

## 2012 OLYMPIC SITE

Archaeological excavations on the 500 acre site at Stratford, East London, continue to provide evidence on a diverse range of industries across the centuries. Of particular interest to mills enthusiasts is the discovery of a sizeable 18<sup>th</sup> century watermill, complete with sluice gates, wheel housing for a 15ft wheel, coffer dam and pump house (circa 1746). Other phases were datable to 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, notably the huge brick foundations with a curved sluice gate, integrated with the wheel arrangement which were uncovered. Documentary evidence records the following for this site on the part of the Bow Back Rivers known as the Waterworks Mill on the Waterworks River which was tidal.:

C12<sup>th</sup> or earlier    Lords Mill;

C13<sup>th</sup> owned by Richard de Montfitchet

C18<sup>th</sup> owned by West Ham Waterworks company; retained until 1883.

1883    Steam Pumping Engine installed

1893    Ceased use . In 1893 the Waterworks company also erected 2 windmills to “help improve efficiency”.

In 1185 - 1278 Knights Templar built Temple Mills (water) and in 1308 erected a second mill on the opposite side of the mill stream. Both were demolished in 1854.

Other excavations, this time at Lovells Wharf, Greenwich, have yielded up the remains of an 800 year-old medieval tide mill. Thought to be London's earliest known tidal mill, it has been dated back to the late 12<sup>th</sup> Century. The mill wheel is largely intact and measures 5 metres across whereas the building itself was 10 by 12 metres, and as one observer has commented: about the same size as one of the 3 bed luxury apartments being constructed on the same site! It is reported that The Museum of London Archaeology (MOLAS) have sent all the remains to York Archaeological Trust for conservation and research work. Apparently four mills were recorded in the Domesday Book for Greenwich and it's thought that there may have been many tide mills along the Thames foreshore during the medieval period.