Hampshire Mills Group
Newsletter 110 - Autumn 2015

Beaulieu Tide Mill from the seaward side showing the Dock at the rear of the Mill and the former Miller's House to the rear on the right

Picture : Ros Plunkett

Report of the Presentation given by Sheila Viner

Eleanor Yates

Sheila is on a quest to research all she can about every watermill in 'old Berkshire' (ie before the county boundary changes in 1974). There were possibly as many as 128. She illustrated her talk with her own photographs and reproductions of etchings, maps and drawings found in the Mills Archive and other sources. She found the Domesday Book a good starting point, but many towns have been developed since 1086 and mills have 'moved' parish or village.

She divided her lecture by the river used by each mill, starting with the Thames, often called Liquid History. Twenty-six of Berkshire's mills were on the Thames, including Old Windsor's which is Saxon, then Viking, then Norman and in use until about 1100. The other rivers are the Loddon, Ock, Letcombe, Pang and Kennet. Some mills are attached to a weir, some have a leat, others were a pumping system to take river water into, for instance, Windsor Castle and the Town Mill at Henley may have helped clear the sewage.

There were flour, paper, cardboard, animal feed, textile, thimble and sawmills. Many millers made a good income from their eel traps, often using the eels to pay their rent. They also grew reeds, osiers and other willows for the thatchers and basket makers. Often the miller was responsible for the weirs or lock gates and had to take time to help barges and narrow boats pass safely up and down the river.

Sadly many mills were converted to steam or electricity or demolished and often no trace of the mill can be found on her maps or in situ, so Sheila will be grateful for any identification members can do. She is appealing for anyone with photographs of mills while they were still working and the millers who ran them.

Kenneth C Reid and Kenneth Major have already done research into Berkshire's mills but Sheila plans to spend the winter in Berkshire Record Office in Reading, checking everything she has already found and looking for new information. The members of the Hampshire Mills Group are looking forward to hearing more in the future and wish Sheila well in her research.

Wimbledon Windmill Museum Closed until Further Notice

Andy Fish

On the afternoon of Sunday, 2nd August, disaster struck when one of the sails fell from the windshaft and went through the roof of the Wimbledon Windmill Museum. Fortunately no one was inside at the time and no one was injured. However the damage is extensive, but incredibly the upstairs exhibits were undamaged despite large amounts of debris, but sadly some of the lovely Victorian chimney pots were broken. Until the building can be made safe it has been decided that museum visits will have to be suspended. A thorough safety assessment will have to be made, including looking at the remaining sails, and as soon as it is possible to do so, the museum will reopen. This may not be for some time. The Trustees of the museum regret that

this is necessary and are working with the owners of the building, the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, to resolve the situation

Update: On 11th August the millwrights arrived and removed the remaining sails so that they can be thoroughly checked. The timber of the stock that failed is in remarkably good condition on the whole, but it appears that water ingress over the years led to weakening of the wood where it passed through the canister.

With no further risk of falling sails and a temporary patch to the roof, it is hoped that it will be possible to reopen for visitors in the near future.

A History of Beaulieu Mill

Anthony Norris

There has been a water-mill in Beaulieu since the thirteenth century. It was built within the precincts of the Monastery adjacent to the outer Gate House. The Beaulieu Accounts of 1270 detail the money spent on stone, timber and ironwork in repairing the mill by the gatehouse. This is evidence that the mill was built around the time of the founding of the monastery. Archaeological research in 1906 by Sir St. John Hope and Harold Brakspear revealed the exact location of this mill together with the mill flume. It was positioned by the Outer Gatehouse of the Abbey. This mill had two chambers within which each had an undershot wheel. Details of the monastic mill are to be found in the Archaeological Journal of September 1906. The 1270 Beaulieu accounts also revealed two newly-built windmills, and the materials used in their construction – as the cloth for the sails and the pick for dressing the millstones. Their original location is a mystery.

When a mill was built on the present site is uncertain though the Dissolution accounts of 1537/8 record '40s from the farm of the watermill within the vill of Beaulue demised to William Couper'. This mill was built just outside the abbey walls where it stands today.

The Survey of the Manor of Beaulieu dated October 1578 has the following extract. 'Henry Welles gentleman holds by Indenture one corn mill with one tenement and curtilage upon (super) Bewley bridge for the rent by the year of £7. Also he holds one piece of land at Fullingmille pound for one fulling mill to be made by himself by the rent of the year of 20s.' It also includes the requirement to provide the landlord, Henry Wriothesley 2nd Earl of Southampton, with '4 couple of capons'.

Estate records enable a complete record of all the tenants of the mill until 1976 to be made.

A painting of 1730 of Beaulieu Mill and Palace House shows the mill to be thatched and the roofs of some of the other buildings to be of slate.

In 1744, Stephen Barney took over the tenancy of the mill and it remained so for three generations until the grandson of the first Stephen Barney, with the same name, moved to Bishopstoke Mill in 1845. Soon after Stephen Barney (Sen) took over the mill, estate records show the mill to have been tiled in 1748.

The Barney family were very influential members of the community during their time at Beaulieu, Stephen Barney being both an Overseer and Church Warden [a very important

position in those days]. Also he held Ashlett Mill and Calshot Salt works. Stephen Barney died in 1768 and the tenancy was carried on firstly by his widow until 1773 when his son Thomas, born 1755, was considered old enough to take on the tenancy which he did so until his death in 1833.

Thomas Barney and his servant, Sansom, were suspected of being the biggest poachers in the village. John Fry was employed by the Duke of Montagu's steward John Warner to prevent poaching. In 1777 when Barney was fishing by the mill he threw Fry into the river. Fry and Barney then had a fight, and Sansom joined in. Warner thought the incident was "an insult to himself and the Lords of the Manor" and made Barney pay 3 guineas in compensation. Thomas was most keen to provide a son and heir, and it was only after the birth of eight daughters was a son, Stephen, born.

Stephen married Elizabeth and they had thirteen children and only left Beaulieu in 1845 as the result of a melancholy incident in which he imprisoned his daughter Frances in the Mill House in an upstairs room, only allowing her to be fed through a round hole in the door. I was brought up in the Mill House and the bars on the window and the round hole, with its cover were still intact. The reason for his actions: Frances wanted to marry the groom. What happened next is uncertain but Frances (Fanny) Barney died in 1848 and is buried in Bishopstoke Churchyard.

For most of the period from 1845 until 1976, the mill was in the occupation of, firstly, the Burden family, and from 1922 until 1976, the Norris family.

Photographs of the interior of the mill, one showing the beam balance which I remember we used, the exterior and a scale drawing of the mill machinery are to be found in the excellent book Windmills and Watermills by J. Reynolds [Publisher: Hugh Evelyn Ltd].

The mill wheel ceased to be used at the end of the Second World War. In its latter years the mill was used to grind grain for animal feed rather than for flour.

Most of the milling took place at harvest time. Once the wheel started turning, my Uncle Fred, who worked in the mill all his life, told me that the sound of the mechanism, the splash of the water, the smell and scent of grinding barley all combined to make the building sing – and when the sun shone through, the drops coming off the mill wheel was a wonderful sight. It could grind 2-3 hundredweights an hour, for up to eight hours, by which time the tide would be coming in again.

As time went on, the old building started to creak and shudder, so they decided to stop before any damage was done. Fred told me that the last time it worked was in 1945. The building was then used solely was storing animal feed, though a motor had been installed which enabled the sack hoist to be used and also oats to be crushed.

By 1976, the business at the mill necessitated the loading and unloading of lorries of grain and animal feed and as a consequence of the increase of road traffic, it was felt the business should move to other premises.

The mill then remained unoccupied as the Estate sought assistance in the mammoth task of restoring the mill, possibly as a working mill.

Unfortunately the existence of a similar tidal mill at Eling, meant requests for funding were refused. It was then necessary for the Estate to finance all the alterations themselves.

Much of the work on the roof had been done by March 2006 when the mill was badly damaged by an arsonist. In the next few years restoration took place and in 2014 the newly restored mill was let to a boat designing company.

POST-DISSOLUTION TENANTS OF BEAULIEU TIDE MILL

1537-8 William Couper '40s from the farm of the watermill within the vill of Beaulue demised to William Couper'
[First Dissolution Account of the Ministers]

1575 Henry Well(e)s

1576 'May 2nd 21 year lease by Henry, Earl of Southampton to Henry Wells, Gentleman of the Mill of Beaulieu, Mill House and lands'

1616 Thomas Kempe [22 year lease from 1616]

1626 John Kempe [Executor of Thomas Kempe]

1646-85 Richard Lambert [Susanna Lambert, wife of Richard d1654, has burial stone just N of the font in Beaulieu Church – not original site; The Bishopric Pipe Roll of Fawley for 1605, which almost certainly refers to Ashlett, records 'Nicholas Lambert pays a rent of five shillings for one corn mill' Would Nicholas be the father of Richard?]

1686-89 Tristram Mayn

1690 Estate run

1691 Widow Semar

1692-96 Estate run

1697 William Eldridge [Mill and Ryehill]

1698-1702 Robert Scott [Robbard Scot buried July 1st 1702]

1703-09 Mr Corbett [1708 Mill and Palace and Sowley]

1710-21 Roger Seager [died March 29th 1721]

1721 Widow Seager

1722-23 Thomas Wyatt [died of smallpox – I think]

1724-25 John Harfield

1726-43 John Gold

1744- Stephen Barney [died June or August 1768 burial record unclear]

1769-72 Widow Barney

1773-1833 Thomas Barney [died July 1833]

1833-45 Stephen Barney [moved to Bishopstoke Mill]

1845-49 Edward Godrich [moved to Durley Mill]

1850-59	Estate run
1859-61	William Groves
1861-78	James Burden
1878-91	Emily Burden
1891-1922	Miss Jane Burden
1922-48	Fred Norris [Sen] [died February 1948]
1948-76	Fred and Stan Norris [business moved to Home Farm]
1976-2014	Restoration
2014-	Leased to boat designing company

HMG Visit to Beaulieu Tide Mill

David Plunkett

On the morning of Friday 29th May, around 20 HMG members gathered in the carpark of Beaulieu parish church to be met by Tony Norris, a local historian from an agricultural and former milling family. We viewed the extensive display at the church hall before listening to Tony telling us of the little known history of farming and milling at the head of the Beaulieu River and the role of his family. The principal land owners being 'The Beaulieu Settled Estate', headed by Lord Montagu and his family. There have been many mills at Beaulieu over the centuries, including two windmills, two tide mills and a fulling mill. Not all active at one and the same time though. In early 2006 the mill was badly damaged by fire (arson).

We then walked down to the tide mill, passing the millers house and front of the restored mill, into the courtyard. The view of the tidal pond is largely obscured by old cottages on the western side. The site of the former early Abbey tide mill is to the west edge of the old stone gatehouse. Our access was limited to the ground floor but much of the first and upper levels are left exposed to view up to the underside of the roof. The northern main gearing once powered by a former turbine has been lost many years ago but the southern set is virtually complete and open to view. Two sets of millstones inside their tun's are retained as well as the old iron hurst frame carrying the under driven great spur wheel and stone nuts. The fixed, all timber, waterwheel restored in two parts with a horizontal glass screen separating the two parts. The former rear store, on timber piles is retained but transformed to a Board Room or display space with modern lighting, green walls and glazed doors opening to a beautiful river view.

Our grateful thanks to Tony Norris and the Beaulieu Estate for allowing us this insight into the past and the modern renewal of Beaulieu Tide Mill.

A Cone Clutch in a South African Mill

Nigel Harris

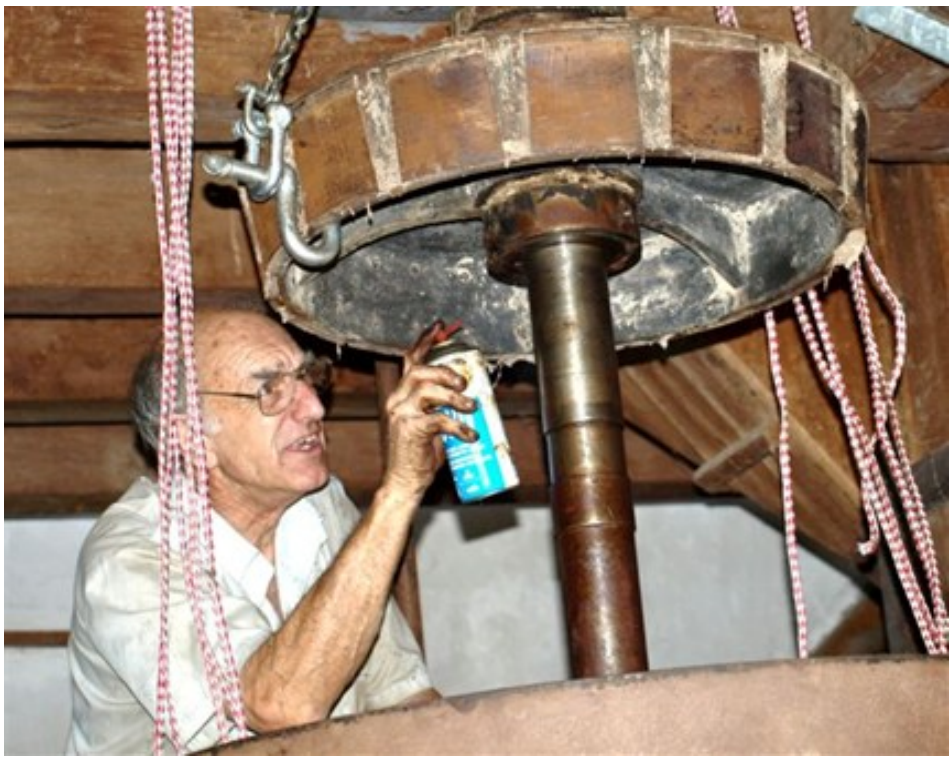
I thought readers of HMG Newsletter might be interested in an elegant mechanism I came across for engaging and disengaging runner stones in a stoneground flour mill in South Africa. It must represent an example of the peak of German mill engineering in the late 19th century.

The mill concerned is at Reichenau Mission, Underberg, Natal. The mill machinery was manufactured by Ferdinand Strauss of Germany and commissioned in 1896. There are two sets of millstones both driven off the same drive shaft. A large cone clutch on each stone spindle allows the runner stone to be individually engaged and disengaged from the drive without the need to disconnect the belt.

The clutch consists of two conical surfaces brought together to transmit torque by friction. A male cone, covered in sections of friction material (see picture A), is keyed to the runner stone spindle but is movable (by handwheell operation) in the vertical plane. Inside the large-belt driven pulley (see pictures B and C), is a mating female cone. The female cone/pulley freewheels on a thrust bearing supported by a shoulder on the vertical shaft. By adjustment of the handwheel the male cone can thus be made to engage with the female cone, which in turn will cause the runner stone to rotate.

The pictures and information are supplied with thanks to Peter Frow, and I am also indebted to the Diocese of Mariannhill, Reichenau for their assistance.

This article first appeared in SPAB "Mill News" in July 2014



Picture A

Picture B

Picture C

The International Molinological Society Symposium (TIMS)
Trip to Romania 2015, 6th to 14th June

David Plunkett

As a paid-up member of TIMS for over 20 years, I had regularly attended TIMS Symposiums around the world every four years. Sibiu in Romania was the chosen venue for 2015, based at the ASTRA Museum, an open air 'eco-park' in extensive woodland with lakes and running water including conference facilities.

As it was a former Iron Curtain country, I was looking forward to seeing part of this country, still emerging into the 21st century and grasping the Economic Community advantages but retaining its own currency.

After an early morning flight direct from Luton Airport by Wizz Air, to the little known city of Sibiu, I was with three other English members, arriving at our destination by a shared taxi in the early afternoon. I was booked into the modern timber framed and clad hostel (Vila Diana) while other members were largely at the adjacent Hotel Han Vestem, or the more distant Hilton Hotel about 1km away. Where-as my accommodation was rather basic, spartan but most economical, the adjacent hotel was a little more impressive and was where we shared breakfast each morning.

Some members had joined the Pre-Symposium trip to the north of Romania six days before and joined us during the afternoon.

After registration we had just a little time to settle in and get our bearings before a walk to the welcome dinner, at the 'Camara Boierului' restaurant, formed from a rebuilt great barn, adjacent to the Hilton Hotel.

It was good to meet many old friends from past Symposium and of course all the 15 members of the UK contingent, many with their wives, but I was the only one from Hampshire and without my wife Ros. The total number attending from 23 different countries was 107.

The modern conference hall was within the main administrative and conservation building a short walk away for me, which was very well equipped and comfortable, with the advantage of air conditioning

Firstly on Sunday morning, the official TIMS welcome by president, Willem van Bergen, to all the delegates and introductions from the Managers of the ASTRA Museum. There are nearly 400 buildings on this site with the great majority constructed of timber. Not only many forms of mills (water and wind) but agricultural stores, wagons, implements, to shepherds huts and sheep-folds. The daily maintenance is considerable and the labour force is high, as the site is open to the public all year round. Bearing in mind that the wages by general European levels is very low.

All day Sunday and Monday morning was devoted to the first of many molinological presentations by members from around the world, thankfully all in English. Monday afternoon included a three hour break to visit many of the displaced mills, both wind and water on this very large site from all over Romania. In a country with a very variable topography, from mountains to wide plains and forests, the temperature during our stay was surprisingly hot around Sibiu, at 30 to 33 degrees C. Further evening informal presentations usually continued

from 17.30 to 19.00 each day. Our lunches and evening meals were generally in one of the parks two restaurants (open to the public).

Tuesday, was a mixed day with the first two hours of presentation papers with one of the three papers given by Ton Meesters (NL), on his research of the 'Tidal Mills in the Low Countries'. My ideal subject of course. Followed by the departure of two coach loads of members on a guided walking tour of medieval central Sibiu. I considered the early town wall defences, towers and churches as their finest tourist points. A fine large central square or 'piata' was the hub for many locals and the milling tourists. Our lunch was in the central piata, at the "Am Ring" hotel restaurant, before a slow meander back to coaches and back to ASTRA, for more free time around more mills.

Wednesday required an early start from the Hilton Hotel by coaches, travelling to the east, visiting fortified churches at Valea Villor and Bieran, stopping for lunch at the Dracula Restaurant in Danes. Before more ancient churches and the medieval town of Sighisoara. Some are designated 'UNESCO World Heritage Sites which is assisting the conservation of these fragile structures

It was tough on ones legs at times, climbing up spiral staircases or long flights of steps. One flight was about 800 steps in total to reach the church door, but well worth it, even though it was lightly raining. Very rural landscapes and great distant views from defensive walls and church towers.

Thursday: A day of concerted members papers, including a presentation on 50 years of TIMS. Including one by Erik Stoop on, Anton Bruggeneate, who died in 1956 – a great European mills recorder, responsible of over 20,000 sites excluding those in the UK. Another interesting paper by Gabor Ozsvath, 'Palinka Mills in the Carpathian Basin' of Transylvania. These are mills associated with the distilling of plums into 'palinka'. No trip to Romania is complete until a sip of palinka has passed your lips. In the evening, I gave my short presentation on 'Intermediate Mills'. More of that for HMG members later. Kerr Canning from Canada was another member presenting his research on tidal mills in Nova Scotia.

Friday: Another day of formal paper presentations and evening informal papers, including one by John Boucher (UK) with 'Osmaston Manor- Early use of water power on an English country estate'. Following lunch, a few hours break to catch up any missed mills and other structures within the ASTRA park.

Saturday, our last day of formal presentations, taking the total to 30. The final paper by Mihkel Koppel (Estonia), on 'Windmills on Estonian Islands.' In the evening the usual raucous farewell dinner, held at the local Han Tulghes restaurant.

Sunday: Departure for many participants, where-as many awaited departure for the Post Symposium Tour to the mountainous region to the south (14th to 20th June). Joan and Peter Hill (Sussex) and myself, decided to catch a bus into Sibiu for some more sightseeing and a little shopping for folks back home. A rather busy and vibrant city centre, showing some affluence in the past few years. Due to only two direct flights to and from UK to Sibiu per week, I and the Hills had to wait until Tuesday to get home. That was no hardship, so I used the Monday to trek to the next town south via the abandoned old tram route to Rasinari, at the base of a range of hills about 9km away.

Many well-kept, old houses and dirt roads but with modern services being installed, like mains drainage, pavements and new concrete bridges which left parts of the town like a building site. Rather annoyingly I found no signs of a water mill by following the river up through the town. The bus ride back was only the equivalent of 20 pence, as was the price of a banana.

This report does not do justice to the great variety and scale of volunteer mill recording and research carried out by TIMS members around the world. One has to experience this first hand at a Symposium every four years, or simply join TIMS to learn more.

TIMS Members exploring one of the many mills on the site

One of the Boat Mills within the ASTRA Museum

Twyford's Historic Landscape: Mill No 3

The Mill at Compton

Words: Chris Corcoran - Drawings: Mike Matthews

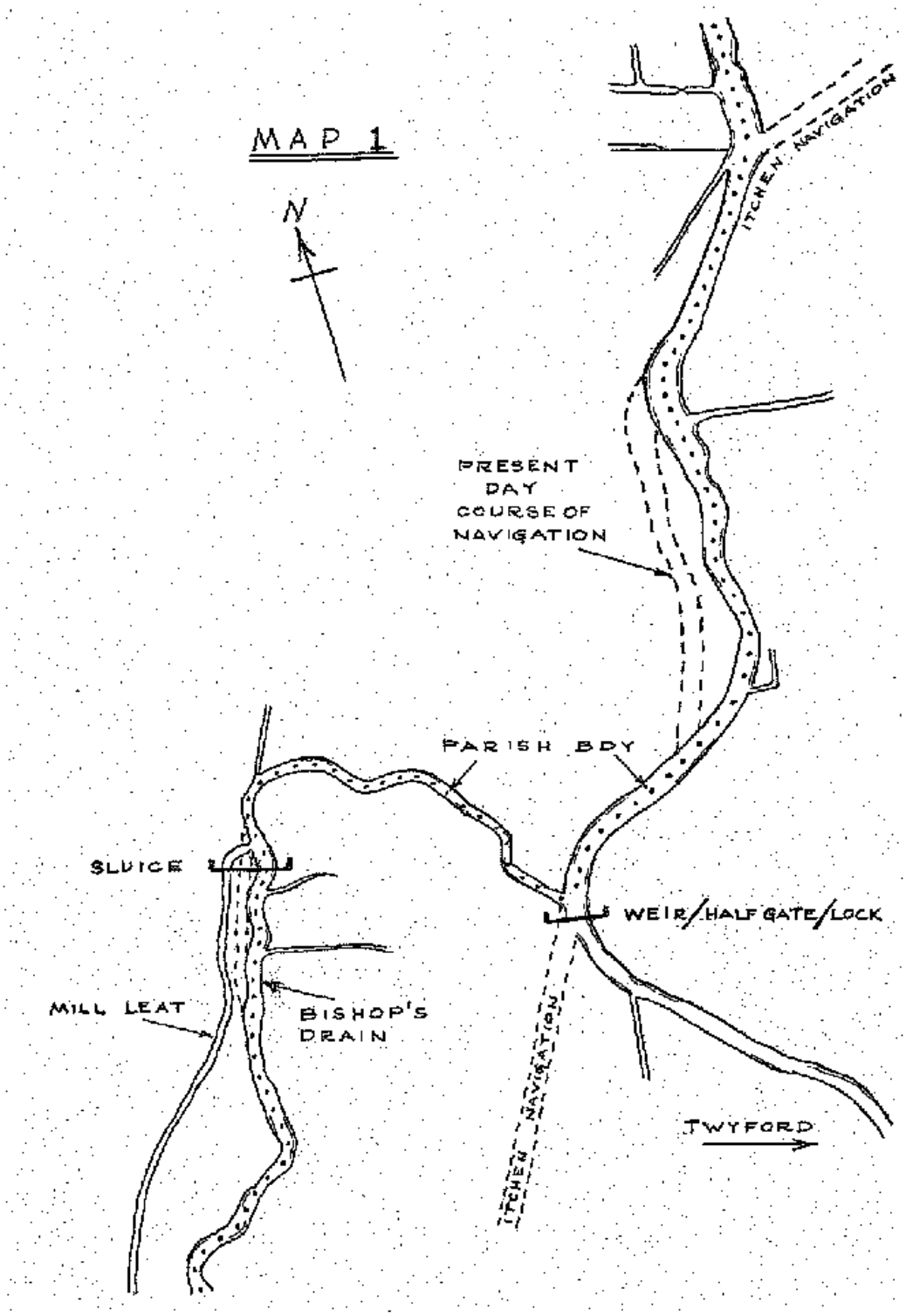
In the exploration of the Mills of Twyford, we have, so far, met the cheating miller and his family; and discovered that there were five mills at Twyford in 1301. We have looked in some detail at the two surviving mills, Shawford and Hockley to see if they are the same as in 1301 and found that while Shawford Mill is probably in the same place, its surroundings have changed. Hockley is now the name for the Mill of North Twyford and is in a new position with major changes to its water courses and surroundings. Now we look at another of those five…the mill of Compton, of which there is neither local memory nor apparent sign.

The Pipe Roll and JS Drew

The existence of the mill of Compton is firmly established by the Pipe Roll of the Bishop of Winchester's Estates for 1301 in the entry for Twyford: "Farms of Mills:….The same render account for…..£2 15s for the farm of the mill of Compton." Ed Mark Page for Hants Records.

In his "Compton near Winchester", 1939, J.S.Drew refers to a "certain mill" being one of possessions of John Wascelyn, (Compton was formerly called Compton Wascelyn) who died in 1302. Page 43. The Wascelyn family were noble and part of the royal circle. Drew also refers to a family of millers in the village at that time and over the next 150 years. .

As to where this mill was, Drew (who seems not to have known about the mill of Compton) surmises that, as it was held from the Bishop it may well have been at Shawford. but that is at odds with the Pipe Roll entry for the Mill of Compton. Shawford was under the direct management of the manor of Twyford while Compton was rented out. The Bishop of Winchester seems to have owned all the mills below Winchester via his ownership of the River Itchen; any mills in the valley required his agreement to use the flow of the River, even where, as at Compton, they were sited in a manor which did not belong to him. As to why Drew did not know about the Mill of Compton, this would be explained by his focus on Compton and his working from the records of the Priors Barton manor (which included Compton) rather than the Pipe Rolls of the Bishops estates.


MAP 1
N
ITCHEN NAVIGATION
PRESENT DAY COURSE OF NAVIGATION
PARISH BDY
SLUICE
WEIR/HALF GATE/LOCK
MILL LEAT
BISHOP'S DRAIN
ITCHEN NAVIGATION
TWYFORD

Where was the mill? The locational Criteria

But where was this mill of Compton? It has firstly to be in the Parish of Compton and secondly to be powered by the flow of the Itchen.

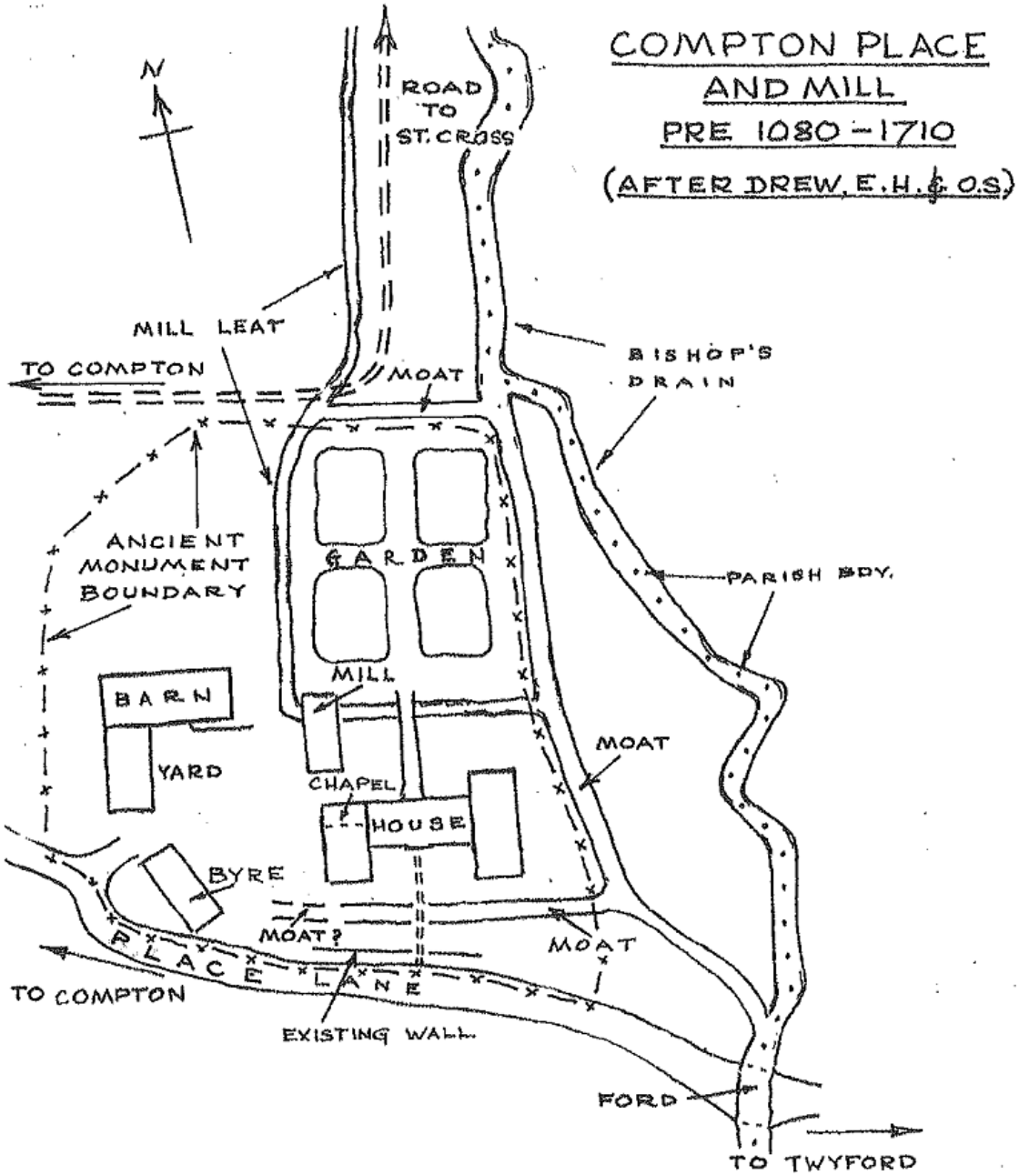
Then the design of the mill, probably an undershot wheel; then a sufficient flow and then a drop of three feet or so. To achieve this gain in height, we are looking for a leat is taken off the main flow upstream. Then there has to be a by-pass channel as well as the outlet at the base of the mill wheel. The size of the mill would probably be smaller than the Shawford mill is today, driving only one stone.

The function of the mill of Compton is to provide for the milling needs of the whole village as there was no other mill. For a regular monthly visit by every householder; the mill has to be easily accessible from the village by a good track. Mills are generally sited upstream of fords; and crossings. These criteria include substantial engineering works and the creation of rights of way; there is likely to be surviving evidence, however eroded.

The Location: Compton Place

Applying this scenario to the topography of the valley, this combination of water and road, upstream of the crossing of the river, is available only in the small area north of Place Lane Compton, between the railway and the lock. Here the land is above the valley floor, the land to the south and east being deep mud, permanently wet and flooded in winter and spring. This is the site of the mansion of the Wascelyn family and of their successors the Philpotts; it was demolished probably by Goldfinch before 1710; it is an Ancient Monument No 1012675 described in the citation as the site of a moated manor house.

There is no mention of a mill being part of the complex. It has never been excavated and there are no known descriptions or illustrations. There is an earthworks survey in the possession of the Hampshire Museum service. There is also a small map annotated possibly by Mike Hughes, a well known Hampshire archaeologist; he suggests a mill as part of the buildings complex. The location within the Wascelyn/Philpott ownership would also be consistent with a wealthy tenant of the Mill, able to build and maintain it and run it for profit and to pay his rent to the Bishop.



The Flow: The Bishops Drain, the Navigation and the Parish Boundary

Looking at the valley today, the Itchen has enough water to drive two mills at the same time all year round. Shawford Mill has abundant water with about one third of the flow of the river as does Hockley Mill from the flow of the remaining two thirds. Compton Mill was far enough upstream from Shawford Mill to have utilised the flow of the Bishops Drain without affecting Shawford's operating potential. The Itchen's flow on the Compton side of the valley is today of course carried for the most part by the Itchen Navigation. However the Navigation dates only from about 1710, so we have to figure out the previous alignment of the main watercourses.

The evidence for this is the boundary between Compton and Twyford. Parish boundaries had begun to take shape in middle Saxon times, seem to have been fairly settled by Domesday and were, according to Rackham, set in stone by 1180. Mark Page in a personal communication says that this boundary would have been set before Domesday i.e. 1086. . See also Time Team no 167 Dotton Mill..

Mike's Plan shows the parish boundary as on the 1908 OS, before it was changed at the request of Compton parish in about 1988. It shows the main river extending south of its present take off at Tumbling Bay in a broad easy sweep along the line of the Navigation before the two diverge. This is at a point where the parish Boundary goes off at right angles to the River/ Navigation. It follows the line of a deep irregular ditch. It now carries no flow and is overgrown but appears little altered. This is the Bishops Drain, a watercourse built to provide for the water needs of Compton, owned and managed by the Bishop

So the Bishops Drain was established as a significant and permanent feature of the valley landscape well before 1086. As it is a man made structure, not the natural river; it depends for its flow on the artificial raising of the river level. To understand how it would have been fed in 1300, we have to airbrush out the Navigation which is elevated from Tumbling Bay to Compton Lock. Before 1710, the level of the river would have been significantly lower than today. To provide the flow into the Bishops Drain required the same sort of Hatch as at Tumbling Bay today, or a weir across the river to maintain the flow in the Drain during the seasonal fluctuations of the river. Mike's plan shows this.

The Parish boundary follows the course of the Bishops Drain, at first due west until it reaches the very edge of the flood plain; it then turns southwards following the western edge of the valley floor, past Compton Place and down to Shawford Mill. There the Bishops Drain runs past the mill to re-join the main river. The alignment of the Parish boundary shows that the Itchen Navigation incorporated the existing course of the Bishops Drain for significant stretches; the parish boundary appears to have been unaffected by the construction of the Navigation.

<u>The mill leat</u>

As far as I can see the required fall can only be obtained if the mill leat was taken off the Bishops Drain about four hundred yards higher up. There is a point where the Parish boundary does not follow the centre line of the Drain, just at the point where a further hatch would have been required. The flow was then led along the western edge of the valley; Mike's plans show this.

The line of this leat can be seen on the ground at the northern end. Within the Ancient Monument, there is evidence of an elevated leat in a direct line. Significant earthworks survive; there is a deep depression which could have been the mill race. It all shows up in the earthworks survey of the County Museums service as well as on the ground.

<u>The site of the mill of Compton</u>

Mikes drawing shows two possible sites for Compton Mill but gives prominence to my preferred location and how it might have related to the mansion at Compton Place. Mike's drawing is the first of this great house ever to have been attempted and is only one of a number of possible interpretations of what it might have looked like.

All we know is that it had 14 fireplaces in the seventeenth century. If the mill was at Site 1, the surviving Earthworks, if I have interpreted them correctly, give very little scope for moving the

position of the mill wheel and building. A more detailed plan could be attempted based on the available evidence.

Site 2 was preferred by a number of the members of the Mills Group Committee when they inspected the site in the winter of 2013 but to my mind the levels do not work in its favour and it does not explain the evidence I have put forward in this article. The matter could easily be resolved by further expert evaluation and some limited excavation

The Wider Picture

This reconstruction is part of my attempt to interpret the multiple watercourses still evident in the valley between Hockley Mill and Place Lane, Compton. It is fraught with difficulties; Over the last one thousand years, this part of the valley has been modified by a series of major engineering works, all of which have had the potential to affect the site of Compton Mill or the Mill itself;:

The Bishops drain; the Wascelyn House; the water meadows of the 16th to 19th centuries; the Navigation of 1710; the railway of 1840; the bypass of 1938; tank exercises in 1944; the M3 and the restoration of the bypass route are the main ones.

Note: The grid reference for Compton Place is E: 4750 N: 2550