

## Wessex Mill, Wantage – Closing

Andy Fish

Photos by Keith Andrews, 2017

In August it was announced in *World Grain* ([www.world-grain.com](http://www.world-grain.com)) and in local newspapers like the *Oxford Mail* that Wessex Flour Mill in Wantage, which has been operating since the 1800s, will cease production at the end of the year with the loss of 32 jobs.



Paul Munsey, managing director at Clarks, which owns Wessex Mill, said a five-fold increase in energy prices and the soaring price of wheat and materials were to blame for the closure. The mill also needs substantial repairs, and the machinery was due for an upgrade. The Wessex Mill brand has been acquired by Doves Farm Foods in Hungerford.

Those members who visited the mill in 2017 may remember that the milling was carried out in the afternoon and night to take advantage of cheaper tariffs, as even back then electricity was a major cost.



