

# Second edition

During the past six years Coggeshall Abbey Mill has been restored to working condition by Mr Roy Ward and now periodically mills a little flour. The overshot wheel at Bourne Mill, Colchester, has been restored to working order by James and Andrew Dodds, illustrators of this book.

Restoration of Kelvedon Easterford Mill is being undertaken by its present owner, Mr R G Thompson. East Mills, Colchester, have been converted into a hotel, which preserves much of the building. The old kiln or oast house at Battlesbridge has been stylishly converted into a house by Mr Roy Hart, who also plans to restore a wheel in its original position to provide power for an electricity generator. Stisted has also been converted into a house. Less happily, plans to save and restore Bardfield have proved abortive; Essex County Council has done nothing to fulfil its promise to restore Thorington tide mill; Spring Valley, Ardleigh, has been so shaken by the heavy traffic employed on a road-building project that its beautiful structure is now endangered, and Courtauld's have been obliged to close Halstead, Bocking and Braintree, ending their Essex connection.

For the new edition I have included a forgotten site at Great Totham (for which I am indebted to Mr Peter Came) and have corrected several accounts including the Terling hydraulic pump (for which I am indebted to Mr Gerald Isted) and the little Hylands curiosity. Among smaller additions and corrections I am grateful to Mr Ron Horsnell for clarification over Little Baddow Paper Mill, to Miss Alison Impey for information about Alresford, and to Mr Rex Wailes for new photos of St Osyth tide mill.

As mentioned in Chapter One, I have preferred to concentrate on the story of the mills in their later phases than to attempt a true history. Mr F Hawksley, of Heathfield, Sussex, has however supplied me with notes from his voluminous researches which go far to redress the balance, and which in doing so have revealed a number of mills, and references to mills, which I had missed. I should like to have re-written much of this book to do more justice to this invaluable material, but while I have made a number of additions and amendments, the exigencies of production make it possible only to include the rest in the summary below, which I do with the deepest gratitude to Mr Hawksley.

## River Chelmer

*Dunmow, Great.* Warburton's map c 1720 shows mill se of church.

*Dunmow, Little.* Plan c 1600 shows mill 70 yards nw of junction of boundaries of Great and Little Dunmow and Barnston.

*Waltham, Great.* Langley's, a manure mill in its later years, was due for demolition 1858, but was still listed in White's Directory for 1863.

## Rivers Pant, Blackwater and Brain.

*Bardfield, Little.* Watermill is shown in plan of 1756.

*Bocking.* A middle mill is marked on Greenwood's map (1824). (Mr Hawksley disputes the Choats Farm site referred to on page 57.)

*Bradwell-by-Coggeshall.* An overshot spring-fed mill, mentioned by the Essex historian Morant (1760s), is still shown on third OS 6-inch map.

*Braintree.* A rental of 1684 refers to 'a parcel of Braintree demesne with Clapbridge mill, formerly let for £47 10s p.a. The mill being useless the ground let to graze.' Old maps show Clapbridge Farm or Mill Farm in the west of the parish.

*Coggeshall.* Squitt Mill, Great Coggeshall, is shown on a plan of 1639, and is recorded in 1717. Tye Mill was on the Abbey Mill back ditch, above the bridge, according to

Warburton's map, c 1720, and was a 'former mill', according to Morant (1760s). Robin's Road Mill is first listed in White's Directory, 1863, and is marked as a brewery on first OS 6-inch map.

*Rivenhall.* A watermill is recorded on a plan of 1716 at OS grid ref 820189. Probably this, and not Great Braxted, is the source of the Domesday origins of the Sackville family mentioned on page 5.

*Shalford.* A watermill by Water Hall is shown on a plan of 1603 and is also recorded in 1674.

## River Colne and Its Streams.

*Birch Mill* was in Little Birch, so the payments for Great Birch churchyard probably came from the windmill there.

*Castle Heddingham.* The mill is not shown on the 1592 plan.

*Halstead.* A watermill above Hepworth Hall is recorded by Morant.

*Sible Heddingham.* Hull Mill is named after a miller.

## Tide Mills

*Rochford.* A watermill in West Street is recorded by L.R. Cryer; *History of Rochford* (1978). A cottage was called 'the Old Water Mill' and part of a wheel was found there in 1902. There are references in documents, 1577 to 1662. The mill with tide pound is

marked on Chapman and Andre's map. *Stambridge.* A conveyance of 1650 refers to Little Stambridge Mill as 'new mill' and refers to Salt Cote or Old Mill down a track leading to Great Stambridge. *Sutton, near Rochford.* Reference to watermill, 1313.

## Other Sites

*Bradwell-on-Sea.* A medieval mill is recorded at Down Hall Manor.

*Bursted, Great (near Billericay)* Kemp's Mill, ssw of church, is recorded on a plan of 1593.

*Finchingfield.* A water mill in Ashwell Hall Manor in 1293 (fulling in 1300) corresponds to Mill Field and Mill Meadow, one mile west of Wethersfield, on tithe apportionment, which also shows Upper Mill Field and Eight Acre Mill Field, half-mile ne of Mill Farm (ne of village). Spains Hall Mill is shown on Warburton's map c 1720 not sw of Hall but above road leading to it.

*Frating.* A mill field is mentioned in tithe apportionment.

*Goldhanger.* A 'pump house' is shown on first OS map, surveyed 1799.

*Mersea, East.* Reference to watermill 1277. *Rayleigh.* A mill fed by a pond is shown on Greenwood's map, 1824.

*Thaxted.* Mill is recorded as built 1621 and leased 1737.