93. SHUCKBURGH MILL — SP 525617

The earliest reference to this mill is 1725, when it was marked on Henry Beighton's map of Warwickshire.

By 1876 Samuel Cox was the miller, and he is still named in 1896. The mill was out of use by 1914 and had been totally demolished by 1934.

At the site, the watercourses can be traced, and a nearby gatepost is made from the waterwheel axle.

94. SAWBRIDGE MILL — SP 508660

In 1291 this mill was worth 4s., and in 1333 'Ketesmulne' was granted to the rector of Wolfhamcote.

The mill is marked on Yates' map of 1787-9 but does not appear later.

The site of the mill is marked by a footbridge across the stream.

95. GRANDBOROUGH MILL — SP 494673

In 1086 the mill at Grandborough was worth 16d. Two watermills were recorded in the late thirteenth century. By 1531 the watermill was attached to the manor of Thomas Catesby.

By 1828 William Goodman was the miller and R. Beazley is named in 1845. In 1850 John Hart was running the mill and he continued until James Eagles took over the business in 1864. George Eagles was the miller in 1888, followed by Henry Hobill from 1892 to 1900. The last millers were members of the Cole family who worked the mill until c. 1920. The building was converted into a cottage many years ago.

The mill building dates from the mid-nineteenth century. There is a date stone, but the last two figures are no longer legible. Above one of the first floor windows is a well-preserved Sun Fire Insurance plate. The mill had an internal waterwheel which probably drove two pairs of stones.

The head race which fed the wheel still flows beside the mill, and the eel trap beside the sluice gate is intact.

96. EATHORPE MILL — SP 390693

Little is known of the early history of this mill, except that John Tew was the miller in 1670. It is marked on Yates' map of 1787-9, and again on the O.S. 1in. map of the 1830's.

By 1845 G. Harris was the miller and he was followed in 1860 by J. Masters. Fred Drinkwater ran the mill from 1872 to 1888 when James Thomas and Phillip Henry Reeve took over the business. Phillip Reeve was the last miller operating until the early 1930's.

The main part of the mill building still stands but has been converted into office premises for a modern works which occupies the site. The wheelhouse has been demolished and all the machinery removed. Nearby is the mill house, which would have adjoined the mill before the removal of the wheelhouse.

Nothing is known of its history before this time. In 1741 it was insured by Thomas Ashby, a paper maker, and continued to produce paper until George Herbert converted the mill to silk spinning in the 1820's. In 1849 Stephen Wilson sold the mill to Mrs. Sarah Herbert and 'another', the buildings being described as 'sometime since consisting of a paper mill and fulling mill and a mill for grinding dyers wood'. Including land in Brandon, the total sale price was £2,695. By 1900 the mill was described as being 'a large silk mill out of repair'.

Only the foundations of the buildings remain on the site. The site of the water-wheel is still visible though partly filled with bricks and rubbish. The long dry leat which fed the wheel can easily be followed as can the tail race below the mill.

44. RYTON MILL — SP 376752

There was a mill at Ryton in 1086 valued at 12s. It seems likely that the mill was used for fulling during the seventeenth century as there are references to such a mill in the church records of Ryton-on-Dunsmore in 1621 and 1626. On Beighton's map of 1725 the mill is marked as 'Gig Mill'.

James Garner was the miller in the 1820's and by 1854 R. Leeson was running the mill. The subsequent millers were W. Eburne from 1860 to 1868, Mrs. Mary Green in 1872 and R. Cleaver in 1876. By 1892 William Thornton was at the mill, being mentioned again in 1896, 1900 and 1904.

One small outbuilding is all that remains of the mill. The major part of the building was destroyed by fire in 1963 having been severely damaged by vandals before this. The short head race to the wheel has since been filled in but the main river sluice gates still stand close to the site.

45. BUBBENHALL MILL — SP 357724

In 1086 the mill on this site was worth 4s. Later it was given to the monks of Kenilworth Priory and they retained it until the Dissolution. In 1510 the Priory leased the mill and farm to William Smith for 48s. 6d. per annum. In 1696 William Cowe, the miller, was 'presented for a common breaker of the Sabbath Day by his frequent grinding of corn, when no necessity requires the same, and sending out his servant to carry home grists.'

J. Orton was the miller in 1845, followed by Richard Leeson in 1868. In 1876 Thomas Allen was at the mill and Mrs. Ann Allen is named in 1884. After A. Sheasby in 1888, the mill was taken by George Moore and he ran it from 1892 until closure in the 1950's.

The mill was demolished in 1964 in the course of improvements to the river. However, most of the machinery was removed before demolition and has since been installed in Arrow Mill near Alcester. From an old illustration the mill would seem to have been of considerable age. Certainly the adjoining mill house showed evidence of seventeenth century half timbering.

46. STONELEIGH MILLS — SP 316712

There were two mills at Stoneleigh in 1086, valued at 35s. 4d.. By 1291 there were other mills at Stareton and Cryfield, and another near Home Grange, south of the Abbey.

By 1535 six mills were recorded and in 1546 these included a fulling mill in Stoneleigh, and a fulling and corn mill called 'Stoneleigh Mills'. At the same time there were other fulling mills at Cryfield on the Millburn, and near the Abbey. In 1725 only two mills were recorded on Beighton's map and the same two appear again in 1787-9. One of these was on the River Sowe and the other on the River Avon at the above reference point. By the 1830's only the mill on the River Sowe is marked. However, before 1880, a pumping wheel had been erected just below the site of the old mill on the Avon. The building and machinery have survived though no longer in use. The single storey stone building houses a low breast-shot wheel, measuring 10ft. diameter by 2ft. 8in. wide. This is connected by a chain drive to the water pump.

* * *

There were two mills at Ashow in 1086 worth 20s. and one in Bericote worth 4s. There seem to have been two mills in Bericote by the end of the thirteenth century, one of which was a fulling mill. It is recorded that by the middle of the sixteenth century the fulling mill had fallen down. No traces of these mills remain today.

47. BLACKDOWN MILL SP 311691

This was probably the mill attached to Lillington and valued at 6s. 8d. in 1086. Later it became the property of Coombe Abbey. In 1596 the millers were indicted for charging excess toll and in 1629 John Bates, the miller, was refusing to pay taxes. In 1628 the owner was Thomas Ward who was held responsible for repairs to Chesford Bridge nearby. The mill was leased to S. Perkins in 1793.

By 1841 Joseph Jordan and Sons were running the mill, and it remained in the hands of this family until 1900 when the firm of Whitehouse and Co. is recorded. James Phillips was the miller in 1904 and 1908, followed by T. M. Watts in 1912. Watts was the last known miller, operating there until the mid 1920's. For many years now the buildings have been the premises of an antique dealer.

The mill is a mixture of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings. The older part is a three storey brick structure and a large wooden extension has been added to this at the end housing the waterwheel. Thus, the wheel is centrally placed in the whole range, with a lucam directly above it. The appearance of the mill has been considerably altered in this century by the addition of balconies to the main building and the extension. Entry is gained by steps leading up to the stone floor. The waterwheel, which can be seen through a heavy iron grille, is low breast-shot, approximately 18ft. diameter by 8ft. wide. Most of the floats have broken away. Inside the mill, all the main gearing has been removed, and only the 18in. stone nuts which drove four pairs of stones remain. The hursting and bridge trees are all wood. Three bed stones remain on the stone floor and there are two stone cranes nearby.

In the yard behind the mill is a tall chimney, and a large fly wheel which is mounted on a wall overhanging the tail race. These are all that remain of the steam engine installed in the mid-nineteenth century.

48. GUY'S CLIFFE MILL SP 291671

This mill is claimed to be of Saxon origin. It was the property of Kenilworth Priory in the twelfth century and at the Dissolution it was valued at £4 13s. 4d. There are many references to the mill in the sixteenth century relating to two, and later three, watermills

92. STONEY THORPE MILL SP 405623

There were two mills at Southam in 1086 valued at 4s., and by 1291 they were worth 10s. In 1675 it is recorded in the Quarter Session Book that 'Samuel Andrews of Sowtham, clerk, presented for not repairing the bank of the river called Hitchens alias Desters Brook, the which said bank lieth in the parish of Sowtham aforesaid and the said brook drives the mill of John Chamberlain, esquire, and that by reason of the breach in the said bank the brook cannot so well drive the said mill, whereupon his Majesty's subjects cannot grind so much there as formerly, and that the said Samuel Andrews ought to repair the said bank by reason of his being owner of certain lands lying alongside the said brook adjoining the said bank.' The case was quashed. In 1683 Moses Bullock, the miller, was indicted for assault.

By 1828 William Wilkins was the miller followed by Edward Kelham in 1835. John Hudson is recorded in 1845 and was still at the mill in 1860. Between 1864 and 1876 the millers were W. Bird, J. Lines, George Cook and William Sheasby. The last known miller was David Bellairs who was there from 1884 to 1892.

The mill building dates from the eighteenth century but shows many signs of alterations carried out in the nineteenth century. The side of the mill which is visible from the nearby manor house has been faced with brickwork and plaster, with alcoves simulating gothic doors and windows. The roof and floors of the building have gone, destroyed by a fire many years ago. Part of the machinery remains inside the building, including the waterwheel. It is a breast-shot wheel, measuring approximately 10ft. in diameter by 7ft. wide. The iron pitwheel is about 7ft. diameter, and the iron upright shaft lies across this. The positions of the few remaining beams of the stone floor suggest that there were two pairs of millstones.

Beside the mill is a small bakery and a short distance away are the stables and cart sheds.

90. BROOKHAMPTON MILL — SP 319504

There was a water mill attached to the manor of Brookhampton in 1677. It is marked on Yates' map of 1787-9 as 'Brokehampton Mill' and is shown on the O. S. 1in. map of the 1830's. On maps of 1872 and later the East and West Junction Railway is shown passing very close to the site. The building of this railway may have affected the watercourses to the mill and caused its closure. On the 1886 O. S. 6in. map a footbridge across the stream marks the site but there are no buildings nearby.

91. WELLESBOURNE MILL — SP 285544

In 1086 there were three mills in the manor of Walton, which included Wellesbourne, and one or more may have stood on this site. Two mills are mentioned in the sixteenth and seventeenth century, but one of these may have been the nearby windmill.

William Bustin was the miller from 1845 until his death in the 1860's. His wife, Mrs. W. Bustin, is recorded in 1868 and 1872. From 1876 until 1908 Henry Anderton is named as miller and although no further millers are listed, the mill continued to operate until c. 1958 though not by water power. The last person to use the mill was the present occupant of the adjacent farm, Mr. E. Bartlett, who worked the machinery by belt drive from a tractor.

The three storey brick building was erected in 1834. This date can be seen in the brickwork of the south-west gable. There is an internal breast-shot wheel of clasp arm construction measuring 17ft. diameter by 6ft. wide. It is unusual in that there are three sets of three pairs of arms around the axle. The iron pitwheel measures 8ft. in diameter and meshes with a 3ft. 2in. diameter iron wallower on the wooden upright shaft. The base of this shaft is supported by a massive baulk of timber. Between the wallower and spur wheel is a wood cogged iron bevel gear which received the drive from a portable steam engine, and later a tractor, via a short horizontal shaft. A small pinion connects this shaft to the bevel gear and there is a large pulley outside the mill. The clasp arm spur wheel is of wood, measuring 7ft. 4in. in diameter. Originally there were two stone nuts but one has been removed, the remaining one being of iron and 18in. across. The hurst frame and bridge trees are of wood.

On the stone floor are two pairs of stones, complete with tuns and hoppers, and a bean kibbler stands against one of the walls. Also there is a bolter which is complete except for the reel. The sack hoist was driven by belt from a short lay-shaft off the crown wheel. On the bin floor is the compass arm sack hoist pulley and drum. Attached to one of the beams is a speaking tube which allowed for communication between the bin floor and the machinery floor.

The whole of the mill building is used to house Mr. Bartlett's fine collection of early agricultural implements. Just inside the main entrance to the mill is a small office, the door of which, dated 1785, came from the windmill which stood a short distance away.

The adjoining mill house is older than the mill by many years, and some of the nearby farm buildings appear to date from the sixteenth or seventeenth century.

under one roof. In 1704 the mill was being operated by William Edwards, Anthony Power and William Fox as an oil mill grinding linseed or rape seed. On Beighton's map of 1725 the mill is marked as an 'Oyl mill'. It is probably the same oil mill as is mentioned in the will of Edward Taylor of Warwick in 1747. In 1782 the mill was leased to Thomas Perkins and is likely to have reverted to corn grinding by this date.

James Perkins was the miller in 1835, followed by Squires and Woodward in 1841. From 1845 to 1864 M. Woodhull is recorded, and in 1876 the millers were Norman and Co. After Ernest Williams and Oldham and Co. in 1888, H. Summerton became the miller in 1892. His family worked the mill until it closed in 1938, and Mrs. M. Summerton was still there in 1940. In 1952 the mill and its adjacent granary were converted into a restaurant and bar. All the buildings are of stone, dating mainly from the eighteenth century, but parts of the mill appear to be older. The main waterwheel has gone but a smaller one still turns. This wheel, which measures approximately 16ft. diameter by 2ft. 3in. wide, was originally enclosed in a small wheelhouse. Half of the pit wheel forms a semicircular window behind the wheel and a solid wooden spur wheel is mounted just inside the entrance to the restaurant. The iron axle of the main wheel is set into the wall in front of the mill. The mill and granary are now linked by a modern stone structure and the original balcony on the mill has been extended across its face.

These alterations have not spoilt the beauty of the mill or its setting, and it remains a popular place for visitors in the summer.

It is interesting to note the flood levels recorded on the front wall of the mill since the mid-nineteenth century.

49. ROCK MILLS - LEAMINGTON SPA — SP 301662

In the Domesday Survey the mill on this site was valued at 50s. By 1560 there was a corn mill and a fulling mill in the manor of Milverton. The present building dates from 1792 when Benjamin Smart, who had bought the Milverton estate, built a cotton spinning mill on the site. For a while nearly one hundred people were employed there, but early in the nineteenth century part of the mill was being used for corn grinding. In 1824 the mill was leased to Francis Nixson and by 1830 the mill had been totally converted to corn grinding with a steam engine installed to supplement the water power.

James Oram was the miller in 1828, followed by Timothy Chattaway in 1835. From 1850 the millers were J. Squires, R. Nunn, Samuel Squires, Boddinton and Norman, and Norman and Co. In 1888 Kench and Sons are recorded and they operated the mill until 1961. In that year loss of trade and a labour shortage had brought about the closure of Rock Mills, and the firm's other mill at Emscote.

The mill is a fine five storey brick building, in the style of many cotton mills built in the late eighteenth century to house Arkwright's spinning frames. It was extended in the late nineteenth century by the addition of a wing on the east end of the building, and there are two asbestos clad lucams. On the west side of the mill stands the steam engine chimney, the engine itself having been removed by 1890, and an extensive range of outbuildings including cart sheds and stables.

The mill still contains two complete sets of corn grinding machinery which were driven by two internal waterwheels. At the west end of the building is a 15ft. 3in. diameter by 7ft. 8in. wide breast-shot wheel installed in 1848. This drove a 10ft. diameter iron pitwheel which meshed with the 5ft. diameter wallower on the upright shaft. The wallower could be raised by screws to lift it clear of the pitwheel thus enabling the stones to be driven by an engine without turning the waterwheel as well. There is an

11ft. diameter spur wheel which drove four 20in. stone nuts. All this gearing, which is of iron, was installed by Lampitts, millwrights from Todenham in Gloucestershire. The hurst frame and bridge trees are also of iron. with centre-lift tentering. Only one pair of stones remain, complete with furniture, and in recent years this was driven by an electric motor. The motor was connected by belts to a horizontal shaft from the crown wheel. This same shaft originally took the drive from the steam engine and later from a diesel engine used in the 1920's.

At the east end of the mill is a low breast-shot wheel, installed in 1845, approximately 18ft. diameter by 4ft. 7in. wide. There is a 10ft. diameter iron pitwheel which meshes with a 2ft. 6in. diameter pinion on an intermediate horizontal shaft. The main building is not rectangular and this means that for the horizontal shaft to run parallel to the rear wall of the mill these two gears had to be set at an angle. This necessitated the delicate machining of a slight bevel on the pitwheel to ensure that the gears meshed correctly. The intermediate shaft carries a 5ft. diameter wood-cogged spur gear which drove another 2ft. 6in. diameter pinion on the main horizontal shaft. On the outer end of the main shaft is a 4ft. diameter pulley which carried a belt drive up to two sack hoists and machinery on the upper floors of the mill. Also on the main shaft are two 4ft. diameter wood-cogged bevel gears which drove the 20in. iron stone nuts. The hurst frame and bridge trees are of iron. Both pairs of stones driven by this machinery have been removed.

Both waterwheels were maintained in working order up to the closure of the mill, though that at the west end of the building had not been used for some years.

As the mill was producing animal foodstuffs on a commercial basis until 1961, much modern machinery was used. On the first floor were the high speed grinders, sold after the mill's closure, some mixers and automatic weighing and bagging machines. The second floor contains an aspirator, a sifter. a bean-crusher, an oat-roller and more mixers. With this machinery and the one pair of stones the mill was capable of producing sixteen types of animal feeds as well as stone ground flour.

50. CASTLE MILL - WARWICK SP 285647

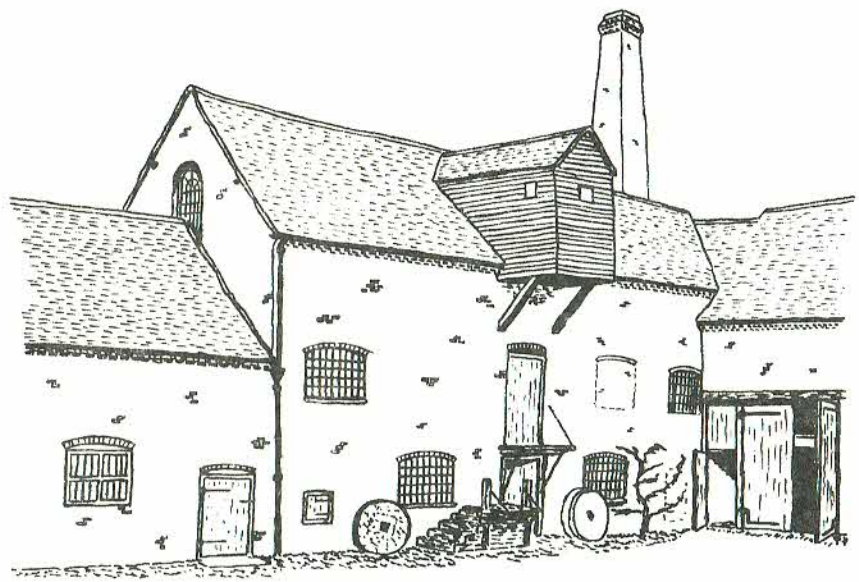
The earliest reference to mills attached to the castle is 1150. These stood about one hundred yards downstream from the present site, and were totally destroyed by floods in the early fourteenth century. Later in the same century a mill was built on the present site immediately below the castle. It was leased to many tenants, all having trouble maintaining the mill because of the constant threat of floods. In 1528 the mill is recorded as being 'in sore decay by reason of the great floods that fell last year'. In 1576 William Hudson rented the mill and a watercourse which he had constructed to a tulling mill on land he owned just above the old river bridge. In 1611 Sir Fulke Greville acquired the remainder of the lease of the mills. They were used to grind corn for the garrison of the castle during the siege of 1642. From 1644 a waterwheel operated a pump to raise water for the castle's domestic needs. In 1767 the mill took on its present appearance, the walls being raised and castellated and a few years later the weirs were repaired.

Edward Dodd was the miller from the 1820's. being followed by Ellis and Millington in 1860. The last miller was James Tomlin who is recorded from 1864 to 1880, in which year the mill machinery was destroyed by fire. In 1894 an electricity generating plant was installed in the empty mill house to supply power to the castle, and in 1910 an electric pump took over the task of raising water for the castle fire service and town water carts. The electricity generating plant was finally dismantled in 1954.

89. BROOMHALL MILL - BROOMHALL BROOK SP 123822

The mill on this site was occupied by the Shaw family in 1778. It was working until c. 1880, but had been demolished by 1886. The site of the mill and surrounding land was later bought by the City of Birmingham. The mill pool has been drained and the stream now flows down a series of concrete steps at the site of the buildings.

Sarehole Mill (87)



belonging to the Taylor family of Strensham.

In 1850-51 the mill reverted to corn grinding. The millwright, Robert Summers of Tanworth-in-Arden, may well have used much of the machinery from Trittiford Mill, another property of the Taylor s, which was converted from corn grinding to steel rolling at about the same time. The blade grinding workshop became the miller's residence. The mill was leased to John Andrew in 1858. He died in 1867 and was followed by George Andrew, a bone and manure merchant. The mill ceased working in 1919 but members of the Andrew family lived there until 1959.

The mill had been bequeathed to the City of Birmingham in 1946, and after years of neglect, restoration commenced in 1965. The mill was opened to the public as a branch museum of the City of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery on 12th July, 1969. It may be visited throughout the summer months and some stone ground flour is produced there.

All the buildings on the site date from the rebuilding of c. 1768. The mill contains two internal waterwheels. The north wheel is high breast-shot, measuring 12ft. diameter by 6ft. wide. On the other end of the octagonal axle is an 8ft. diameter pitwheel. This drives a 2ft. 8in. diameter wallower on a wooden upright shaft. The wooden, clasp arm spur wheel measures 7ft. in diameter. There were once three pairs of stones, but only one is complete with tun and hopper. A pulley on a short layshaft from the crown wheel carried the drive by belt to a wire machine. Another shaft to the crown wheel brought the drive from a steam engine installed in the 1850's. This engine was later removed, but a replacement has been found and was installed in 1978. The south wheel is overshot, measuring 10ft. 4in. in diameter by 4ft. wide, and is geared to drive two pairs of stones within the main mill building and a grindstone in the adjoining workshop. Inside the mill is an 8ft. 6in. diameter pitwheel driving a 3ft. diameter wallower mounted on an iron upright shaft. The wooden, clasp arm spur wheel measures 6ft. in diameter. In the workshop there is a 7ft. diameter spur gear on the waterwheel axle. This drives a pulley on a short layshaft via a small pinion. The pulley carries a belt drive to the grindstone. The original blade grinding machinery was removed in the conversion of 1850-51 and the machinery which is now installed has been acquired from other mills. Other buildings on the site include a bakery and a cartshed or granary. The bakery was once twice its present size and may have been a forge when originally constructed.

The mill is powered by water from a pond immediately behind the buildings. The sole source of water is now Coldbath Brook as the leat from the Cole was filled in during the 1930's. Part of its course can still be traced.

Coldbath Brook once powered another mill, known as Lady Mill (SP 090820), which stood a short distance upstream. It is thought to have existed in the fifteenth century, and was demolished in the 1830's. Its pond has been drained and the mill site built over.

88. OLTON MILL - HATCHFORD BROOK — SP 151814

There was a mill here by the end of the eighteenth century, but the first known miller was W. Vere in 1842. George Hodges took over the business c. 1876, followed by Mrs. E. Hodges in 1884. Walter Smith was the miller in 1888, and worked the mill until 1904 when Harry Fawdry occupied the premises. He was still at the mill in the 1920's.

The mill was fed by the large pool to the west of Lode Lane. The mill buildings stood on the other side of the lane. They were demolished many years ago, and a housing estate now covers the site.

The low stone mill building still stands but contains no machinery. The main waterwheel remains and is sited externally on the river end of the building. Access to the wheel is difficult and it has not been possible to record its dimensions accurately.

51. BARFORD MILL — SP 273611

There was a mill at Barford in 1086 valued at 2s. and three sticks of eels. By the end of the twelfth century it was the property of Waleran, Earl of Warwick, and was given to Bordesley Abbey in the early thirteenth century. Another mill site near Leafield Bridge is mentioned in the thirteenth century when Henry de Nafford held Barford Mill with a covenant not to damage the mill of 'La Lee'. Both mills are mentioned again in 1293. These mills passed to the Earls of Warwick in 1562, and later to the Ward family. Nothing else is known of 'La Lee' mill.

Barford mill was run by Oldham and Dormer from 1845, and the Oldham family continued to operate there until Richard Embrey took over the business in 1884. From 1888 to 1900 George Norton was the miller, followed by Palmer and Oldham in 1904. Charles H. Oldham was at the mill in 1908. From 1916 James E. Hemmings was the miller and after this firm moved to new premises in the 1930's the old mill was demolished.

From an illustration of about 1900 the mill is seen to have been a large three storey structure having two waterwheels. Only a small outbuilding remains on the site, the main mill building having been replaced by a weir across the head race.

52. CHARLECOTE MILL - HAMPTON LUCY — SP 259572

In 1086 the mill at Hampton Lucy was valued at 6s. 8d. and by 1678 four mills were recorded as belonging to the manor, but this probably included those at Fulbrook, some distance upstream.

In 1675 John Dickins, the miller, and three companions were indicted for 'the felonious stealing and carrying away of two perches and two pikes of the value of 11d. of the goods and chattels of Richard Lucy, esquire'. Dickins and Robert Nason confessed, and were sentenced to be 'stripped from the waist upwards and openly whipped through the town of Hampton Lucy till their bodies be bloody'.

John Robbins was the miller in 1830, followed by William Witherington from 1845 to 1864. S. Gough ran the mill from 1868 to 1900 and Harold Bailey Palmer from 1908 to 1912. From 1916 to c. 1930 Oliver and Rowland Baker were the millers and by 1936 the firm of Newbury and Son had taken over the business. They were the last millers, operating until the early 1950's. Restoration of the mill to working order commenced in May 1978.

The mill building dates from the eighteenth century. It is a three storey brick structure with a centrally placed lucam and an extension to the rear. The mill house adjoins the mill on the eastern side. There are two large internal undershot waterwheels, and two complete sets of milling machinery. The west wheel is 18ft. diameter by 3ft. 10in. wide, and was installed by Ball and Horton of Stratford-upon-Avon. It drove a 9ft. diameter pitwheel and a 3ft. 3in. diameter wallower on the wooden upright shaft. The spur wheel is of wood, clasp arm in construction, measuring 8ft. in diameter. There are two 20in. iron stone nuts. The hurst frame and bridge trees are all of wood. The two pairs of stones are complete with tuns and hoppers.

The east wheel, which measures 18ft. diameter by 3ft. wide, originally drove

two pairs of stones through gearing similar to that at the west end. In the nineteenth century one pair of stones was removed to allow for the installation of a horizontal shaft across the mill which drove modern milling machinery on the ground floor.

The wire machine and the sack hoist were operated from the solid wooden crown wheel driven by the west wheel. The short lay-shaft which carries the sack hoist pulley has been removed.

53. ALVESTON MILL

SP 233571

A mill is known to have existed at Alveston since 966 and in the Domesday Survey there were three mills valued at 40s. and twelve sticks and one thousand eels. In 1240 there were two mills, as well as a corn mill and a fulling mill at Tiddington. All these mills were still in existence in 1650. In 1648 Nicholas Wedge, the miller at Alveston, was indicted for stealing sheep. Thomas Lucy, who later bought the mills at Stratford, was at the mill for a short time at the end of the eighteenth century.

In 1830 William Halford and Thomas Taylor were the millers. T. Adams ran the mill from 1845 to 1860, being followed by the last miller, S. Gough from 1864 to 1876. The mill was described as being in ruins by 1886 but was not demolished until the 1940's. An illustration of about 1900 shows the mill to have been a small building with an external undershot waterwheel.

Nothing remains on the site except a weir across the head race.

54. STRATFORD MILL

SP 201541

The mill at Stratford was valued at 10s. and one thousand eels in 1086. By the middle of the thirteenth century there were three corn mills under one roof and a fulling mill. The fulling mill had gone by the end of the same century. From the mid-sixteenth century the mills belonged to the Smyth family and in 1631 Sir Charles Smyth leased two corn mills and a fulling mill, all under one roof, to John Rogers of Shottery. The watercourses were damaged during the Civil War, and in 1651 the water had to be lowered at the mills to enable workmen to repair Clopton Bridge. In 1686, Francis, Lord Carrington leased the mills to William Martin of Evesham who later assigned the lease to James West, a cloth weaver from London. William Oldaker acquired the mills from the Marquess of Hertford in the late eighteenth century. At that time there was an oil mill and a flour mill on the site. Oldaker had rebuilt the flour mill by the time he sold the whole property to Thomas Lucy of Cobham in Surrey. Lucy replaced the oil mill with another flour mill in 1819, and his son replaced both mills by a single large mill in 1833. The Lucy family remained in control of the mill until about 1900 after which time it was run by a company using the name C. Lucy and Nephew. The mills were destroyed by fire in 1941 but were rebuilt shortly afterwards and continued to be one of the most important mills in the Midlands until recent years, but no longer water powered. By the late 1960's the mill was derelict although the firm of C. Lucy and Nephew was operating from adjacent premises.

In 1973 the majority of the buildings were demolished and residences known as 'Corn Mill Flats' erected on the site. The watercourses have been retained and the old tail arch can be seen below the new buildings.

83. WASH MILL

SP 120860

'Wodenmill', in Yardley, was granted to Richard Bradewell in 1385, and probably stood on this site. It remained a corn mill throughout its working life. In the nineteenth century successive tenants were Thomas Wardborough, John Thornton, Joseph Lee and Henry Smith. It ceased working c. 1914 and was demolished in the late 1920's. In 1926 the remains of two waterwheels, side by side, were still visible.

The site has since been levelled.

84. STECHFORD MILL

SP 126879

This mill was first mentioned in c. 1249, being held by Giles de Erdington. It survived until c. 1840, tenanted by Thomas Smith. In its last years it is thought to have been used for blade grinding and paper making.

Few traces remain on the site.

85. BABBS MILL

SP 162877

There was a mill here in the early eighteenth century. In 1751 John Barrs, a baker from Yardley, obtained possession of the mill from Edward Cook. John Andrews was the miller in 1850. The mill ceased working c. 1914 and was converted into a cottage.

The brick building dates from the eighteenth century. There is a small mill house attached. The waterwheel was mounted externally, but enclosed in a brick wheelhouse. The wall of the pool, and the line of the tail race can still be followed.

86. COLESHILL MILL

SP 198896

In 1086 the mill at Coleshill was valued at 40d. Nothing else is known of its history until the nineteenth century. The first known miller was John Messenger in 1828, and his family ran the mill until Charles Jones took over in 1872. The last miller is thought to have been named Stephens and he worked the mill until c. 1930.

The mill was demolished in 1937 and only the brick foundations remain. It was an eighteenth century brick building with an adjoining mill house. The waterwheel was mounted internally.

THE MILLS ON TRIBUTARIES OF THE RIVER COLE

87. SAREHOLE MILL - COLDBATH BROOK

SP 098818

In 1542 Daniel Benford of Yardley gave John Bedell permission to build a corn mill on this site. Until the eighteenth century it was known as Biddle's Mill. The mill was purchased by the Eaves family in 1727. Matthew Boulton secured the lease in 1756 and may well have converted it to metal rolling. Richard Eaves rebuilt the mill in c. 1768, and augmented the meagre water supply from Coldbath Brook with a new cut from the River Cole. The tenant at this time was John James who used part of the premises for blade grinding. Some time later the mill became one of the properties in this area

79. PRIORY MILL — SP 103792

The earliest reference to a mill on this site was in 1495. It was rebuilt in the eighteenth century, and had become a needle mill by 1843. From the 1870's until it closed c. 1919, it was owned by the Woolaston family and operated as a corn mill.

The pond has been filled in, and the buildings were demolished in the 1960's. Parts of the long leat which fed the pond can still be traced. A second pond nearby, which may once have been an additional water supply, still remains.

80. TRITTIFORD MILL — SP 097803

The earliest known reference to a mill here was in 1778, when Joseph Baldwin was the miller. In 1783 it was advertised in Aris' Birmingham Gazette as being available on lease. Named as Titterford Mill, it was described as 'a new complete water corn mill containing two waterwheels, four pairs of stones, dressing mills, and with garners holding upwards of two thousand bags of wheat'. Members of the Tabbener family were tenants in the first half of the nineteenth century until the building was converted for use as a rolling mill. This is thought to have been carried out c. 1849 and some of the corn grinding machinery may have been re-used in Sarehole Mill. In the second half of the nineteenth century the mill produced steel pen nibs under the tenancy of the Hill family. By this time the mill was owned by the Taylor family and was advertised for sale, with their other properties in Yardley, in 1913. The mill then contained an annealing shop, an engine room with a 20 h.p. vertical steam engine, a rolling room and a 6 h.p. waterwheel. It was said to be in the tenancy of Mr. A.R. Hill. The mill ceased working the following year.

In the 1920's fire damaged the mill buildings and they were demolished shortly afterwards. The large mill pool is now used for recreational purposes.

81. GREET MILL — SP 100827

A corn mill stood here from the thirteenth century until c. 1800. After this time it was used for blade grinding, and later, steel rolling.

The mill was demolished before 1880 and no traces remain on the site.

82. HAY MILLS — SP 108848

There was a mill here in the fifteenth century. From 1820 it was used as a blade mill until demolished c. 1830. At the same time another larger mill was constructed about two hundred yards north of the old site. In 1860 the wire drawing machinery from Penn's Mill was installed by the firm of Webster and Horsfall. The works was considerably enlarged in 1865 but water power was still used for some processes until at least the 1920's.

In the 1920's the 'Tysley Destructor' was built on the southern end of the site, obliterating most of the watercourses.

55. WELFORD MILL — SP 144521

There was a mill at Welford in the thirteenth century for it is named in grants which mention the island in the river near Binton Bridge. This island was said to be between the mills of Binton and Welford. Binton Mill later belonged to Bordesley Abbey but disappeared in the seventeenth century.

By 1291 there were two mills at Welford and these were named again in 1609, having been granted to William Willington in 1553.

The mill was operated until 1958 by H. Hawkins. In 1973 it was sold for conversion into a dwelling.

The mill building is of brick, three storeys high, with an extension to the rear. Its appearance has been radically changed in the course of conversion. There were two external undershot waterwheels, approximately 17ft. 6in. diameter by 4ft. 6in. wide. One of these appears to have been enclosed in a wheelhouse many years ago. Both wheels have now been removed, but one has been restored for use at Lutley Mill near Halesowen, West Midlands. The west wheel drove three pairs of 4ft. diameter stones, and the east wheel two pairs. The gearing was similar in both plants with iron pitwheels, 9ft. 4in. in diameter, and iron wallowers 3ft. 2in. in diameter. Both spur wheels were clasp arm in construction and measured 8ft. in diameter. The hurst frames and bridge trees were of wood. The stone nuts and spindles were removed along with other small parts of the gearing before conversion. Some of the millstones and a stone crane were installed in Sarehole Mill in Birmingham.

56. BIDFORD GRANGE MILLS — SP 117515

There may well have been a mill here in 1086 as four were recorded in Bidford at that time. Two of these later passed into the ownership of Bordesley Abbey. It is recorded that John Penne held the lease of the mills from 1535 and by 1545 he occupied three mills called 'Grainge Mills', owned by Thomas Badger. According to Welford-on-Avon parish register, 'Grainge Mill' was broken down in the great flood of 1588 'which was a yearde and a halfe in the howse, and cam in soe suddently that John Penne's wife then millard was soe amazed that shee sate still till shee was almost drowned and was welnigh besides herselfe and soe farr amise that shee did not know her owne child when yt was broughte unto her'. In 1659 John Slatter was indicted 'For forced entry in one messuage and two watermills with the appurtenances in Bidford' which belonged to Christopher Owen and John Lax, being occupied by Edward Owen. However, by 1729 Thomas Slatter was operating a paper mill on the site, and in 1800 the mill was advertised as 'Grainge Mills where a paper mill was formerly worked'. It seems to have been leased to William and John Wrighton, who were paper manufacturers towards the end of the eighteenth century.

In 1845 there was a corn mill with A. Burrows named as the miller. He was followed in 1850 by R. Stanton, and this family continued to run the mill until c. 1880. In 1856 the paper mill at Bidford Grange was leased to Joseph Hobday by Miss Harris and Mrs. Moore at an annual rent of £20. In 1857 the paper making apparatus was sold to Thomas Hughes and James Baker, along with the tenancy of the mill. On the 1886 O.S. 6in. map, the mill is shown as a corn mill only, and by 1900 it was described as being in ruins.

The buildings were demolished many years ago and only the overgrown foundations remain. The mill house still stands, though it has not been occupied for many years. This house may be part of the paper mill which drew its water from what later became the approach channel to Grange Lock on the Upper Avon Navigation.

57. BIGGIN MILL — SP 533777

This mill belonged to Coombe Abbey from the thirteenth century and after the Dissolution it was included in the manor of Newton.

By 1828 the miller was Thomas Tew and he was there until 1850 when H. Hewitt is recorded. Hewitt was followed by Daniel Spokes who ran the mill from 1884 until 1892.

The mill buildings, and the adjoining mill house, appear to date from the early nineteenth century. The mill is a three storey brick structure which contained an internal overshot waterwheel. This wheel was made entirely of iron and measured approximately 20ft. diameter by 6ft. wide. It was removed, along with all the main gearing, and sold for scrap in the early 1940's. All that remains are three iron stone nuts mounted on their spindles supported by wooden bridge trees and hursting. On the stone floor are three pairs of stones, two French and one Peak, and the remains of a wire machine.

The wheel was fed by a long leat from the stream which filled a narrow pond behind the mill. The water then travelled through a stone trough to the mill. The leat and pond have been filled in but the stone trough is still in position.

58. CESTERSOVER MILL - RIVER SWIFT — SP 512815

In 1086 the mill at Cestersover was worth 2s. In 1545 there was a watermill and windmill attached to the manor.

The Cotton family held the mill from the 1820's until 1860. They were followed by a Mrs. Gilbert in 1876 and George Sutton in 1884. The mill probably ceased working early in the twentieth century.

Although the mill buildings have been demolished, the waterwheel and much of the machinery remain at the site. The wheel is overshot and measures 10ft. diameter by 3ft. 7in. wide. It drove a 5ft. 4in. diameter iron pitwheel. There are two pairs of millstones, one of which was apparently driven directly from the pitwheel.

The wheel was fed by a leat from the river which meanders through the fields for about one and a half miles before reaching the mill. Despite the great length of the leat, the effective head of water at the mill was only ten feet. It may be that the mill was owned by a monastery up to the sixteenth century, and that the monks constructed these watercourses. If this were the case then the time taken, and availability of labour, would be no problem, and the cost not even considered.

PRIORY MILL - WARWICK — ST. JOHN'S BROOK — Estimated Ref. SP 281658

This mill stood to the north of the Priory Ponds and may have been near Priory Cottage marked on the 1886 O.S. 6in. map. In modern Warwick this would be about one hundred yards east of the junction of Millers Road and Lock Lane.

There was certainly a mill here by 1710, and in 1835 Michael Woodhull was the miller. The last known miller was John Kitchen in 1841-2, but the mill was still working in the early 1850's.

manor, granted it to Thomas Wright of Over Whitacre. In 1622 it was owned by William Upsham.

By 1828 Arthur Watson was the miller, and his family remained there until the 1890's. Part of the building may have been used for paper making from c. 1835 to c. 1845. From 1904 until 1912, the firm of Philip and Pearman operated there, followed by David Webster Philip in 1916. From c. 1920 until well after the Second World War the mill was run by C.R. Prosser and Sons. Since then the mill has been converted into a garage and all the machinery removed.

The three storey building shows many signs of alterations and extensions through the centuries. The oldest part, the central section, is built of sandstone blocks. At some time its height was increased by adding an extra storey in brick. In the nineteenth century a full height extension with a lucam was added to the north end of the mill. The waterwheel was mounted internally and, from the size of the wheelpit, must have been of considerable dimensions. When the machinery was removed some of the millstones were taken to New Hall Mill.

The mill pond, immediately behind the buildings, and the part of the leat up to the sluice gates have been filled in. They now form the garden of the mill house.

77. SHUSTOKE MILL — SP 237915

This mill was known as New Mill in 1725. It is thought to have been a paper mill in the early nineteenth century operated successively by John, Thomas and Charles Messenger. It had been converted to corn grinding by 1850 when Thomas Sheffield was the miller. Edmund Adcock was at the mill from 1854 until it closed in the 1860's to make way for the reservoirs now occupying the site.

78. ANSLEY MILL - BOURNE BROOK — SP 282918

In 1550 a watermill at Ansley was sold to Ralph Pickering and John Dyson by John Colpeper. It was recorded as part of the manor in 1728.

J. Wheatley was the miller by 1854, followed by Edward Dawkins from 1860 to 1876. Robert R. Wilson had taken the mill by 1884 and worked it until c. 1892. The last known miller was Isaac Thurn in 1896. The mill ceased working many years ago and has been converted into a dwelling.

It is a three storey brick building, and had an external waterwheel enclosed in a brick wheelhouse, which is now used as a garage. Marks made by the wheel scraping against the wall are still visible.

It is possible to trace the line of the leat and the outline of the pool behind the buildings.

73. ADCOCK'S MILL SP 278883

The mill at Fillongley, mentioned in a deed of 1703, probably stood on this site, but nothing else is known of its early history. It had become known as Lovell's Mill by the 1780's. Benjamin Torbitt was the miller from c. 1845, followed by Edmund Adcock in 1884. Charles Peebles worked the mill from c. 1924 until it closed in c. 1946. The Peebles family still keep the adjacent farm. After the cessation of milling, the building was used as a cattle shed for some years, and all the corn grinding machinery removed. The waterwheel was broken up in 1968 when the ground floor of the mill was leased as a workshop for the manufacture of masonry pins. In 1973 planning permission was granted for conversion into a dwelling.

The mill is a small, three storey brick structure. The iron overshot waterwheel, measuring approximately 14ft. in diameter by 6ft. wide, was mounted externally, but enclosed in a brick wheelhouse. This drove two pairs of stones via an upright shaft and spur wheel. Some of the stones remain outside the building. The long leat from the river can still be traced for part of its length.

74. FILLONGLEY MILL SP 274887

There was a mill here by 1725 but nothing is known about it until William Hancox entered into a partnership to work the mill with Thomas Shread in 1832. Hancox leased the mill to T. Townsend in 1854, and J. Fletcher and J. Hinks in 1860. The property was sold to Junius Eaves Minett of Sloley Hall, Arley in c. 1863, and it remained in his possession until closing in the early 1900's. The mill was converted into a dwelling but condemned as unfit for habitation many years ago, and now stands derelict.

The head race which fed the wheel can still be traced.

75. DAW MILL SP 257899

This mill is marked on Beighton's map of 1725, but its early history is not known. By 1845 T. Sutton was the miller, followed by George George Grundy in c. 1884. From c. 1900 the premises were occupied by Samuel William Hughes and although he was last recorded in 1912, milling is known to have continued until the early 1940's. Conversion to a dwelling started in c. 1960, and was still being carried out in 1971.

The mill is a three storey brick structure with an external waterwheel, enclosed in a brick wheelhouse. The pitchback wheel is mounted on a wooden axle and measures 14ft. in diameter by 5ft. 4½in. wide. It once operated two pairs of stones, but all the gearing has been removed, leaving only the wooden hurst frame. The wooden upright shaft lies a short distance from the mill with the clasp arm, wooden crown wheel still mounted on it.

The wheel was fed by a long leat from the river, and the section nearest the mill is now completely dry.

76. FURNACE END MILL SP 248912

There was a mill here in 1517, and in 1568 Michael Pultney, who owned part of the

59. OLD WATER HOUSE MILL - WARWICK ST. JOHN'S BROOK SP 286654

This mill existed in the early eighteenth century when there were two mills under one roof. One was known as Frog Mill, and the other as Priory Mill. In 1693 they were leased to John Hopkins of Birmingham who had 'a design to furnish so many of the inhabitants of the town of Warwick as shall desire the same with water to be carried by an engine or engines and pipes . . . ' No doubt this is the reason for the later name. This system provided parts of Warwick with water until the mid-nineteenth century. It is marked as a saw mill on the 1886 O.S. 6in. map.

Only a few mounds remain on the site.

60. ST. NICHOLAS MILL - WARWICK ST. JOHN'S BROOK SP 288649

In 1713 the lease of this mill was surrendered to James Money by Robert Green and others. It was mentioned again in a lease of 1772.

By 1830 Jason Hayward was the miller, followed by Charles Stanley from 1835 to 1860. Although the mill buildings were standing, the mill pond had been drained by 1886.

Some cottages in the recreation ground by the river are the remains of the mill buildings, and the stream still flows beneath one of them. The site of the pond is now a car park.

61. CHESTERTON MILL - TACH BROOK SP 348590

The earliest reference to a watermill in Chesterton is 1554 and in Hearth Tax Returns of 1662-74 a watermill with two hearths is mentioned.

By 1758 James Beck was the tenant and John Beck followed him in 1781. Another James Beck took over the business in 1814 and was still there in 1854. In 1860 Charles Griffin was the miller operating until c. 1880. By 1884 William and Charles Haynes were at the mill, running it in conjunction with the nearby windmill. The Haynes family remained in possession until the mill closed in the 1920's.

This unusual mill building dates from the early seventeenth century. The date 1628 is scratched on one of the door frames inside the mill. From the outside it has the appearance of a small, elegant country house, with its pedimented doorway and above this, a niche for a statue, or coat of arms. The original panelled oak doors are preserved within. The building is of stone and has four symmetrically placed windows which are rectangular openings, quartered and framed with moulded stone. Most of the old leaded panes of glass have been broken by vandals.

It is thought that this building may have been an early home of the Peyto family, who later built the great Hall at Chesterton - since demolished. When it was converted into a mill a dam supported by brick buttresses was built across the shallow valley close to the end of the building, and the internal layout adjusted to accommodate the milling machinery.

The ground floor consisted of one large room with a passage behind it which once contained a staircase. The oak ceiling beams of the main room are finely moulded. When the milling machinery was installed the floor was lowered and an intermediate floor inserted to carry the millstones. The waterwheel was sited in the passage, replacing the staircase. This waterwheel is still in place, being overshot and measuring 17ft. 6in. diameter by 2ft. 10in. wide. It is connected to a 9ft. diameter iron pitwheel which drove the 2ft. 6in. diameter iron wallower on the wooden upright shaft. The wood

cogged iron spur wheel is 8ft. in diameter and drove two 19in. stone nuts. On the wooden hurst frame is one pair of 4ft. French stones and one pair of 4ft. 6in. Peak stones. The tuns and hoppers of both pairs have been removed.

After conversion the original first floor of the building was used for grain storage and contains the sack hoist mechanism. At the eastern end of this floor is a large seventeenth century fireplace. There is another floor above this which is partitioned into small rooms and may have formed part of the miller's accommodation. In the nineteenth century extra accommodation was provided by the addition of a small brick cottage built on the pool dam against the east wall of the main building.

In the yard below the mill are several outbuildings including cartsheds, stables and a small bakery.

The Tach Brook which formerly filled the pond has been diverted and the supply is now entirely by springs in the immediate vicinity. The present owner hopes to restore the waterwheel to working order if the water supply can be improved.

62. FORD MILL - TACH BROOK SP 290634

In 1086 there were two mills at Bishop's Tachbrook but nothing is known of these after the sixteenth century.

Ford Mill stood some distance downstream from the probable site of these and was first mentioned in 1185. By 1608 it was said to be considerably decayed but continued to operate until 1765, having been restored three years previously. The mill was demolished in 1765 and the site was flooded by the lake known as New Waters in 1788.

Traces of the head race can still be seen on the northern bank of the lake.

FULBROOK MILL Estimated ref. SP 249605

There was a mill at Fulbrook worth 12s. in 1086. A mill worth 100s. belonged to the manor in 1220 and was leased to Thelsford Priory. By 1285 the mill seems to have belonged to the Prioress of Pinley who still held it in 1435.

The site of this mill may have been on the stream near Castle Farm, or possibly on the River Avon near Hampton Wood.

much of the brick, timber and tiles was removed to repair other buildings on the estate. All that remains of the mill is a pile of overgrown rubble, though the waterwheel and parts of the gearing are visible.

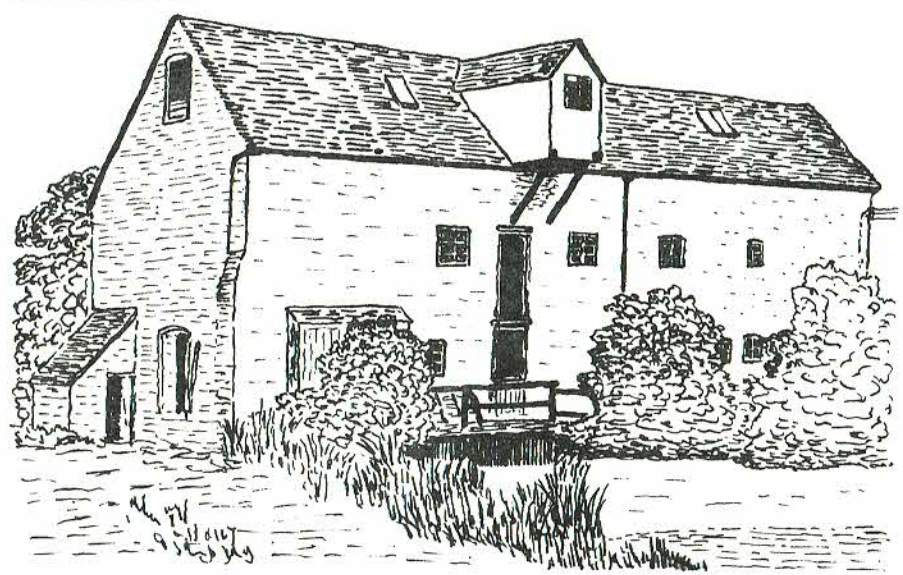
The waterwheel was overshot, measuring 14ft. in diameter by 6ft. 3in. wide. This is mounted on a wooden axle, 18in. across, which carries an iron pitwheel on its inner end. The drive was transmitted to a wooden upright shaft through a 2ft. diameter iron wallower. The spur wheel is also of iron measuring 6ft. in diameter. Several millstones, both Peak and French lie within the mill.

At the opposite end of the mill to the existing wheel, the site of an earlier wheel can clearly be traced. When built, the mill was fed by a long leat from the upper lake, called the Great Pool, in Packington Hall Park. This leat served the earlier wheel. However, the Park was later landscaped by Capability Brown, who created a new lake, known as Hall Pool. This lay close to the mill buildings and a short leat was cut to the site of the existing wheel.

72. MAXSTOKE PRIORY MILL SP 235867

In the mid-fourteenth century the Priory obtained the old manor house of Maxstoke from Sir John de Clinton. They converted the buildings into barns and used the moat to drive a watermill. Slight traces of this mill are visible at the outflow from the moat.

Blyth End Mill (67)



The mill was operated by the tenants of the farm until the 1930's. The buildings and machinery are intact, being the only surviving 'farm wheel' in the county.

To obtain a good head of water at the mill, the stream was diverted about one mile upstream from the farm. A long leat brought the water to a pond about two hundred yards from the mill. From the pond a brick-lined tunnel carried the water to an iron pentrough above the waterwheel. This lengthy watercourse allowed for the installation of a 19ft. diameter pitchback wheel. The wheel itself is totally below ground level, and the water was carried away by another tunnel which emerges close to the stream, some distance from the mill.

The gearing is all iron, the first stage consisting of an 8ft. diameter pitwheel which drove a 2ft. diameter wallower on an upright shaft. This shaft brought the drive up to ground level, and on its upper end is a 4ft. diameter bevel gear with wooden teeth. A short horizontal shaft with a 2ft. 6in. diameter bevel gear took the drive into the main mill building. On the inside end of this shaft is a 5ft. diameter spur gear which meshes with a 2ft. 6in. diameter pinion on a second horizontal shaft. This second shaft terminates with a 2ft. bevel gear which drove the stone nut. The single pair of 4ft. diameter Peak stones are mounted on a cast iron hurst. There are pulleys on both horizontal shafts. The first enabled the machinery to be driven by an engine, and the second, inside the mill, took the drive by belt to the sack hoist. The shaft carrying the sack hoist drum continues through the mill into the adjoining barns.

70. MERCOTE MILL — SP 226806

Two watermills were included in the 'Morcote Hall' estate in the sixteenth century. There was certainly a mill on the present site at the beginning of the eighteenth century.

J. Andrews was the miller in the 1870's, followed by Samuel Wells Greeves in 1904, and William Thornton in 1908. Samuel Thornton is recorded in 1908, followed by George Dalton in 1924. No further millers are known but the mill continued to operate until the 1940's. In its last years it was used solely to generate electricity.

The three storey building is of brick, dating from the mid-nineteenth century. It is built against the dam which retains the water in the large mill pond. Inside, the overshot waterwheel is still in position, though partially collapsed. It measured 15ft. 2in. in diameter by 5ft. 4in. wide. The gearing, which carried the drive to three pairs of stones via a horizontal shaft, was removed for scrap many years ago. On the stone floor are several Peak and French stones, the remains of a wire machine and a stone crane.

71. PACKINGTON MILL — SP 216837

There were two mills at Packington in 1086, valued at 2s. By 1291, three mills existed, then valued at £2. Through the following centuries the mills are noted frequently as belonging to the estate of Packington Hall. The mills seem to have mainly served the estates as no entries for millers appear in the trade directories of the nineteenth century. However, from the end of the nineteenth century until 1914, it was operated commercially by Blackwells of Hampton-in-Arden.

Parts of the last mill on the site may well have dated back to the seventeenth century. The rear wall was constructed from massive sandstone blocks, and the rest of brick. After ending its working life it stood complete until c. 1940 when much of the ironwork was removed for scrap. Some years later part of the building collapsed, and

MONKSPATH MILL — Estimated ref. SP 144758

This is the probable site of the mill at Monkspath recorded in 1322. No further details of its history are known.

63. HENWOOD MILL — SP 180794

A mill here formed part of the property of Henwood Priory in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Nothing else is known of its early history.

J. T. Miller occupied the buildings in 1860, followed by William Reader in 1868. After 1884 no further millers are known although production is said to have continued until the early 1930's.

The brick mill building is three storeys high with a lucam. It appears to date from the late eighteenth century. A substantial brick mill house adjoins. There is a breast-shot waterwheel mounted externally, though formerly enclosed in a brick wheel-house. The wheel measures 12ft. in diameter by 5ft. 10in. wide. This drove two pairs of stones, French and Peak, through spur gearing on an upright shaft.

Unfortunately, permission to view the interior of the building was refused by the tenants.

TEMPLE BALSALL MILL — site unknown

There was a mill at Barston in 1086, and one at Temple Balsall in 1185. This mill yielded 60s. to the Preceptory of Balsall in 1338. No further information about either mill is known. There are possible sites on the Blythe and Cuttle Brook.

64. BRADNOCK'S MARSH MILL — SP 220789

This may have been the mill in Barston valued at 4s. in 1086, although there are other possible sites nearer the village. Two mills were recorded in Barston in 1185, and two watermills belonged to the manor in 1588.

In 1838 two watermills were leased to Hannah Neway and William Wright. By 1850 the occupants were Hannah Neway and Matthew Johnson. William Wright and W. Britain were millers in 1860. The next known miller was William Riley who took the mill c. 1890 and ran it until it closed in the late 1920's.

The buildings were demolished about two years later and few traces remain except the bridge which crossed the leat beside the mill.

65. MERIDEN MILL — SP 221818

No details of the history of this mill are known, though it may have been connected with the manor of Hampton-in-Arden where a mill was recorded in 1086. The mill is marked on Beighton's map of 1725, and on the O.S. 1in. map of the 1820's two mills are shown. One stood on the above site, while the other is marked about 200 yards to the west.

It was apparently fed by a short head-race from the Blythe. This second mill had been abandoned by 1886 when only parts of the watercourses were marked on the O.S. 6in. map. Meriden Mill continued to operate until c.1916, having been occupied by the Parker family since the 1840's. During the Second World War it was proposed to restore the machinery for possible emergency use.

The mill was fed by a long leat which left the River Blythe about 1 mile upstream from the buildings. This leat meandered through the fields, collecting water from several minor streams, before opening out into a large pond some distance from the mill. A straight cut took the water from the pond to the wheel. The length of this watercourse produced a substantial head of water which drove a 15ft. diameter overshot waterwheel.

The mill building is of brick, with the gable wall by the wheelpit of sandstone. The internal wheel and machinery were removed in the 1950's. The building is now used as a store and manufactury of fish farming equipment.

66. MAXSTOKE MILL — SP 218883

There were two mills here in 1538, leased to Richard Breme, and in 1588 they were held by William Poulet. In 1597 one watermill was owned by Sir Thomas Egerton and two mills are mentioned in 1659 and 1729. By 1828 James Loud was the miller, followed by Mrs. E. Loud in 1850, and William Tabbener Loud in 1860. John Antrobus took the mill c.1900, and his descendants occupied the property until 1977.

The extensive buildings date from the eighteenth century. Side wings have been added to give extra storage space on one side and accommodation for the miller on the other. A semblance of symmetry has been achieved by painting windows on the store to match those on the mill house. The internal undershot waterwheel measures 14ft. 8in. diameter by 5ft. 4in. wide. This wheel drove an iron pitwheel, 8ft. in diameter, which has an iron casting to pack the space between the axle and its square hub. Such a casting suggests that the waterwheel and axle were later replacements. On the wooden upright shaft is a 2ft. diameter iron wallower and a 6ft. diameter wooden clasp arm spur wheel. Both stone nuts and their spindles have been removed. Of the two pairs of stones, only the bedstones are in position. The sack hoist machinery remains, driven by a pulley on a short lay-shaft from the crown wheel.

In recent years, modern electrically operated milling machinery has been installed and there is a blower to lift grain to the storage bins in bulk. It is thought that the waterwheel may be restored to working order in the near future.

67. BLYTH END MILL — SP 210907

Two watermills were conveyed to William Blythe in 1587 by Thomas Mootley. The mill appears to have been part of the Blyth Hall estate since this date.

Thomas Sheffield was the miller from the 1829's until c.1860 when J. Adcock is recorded. J.R. Prosser & Sons were the millers by 1912, and this family operated the mill commercially under the title Charles Prosser and Company until the early 1970's. The mill is now a store and distribution centre for animal foodstuffs run by Blyth Mill (Coleshill) Ltd.

The mill building is a three storey brick structure with a large lucam. A datestone on the central section reads '1754 R & G'. Additions were made in the mid-nineteenth century - notably the full height wheelhouse. The internal undershot waterwheel, measuring 17ft. 10in. diameter by 5ft. 10in. wide, was installed in 1861 by Robert Summers of Tanworth-in-Arden. This drove an iron spur gear, 12ft. 3in. in diameter, which

meshed with a 2ft. diameter iron pinion on a short horizontal shaft. On the other end of this shaft, inside the main mill building, is a large iron pulley, 9ft. in diameter. This drove the main horizontal shaft on the stone floor via a 3ft. diameter pulley. The three pairs of stones were overdriven from bevel gears on the main shaft.

In the early 1960's the River Cole, which formerly joined the River Blythe just above Blyth End Mill, was diverted to a new course. This considerably reduced the flow at the mill making it impossible to operate the machinery by water power. Electric motors were installed as compensation for this loss. The waterwheel continued to be used to operate the sack hoist until the axle sheared in 1968. However, the present owners hope to restore the wheel to working order in the near future.

MILLS ON TRIBUTARIES OF THE RIVER BLYTHE

68. DARLEY MILL — SP 177739

Nothing is known of the mill's early history. There was a mill at Packwood in 1291 belonging to Coventry Priory and valued at 6s. 8d., but this may well have been a windmill. Certainly Darley Mill existed by 1725 as it is marked on Beighton's map of that year.

By 1850 Samuel Fullard was the miller, and his family continued there until c.1916. Fullard also operated a windmill during the 1880's. This may have been Packwood tower mill, but was more likely the one at Bentley Heath which Thomas Chamberlain worked in conjunction with Darley Mill after 1916. The last recorded miller at Darley was William Thomas Chamberlain who was there in 1928.

The existing mill is thought to have been built in 1768, this date having been carved into the woodwork of the stone floor loading door. Next to the mill are extensive outbuildings, including stables, cart sheds, and a small bakery. A substantial mill house stands nearby.

The internal waterwheel, which was probably overshot, was removed many years ago. The iron axle remains, and on its inner end is a 10ft. diameter iron pitwheel. This drove a 3ft. diameter iron wallower on the vertical shaft. The cast iron spur wheel, 8ft. in diameter, drove a single pair of stones which have been removed. The iron hursting, and much of this gearing was installed by William Glover of Warwick.

The waterwheel was fed by a long leat from the stream which runs into a large pond immediately behind the mill buildings.

69. TEMPLE HOUSE FARM WHEEL — SP 207758

An entry for the 8th November 1851 in the Governor's Order Book of the Lady Katherine Leveson's Hospital at Temple Balsall reads '. . . that Mr. Couchman prepare a plan and Estimate of a waterwheel and alterations he applies to have made at the Temple Homestead'. Mr. Couchman, tenant of Temple House Farm and a land agent of considerable importance, duly prepared his plans and the works were completed in 1852 at a total cost of £610 17s. The waterwheel was erected to operate a single pair of stones to produce animal feeds, as well as driving farm machinery in adjacent barns. In 1885 the shafting was extended, no doubt to operate more machinery. This work was carried out by Robert Summers of Tanworth-in-Arden, and it is likely that this firm of millwrights was responsible for the original installation.