

## Water mills of the river Roding, The Cripsey Brook and the Cranbrook

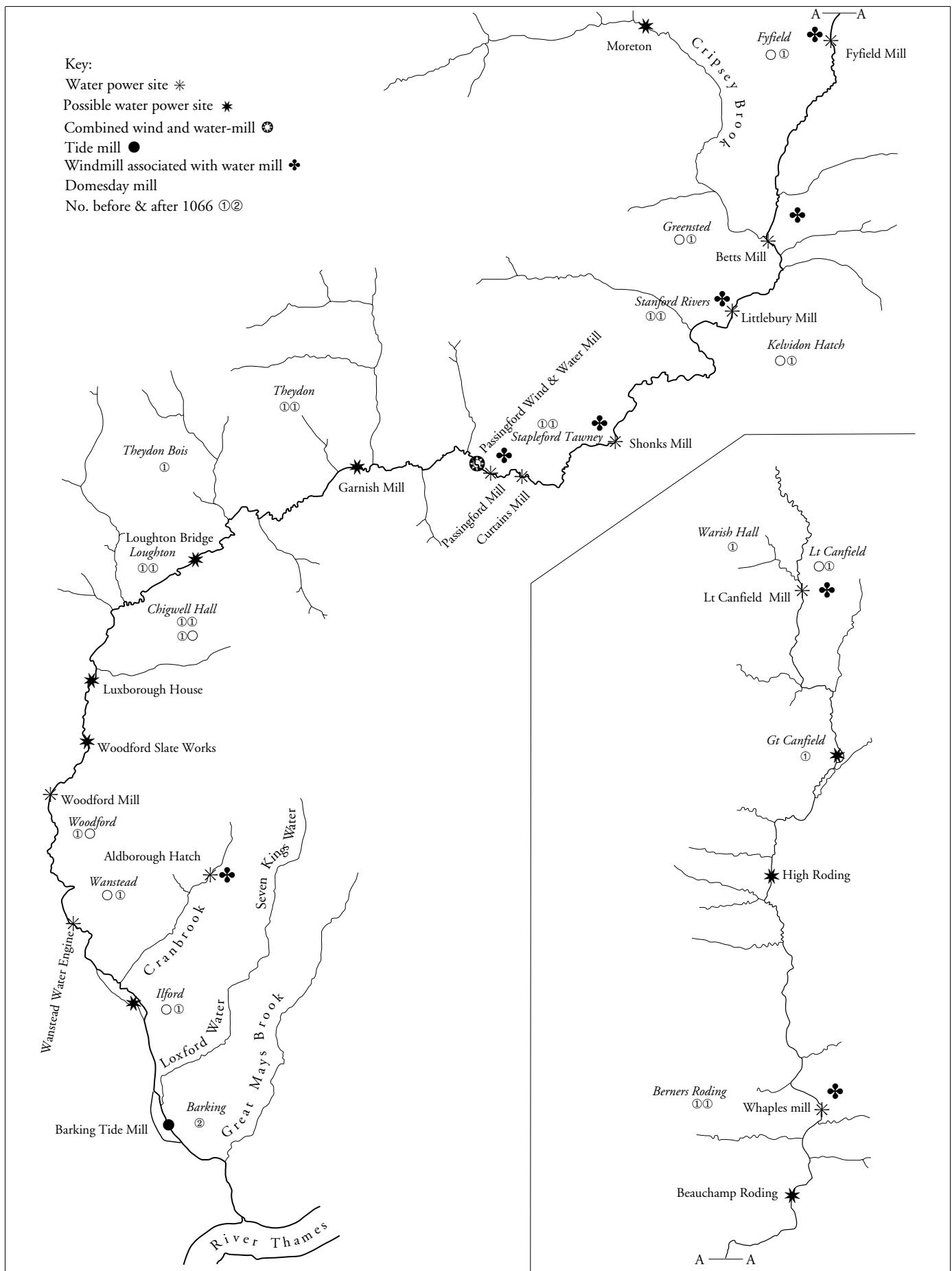
The river Roding or Rodon rises near the hamlet of Mole Hill Green and meanders southward for some 40 miles until it joins with the river Thames below the town of Barking. For a greater part of its length the river lies below the 250 foot contour line, only rising above it a mile and a half below the site of Little Canfield mill. From the mill head at Waples mill the fall in the river is approximately 80 feet down to Shonks mill which in turn is a some 100 feet, in elevation, above Barking mill. The tributaries of the Roding are all small streams, of these only the Cripsey Brook and the Cranbrook. are known to have powered mills.

Unlike the rivers Lee or Stort the character of the Roding has not been changed by the building of a navigation. The only part of the river to be improved for shipping was the tidal section below Ilford bridge. Navigation on the tidal reaches of the Roding had a long history, although the barrier at the Abby tide mill effectively restricted shipping to the town quay at Barking. In 1736 Joseph Goodman commenced work on extending the navigation up to a wharf to be built below Ilford bridge. Goodman was forced to formalise the work by petitioning parliament for an *Act for making Navigable the River Rodon from a little below a Mill called Barking Mill in the County of Essex, to Ilford Bridge in the said county*, which was passed on 21 June 1737. This short navigation of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles was made possible by the construction of a lock in the dam of the tide mill. The lock consisted of a single pair of gates so boats could only pass through when there was no difference in water level. The tidal gates were removed in the 1970's, the river can now only be navigated at high tide.

Domesday Book lists seventeen mill sites in the Roding valley. Although Domesday does not indicate the type of mill the even distribution of these mills along the length of the river would seem to indicate that they were all water mills. A majority of the Roding mills existed before the conquest. Domesday lists the number of pairs of mills stones rather than mill buildings, this convention survived until the eighteenth century when it became customary to name the mill and list the mill stones, wheels and gears etc, in a separate inventory. The Domesday mills probably varied in milling capacity. At Barking 2 mills meet the needs of 140 villagers and 90 small holders whereas all other mills had single pairs of stones serving smaller communities.

The early mill builders finding the low fall of the Roding insufficient had to construct earth embankments and cut leats along the valley side, into which the river was diverted. This gave a head of water sufficient to turn a vertical water wheel. An examination of surviving earth works would seem to indicate the falls of water obtained would have sufficient only for low breast shot wheels. The low flow rate and the shallowness of the river valley limited the number of contour water mills that could be constructed. At the time of the conquest the most suitable sites were occupied. After the 12th century increased demand for flour was met by the construction of wind mills which could be erected nearer to the point of demand. Millers who's business was centered on a water mill also found it necessary to use wind power. Some early wind mills were built to directly compete with water powered millers. In the early 13th century Barking Abbey had its monopoly challenged when a non manorial windmill was constructed. By the sixteenth century water power had disappeared from the upper reaches and tributaries of the Roding having been displaced by windpower which was cheaper and more reliable. Only one combined wind and water mill is recorded, this mill, near Passingford bridge, was not a success and was replaced by separate wind mill and water mills. Lack of large centers of population and competition from windmillers may have been the reason why little modernisation of milling machinery occurred in Roding mills, conversion from water wheel to the more efficient water turbine occurred only in two mills. Barking mills which benefited from access to good transportation, steam power used to augment tidal in order to expand the milling business. At other mills such as Passingford Bridge the existence of external pulley wheels indicate that occasional use was made of portable steam engines to drive existing water powered stones.

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



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### TAKELEY

The Domesday book records that in *Tachelia* (manor of St Valery's or Warish Hall) the Abbey of St Valery had "then and later 1 mill now  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The manor house stands near small streams which flow into the Roding. Who received the other half share of the mill is not recorded but may form the mill acquired by Lt Canfield.

### Lt CANFIELD

A Water mill stood north of the Dunmow to Bishops Stortford road at TL.58502135 worked with a windmill which stood on higher ground to the east.

In 1086 there was in *CanefeldaI* (Lt Canfield Hall) on the lands of William Of Warenne "now one mill".

A Walter Kere quitclaimed to a John Raven, in 1374, one mill one toft and land in Little Canfield [1]. Later in 1403 the court rolls of Little Canfield mention a *mellebregge* [2]. However the water mill seems to have gone by the early sixteenth century, in 1540 only a one acre meadow called *mill mead* and a one acre meadow called *mille hoppett* was recorded in Great canfield [3]. A map, dated 1590, marks the mill pond as being on the north side of the bridge that carries the road from Dunmow to Stortford over the Roding, also marked is an open trestle post mill standing on the east side of the village [6]. It would seem that the responsibility for the maintenance of

the road bridge lay with the mill owner and subsequently with the land owner, in 1605 Ravens bridge, Little Canfield was to be maintained by the owners of a mead called mill mead and a pasture called mill pond on the other side of the bridge [4].

### NOTES

[1] Essex feet of fines.

[2] P H Reaney, Place names of Essex.

[3] *ibid* 3

[4] E.R.O D/DHz M20

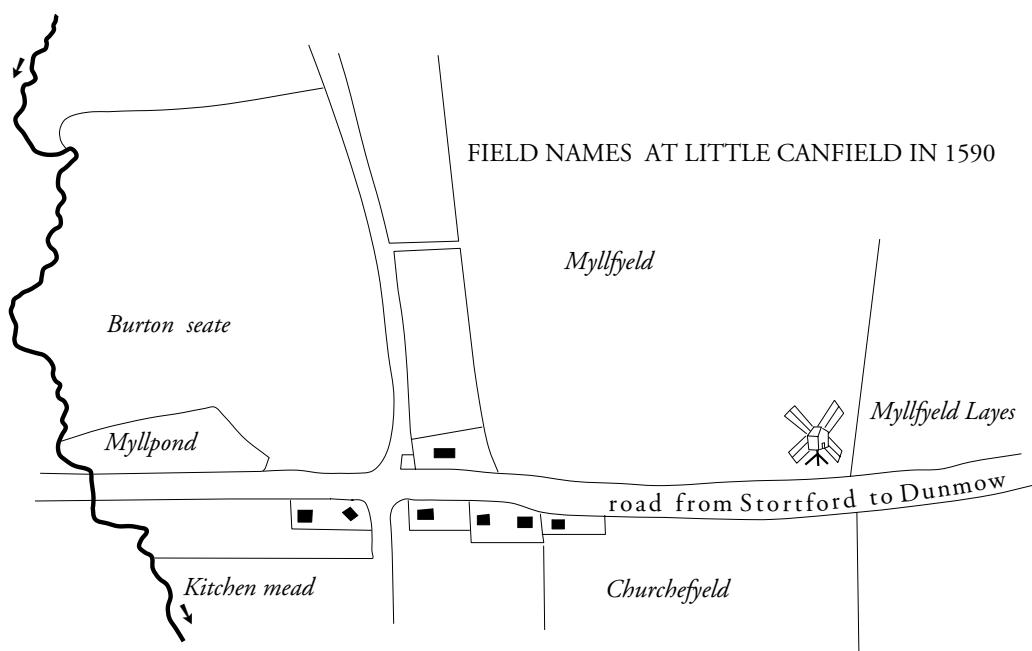
[5] E.R.O Q/CP 2 ff59

### Gt CANFIELD

In 1086 at there was "one mill" in *Candfeledam* (Gt Canfield) in the lands of Aubrey de Vere.

In 1160 a grant to the Priory of Coln and Hatfield Regis included the mill of *Canevell* with land called *Littlefref* in Great Canfield [1]. In 1386 the manor of Great Canfield, held by Robert de Vere, Duke of Ireland, possessed a wind mill and a water mill [2]. Two mills were recorded in 1579 when Edward de Vere alienated the manor of Gt Canfield to John Wiseman. The manor of Great Canfield and Little Marplestead possessed, in 1626, two water mills and a wind mill [3].

Possibly the water mill was originally associated with Gt Canfield castle. The castle is of the motte-and-bailey type, part of the Roding flows through the moat.



# Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

## NOTES

- [1] E.R.O T/A 751
- [2] P.R.O cal Inquis misc vol5 No.117: Moranr vol 2 pp 461
- [3] E.R.O D/DU 265/2

## The RODINGS.

Below the Canfields lie the Rodings. Access to the river seems to have had some economic value, since parish boundaries are so arranged to give all the Roding's a frontage on to the river Roding.

## High Roding

In 1386 the Earl of Arundel held a windmill worth 14/- net and by 1540 the manor of Alta Roding alias alter Roding and Holland Magna possessed three water mills and three wind mills, but the location of the mills are not given [1].

On the manor of Newhall, held by the Josselyn family, there was a water mill 1562, 2 mills in 1595 and 1 water mill in 1597 [2]. Newhall stands on the west bank of the Roding.

## Aythorpe Roding

The parish tithe award map marks a field called mill mead on the west bank of the Roding opposite Aythorpe Hall, at TL 582152 [4]. This is possibly was the site of the water mill owned by the Manor of Newhall, which lies about ¾ mile to the north.

## White Roding

A mill of unknown type is recorded in 1247. A windmill stood on the manor of Maskelsbury in 1291 [3]. The manor house lies ½ mile south east of the church.

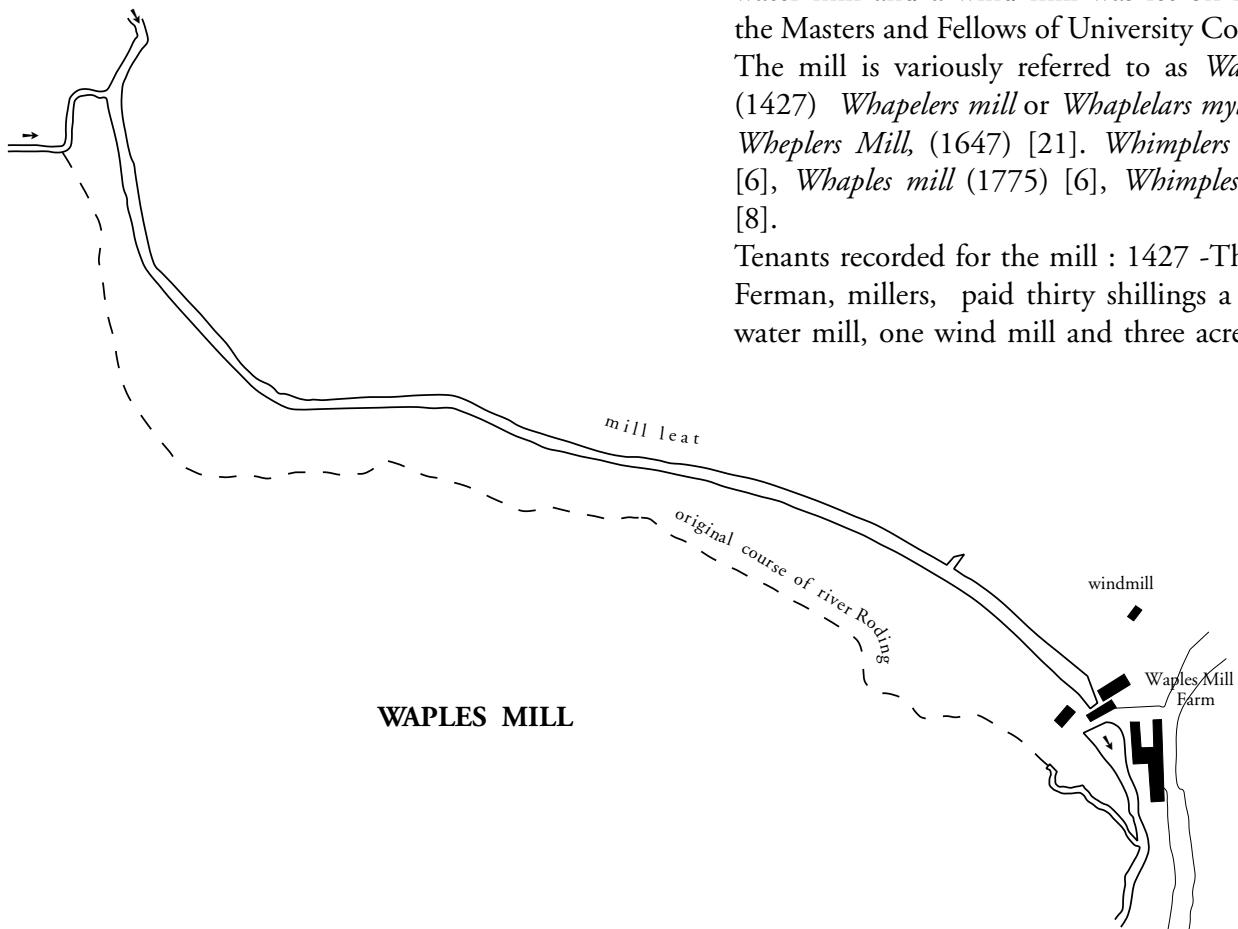
## Margaret Roding

Waples Mill. TL49301050

The manor of Marks, with appertenances, was settled on University College in Oxford, on the 14 February 1403 by Henry IV and Walter Skirlaw Bishop of Durham. Waples Mill Farm which included both a water mill and a wind mill was let on long lease by the Masters and Fellows of University College.

The mill is variously referred to as *Wapulers Mylne* (1427) *Whapeler mill* or *Whaplelars myll* (1575) [5], *Wheplers Mill*, (1647) [21]. *Whimplers mill*, (1688) [6], *Whaples mill* (1775) [6], *Whimples mill* (1824) [8].

Tenants recorded for the mill : 1427 -Thos and John Ferman, millers, paid thirty shillings a year for one water mill, one wind mill and three acres of pasture;



Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



Waples Mill Farm. 1910



Waples Mill, C1950.

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



hydraulic ram pit

Photographs, site of Waples mill, R.S, taken 2004

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

1486 John Foster, miller; 1497 Henry Claydon of Margaret Roding, yeoman; 1497 Edmund Heyrde *alias* Ponde of Margaret Roding, yeoman, tenant of Waples mill; 1531 William Alam of Stondon, miller; 1764 Stephen Crossingham, miller; 1767 Stephen Crossingham, miller and Robert Bird, windmiller. In 1781 Crossingham was leasing the mill for £42. 16s 0d a year [9] [10] [11]. The mill was still being worked by Stephen Crossingham in 1801 when he insured the machinery of the water mill for £500. 1824 Thomas Crossingham of Margaret Roding, miller.

By 1828 the profitability of the mill was in doubt, when a letter to the Bursar of University College expressed concerns regarding the financial affairs of Messrs Green and Crossingham tenants of Waples mill. In 1831 a further letter the Bursar concerning the rents being paid for the mill. By 1834 the mill had fallen into some disrepair requiring repairs. In 1835 Crossingham was writing to the College requesting that he be allowed a delay in paying his rent.

James Green of Abbas Roding, copper, was recorded as tenant of Waples mill in 1826-31.

The Crossingham family worked the mill until about 1840 when William May Underwood took over. Underwood seems to have had problems running the mill. In 1841 and 1842 concerns were raised concerning difficulties with Underwood the tenant of the mill and his neglect of the property. In 1843 Underwood was applying to the College for a loan to overcome his financial difficulties. [12]

It was during Underwoods tenancy that the Chelmsford Chronicle carried the following story [13].

### MELANCHOLY AND FATAL ACCIDENT

On the third inst as John Baker, in the employ of Mr Underwood, miller, at Margaret Roding, was in the act of taking a cord of the beam of one of the cog wheels, whilst the mill was at full work, he was drawn into the machinery and seven or eight of his ribs, with one of his arms, were broken. The poor fellow, who survived his injuries only half an hour, was about 46 years of age and left a widow, now a widow, and seven children to deplore their loss. An inquest was held on thursday, when a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned. Deceased was a native of Chigwell.

A month later the Chronicle carried a notice that there was to be sold by auction with out reserve or duty upon the premises of William May Underwood, under a distress for rent. All the live and dead farming stock, growing crops, going gears in mill including several loads of wheat and straw, stack of meadow hay, horses, carts, gigs, pigs, potatoes all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and various other effects. [13]. Underwood's problems were not solved it would seem as by 1844 he was to appear in the court of bankruptcy [15].

Underwood was followed by Thomas Hall, John Maylen (of Meldeth Mills, Cambs) who also worked a mill in Willingale Doe, Mary Maylen and Henry Maylen who worked the mill until his death in 1882, when the mills were advertised to be let "in consequence of the death of the proprietor", the wind and water mills each driving two pairs of stones. In 1857 Maylen was paying a rent of £63 per year for the corn mill with a house and lands. [16] [17].

One of those who answered was Isac Mead, who at the time was in the employ of Henry Hicks as a working foreman at Springfield mill. Of the large number of applicants Mead was the youngest and was selected with others to see the Bursar of the College. His application was successful and with a loan from the Chelmsford Mutual Fund Association took over the farm on Monday third of October. Mead had hoped to make a fair living from the two mills but found that trade had been neglected, leaflets reducing the price of Flour work from 2/6d to 2/-d per quarter were issued. Grinding as much as he could by night he filled in with work on the land by daylight, he found that in times of flood there was a fair amount of wind to enable work to be done. The water mill may have been in some disrepair by 1890 as 40 quarters of fine barley which had been shot into one of the bins of the water mill caused the floor of the bin to fall out and the whole amount of grain fell through another floor in to the mill pool, only some three quarters were saved to be spread out to dry. In 1903, a year of tremendous floods which swamped the greater part of Waples mill farm, Isac Mead was involved in litigation with his neighbour upstream who accused him of damming the river and flooding his land, however Meads problems were resolved when the judge and jury visited the site and decided

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

that the complainant had neglected to clean out his ditches so flooded his own land and also that of the defendants.

The mill seems to had a low breast shot wheel. It was a contour mill. To obtain the mill-head an earth bank was constructed, this holds the stream against sloping ground on the east of the original course of the river. The parish boundary which for approximately 700 yards lies some 50 yards to the west of the mill stream, follows the old river bed which is marked on the ground by a now dry ditch.

The wind mill burnt down in 1910 although it had not been in use for a number of years, the water mill was disused by 1906. In 1938 a report on Waples mill was draw up concerning the future of Waples Mill. [18] [19].

Although the water wheel was removed sometime before 1930 the water mill and the adjacent farm house were still standing in the 1950's but nothing now remains except a few timbers and the earthworks that form the mill head.

In 1954 University College sold Marks Hall and Waples Mill Farms to Messrs W. and H. Ritchie. The fall of water at the mill seems to have been last used to drive an hydraulic ram.

### Berners Roding

In 1086 there was "always one mill" at *Rodinges* on the lands of Geofrey de Manderville, held before by Wulfric.

### Beauchamp Roding

The Tith award map for the parish marks fields called Little Mill field and Mill Meads on the west bank of the Roding at TL.58750875, indicating a possible water mill site [20].

#### NOTES.

[1] Essex feet of fines.

[2] Phillip Morant, History of Essex. vol 2: Feet of Fines for Essex

[3] Essex feet of fines: Morant vol 2 page 470.

[4] E.R.O. D/CT 293

[5] E.R.O Q/CP 2 ff21

[6] E.R.O Q/CP 460 ff53

[7] André & Chapman, map of Essex

- [8] Greenwood, map of Essex
- [9] E.R.O Q/SBb 237. E.R.O Q/RPL 315.  
UC:EB1/A/4
- [10] E.R.O Q/SBb 249
- [11] E.R.O D/CT 294
- [12] Sun policy No.716310 21/2/1801. per Simmons  
UC:EB1/A/4; UC:E3/C1/14; UC:E2/C1/15;  
UC:E3/C1/16; UC:E3/C1/22  
UC:E3/C1/23; UC:E3/C1/24
- [13] Chelmsford Chronicle 13/1/1843
- [14] Chelmsford Chronicle 24/2/1843
- [15] London Gazette 27/8/1844; UC:E3/C1/30
- [16] Kelly directory of Essex.
- [17] Chelmsford Chronicle 21 July 1882.  
UC:E3/C1/34; UC:E3/C1/46
- [18] The life of an Essex Lad. Isac Mead. 1923
- [19] UC:E3/MS3/1
- [20] E.R.O D/CT 294
- [21] E.R.O Q/SR 332/51

### WILLINGALE

There was in 1086 in *Plesingchou* on one hide of land held by a free man which was annexed by Humphrey Goldenbollocks in the Kings despite, "then one mill". In 1265-66 William, son of Peter de Pelham, made an agreement with Thomas de la More concerning one messuage, one mill and 100 acres of land with appurts in Wylingehal, this was possibly a wind mill [1].

NOTES :1] Feet of Fines for Essex.

### FYFIELD

Fyfield mill. TL 57150660

In 1086 there was in *Fifhidam* "now one mill" on the lands of John son of Waleran.

A windmill existed in Fyfield as early as 1280 [1]. A survey of the lands of Lord Rich taken in 1577, listed Fyfield mill [2]. In the eighteenth century Robert Goodwin, who also owned a mill in Stapleford Abbots, owned both a wind mill and a water mill in Fyfield [3]. In 1757 he insured both mills which were occupied by a John Blith, the wind mill was said to be part brick and timber built covered by boards and tarpaulin and was insured for £100, the water mill, with one wheel turned by water, was part timber and

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



Above : River Roding and Fyfield Milll, C.1905



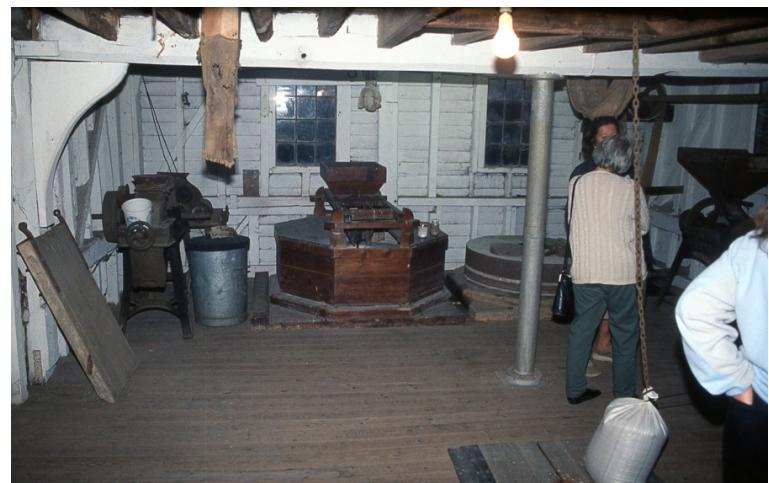
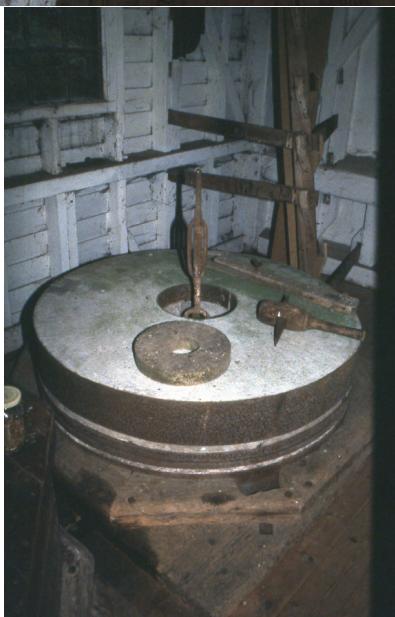
## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



# Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



Turbine gate controls

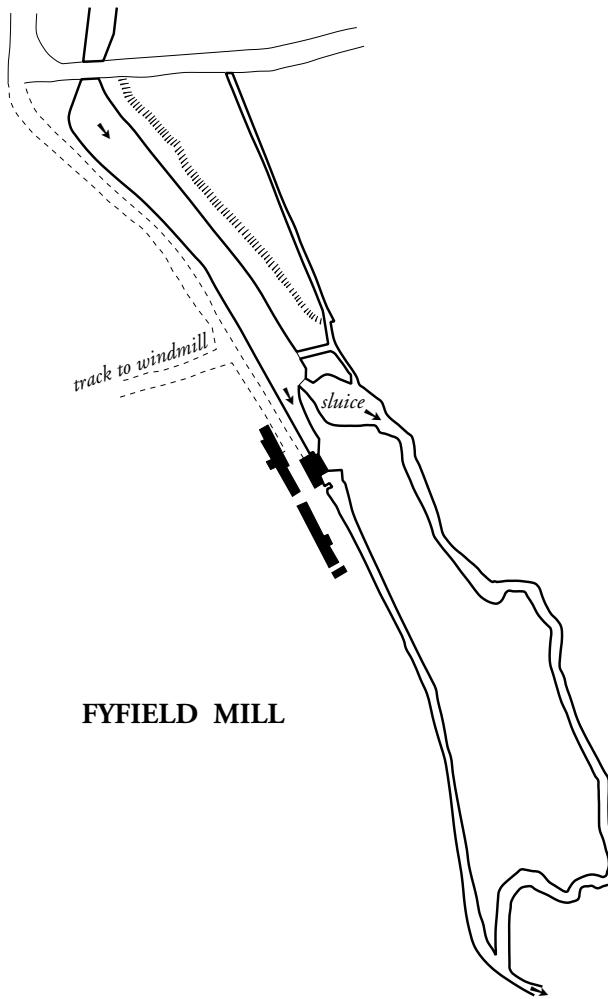


# Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



Fyfield mill photographs R.S dated 2004.

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



plaster built and tiled and insured for £100 [4]. Robert Goodwin left his mills to his wife in 1776, in 1780 William Aeigol was a miller in Fyfield [5] and in 1801 both mills were being worked by Daniel Barnard [6]. In 1800 the mills described as a freehold wind and water mill were up for sale by auction, to be sold with out reserve at the Crown Inn, Chipping Ongar. The lot was described as a corn mill on the river Roding 1 acre of pasture with stables and a windmill a short distance with two pairs of french stones with some gear capable of grinding 50 quarters of grain per week [7]. The mills were purchased by Joseph Crush who held them until his death in 1828, when they were again up for sale [8], and by 1842 James Edmund was leasing the mills from John Baron [9]. Subsequent millers were John Pemberton, James Reynolds and John Yeoman, who by 1884 was working with wind, water and steam [10].

In 1890 John Yeoman had the water mill thoroughly repaired and put in order by C. Balls, millwright of Becontree, who also fitted a steam engine to make the

mill independent of a variable stream [11]. The mill was later worked by Evans & Co and finally by T G Baker, who ground animal food up to about 1943. The mill of white weather boarding on a timber frame has been restored to working order by Mr and Mrs K. Couling. The original enclosed wheel has been replaced, possible by C Balls, by an Armfield turbine, the two pairs of french stones, 4 foot 2 inch in diameter, are under driven from cast iron stone nuts, the 4 foot diameter spur wheel and 2 feet 9 inch waller are both of cast iron with wooden teeth. The head of water has been obtained by embanking the river to form a contour mill dam.

### NOTES.

- [1] Morant
- [2] E.R.O D/DU 514/29/30
- [3] E.R.O D/DSd T9
- [4] Royal Exchange fire insurance policy No. 33676
- [5] E.R.O Q/SBb 299
- [6] E.R.O D/DA T56
- [7] Chelmsford Chronicle 10/1/1800
- [8] Chelmsford Chronicle 9/5/1828
- [9] E.R.O D/CT 148
- [10] Kelly directory's of Essex.
- [11] The miller, 1890.

### ONGAR and GREENSTEAD

Betts Mill. Site probable on the river Roding approx TL 559025

In 1086 there was in *Gernestedam* on the lands of Hamo the steward, (held before by Gotild as manor), "now one mill". In 1349 manor of Greenstead possessed one windmill and one watermill [1]. In 1243 the Manor of Ongar was said to have two mills, one of them driven by water, worth 68s 6d [2]. By 1294 the value of the mills had risen to £5 [3]. However by 1374 the windmill was said to broken down [4]. In 1298 a John de Muntuyron of Little Ongar leased to Richard de Muntuyrun 4 messuages, 1 mill and land in Little Ongar, High Ongar, Bobbingworth, Stanford, Sheeley and Greenstead. In 1317 John de Muntviroun of Chipping Ongar sold

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

to John de Standford 3 messuages, 2 mills and land in Chipping Ongar, Bobbingworth, Stanford Rivers, Greenstead, High Ongar and Stondon [5]. During 1539 William Green and his wife quitclaimed to William Moryce, a house, 1 water mill and land in High Ongar [6]. By 1597 the manor had only the water mill which stood on a piece of land called Betts [7]. A mill is mentioned as an appurtenant to the manor in 1618 [8]. The water mill had gone by 1679, since deeds of this date, mention a river meadow called Betts Mead (5a), croft called Betts, where a mill formerly stood (12a), on N side of highway leading from Marden End to Hallsford in High Ongar [9]. The Tith award map for High Ongar marks a field called Betts at TL.559.025 bounded on the north by the Cripsey Brook and on the East by the Roding [10]. The topography of the field would seem to indicate that the mill probable stood on the Roding, possible near where a footpath from High Ongar now crosses the river by a foot bridge. The water mill seems to have been superseded by a post-mill the round house of which stands on high ground about half a mile to the north at TL 666032.

### NOTES.

- [1] P.R.O Cal. Inq. p.m 1X, p.242.
- [2] P.R.O Inquisition post mortem, Series two: Henry II; file 1.
- [3] P.R.O ibid file 67
- [4] P.R.O Inquisition post mortem Edw iii, file 230.
- [5] Essex Feet of Fines
- [6] ibid 5
- [7] P.R.O Inquisition post mortem series ii.
- [8] P.R.O Recovery Rolls/143 rot 38.
- [9] E.R.O D/DU 1180/1.
- [10] E.R.O D/CT 263.

## STANFORD RIVERS

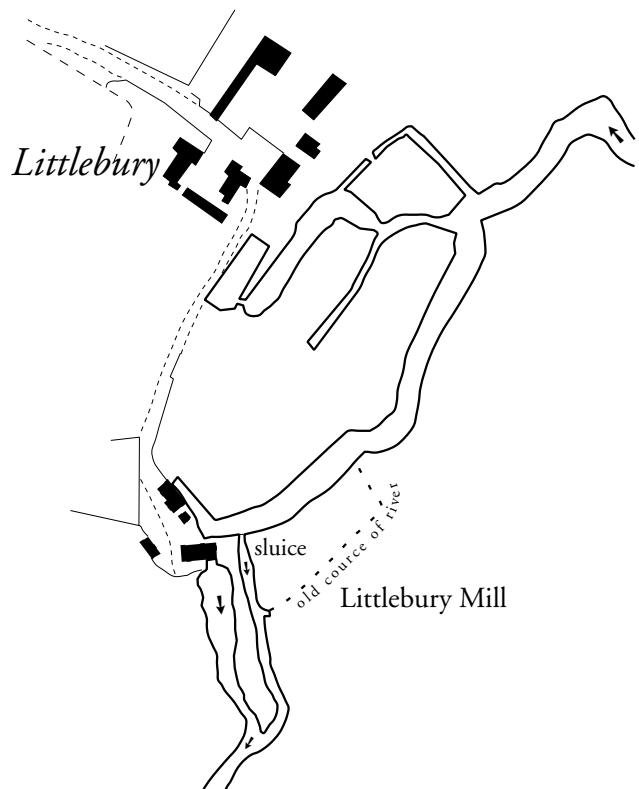
Littlebury mill, TL 55100100

In 1086 there was “always one mill” in *Stanfort* in the lands of Count Eustace and at *Keluenduna* there was “now one mill” in the lands of St Peters Westminster. John Bull of London, Haberdasher, mentions in his will, dated 1702, his water mill called Littlebury mill [1]. The water mill part of Littlebury Farm was worked in conjunction with a wind mill. Daniel Corney insured the mills in 1781, on the water mill timber and tiled £400 and on the windmill ½ mile distant £100. in 1823 the estate was in ownership of Timothy Phillips, when the mill was described as a water corn mill [2]. Following the death of Peter Phillips the farm was put up for sale by auction, and were described as a water mill having an 18 foot diameter wheel working on a 8 foot 6 inch fall, the mill had 2 pair’s of 4 foot french stones with dressing tackle, going gears and improved machinery, the wind mill was described as being a substantially built post mill with 2 pair of 4 foot 10 inch stones. The whole was to be auctioned at the Crown, Chipping Ongar [4]. The mills were leased by John Smitherman at £160 per annum. John Kynaston purchased the mills and farm for £3020 and in 1861 was assessed for parochial rates for £114 at a 1d in the pound on the mills [4]. Littlebury mills were worked by several millers during nineteenth century Robert Mugleston was still using water power in 1906 but by 1914 William Garner & son were using steam and water power [5]. Water power was discontinued in 1946 in favour of electricity and the mill stream eventually filled in. The water mill a black weather boarded building on a brick base is now used in the manufacture of mill stones.

### NOTES.

- [1] E.R.O D/DAy F5/1
- [2] E.R.O D/DCc T37
- [3] Chelmsford Chronicle 3/8/1832.
- [4] E.R.O D/CT 327: D/P 140/4/1
- [5] Kelly directory of Essex

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



Littlebury Mill

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

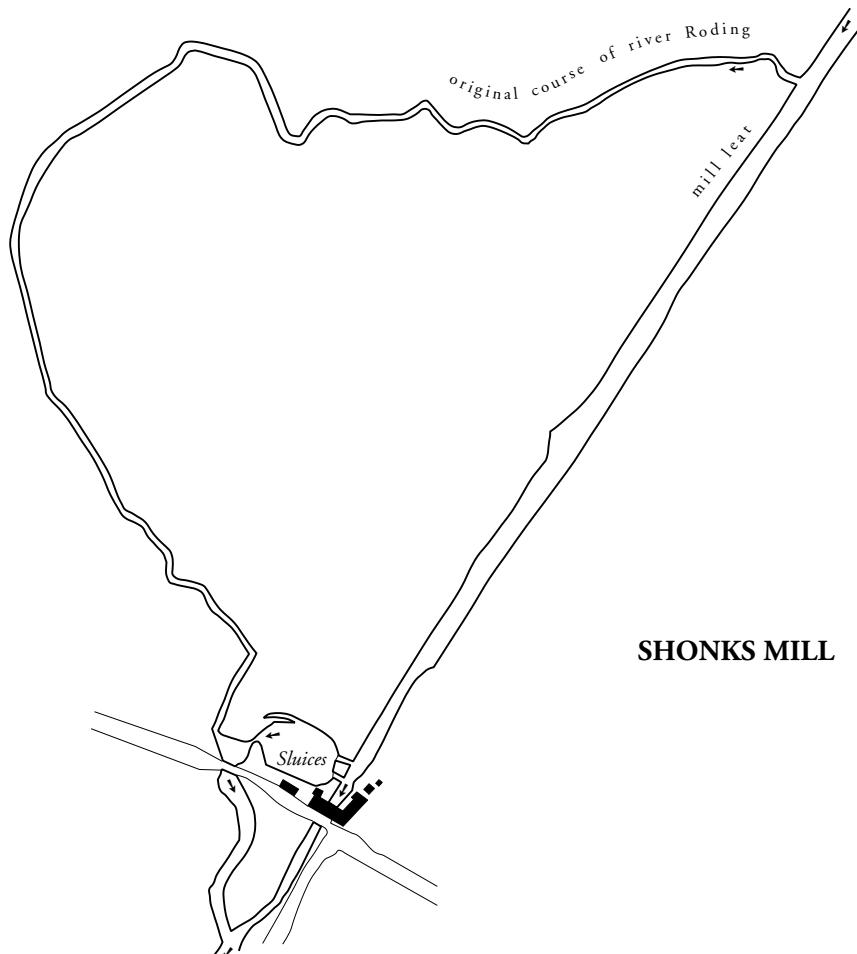
### NAVSTOCK

- (1) Navstock or Shonks Mill at TL 52909815
- (2) Field name recorded at TQ 51759775
- (3) Curtains Mill, TQ 51259727.

(1) SHONKS MILL. In 1251 Ralph son of Stephen de Nastok leased to Peter de Haverhill 80 acres of land and a mill in Nastok, this may be the same mill that John de Bosco leased to John Morel, in 1316, with 30 acres of pasture and 12 acres of wood for £4 11s 4d [1]. The name Shonks Mill is recorded in 1566 when *a bredge nr Shonks myll that ys ruynosly in decay for whant of tymber work* is recorded [2]. A map of 1615 records the water mill as Navstock Mill, [3], and in the same year it was noted that Shonks mill bridge was again out of repair [4], this may have been no fault of the miller as in the early nineteenth century it was claimed that the the bridge near Shonks mill was not maintained by the miller [5]. The water mill was accompanied by a post mill that stood nearby in the parish of Stanford Rivers, both wind and water mill went by the name of Shonks

mill, in 1745 John Grove was miller at Shonks windmill [6], and was recorded as miller in Navstock in 1776 when his weights and measures were found to be good [7]. In 1797 John Grove rebuilt the wind mill, which stood on land which had been leased from Lord Petre in 1703 by Jas Grove for 10/- rent, the mills later came into the possession of John Chaplin [8], who by 1838 was leasing them to Thomas Sadler [9]. Sadler paid parochial rates on the wind mill until 1860, the assessment being £12 at 1d in the pound, as the water mill was marked as disused in 1873 it may have stopped working about the same time as the windmill and was probably pulled down at the turn of the century [10] [11].

Although much of the brick foundation of the mill has been destroyed by erosion of the river bank the foundations of the wheel race can still (1990) be traced in the river bed, the water wheel was undershot and possible 6 foot in width. The Roding flows in a wide shallow valley and forms the boundary between the parish of Navestock and Stanford Rivers, the mill head was formed by taking the mill leat along the contour line, across a bend in the river, this places



## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

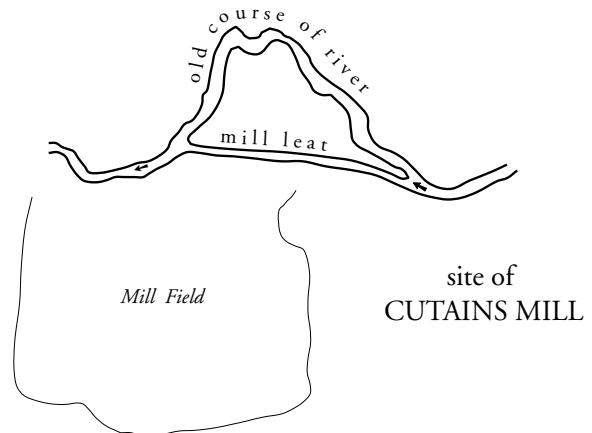
Shonks mill just inside Navestock since the parish boundary follows the old river. A map of 1835 based on one of 1785 marks the parish boundary as the course of the river "before Shonks mill was erected" [12].

(2) Below Howlet Hall on the east bank of the river was recorded a field called Mill Mead or Over Mead [13].

(3) CURTAINS MILL. This may have been the mill owned by John de Sutton in 1290 [14]. In 1641 a John Springham is recorded as repairing a breach in Curtains mill stream [15]. The mill head was formed by a cut across a loop in the river. The parish boundary follows the old river. To the south of the cut is recorded a field called Mill field [16].

### NOTES.

- [1] Essex Feet of Fines
- [2] E.R.O Q/SR 20/6
- [3] E.R.O D/DU 583/1
- [4] E.R.O Q/CP 3 ff 11
- [5] E.R.O Q/SBb 420
- [6] E.R.O D/SDx 201
- [7] E.R.O Q/SBb 284
- [8] E.R.O D/DSd T31
- [9] E.R.O D/CT 248
- [10] E.R.O D/P 140/4/1,2
- [11] 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions 25 inch O.S map.
- [12] E.R.O D/DXa 24
- [13] *ibid* 12
- [14] *ibid* 1
- [15] *ibid* 4 ff127
- [16] E.R.O, D/DXa 24: D/CT 248



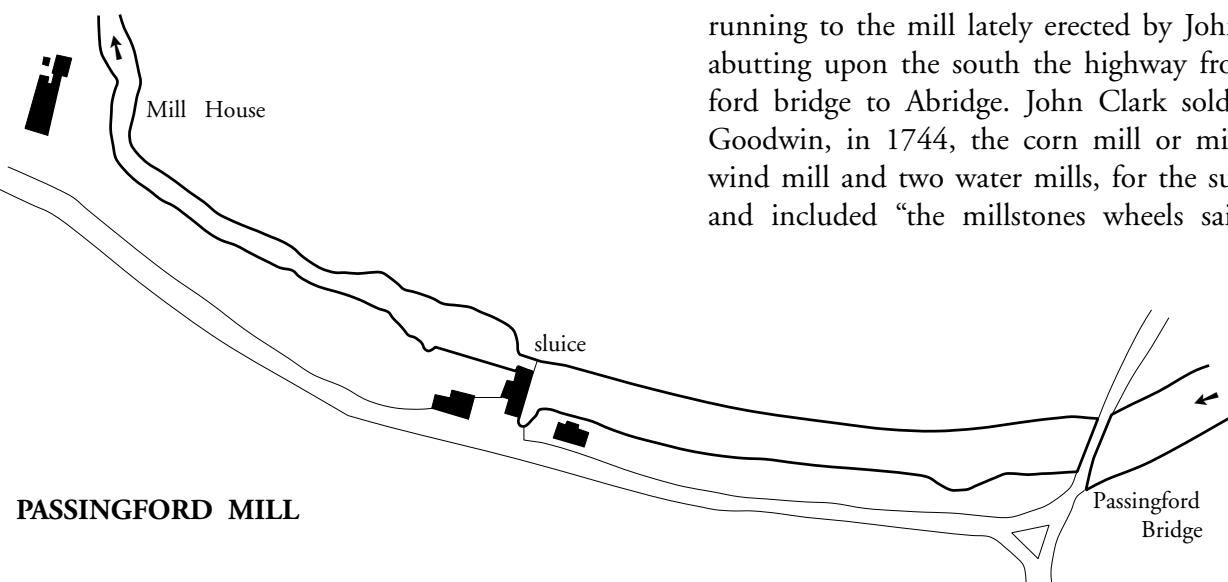
## STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS & STAPLEFORD TAWNEY

- (1) A combined wind and water mill
- (2) Water mill, known as Passingford mill built to replace combined wind and water mill.

In 1086 there was in *Staplefort* "always on mill" in the lands of Swein.

Sometime between 1740 and 1742 John Clark, a miller from Hertford, Hertfordshire, built a mill described in 1742 as a corn mill or mills being both a wind mill and a water mill. A combined mill is indicated on Chapman and André's map of Essex (surveyed 1772-1774) by the symbol of a windmill over a water mill. The mill is depicted as a smock mill, at this period the post wind mill predominated in Essex.

Deeds dated 1743 refer to a parcel of land lying between the old river and the cut in the new river running to the mill lately erected by John Clark..... abutting upon the south the highway from Passingford bridge to Abridge. John Clark sold to Robert Goodwin, in 1744, the corn mill or mills *viz:* one wind mill and two water mills, for the sum of £350 and included "the millstones wheels sails and sail



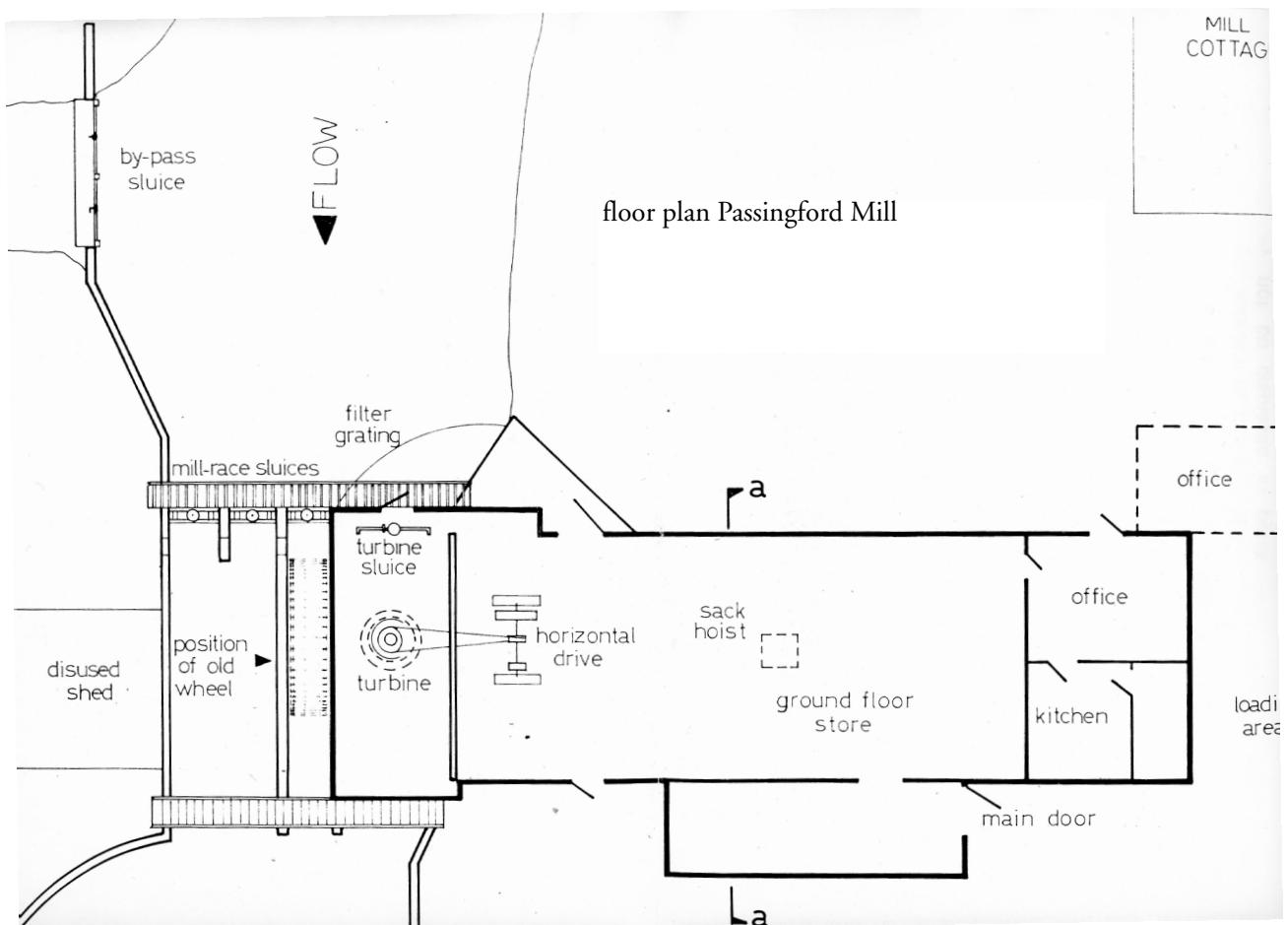
## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



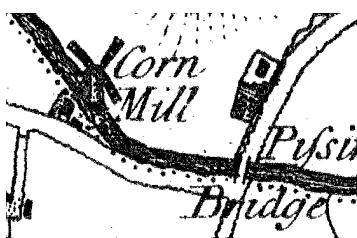
Above : Passingford Mill, C.1905



# Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



combined wind and water mill  
depicted on Chapman & André  
map of Essex 1777

cloth and all other materials now fixed to or belonging or anyway appertaining or now in use with the mills or any part thereof shall go with and be surrendered with the said mills ..... except skreens sieves Boulting cloths sacks weights and scales shovells and Bushells". However by 1784 there was one water corn mill with appurtenances erected instead of the wind mill with two water mills [1]. A comparison of the location of the mill as placed by André and Chapman and the existing Passingford mill would seem to indicate that the combined mill was abandoned in favour of a water only powered mill on a new site several hundred yards upstream.

There was still a need for wind power, and by 1775 Goodwins son in law William Taylor had erected a wind mill on a site a few hundred yards to the north of the water mill, in Stapleford Tawney. Mary Goodwin inherited the water mill under the terms of her husbands will in 1776. In 1784 both mills were sold to Joseph Brown, at this time the wind mill was occupied by a James Fallop whilst Launcelot Tuck, Robert Goodwins brother in law was at the water mill, the name Zack Tuck 1760 is carved on timbers in the mill. John Brown was leasing both mills in 1792 for £90 per annum when the mills were put up for sale by auction [2]. The water mill was said to have been 17 foot in diameter driving 2 pairs of 4 foot stones. The wind mill was described as being "very substantial". The mills were purchased by Charles Smith, who paid Brown the sum of £2000 to purchase the lease on the land, the wind mill and title to the copy hold watermill and a house. J Cooper insured the water mill in 1795 for £1000 [3], 3 years later Fincham & Evans, millers, insured one pair of stones, 2 wire machines and dressing mills with their going gears in a water corn mill brick and stone and

tiled or slated; £100 on stock in trade £900, the wind mill stock in trade and machinery was insured for £200 [4]. By 1835 Charles Stevens was the tenant of both mills remaining so until his death at the age of 75 in 1883 [5], working only with water after about 1858. Charles Stevens was followed by Stephen File, Thomas Cross and then Charles Cross until about 1902 when Thomas Coomber took over the water mill [6]. William Henry Twynham purchased the mill in 1928, in 1931 he removed the water wheel and replaced it with a horizontal turbine, the original stones being removed in 1941 [7]. In 1941 the mill sluice was hit by a flying bomb meant for the nearby airfield, in the early 1980's the River authority built new spillways. The mill timber framed and weather boarded stands three stories high on a brick base and is now (1989) used for storage.

### NOTES.

- [1] E.R.O D/DSd T9
- [2] Chelmsford Chronicle 1/4/1792
- [3] Royal Exchange fire insurance policy No. 149024
- [4] Royal Exchange fire insurance policy No. 164670
- [5] E.R.O D/CT 330 : The Miller 6 Aug 1883
- [6] Kelly Essex directory's
- [7] E.R.O T/Z 81

### THEYDON GARNON

In 1086 there was one mill in *Taindena* (Theydon Bois) in the lands of Peter of Valognes, and in the lands of William of Constantine, held before by Swein, there was "always one mill".

In 1270-71 John, son of Ralph Gernon, held the manor of the manor of Teydon Gernon with ..... woods, meadows, ponds, mills, fisheries.... etc. [1]. A mill called Garnish mill may have been on or near the site of the former Jackson Farm that stood until about 1950 near Hill Farm (TL475097799). Jackson farm was at one time called Gernon Mill farm. in 1500 reference is made to a messuage in Theydon Garnon called Garnish Mill [2]. Documents from 1446 to 1696 refer to crofts called Mill Croft and Mill Hope next to the river and also mentions a lane leading to Garnon mill and Garnish Mill Farm [3]. In 1588 John Braunche held the Manor of Theydon-Garnishe,

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

with a farm called Garnish mill [4] and in 1775 the farm was marked as Gernon mill farm [5].

### NOTES.

- 1] Feet of Fines for Essex.
- 2] E.R.O D/DLc T1: E.A.T n.s vi, 119./ n.s. V,28 / n.s xvii,172
- 3] E.R.O D/DAy T21
- 4] Morant vol 1 pp159; E.R.O D/DLo T1
- 5] Chapman & Andre, map of Essex.

## LOUGHTON

In 1086 in *Lochintuna* there was in the lands of Peter of Valognes, (held before by Leofcild), "always one mill".

Mediaeval court rolls refer to mill and mill dam at Loughton Bridge. Robert de Vere Earl of Oxford conferred to the Canons of the Church of Waltham the perpetual right to: "repairas nee be the edge of their pool as well on his fee of Wolfameston as on their own, and to enclose the water of the same with a good weir, as far as the whole of that pool extends from his mill to that of the canons in Loketon. So never the less, that the metes and bounds arranged by the common consent of both parties as to the height of the water be not transgressed, and that his mill be not hindered for grinding and his meadows injured by the overflowing of the waters of the pool."

In 1396/7 John Mark claimed that 8 virgat of Russet cloth given to Edward Fullure to full were so beaten in the stocks of the mill that it became full of holes so that he suffered a loss of 40d [1].

### NOTES.

- [1] William Waller. Loughton in Essex, pub 1899.

## CHIGWELL

In 1086 there was in *Cingheuella* on the lands of Ralph Limesy, (held before by Harold from King William) In lordship, there were 19 villagers and 2 small holders and "always one mill"; and on land held by Robert Gernon by the King's gift, "then one mill, now none", this mill and land had originally been owned by six free men who apparently were disposed. A report of 1364 stated that a mill in Chigwell could neither grind or be of service to the community.

LUXBOROUGH HOUSE which was pulled down about 1800, was a semi moated house. In February, 1934 during a period of exceptional dry period at a point some 70 yards south of the house, (approx TL 42309300), the remains of a dam were discovered. These remains consisted of two substantial brick piers, about 2 foot 6 inches square, in the bed of the river, with the base of brick work still between them. The brickwork continued beyond the eastern pier, and adjacent were the remains, much decayed, of wooden piles. The foundations appeared to have been those of a dam in which a vertically movable sluice gate could operate between the piers. The real purpose of the dam is not clear, it may have been associated with some flood relief or water regulating scheme or possibly a mill [1].

### NOTES.

- [1] Woodford & District Antiquarian Society. Proceedings & Transactions.

## WOODFORD

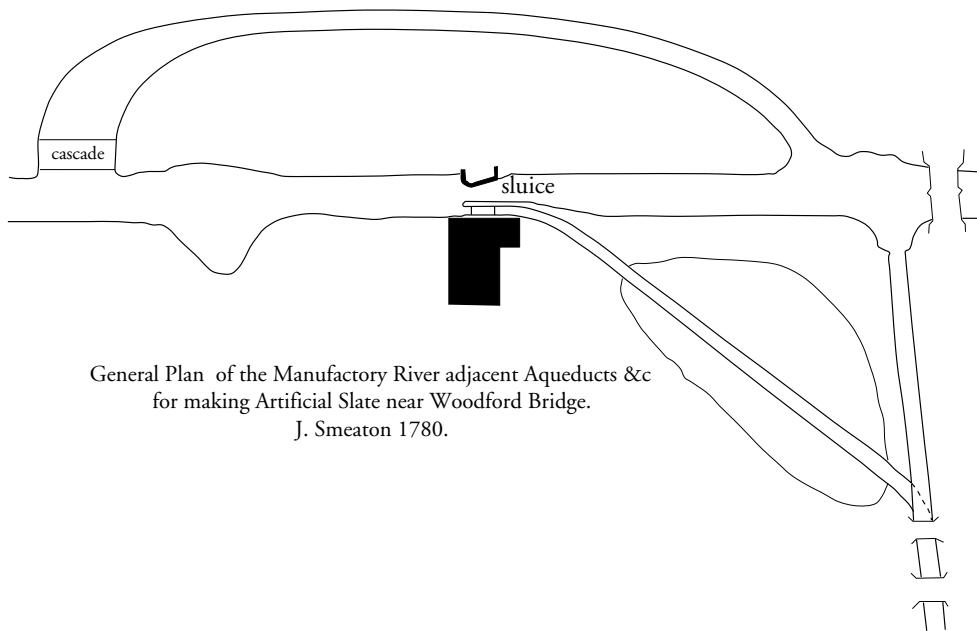
- (1) Artificial Slate works at Woodford bridge.  
TL 41809200
- (2) Water corn mill known as Woodford mill.  
TL 41209020.

In 1086 in *Wdefort* in lands held by the Cannons of Waltham Holy Cross, there was "then one mill, now none".

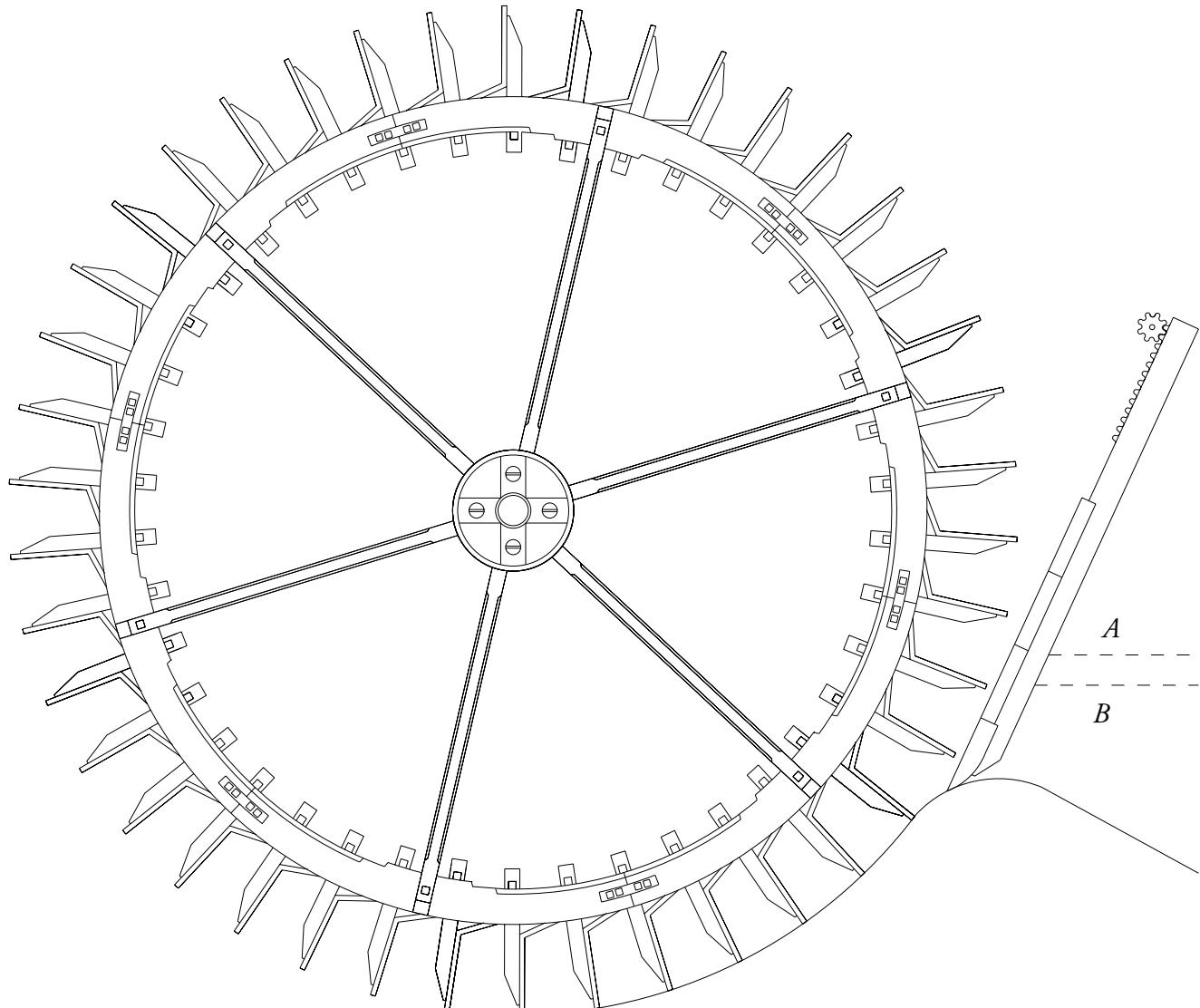
(1) ARTIFICIAL SLATE WORKS were set up by Sir James Wright, who lived at Ray House, the exact date is not known but the works were in existence by May 1782 when Sir James paid £2 10 0d in parish rates on 'the manufactory' [1]. In 1780 John Smeaton was commissioned to produce drawings for utilising the waters of the Roding to power the works, but it is not clear if Smeaton actually carried out the work since one of his drawings is inscribed "delivered but not executed".

The elevation drawings for the water wheel show a low breast wheel of 16 feet diameter and 5 feet wide designed to work on a full head of 5 foot 6 inches or when the flash boards were fitted, of 6 feet. The wheel was to be constructed in wood with six segment

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

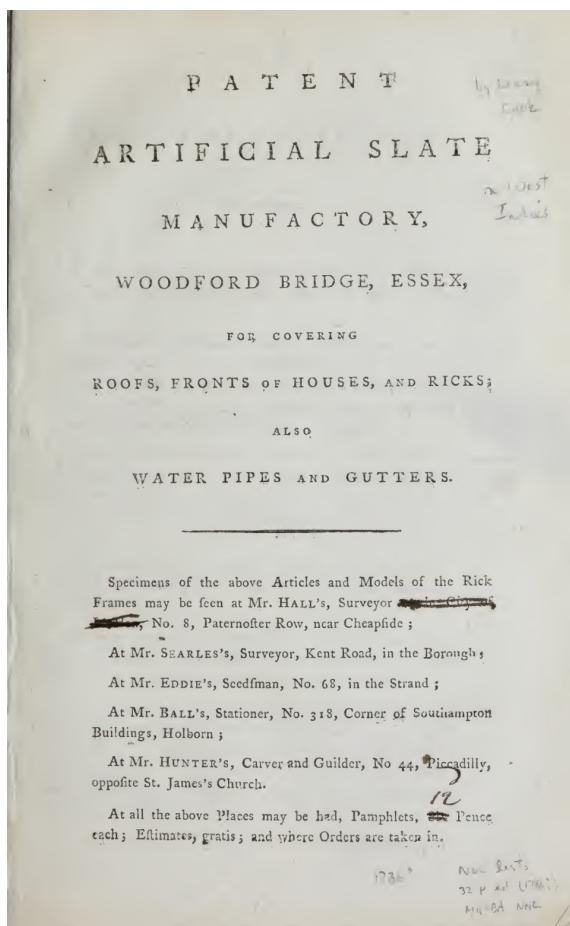


General Plan of the Manufactory River adjacent Aqueducts &c  
for making Artificial Slate near Woodford Bridge.  
J. Smeaton 1780.



*A* is the water line with the flash boards in, *B* is the full head line level with the cascade  
Elevation of water wheel designed by John Smeaton for the Artificial Slate Manufactory.

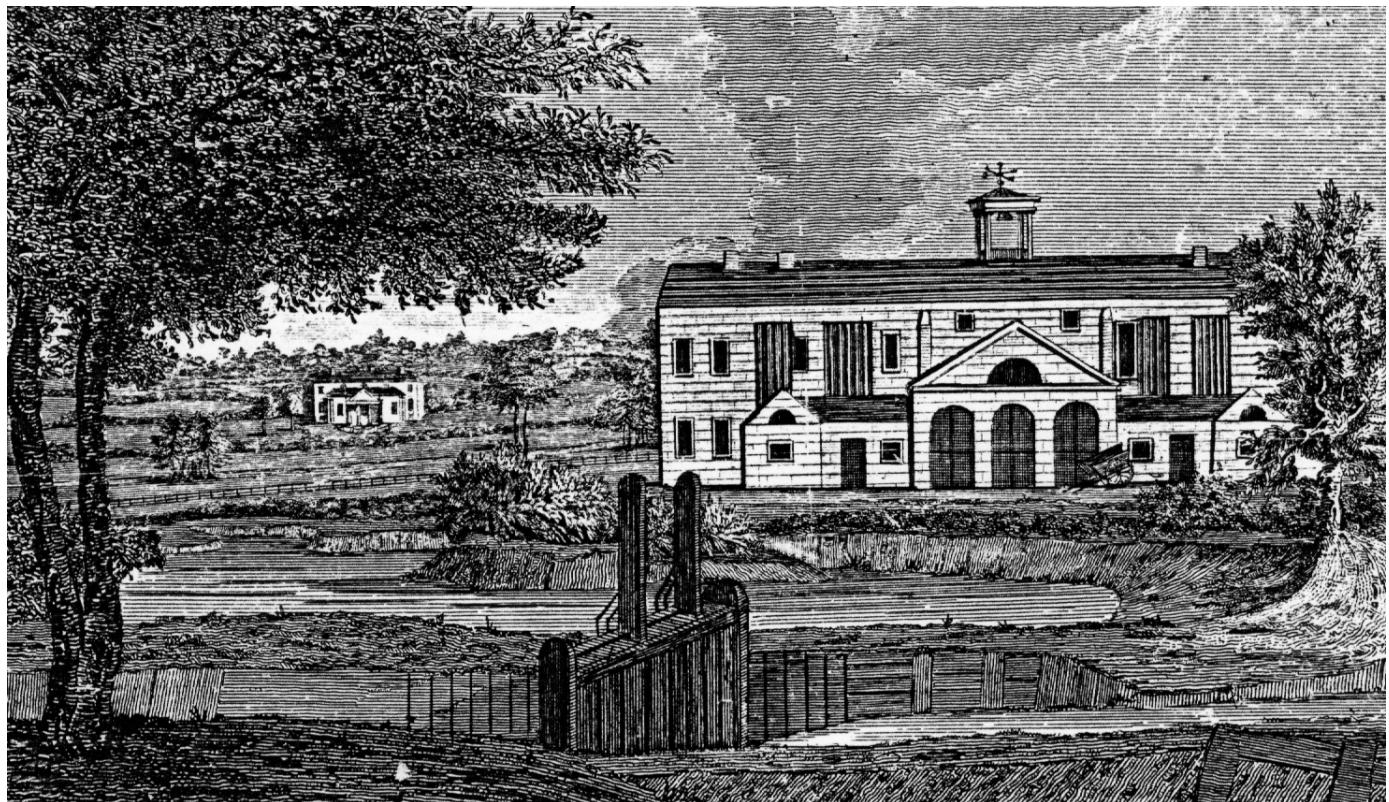
## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



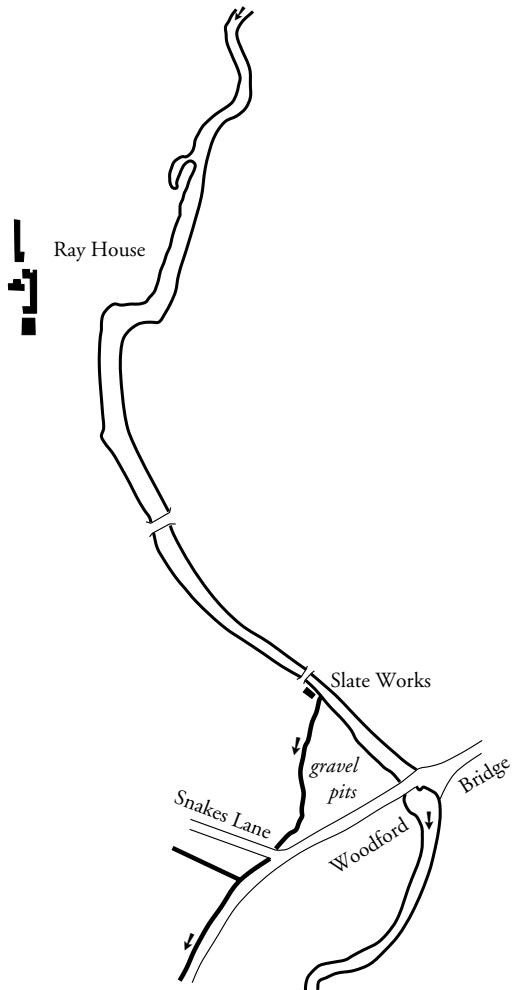
36 page pamphlet published C. 1786.  
Patent Artificial Slate Manufactory  
Woodford Bridge Essex

A description of the the works dated 1796 states :

Near Woodford Bridge is the patent manufactory of artificial slate, belonging to Sir James Wright, Bart. This slate is used for covering roofs and fronts of houses, for making pendant frames for hay-ricks and stakes of corn, and safe guards to preserve them from vermin. It is also used for water-pipes and gutters. A considerable quantity has been exported to the West Indies. A pamphlet was published a few years ago explaining the the manner of using the slate, its comparative advantages, with prices and estimates. The proprietor has published also (at the begining of the present year) some observations on the importance of the preserving grain from vermin, with an explaination of the manner in which the artifical slate is to answer that pupose. The buildings where the manufactory is carried on are of this slate and were erected about twenty years ago.



## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



rings, held by iron fish plates and bolts, and six pairs of arms, the number of floats was to be forty two. The wooden water wheel shaft was fitted with metal bearings. The tail race of the wheel was to be connected into a side stream which rejoined the main river down stream at Wenn Bridge.

A contemporary view of the works, published in the Universal Magazine for August 1798, shows a two story building standing by the Roding but gives no clue as to the power used. This view of the works shows a sluice in the river but the general arrangement cannot be reconciled with that proposed by John Smeaton.

In 1796 the site was described as a patent manufactory of artificial slate, although no reference is made as to which patent was used. The slates were said to have measured 24 inches by 15 inches and cost 1/- each. The slate works may have been out of use by 1803 when Ray House was put up for sale, as the sale particulars make no mention of it [2]. The tile works were not shown on the tithe award map of 1840,

which records only a cottage standing in a field called Bulmers field, near a stream which branched off from the main river to rejoin it, down river, at Wenn Bridge. The 25 inch O.S map survey in 1872 shows neither the cottage or side stream.

A patent was granted to Henry Cook, of Stoke Holy Cross, Norfolk, in 1778 for "An entire New Composition, to be used as a Substitute for, and will in every respect be Preferable to, either Lead, Slates, or Tiles, in covering of Churches, Houses, and other buildings" [3]. Although there is no evidence that this patent was used at Woodford it is interesting in its use of water power, the substitute material was to be made of :

Litharge, red lead, white lead, chalk, stone, black flint, brick dust, fine sand prepared by washing, caput mortuum, and ground glass. The above reduced to a fine powder and all mixed together. To every hundred weight of the above materials is added twenty-eight pounds of old junk, rope, or hemp, reduced to a pulp, and all worked together in water by a water-mill; the composition thus mixed is put into moulds, and formed like slates, then pressed a dry as may be by a large iron presses, afterwards dried in a stove by fire, and when quite dry pressed by iron cylinders: then each sheet is steeped in a liquor prepared with linseed oil, litharge, red lead, white copperas, and sugar of lead, again dried in a stove, pressed by the cylinders, and painted.

Sand and gravel pits are recorded at Woodford bridge which may have originally been associated with the slate works [4]



A.D. 1778 . . . . . N° 1185.

### Composition for Covering Buildings.

#### COOK'S SPECIFICATION.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, HENRY COOK, of the Parish of Stoke Holy Cross, in the County of Norfolk, Gentleman, send greeting.

WHEREAS His most Excellent Majesty King George the Third did, by 5 His Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, bearing date the Sixteenth day of March, in the eighteenth year of His reign, give and grant unto me, the said Henry Cook, His especial licence that I, the said Henry Cook, during the term of years therein expressed, should and lawfully might use, exercise, and vend, within England, Wales, and Town of Berwick-upon- 10 Tweed, my Invention of "AN INTIRE NEW COMPOSITION, TO BE USED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR, AND WILL IN EVERY RESPECT BE PREFERABLE TO, EITHER LEAD, SLATES, OR TILES, IN COVERING OF CHURCHES, HOUSES, AND OTHER BUILDINGS;" in which said Letters Patent there is contained a proviso obliging me, the said William Cook, under my hand and seal, to cause a particular description of 15 the nature of my said Invention, and how the same is to be performed, to be inrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery within four calender months after the date of the said recited Letters Patent, as in and by the same (relation being thereunto had) may more fully and at large appear.

NOW KNOW YE, that in compliance with the said proviso, I, the said 20 Henry Cook, do hereby declare that my said Invention of An Intire New Composition to be used as a Substitute for, and will in every respect be

---

*Cook's Composition for Roofing Buildings.*

---

preferable to, either Lead, Slates, or Tiles in Covering of Churches, Houses, and other Buildings, is described in the manner following (that is to say):—

Litharge, red lead, white lead, chalk, stone, black flint, brick-dust, fine sand prepared by washing, caput mortuum, and ground glass. The above reduced to fine powder and all mixed together. To every hundredweight of the above 5 materials is added twenty-eight pounds of old junk, rope, or hemp, reduced to a pulp, and all worked together in water by a water-mill; the composition thus mixed is put into moulds, and formed like slates, then pressed as dry as may be by large iron presses, afterwards dried in a stove by fire, and when quite dry pressed by iron rowling cylinders; then each sheet is steeped in a liquor 10 prepared with linseed oil, litharge, red lead, white copperas, and sugar of lead, again dried in a stove, pressed by the cylinders, and painted.

In witness whereof, I, the said Henry Cook, have hereunto sett my hand and seal, this Twelfth day of June, 1778.

H<sup>Y</sup> COOK. (L.S.) 15

AND BE IT REMEMBRED, that on the Thirteenth day of June, in the year above mentioned, the aforesaid Henry Cook came before our said Lord the King in His Chancery, and acknowledged the Specification aforesaid, and all and every thing therein contained and specified, in form above written. And also the Specification aforesaid was stampt according to the tenor of the 20 Statute made in the sixth year of the reign of the late King and Queen William and Mary of England, and so forth.

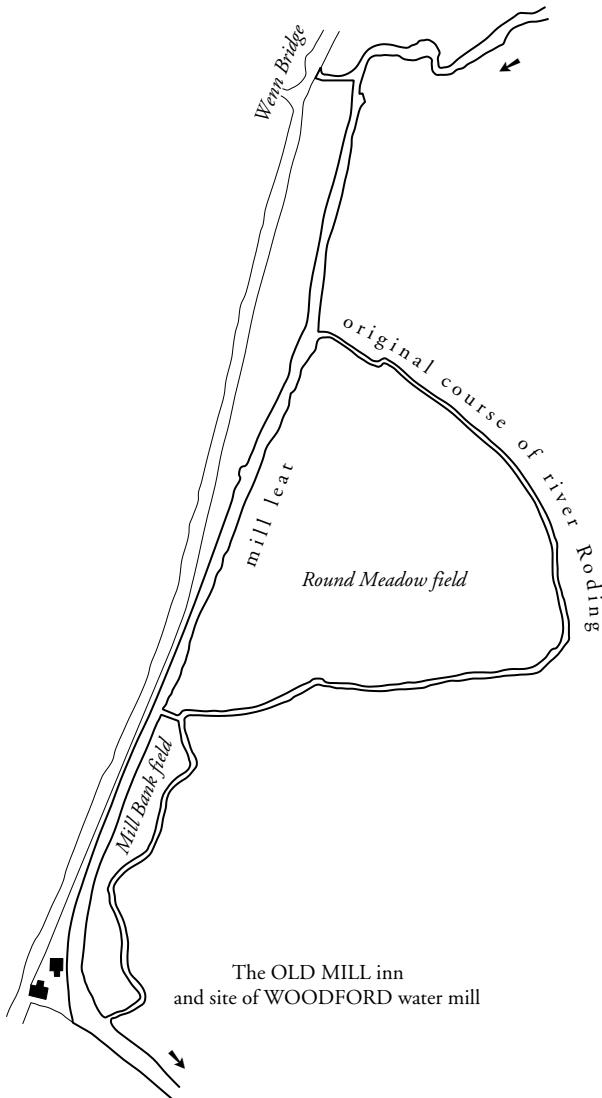
Inrolled the Fifteenth day of June, in the year last above mentioned.

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LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,  
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1856.

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



(2) WOODFORD MILL stood on the manor of Woodford. In 1605 there were complaints that a mill in Woodford being Sir Barnard Wetstones mill adjoining the highway there "doth by the penning of the water drown the said highwaie and much annoie the same" [5]. Sir Barnard was the Lord of the manor of Woodford. The problem was not, it would seem, resolved as again in 1609 it was claimed that the miller of Woodford water mill was stopping the water which "doth annoy the highway and the church way" [6]. The road from Woodford bridge ran very close to the river Roding above the mill. The water mill still existed in 1624 but had gone by 1634 [7]. The mill however was still marked on county maps, by Warburton in 1726 and Thomas Kitchen in 1765, although a map of the Woodford manor and estates dated 1700 shows only two post windmills on the manor [8]. Woodford mill must had two pairs of

stones since it was described as two water mills [9]. Cartographic evidence would seem to indicate that the mill head was formed by by-passing two loops in the river, after the demolition of the mill the mill leat become the main river bed. The position of the mill can be pinpointed from the location of the mill house on later maps [10].

The mill house had by 1694 become *le Old Mill* [11], and survived as a public house until about 1912 when it was closed by the brewers. The site was developed into the Mill Garage by William Jacobs, the business surviving for fifty five years until 1974, when the building of the M11 motorway swept away the Mill Garage and the the Old Mill house and barn[12].

The river Roding now no longer flows in its original channel having been diverted by a series of road improvement schemes. The site now lies beneath the M11 motorway.

### NOTES.

- [1] E.R.O D/DP 167/11/1
- [2] E.R.O B1574
- [3] English patent No. 1185 dated June 1778
- [4] E.R.O D/DCy P3
- [5] E.R.O Q/SR 171/65
- [6] E.R.O Q/SR 189/84.
- [7] E.R.O Q/CP 3 ff72: Q/SR 287/10.
- [8] E.R.O D/DCw P1.
- [9] E.R.O D/DP 167/25/10
- [10] E.R.O D/SH 13; D/CT 408.
- [11] E.R.O Q/SR 481/59-60.
- [12] Essex Country Side, May 1977.

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



The Old mill public house

### WANSTEAD.

In 1086 in *Wenesteda* in the lands of the Bishop of London, (was held by St Paul's now by Ralph son of Brian), there was "now one mill". This is possibly the mill recorded as no longer being in Woodford.

A mill in Wanstead was acquired by the Nuns of Clerkenwell Priory about 1176 as a gift from Abraham de Wanstead in return for their prayers. The manor of Wanstead & Stone Hall possessed 2 water mills in 1579 and 1583, 2 mills in 1590. On the manor and park of Wanstead there were 2 mills in 1595 and on the manor of Wanstead & Stone Hall there was 1 water mill in 1599 [1].

WANSTEAD HOUSE was purchased in 1673 by Sir Josiah Child who spent much money laying out the grounds, further work on the park was started in

about 1706 by Richard Child after he had succeeded to the estate, and the house was completely rebuilt between 1715 and 1722. A map dated 1725 marks a building standing astride the river Roding as "Engine House", unfortunately a description of the grounds in 1724 makes no mention of this building [2]. The grounds of Wanstead house were further altered and on a map of 1745 the building is marked as "The old Engine House" [3]. This building stood at approximately TQ 41808750 had disappeared by 1775. The water engine appears to have been sited a little upstream of the point reached by the highest tides and probably occupied the site of the earlier manorial water mill.

A map of Wanstead house dated 1779 indicates another building marked as Engine house standing away from the river at approximately TQ 41308800 [4]. In 1833 this is marked as a piece of ground called

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

Engine ground with water engine and cottage [5]. The use of the term engine house may be a reference to water pumping machinery, in the first case pumping water from the Roding powered by a water wheel and in the second building pumping water from a well, however the exact use has yet to be discovered.

### NOTES.

- [1] E.A.T ns. vol 23 pp42.
- [2] E.R.O D/DB P35: Essex Review, vol 6
- [3] John Rocque, map 10 miles around London, published in 1745.
- [4] E.R.O; D/DCw P9: D/DCw P59
- [5] E.R.O D/DCy P3

## Lt ILFORD

In 1086 there was in *Ilefort* in the lands of Jocelyn Lorimer, (held before 1066 by two free men), "now one mill and one fishery".

A mill is marked in 1824 by Greenwood [1], on what was called the back river (the Alders Brook) which then formed the boundary between the parishes of Lt Ilford and Barking. The mill is shown as south of the Romford road on what was latter to become the gas works site. Maps dated 1818 show bridges across the back river and the main river Roding but do not mark a mill [2]. Since the Roding is tidal to a point above Ilford bridge any water wheel set in this location could have only worked with the tides. In 1702 there was mention of Ilford sluice and also an overshot, in 1708 there is also mention of an overshot near Ilford bridge [3]. Apart from Greenwood there seems little evidence for a water mill in Ilford.

The manor of Lt Ilford, when held by Israel Amice in 1581, possessed a mill, but this may have been a wind mill [4].

ALDERSBROOK. This manor was once in Wanstead but by 1650 seems to have become part of Lt Ilford. In 1613 a Great pond or Ponds are recorded, dammed with sluice gates, in connection with Aldersbrook house. When the ponds were first made is unclear but they had been enlarged at sometime before this date, the original purpose may have been fish ponds [5]. The pond with its dam is shown on a map of the manor dated 1723 [6], and is marked as Great Pond called Aldersbrook Pond in 1725 [7]. The site (approx TQ 42008640) is now partly covered by

the City of London Cemetery.

### NOTES.

- [1] Map of Essex
- [2] E.R.O. D/SH 12: D/SH 29
- [3] E.R.O. D/SH 1, ff228; ff354.
- [4] Morant History of Essex, v1 pp26.
- [5] E.R.O D/DQs 17
- [6] E.R.O. D/DSa 150
- [7] E.R.O D/DB P35

## BARKING

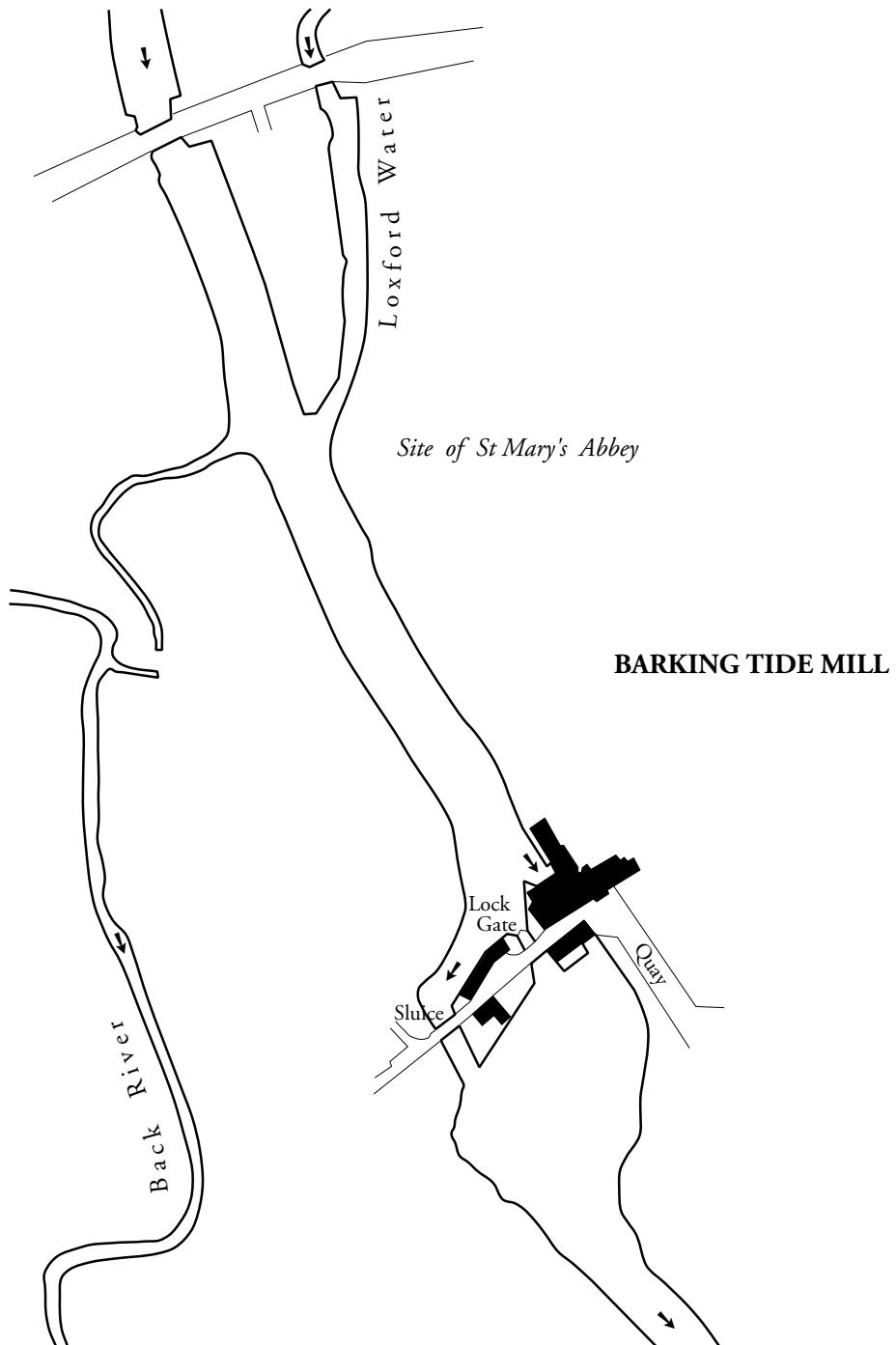
The ancient parish of Barking once included the whole area now covered by the London Boroughs of Barking and Ilford. In 1830 Gt Ilford became a separate ecclesiastical parish and in 1888 a separate civil parish.

BARKING (ABBEY) TIDE MILL. Barking Abbey was founded by St Erkenwald (Bishop of London 675-93) for his sister St Ethelburga, by tradition in 666. The Danes are said to have destroyed the Abbey in 870. The Abbey was been rebuilt by 930 and later extensively rebuilt in the twelfth or thirteenth century and finally destroyed at the dissolution in 1539. The site of the mill is on the river Roding at TL 4390 8375.

Excavations carried out, on the site of the abbey, during 1985-6 uncovered remains of Saxon timber structures. One structure revealed was a possible leat running north-east/south-west in the form of a sloping sided channel 4m wide and 1m deep and at least 12m long, of which 5m were excavated. There was a line of piling and revetting along the bottom of each slope as well as a funnel shaped constriction across the water flow, which would have had the effect of concentrating the water flow. Some of these timbers have been provisionally dated by dendrochronology to between 675 to 730. The exact purpose for this structure is not clear but it may have feed water to a horizontal water wheel.

The site of the tide mill stands on a substantial barrier across Barking Creek. The construction of the original dam would have been an expensive undertaking for the Abbey so was probable dates to a period after the Abbey was rebuilt, in the tenth century, but before 1086 when there was in *Berchingas* on land always held by St. Mary's "two mills". If the Abbey

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



did have a water mill when it was first founded it is more likely to have been feed with water from Loxford Water, since this from a civil engineering point of view would have been much simpler and cheaper to achieve.

The salt marshes at Barking have over the years been considerable embanked, the parish boundary follows the course of the back river, which would seem to indicate that the bed of the Roding has been realigned.

The Abbey monopoly of flour production was

threatened in 1242 causing the Abbess of Barking to complained that a newly erected windmill, built by William and Godfrey Dun, did damage to the Abbey mills. She stopped any further building of wind or water mills on the Manor of Barking [3]. By 1259 the mill was evidently in need of repair as Henry 3rd gave 20 Oaks to repair Barking mill [4]. In 1321 the water mill underwent extensive repairs, at this time the mill was part of the Manor of Dagenhams in Barking, the following is an account of the costs incurred:

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

For 6 bundles of steel rods brought for the work of the mill, 4s 3d. for each bundle 8d. plus in the total 3d for forging them for the mill pick 5s, for 3 rods, 1d, for 150 lbs of iron brought for the same, 6s for 50 small pounds of the iron bought above to be forged for the lengthening and enlarging of 2 mill spindles 2s 8d, that is to say for each spindle, 16d, also for 1 quarter of the iron brought above to be forged for the repair of two mill rinds, 16d, for 21 small pounds of iron forged for the making of 4 bands and 2 gudgeons for the wheels of the watermill and for the mill sluice, 12d, also 19 small pounds of iron bought above forged for the repair of one broken rind, 16d, also 11 pounds of the iron bought above forged for the making of 1 band to bind the mill "trandle", 6d, also 17 small pounds of the iron bought above forged for the making of 1 band to wind the mill axle, 8d, also 7 small pounds of the iron bought above forged for making two bands to bind the "cogwel" with the old iron, 4d, also for 112 small pounds particularly bought for the mill, 12s 10d, that is to say 1 pound 1½d and another for 1¼d, less in the total 1½d. also for 2 sawyers hired for 4 days sawing planks for the work of the mill and also planks for the toll-booths to collect the tolls and put them in, 2s 8d, taking per day 8d; for 1 flood-boat to put below the out wall of the mill, 4s 6d; for sharpening the mill-picks, for the year, 5s, that is to say for each term, 15d, by agreement; also for the timber bought in a certain grove from lord John de Northtoft for piles for the use of the mill, 30s 1d, also for one boat hired for 11 working days for work on the floodgates done with the said piles, 9s 2d. taking per day 10d. for 1 man hired to keep the said boat for 14 days with the feast days, 4s 4d, taking for the day and a night 4d, also for 1 man hired for 12 working days to do the work with them 4s, taking 4d per day; also for 1 man hired for 9 days for the same work 2s 3d, taking 3d per day; for 10 iron bands to bind the iron the said piles, 12½d, the price of each 1¼d, for one rope of bast bought for the same work 1d; also for ale bought and given to the said workman, 4d; also for 3 flood-boats bought for the same work, 13s 4d; also for 1 boat hired for the same work, 5d; also for 1 man hired for 3 days for the same work, 12d; also for 1 man hired for 3 days, 9d, for the same work; also for 2 sawyers hired for 14 days sawing planks for 2 wharfs, walls, sluices, "landtowis" and "wyeltrouis"

and "fethelbord" for the task 9s 4d, taking per day, 8d; for felling the said timber bought from the Lord John de Northtoft, 2s; also for 1 flood-boat bought to put below the wall of the mill sluice after the autumn, 4s 6d.

In all the cost of repairs came to £6 10s ½d [5].

The Abbey received a profit from the mill by way of multure, about this period the Abbey received 46 qtrs 4½ bushels in one year this was sold for £19 11½d. The water mill was still owned by the Abbey at the time of the dissolution. In 1537-8 the account book of William Ponsett, receiver of the Abbey recorded that Thomas Walleys had paid in total £21 11s 8d for the year to leas the mills [6]. In 1539-40 Ralp Marsell was fermer of the 2 mills Barking [7]. Mill stones would seem to have been an expensive item as in the early 16th century, the cost of mill stones for Barking mill was £5 3s 4d.

With the passing of the Abbey the Lordship of the manor came to the crown and with it responsibility for the maintenance of the town wharf, however by 1601 the wharf had fallen in to disrepair and a commission was appointed to decide if repair was justified their report stated that :-

it was used for a landing place of all such people as .....and was greatly requisite for the safe and commodious conteyninge and preserving of such barks, Lighters, ffysher boats & other vessels as frequented the said place for the carriage ..... provision into the Abbey, and of corn and meal to and from the water mills there..... Further also the said wharf if repaireyed would be greatlie beneficille unto great numbers of poor people there dwelling ..... and all such ffisherman & waterman as should come thereto with ffisherboats, lighters & waterman, by which means there might come greate store of corn to be growned at the mills ..... the said town might increase and become much more commodious ..... [8]

The manor of Barking was purchased in 1628 by Thomas Fanshawe and in 1656 the quarter session rolls record that the wharfing at Barking mills in the manor of Barking was again in need of repair and ought to be repaired by Thomas Fanshaw [9], and in the same year reference was made to 'the Great Water Mill' in Barking. [10]. In 1656 Nicholas Clayor of Barking was presented for not taking away his gates upon the bridge at Barking mill, being a nuisance

## Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

[11]. Subsequent millers were Robert Whiting who worked the mills until 1694 when he was succeeded by William Garton, then James Wells from 1699 until 1735 [12]. In 1735 Robert Pumfrey of Bloomsbury leased for a period of 81 years, at £100 per annum, what was described as “a water mill for the grinding of corn” to Charles and Robert Smith, with mill stream and toll for crossing the bridges belonging to mill, also a fishery from Ilford bridge to mill. The mill was to be pulled down, in the first year, and the mill house and messuage or tenement adjoining were to be built new in its place in brick and timber. The work was to be undertaken at the expense of R & C Smith who were to spend £2000 and show full account of the money spent [13]. In 1752 Charles Smith and his son Charles were fined £50 in Court of Sewers for failing to draw their gates so causing flooding above the mill [14]. Father and son worked the mill until 1777 when Charles Smith Jn was proprietor followed by Robert Smith in 1785 and William Smith in 1786 [15]. Sharp and Whitebourne were tenants in 1845, the mill being leased from Sir Charles Smith [16], and later Francis Whitebourne and then Thomas Ridley & son who operated partly by steam until possible 1899 when the milling business was concentrated on their Chelmsford mills, however they were listed as having an office at the Town Quay, Barking until 1908 [17]. The water mill is depicted on an illustration of the Quay, dated 1832, as a three gabled building on the down river side stood a timber framed building this was later replaced by a four story brick built warehouse. The water mill and mill house was demolished in 1922 leaving the warehouse standing on the opposite side of the road.

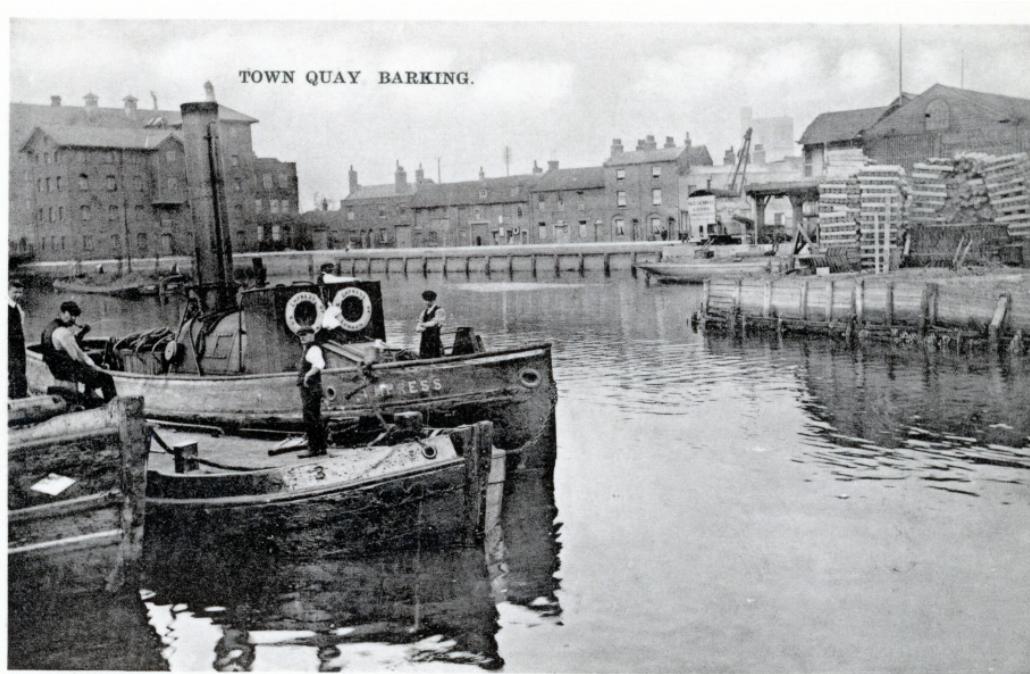
### NOTES.

- [3] Essex Feet of Fines pp144 vol 1.
- [4] P.R.O E 101 458.7
- [5] P.R.O SC 6.849/11].
- [6] P.R.O S.C 6 Hviii/930
- [7] E.R.O T/P 166/1
- [8] Essex Review vol 59]
- [9] E.R.O Q/CP 3 ff181
- [10] E.R.O Q/CP 3 ff116
- [11] E.R.O Q/CP 3 ff181 .
- [12] E.R.O D/SH 1]
- [13] E.R.O: D/DHs E4; D/DHs T3,T4,T6; D/DSd T41]
- [14] E.R.OD/SH 2 pp261
- [15] E.R.O D/SH 3
- [16] E.R.O D/DP 81/4
- [17] Kelly Directory of Essex.

Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

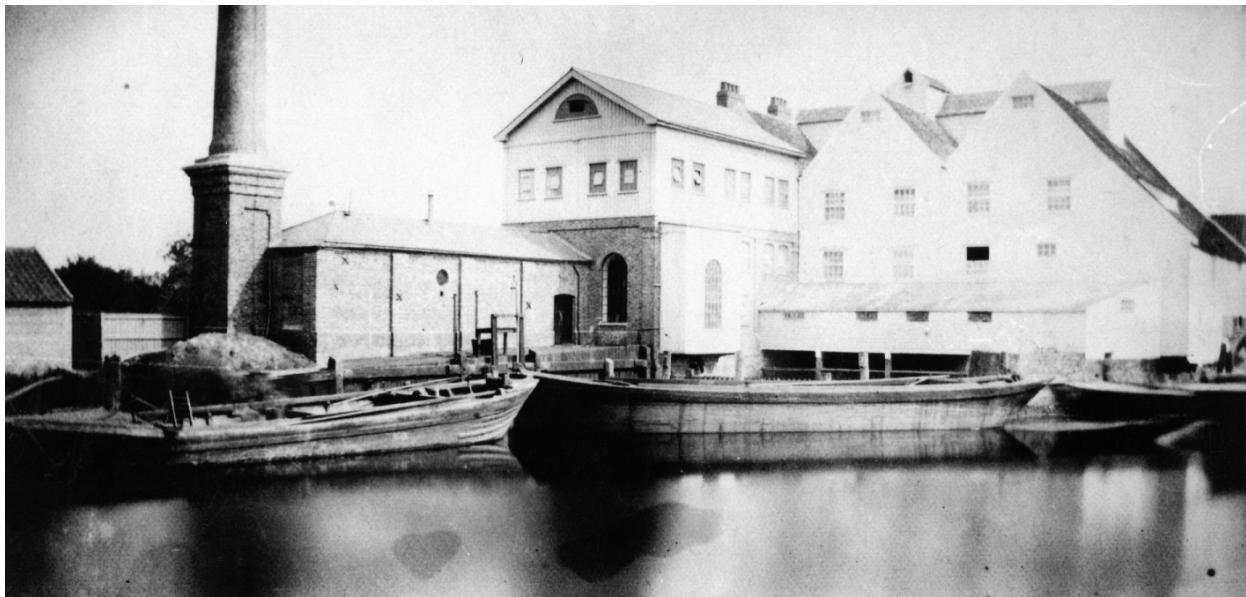


Barking Town Quay, 1832.

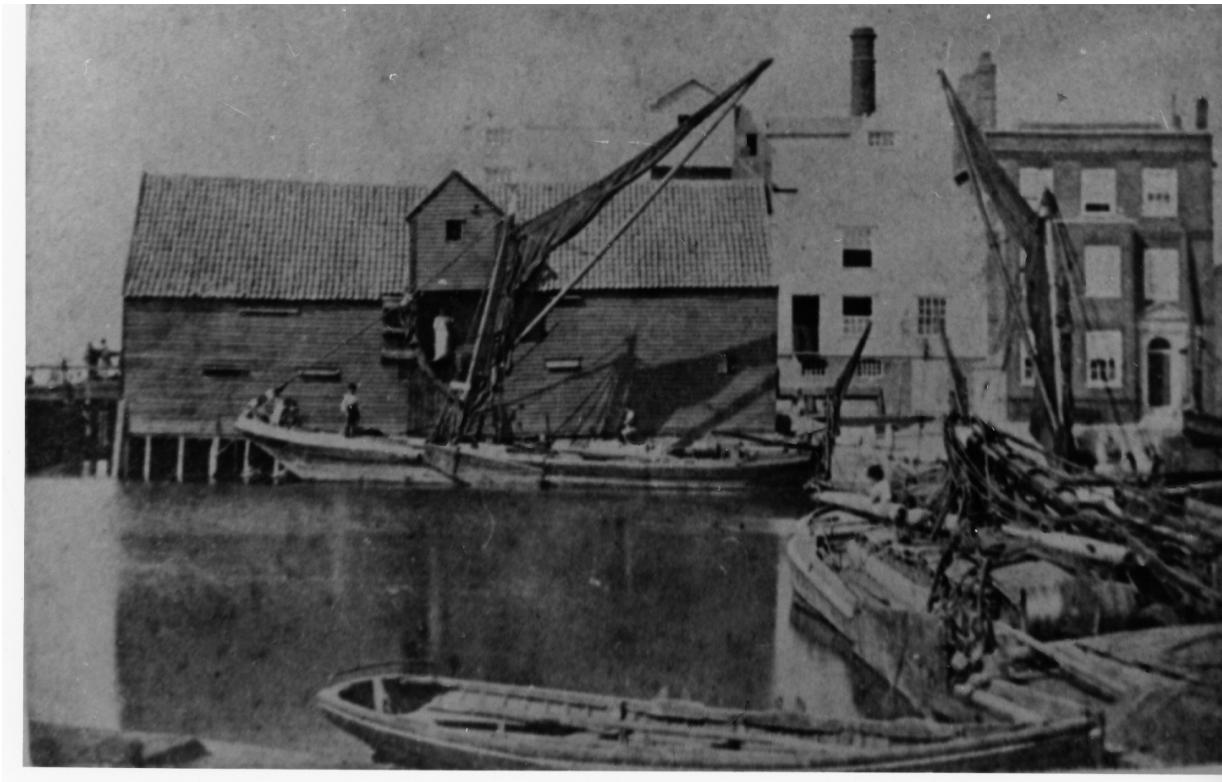


Barking Town Quay, 1907.

Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



Barking Mill, upstream view, C1860



Barking Mill downstream view, 1869

Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.



Barking Mill, 1922.



Barking Mill, 1922.

# Water mills of the River Roding and tributaries.

## TRIBUTARIES OF THE RODING

### THE CRIPSEY BROOK

#### MORTON

In 1542 and 1562 there was a water mill on the manor of Netherhall and Overhall [1]. The tithe award map marks a field called *mill mead* at Tl 070532 [2]. This field, bounded by the Cripsey Brook to the south and a small stream on the west may indicate the site of the water mill. A cottage and garden, possibly the mill house, lay on the east bank. Nearby a foot bridge stood over the river. The cottage had disappeared by 1870 [3].

#### NOTES:

- [1] Feet of Fines for Essex
- [2] E.R.O. D/CT 244.
- [3] 1st series 25" OS map.

### THE CRANBROOK

#### BARKING (now ILFORD)

Aldborough Hatch. TL 4460 8885

Thomas Baron (Barne) mentioned in his will, dated 5th December 1596, his water mill and wind mill with 2½ acres occupied there with fish ponds. which were leased to fish mongers [1].

These mills had gone by 1725 when a map of the estate delineated the water courses and ponds at Aldborough Hatch [2]. The following field and areas are shown; Gt Mill Field (6a 0r 38p), Lt Mill Field (2a 0r 13p), Mill Ground (4a 1r 7p). The ponds and streams drawn were; Gt Mill Pond Ditch, The Old Flood Ditch, Old Mill Pond (2a 1r 4p), Gt Mill Pond (13a 0r 27p), Square Pond (2a 2r 13p), Ralph Pond (2r 15p) and three ponds called Stews (2r 35p). A *stew* is a pond or tank where fish are kept until needed for the table.

#### NOTES:

- [1] E.R.O D/A ER 15 p.122
- [2] E.R.O D/DSa 151

