

Upwey Watermill

Andy Fish

Photos by Richard Willett

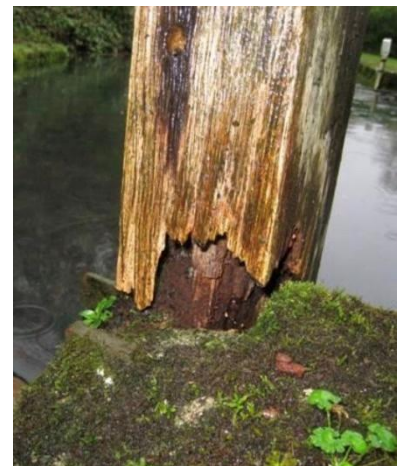
I got an enquiry from Richard Willett of Upwey Watermill on the outskirts of Weymouth. He had read an article in the Autumn 2021 HMG Newsletter (134) about Island Mill, Kingsclere, and wanted to know which timber we had recommended to Oliver Barnes, who had sent a request for information regarding the best wood to use for a long life hatch replacement.



Keith Andrews, 2017



Richard's hatch, which he rebuilt in 2006, had rotted and now needed attention again after 16 years. It had been rebuilt using oak from the same timber yard that supplies British Waterways.



Ivor New had replied to Oliver and mentioned oak, opepe, and iroko. He had also organised the rebuild of the sluice at Hockley and had carried out research into suitable timbers comparing properties including expected life and price. Ivor and I visited Upwey Watermill in January 2022 to give advice.

Richard has now reconstructed the hatch. The uprights are made of opepe, which was supplied by East Brothers, West Dean Sawmills, near Salisbury. The cross timbers are reused oak from the 2006 build and the gate is new oak with a stainless steel plate on the face, which he hopes will extend its life.



The new hatch

Editor: Notice the milstones in the bed of the channel.