977. These turbines, assisted by an engine, once operated twenty-six Simon roller mills and wheat cleaning apparatus. Modern milling machinery is now housed in new buildings nearby. Power to drive this new machinery is obtained from two Blackstone marine diesel engines in an engine house behind the old mill.

#### THE MILLS ON MINOR TRIBUTARIES OF THE RIVER ARROW

##### 33. MORTON MILL

SP 103646

Thomas Bullocke is named as the miller here in 1680, but little else is known of the mill's early history. It may well have been a needle mill in the early nineteenth century when owned by Thomas Holyoake of Redditch. By 1854 it had been converted to corn milling and G. Lane was the miller. He was followed by Mrs. E. Lane in 1868. The mill seems to have become disused after this time, and had been demolished by 1884. No traces of the mill buildings remain at the site.

##### 34. WATER PUMPING STATION AT ARROW

SP 083567

In 1804 it was proposed to build a needle mill 'at the quarry at Arrow, sufficient for four pointing and six scouring benches'. The water power was to be derived from

c. 1835, when Thomas Whitmore was the miller. Shortly afterwards it was absorbed into local factory development. Willetts Meadow Mill had disappeared by 1760, and Duddeston Mill (SP 092878), a corn mill in the 1830's, lost its pool under a railway goods yard in the 1860's. The mill became Duddeston Saw Mill, probably steam powered, and worked until the end of the century. Saitley Mill (SP 093882) was a corn mill until the 1840's, when it was converted for wire drawing. It was still operating as such in 1880, but within a few years the site was occupied by Saitley Gas Works. Nechell's Park Mill (SP 096897) was used for blade grinding in the seventeenth century, and became a sitting mill in 1746-7. By 1830 it was a rolling mill, known as Park Mill Forge, and worked as such until the late nineteenth century.

#### THE MILLS ON TRIBUTARIES OF THE RIVER REA

##### 112. CONNOP'S MILL - STONEHOUSE BROOK

SP 012826

This was probably on the site of the mill near Weoley Castle mentioned in the fifteenth century. It seems to have been a corn mill throughout its working life. By 1873 it was occupied by Benjamin Connop who was described as miller, farmer and beer retailer. The mill house became the Mill Inn by 1900.

The mill was still standing in the 1930's, when photographs of the exterior and machinery were taken. It was a small brick building with an internal waterwheel which originally drove two pairs of stones. The stones had been replaced by a small roller mill by the 1930's. All the buildings, including the Mill Inn, were later demolished, but part of the gearing was removed and is displayed in the Birmingham Museum of Science and Industry.

##### 113. HARBORNE MILL - BOURN BROOK

SP 037832

A mill is known to have stood on this site in the sixteenth century. By the eighteenth century it had become the property of a gunsmith, and operated as a boring mill until c. 1819. After a short period as a wire mill, it is thought to have been used for corn grinding in the 1830's. In 1863 the mill was owned by Thomas Millington, manufacturer of steel pens. Millington still operated from the premises in 1908. For many years the buildings were used as a dairy but have since become the premises of a tyre and exhaust fitting business.

Part of the old brick mill still stands, and the wheelpit and pool dam can still be traced. The pool was drained long ago and is partly occupied by a petrol filling station.

##### 114. BOURNBROOK MILLS - BOURN BROOK

SP 045833

This mill was associated with the metal industry from the beginning of the eighteenth century. The mill pond was being used as a boating lake in 1873, but had been filled in by 1908. In this year the mill was occupied by Henry and Frederick Spurrier, metal rollers.

The site is now occupied by industrial premises.



107. LIFFORD MILL

SP 057797

In the late eighteenth century, the mill on this site was known as Dobb's Mill. It was used for steel rolling in the 1830's and had become an indiarubber manufactory by 1873. Later the buildings were included in the premises of J. & E. Sturge Ltd., and were still standing, though derelict, in the late 1950's. They have since been demolished and only part of one wall is now visible.

108. HAZELWELL MILL

SP 067809

There were three corn mills here at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The premises were being used for metal working in the early nineteenth century and from 1843 were occupied by gun barrel manufacturers. In 1887 the waterwheel was repaired and the owners at this time were J. Baldwins and Sons of Sherborne Paper Mills, Kings Norton.  
The site is now occupied by industrial premises.

109. DOGPOL MILL

SP 059820

This mill became a rolling mill in the early nineteenth century, and later a tube and wire manufactory. By 1875 the mill was occupied by C. Clifford and Sons, metal rollers and tube makers. It is still used for this purpose, though not water powered for many years. The buildings have been considerably altered over the years.

110. MOOR GREEN FORGE

SP 062830

A blade mill on this site was acquired by the Moore family in 1597. John Moore sold the mill to James Taylor in 1783. In 1841 Taylor sold the property to Charles Umpage who converted it for metal rolling. It was still at work in the 1880's. Some traces of the watercourses, and part of the wheelcilt, are still visible.

111. EDGBASTON MILL

SP 065840

There was a mill here in 1231 and it continued to operate as a corn mill until c. 1880. The mill was held by the Avern family from 1738 until the early nineteenth century and became known as Avern's Mill. The last known tenants were the Drew family in the 1870's. By this time the mill seems to have been suffering from a lack of water power, no doubt caused by mills further upstream.

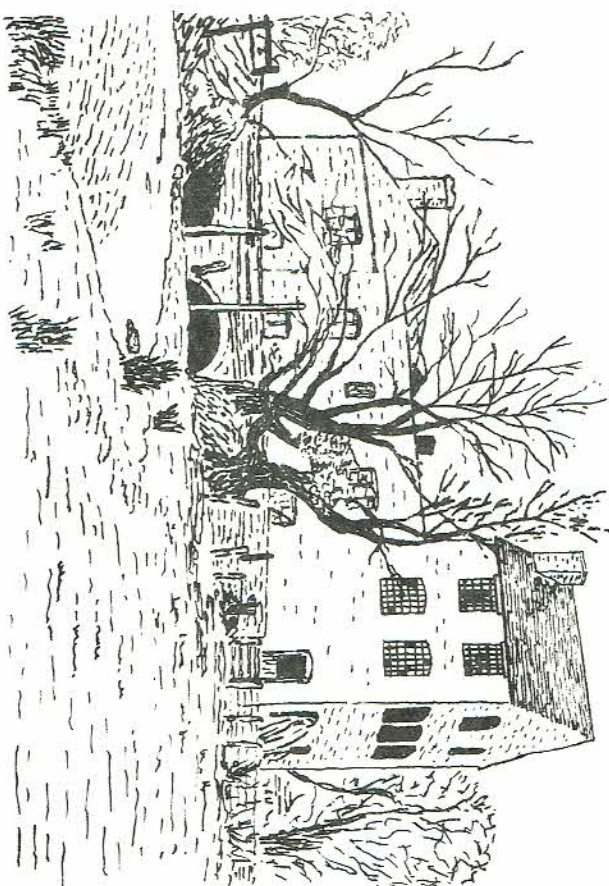
The mill was still standing in 1896, but has since been demolished, and only the mill house remains.

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Nearer the centre of Birmingham development has obliterated the sites of the remaining mills on the Rea. Speedwell Mill (SP 073850) was a blade grinding mill in the seventeenth century and was used for metal rolling in the nineteenth century. It had been demolished by 1880. Heath Mill (SP 081865) was a corn mill from the fifteenth century to

a new cut to convey the water out of Spittle Brook'. This is thought to have been the mill known as Rock Mill which was replaced by the pumping station later in the nineteenth century. The pumping station contained two pumps operated by a waterwheel, lifting water from wells on the site to Ragley Hall. Although the building has been demolished and the wells capped, the high breast-shot or pitchback waterwheel survives, set in concrete. It measures 18ft. 8in. diameter by 2ft. 8in. wide. The penstock has been removed and the lead from the nearby stream is now dry.

Ragley Needle Mill (29)





## THE MILLS ON THE RIVER AVON

### 35. CLIFTON MILL

SP 524766

A mill existed on this site in the fourteenth century, being mentioned in conveyances of shares in the mill. In 1638 the former miller, Thomas Chamberlayne, and two associates were indicted for 'breaking into the free fishing of Sir Robert Whitney, knight, at Meryholme'.

By 1828 Henry Hewitt was the miller and he continued in occupation until 1872 when Mrs. Mary Hewitt was operating the mill. She was followed by George Knight in the 1880's. Reuben Thompson is mentioned in 1892, and by 1900 Humphrey Lee, the last miller, had taken possession. At about this time a steam engine was installed to supplement the waterwheel. The mill had ceased grinding by 1914. In recent years the ground floor of the mill has been used as a garage and fuel store.

The buildings date from the eighteenth century but show many additions and alterations made during the nineteenth century. The oldest part is a three storey brick structure with a steep, gabled roof. A full height extension was added to one gable end in the nineteenth century and a small workshop, supported on brick piers, has been built over the path on the upstream side of the mill. There is a brick wheelhouse, also added in the nineteenth century. The waterwheel and pit wheel have been removed, but the remainder of the gearing is intact. The drive was by two-step gearing to a horizontal shaft, this machinery being installed by 'Butlin of Northamptonshire' in the mid-nineteenth century. The pitwheel drove a 2ft. diameter pinion which is mounted on the same short shaft as an 8ft. diameter spur gear. This drove another 2ft. diameter pinion on the main horizontal shaft. This shaft carries the sack hoist pulley, three wood cogged bevel gears, 3ft. in diameter, which drove the 15in. stone nuts, and a solid wooden pulley in the extension mentioned above. This pulley was probably used to drive a threshing machine or other farm machinery. The hurst frame and bridge trees are of iron.

On the stone floor, two of the three pairs of stones are complete with all their furniture. A bolter and a wire machine stand nearby.

### 36. BROWNSOVER MILL

SP 515765

By the mid-sixteenth century there were two watermills in Rugby, one of which probably stood on this site.

The first recorded miller is Robert Watson who was at the mill from the 1820's until c. 1860. He was followed by J. Denny in 1860, and J. Ivens in 1864. From 1868 to 1878 Thomas Everard ran the mill, and from 1884 to 1892 Abraham Pitten is recorded. No millers are known after this time and the mill was probably disused by 1910.

All traces of the mill buildings have long since disappeared, but a bridge crosses the river at the site and the watercourses are still clear.

### 37. AVON MILL - RUGBY

SP 501763

A mill at Rugby was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, being valued at 13s. 4d., and probably stood on, or near, this site. This would also have been one of the mills at Rugby mentioned in the sixteenth century.

## THE MILLS ON THE RIVER REA

Almost the entire length of this river is now within the boundary of modern Birmingham. Consequently, little remains on the majority of mill sites.

### 103. HAWKESLEY MILL

SP 019784

This was the first mill on the Rea within the county. It is known to have existed in the thirteenth century, and survived as a corn mill until c. 1890.

The watercourses have been obliterated and nothing remains on the site.

### 104. NORFHELD MILL

SP 023788

This mill stood beside the railway at the junction of Quarry Lane and Mill Lane in Northfield. It was still working as a corn mill in 1908, when Walter Morris was the tenant.

The derelict buildings were demolished many years ago, but parts of the walls and the site of the pool are still visible.

### 105. WYCHALL MILL

SP 041792

This was a rolling mill by the early nineteenth century. Charles Emery was the tenant in 1843, and by the late nineteenth century the buildings were occupied by G. Ellis and Sons, metal rollers.

The buildings became part of a factory complex and were derelict by the 1950's.

### 106. HURST MILL

SP 047794

There was a mill at Kings Norton in the thirteenth century. In 1625 it was owned by Thomas Whorwood and George Guest, being leased to Edmond Baileys. The Guest family still owned the mill in the eighteenth century.

By the mid-nineteenth century Hurst Mill was owned by Messrs. Matthews and Sons, and tenanted by William Summerton.

William Jones became the miller in c. 1873 and his son Aaron bought the freehold some years later. Aaron Jones remained as miller until c. 1920 when the business was sold to Thomas Priest. The firm of Thomas Priest and Sons was still operating in 1930. A few years later the mill pond, and much nearby land, were bought by the Birmingham Public Works Department for road and river improvements. The pond was eventually drained and all the machinery removed from the mill. The mill building still stands, though the upper floors have been removed, and is used as industrial premises. The adjacent mill house has become offices.

The existing mill was built c. 1860. The waterwheel was replaced by a turbine in 1887. However, this was found to be a mistake as the turbine drained the small pond far too quickly. Consequently, a 16ft. 3in. diameter pitchback waterwheel was installed in the early 1890's. This wheel drove several pairs of millstones and other machinery via a horizontal shaft. The millstones were later exchanged for modern roller mills.



## THE MILLS ON TRIBUTARIES OF THE RIVER LEAM

### 101. QUINTON MILL - QUINSEN BROOK

SP 353650

This may have been one of the three mills at Offchurch mentioned in 1279. In 1530 'Quins' Mill' was let to Henry Phillippes for thirty-one years at a rent of 28s. 4d. per year. In 1561 this lease was renewed for a further twenty-five years. The mill was still working in 1793, being marked on a map of the Grand Union Canal which passes near the site.

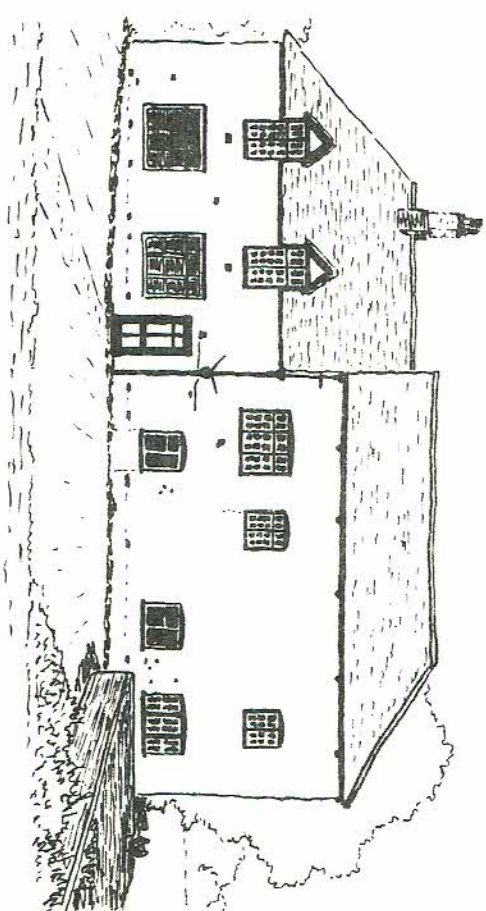
The mill is marked on the O.S. 1in. map of the 1830's, but on later copies of c. 1850 the Rugby and Leamington Railway passes across the site. Only the mill house is marked on the 1886 O.S. 6in. map and this still stands.

### 102. RADFORD SEMELE MILL

SP 336640

In 1086 the mill at Radford Semele was valued at 6s. 8d., held by Geoffrey de Simely, and was conveyed to Kenilworth Priory in 1325. The mill was mentioned again in 1653.

On Beighton's map of 1725 there is a site marked 'old mill' at the above site and this is probably the mill in question.



Emscote Mill (1909) before demolition in the 1960's

From the 1820's until 1872 the mill was run by the Bagsshaw family. By 1866 abstraction of water from the river by Rugby Waterworks was causing problems for the miller. The millwright Robert Summers was called in to estimate the effect on the mill's grinding capacity. After calculations of the volume of water required to operate the stones, and the quantity taken by the 12in. pipe to the waterworks, he concluded that the loss was £9 12s. per annum. It was added that when the water was low the loss of charges for the hire of boats would amount to about £10 per annum. This may have been one reason for converting the mill house into an inn. Certainly it would have helped to supplement the miller's dwindling income.

Fred Haynes was the miller in 1884 and continued until his son, Jason T. Haynes, took over the business in 1921. The mill closed in 1930, but Emily Haynes, the last miller's daughter, is still running the inn.

With the exception of the whearehouse the mill buildings still stand, although they have been considerably altered in recent years. All the machinery has been removed and the tail race filled in to form a car park. The site of the mill pool is occupied by a swimming pool.

### 38. THURN MILL - LONG LAWFORD

SP 463760

This is probably the mill at Long Lawford valued at 14s. in 1086. It stood on the bend of the river half a mile east of the village. The mill belonged to the monks of Pipewell Abbey from the late twelfth century. They built a corn mill and a fulling mill on the site, both being destroyed by fire in 1328. 'Thurnmille' is mentioned again in the 1530's as having been formerly in the possession of the monastery of Pipewell, being leased to Richard and Agnes Boughton in 1485. In 1739 Sir Edward Boughton was the owner of three watermills in the area.

No traces of these mills remain today.

### 39. LITTLE LAWFORD MILL

SP 469772

In 1086 the mill on this site was valued at 4s. The mill was held by the monks of Pipewell Abbey in the twelfth century. It was leased to Richard Boughton in 1485 and to Henry Wisseyter in 1515 at 52s. per annum.

From 1828 until 1845 Joseph Daltorn was the miller. Between 1850 and 1880 George Spokes, E. Brierty, E. Fletcher, T. Foxley and George Eagles are recorded. By 1888 Thomas Foxley had returned to the mill and ran it until about 1904. In 1908 Robert Russell was the miller and Mrs. M. Russell carried on from 1921 until milling ceased a few years later.

The three storey mill building is of brick and adjoins the mill house. The internal waterwheel was removed in the 1940's by the River Authorities to ease the passage of flood water at this point. The rest of the machinery is intact. The wheel was mounted on an oak axle 18in. in diameter which carries an iron pitwheel approximately 10ft. in diameter. There is a 3ft. diameter iron wallower and an 8ft. diameter clasp arm wooden spur wheel mounted on the wooden upright shaft. The hurst frame is of wood, as are the bridge trees which support the spindles carrying the stone nuts. There were three pairs of Peak stones, but the runner stones have been broken up and removed. In recent years a small roller mill has been installed and is driven from outside the building by a tractor, to produce animal foodstuffs.



40. KINGS NEWNHAM MILL

SP 451770

In 1291 the mill was valued at £1 13s. 4d. with rents producing £3 12s. 9d. In 1508 it was leased to George Dawes and his wife Katherine by Kenilworth Priory for a term of fifty one years at 60s. per annum.

By the 1820's Edward Brierly was the miller and he was followed by H. Brierly in 1854. From 1864 until 1924 John Brierly is recorded, and the mill is thought to have closed shortly after this date.

An illustration of about 1900 shows the building to have been a large three storey structure, but now only part of the front wall remains standing. It appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century and probably originally housed two waterwheels. However, in its later years only one was in use, the axle still being in position. There are the remains of an 8ft. diameter iron pitwheel, but the rest of the machinery has gone or is buried beneath the rubble. Five millstones lie in the vicinity of the building.

41. MARSTON MILL

SP 423762

This mill may be the one valued at 6s. 4d. in 1086 and included in the survey of Wolston. It became the property of Coombe Abbey in the twelfth century. On Henry Beighon's map of 1725 the mill is named as 'Merwin's Mill'.

In 1845 G. Hamerton was the miller and he was followed in 1860 by W. Hill. The subsequent millers were David Pinfold in 1884, C. A. Robinson in 1888 and C. Parsons in 1892 and 1896. From 1900 to 1916 J. Morris ran the mill, and the last miller, Richard Archer, is recorded in 1924 and 1928.

The mill, a small brick building with a lucam on the gable end, was demolished many years ago. The foundations are still visible, as is the wheel pit which lay between the mill and the adjoining mill house. The course of the head race can be followed back to the site of the weir and sluice gates on the river. The fine mill house, with its semi-circular headed windows, is still occupied.

42. WOLSTON MILL

SP 403757

This mill may have stood on the site of the mill at Brandon which was valued at 26d. in 1086. The head race to the mill leaves the river opposite the earthworks of Brandon Castle. It may also have been the mill known as 'Perimulne' which was given to Coombe Abbey in the early thirteenth century. By the end of this century Wolston Mill was held by the Verdun family, and in 1605 it was owned by Nicholas Wentworth whose son later bought the manor.

S. Hudson was the miller from 1845 until 1884 when Charles Parritt took over the business. In 1900 and 1904 Henry Whittern is recorded and milling is thought to have ceased by 1914.

All that remains of the unusual mill building is one corner near the wheel pit. It was built of brick with a hipped roof, incorporating the mill house which had arched windows on the ground floor and oval ones above. The mill was demolished c. 1953 and the machinery sold for scrap. There was a single waterwheel fed by a short head race which is now dry.

43. BRANDON SILK MILL

SP 394748

The mill on this site is marked as a paper mill on Henry Beighon's map of 1725.

The mill pond, which was the other side of the road bridge from the mill, was well-known for its eels in the nineteenth century.

97. WESTON MILL

SP 360677

The mill is marked on Beighon's map of 1725, but nothing else is known of its history until the nineteenth century.

In 1845 W. Cotterill was the miller and he remained until 1868. The last known miller is Edward Checkley who is recorded in 1872 and 1876. On the 1886 O. S. 6in. map the mill is shown as a working corn mill but it had probably become disused by 1900 and was demolished shortly afterwards.

The watercourses to the mill can be followed and some brickwork remains on the site.

98. OFFCHURCH MILLS

SP 359661 (SP 347657)

There are two probable mill sites in Offchurch. These may be two of the three mills mentioned in 1279. One of them, known as Offchurch Mill, was held by Edward Sadler of Fillingley in 1546-7. In 1585 two mills are mentioned but one of them had disappeared by 1702.

Traces of watercourses are visible at both sites.

99. LEAMINGTON MILL

SP 322656

In 1086 Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, held two mills in Leamington valued at 24s. In 1520 the mill was leased to Richard Gerard for a term of 57 years. It is mentioned again in 1635, and in 1684 William Page was the miller.

By 1828 James Oldham was the miller, being followed by Thomas Oldham in 1835. From 1850 until 1884 John Oldham is recorded, and after that time the mill was run under the name of J. Oldham and Co. The last record of milling is in 1892 but the mill probably existed until the early twentieth century.

Nothing remains on the site of the mill, and there have been alterations to the watercourses in recent years.

100. ENSCOTE MILL

SP 303657

This was probably the mill to which Thomas Hungerford had leave to divert the stream' in 1430. By 1621 there were two mills attached to the manor of Enscote.

From the 1830's the mill was probably operated by John Haywood who is still recorded in 1854. Some of the watercourses, and the mill buildings, are marked on the 1886 O. S. 6in. map, though milling had probably ceased by this time.

The mill building survived as part of a dwelling until the 1960's when the site was cleared to make way for a housing estate.