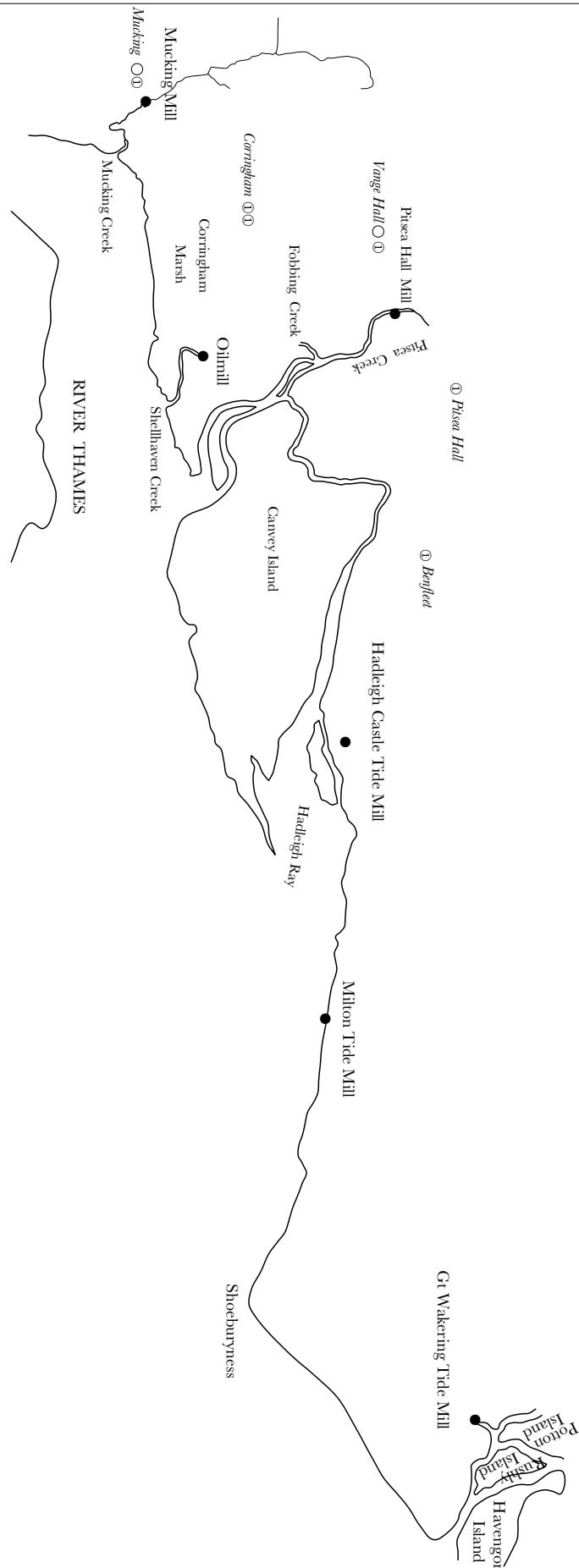


RIVER THAMES TIDE MILLS

Water Power in Essex—River Thames tributaries

TIDE MILLS OF THE THAMES ESTUARY



Mucking

In 1086 there was in *Micinga* (Mucking hall) on the lands of St. Mary's, Barking, now one mill and one fishery. The Abby accounts record Mucking mill as being a water mill in 1450 [1]. In 1475 six oaks were sent from a wood on Abby land at Tollesbury to repair Mucking mill [2]. In the early part of the 16th century a mill stone was purchased for the sum of £5 15s 2d. At the time of the dissolution there was one water mill which Humfrey Tirrell, fermer of Mucking Hall, paid £5 for, and for another mill and lands in Corringham, £5 6s 8d [2]. During the 16th century the records of the court of Sewers mention Mucking Mill as being the beginning of the Mucking leval [4]. The water mill was still in existance in the early 18th century since a deed of Assingnment dated 13 Jan 1719, concerns the site of Mucking Hall with a water mill [5]. The mill is not shown on any of the early county maps.

NOTES.

- 1] P.R.O S.C.6 849/4
- 2] P.R.O E 101 458.7
- 3] Morant, History of Essex. v1, pp236.
- 4] E.R.O D/SH 7, ff123 (1563); T/B 57/6 (1587/8).
- 5] E.R.O D/DCx 6.

Corringham

In 1086 there was in *Currinham* on the lands of the Bishop of London, held by william, before by Sigar, a free man, always one mill. At the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries there was one water mill, in the hands of St. Mary's, Barking [1].

A rape seed oil mill and mill existed in Fobbing marsh

in 1669 [2]. Which is probable the mill marked by Andre and Chapman as Island mill on Fobbing marsh, in 1775, Greeenwood in 1824 marked Oil Mill farm on Corringham marsh and the 1st series 1" OS maps put Oil mill farm at the head of Shellhaven Creek. In sale particulars Oil Mill farm, was described as a marsh farm called the Oil Mill consisting of the Oil Mill House, stable, yard and gardens and three marshes and a fleet [3]. A map of 1818 shows Oil Mill Farm on a dammed up creek which in a sale catalogue of 1902 is maked as Oil Mill Fleet; at the head of Shellhaven Creek, so would seem to have been a tide mill [4] [5]. The site is now covered by the oil tanks of Coryton at 825741

NOTES.

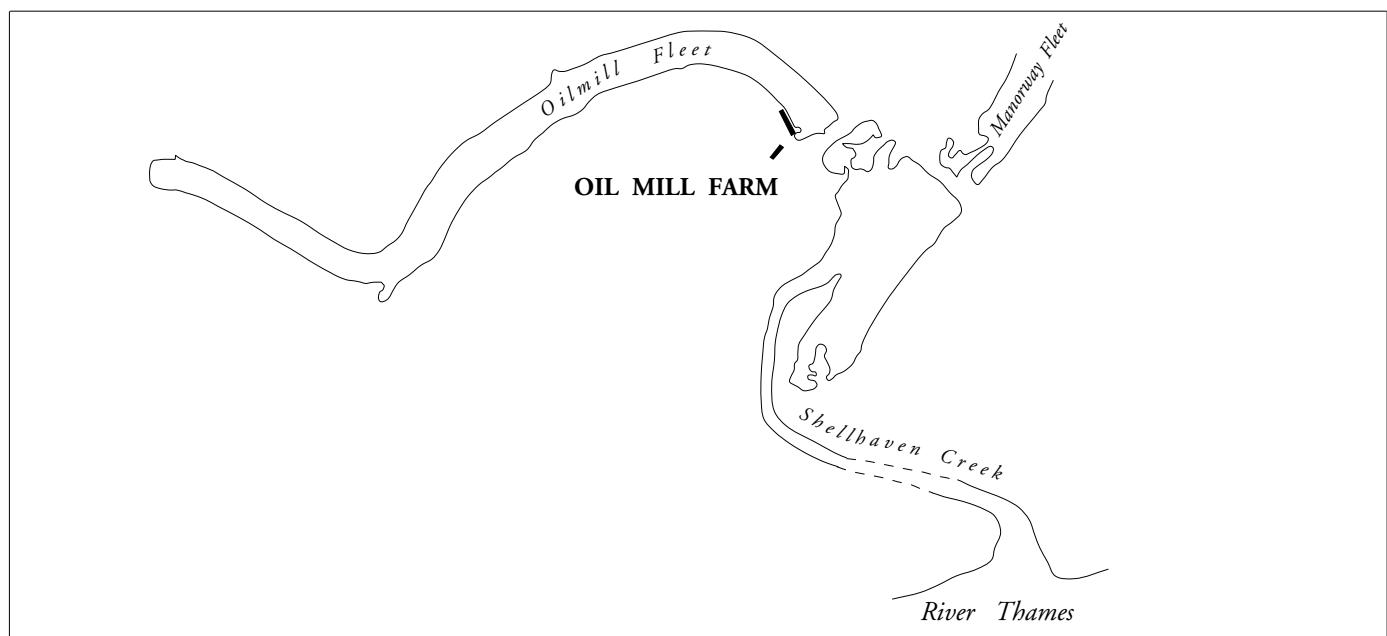
- 1] Morant History of Essex, v1, pp236.
- 2] E.R.O D/DSq E1
- 3] E.R.O D/DU 762/1]
- 4] E.R.O T/M 93
- 5] E.R.O D/SF 23/41

Vange

In 1086 there was in *Phenge* on the lands of the Bishop of Bayeux, (held by Thorold's son, before by two free men), "now one mill".

Pitsea

In 1086 there was in *Pice* on the lands of Wulfeva wife of Finn, one mill. Pitsey Hall passed in to the hands of Eudo Dapiser, steward to the King, he endowed it to the Abby of St.Johns, Colchester, who held it till the Dis-



solution of the Monasteries. Pitsey Hall was held in 1581 by Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, and included one mill.

[Morant v1, pp256]

Benfleet

At the time of the survey there was in *Benflet* in the lands of the King, (held before by Harold), half a mill. Also in *Benflet* in the lands of St. Peters, Westminster, now half a mill. (This land was given to St Peters, by the king, from lands taken from St Mary's).

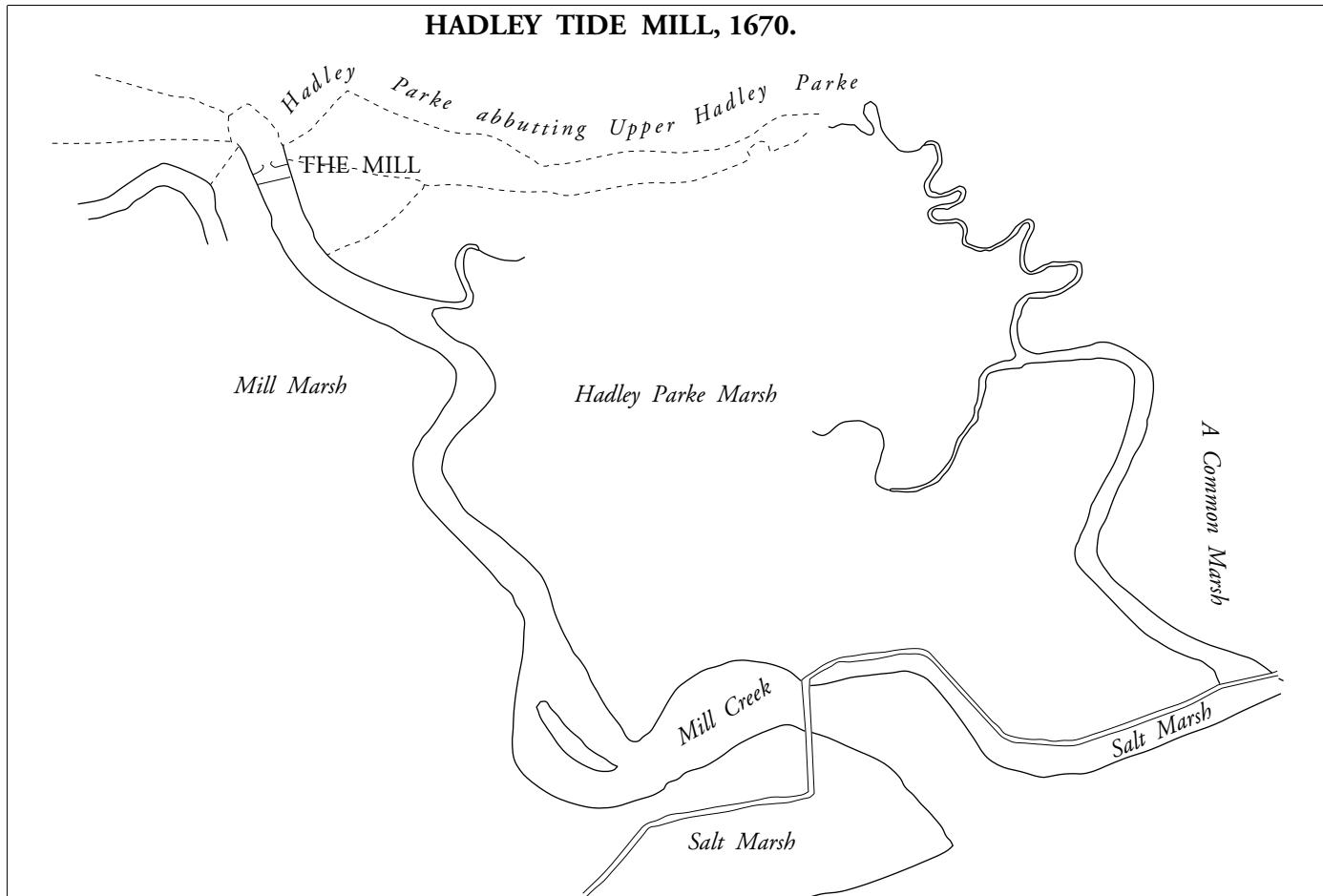
Hadleigh

Hadleigh Castle was built about 1230 by Hurbert de Burgh, Earl of Kent. In 1249 a survey of rents and tenements belonging to the King's Castle of Hadleigh list one water mill, value 2 marks yearly. The water mill seems to have been extensively repaired in 1366-7 as the Ministers Accounts show the following expenditure:

50 nails for mending the gate of the water mill-12d. To two sawyers for sawing timber for making anew one water wheel of the water mill 14 days at 5d a day each 11s 8d To same for

working there 6 days at 4d a day 4s. To six men for cleaning and mending the mill pond 5½ days at 3d each 1½d. To a carpenter for new making a wheel there 40s the job. For mending 1 spindle of the mill at two times with iron brought 11s Brass bought for the said mill 6s 9d Two men working there 6 days at 3d a day each. Two others, 12 days at same. Sum £4 10s 6½d.

After it had been rebuilt the water mill was leased separately from the castle, in 1375 Walter Whithers was granted custody of the Castle of Haddele, except the water mill, at a yearly rent of 10 marks. There was a landing place at the mill, in 1366-7 the accounts show For carriage of 1 chest for putting the Kings armour in- from the mill to the castle, 2d. In 1565/77, a survey of landing places gives a landing place called Hadleigh Mill [1]. John Phippe held the mill from Sir Robert Rich in 1577 [2]. The mill is shown on a map of Mill marsh, dated 1670, standing at the head of an inlet called mill creek [3]. Deeds relating to Hadleigh Hall include Hadleigh Mill and Hadleigh Ray up to 1712 but only Hadleigh Ray is mentioned in deeds dated 1744, when presumably the tide mill had gone out of use [3]. Chapman and Andre show only a fleet of water called Mill Fleet. The mill stood below the castle walls at approximately 812856



Calander close rolls

June 11.b 1399

Westminster

To the justices of assize in Essex. Order, upon petition of the plaintiff, to proceed to rendering of judgment in an assize of novel disseisin concerning 73s. 4d. of rent in Thundreslegh and South Benieflete arraigned before John Wadham and William Hankeforde late justices of assize by Robert prior of Merton against Aubrey de Veer earl of Oxford and Thomas Blossom, notwithstanding the king's letters patent, his writ de non procedendo ad judicium to the late justices addressed, or any allegations made for the defendants; as upon petition of the prior, shewing that the earl, as tenant of 1,000 acres of marsh put in view whereof that rent is averred to arise, alleged that in recompense for a yearly rent of 50 marks at the exchequer of Cestre, to him granted for life by the king's father, among other things the king granted him for life, by name of Aubrey de Veer knight, the manor of Thundreslegh, the vert and venison of the park there and a water mill pertaining to Hadlegh castle excepted, that the said marsh is parcel of that manor, and that after the earl's death the manor ought to revert to the king and his heirs, craving aid of the king, wherefore the late justices deferred to proceed, the king commanded them to proceed that allegation notwithstanding, so that they should not proceed to rendering of judgment without advising the king, whereupon divers days were given to the parties and process continued, and by verdict of the assize it is found that the prior was seised of the said rent until unlawfully and without a judgment disseised by Thomas Blossom; and after oyer of that verdict divers further days were given to the parties and process continued before the late justices and Robert Hille the elder joined with them in the absence of John Wadham, and by a second verdict it is found that the marsh whence the said rent arose is not parcel of the manor of Thundreslegh, and that Thomas Blossom is tenant of the freehold, and was so on the day the writ was obtained, namely 12 April 20 Richard II; and now the prior has petitioned for licence to proceed to judgment inasmuch as by the said verdict is proof sufficient for his right. (fn. 2)

NOTES.

1] Transactions of E.A.S vol 1 pp86-108; Vol 17.

2] E.R.O D/DU 514/29/10,21,30

3] E.R.O T/M 507/2

4] E.R.O D/DB T289

Pritlewell

1) A tide mill on the Manor of Milton destroyed by floods in 1327.

2) An unknown mill dismantled and sold in 1328.

1) On the Manor of Milton no mills were recorded in manorial survey taken in 1211 but a Ralph the miller (*molendinarius*) is mentioned in court rolls for 1247-48, but what type of mill he used is not known. A windmill yielded profits of 12 quarters of mixtil or 36 shillings in 1309. A water mill was recorded in 1327 as a *molendinum aquaticum positum juxta mare*, when the mill and some forty acres of land belonging to the Priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, were flooded by the sea. The Prior and Convent obtained free ten quarters of mixtil by estimation, by the year. The flooding no doubt was due to winter storms, the loss to the Priory was reckoned as being £4 for arable, £4 for sheep grazing and £1 for the mill a total yearly loss of £9. It would seem that with the destruction of the salt marshes the tide mill was not rebuilt. The Priory wind mill was out of use in 1437 for want of repairs, and disused by 1500 but rebuilt by 1535. This mill possibly stood on the site of Milton or Hamlet mill which was pulled down in 1878 [1].

2) Possibly only the mill pond of the tide mill was destroyed rendering it unusable and the machinery of the tide mill sold since the Bailiffs account for the manor of Terling for the year 1329, deposited in St Pauls cathedral [2], records the following:

Cost of the mill.

In one water mill bought at Priterewell £10 1 mark. In expenses for carrying the said mill from Priterewelle making the pond of the said mill, for nails, tiles bought laths and other material roofing and daubing and carpentry and ramming as appears by parcels shown £10 8s 7d. In digging and carrying earth in the said pond and spreading it over 6 ares and 1 rood of land 56s 7d. Given to the carpenter of the said mill by the courtesy of the Lord 6s 8d.

Sum £24 5s 2d

Notes.

1) Transactions of the Southend on Sea & District Historical Society. vols 1 & 2.

2) E.R.O. T/P 158/2

Great Wakering

A tide mill at 95508875

A Melleflete was recorded in 1419 [1]. The manor of Gt and Lt Wakering was in 1570 held by Anne Countess of Northampton and included a water mill [2]. In a document [3], dated 13th July 1587:

Thomas and John Rawlins gent. made a lease to John Crissick miller of all that watermill called Wakering mill in Much Wakering in Essex with the Millhouse Soke, mildame and water streams to the said Mill belonging and common-pasture for one gilding in the Wick and marsh grounds called Wakering Wickein Much Wakering & Little Wakering.

To have and to hold the said mill from the feast of St Michaell tharchaungell which shall be in the year of our Lord god 1599.

Yilding and paieing yerely Forty poundes at the fear of the an-nucianon of our Ladie and St Michaell tha rchaungell or within 21 daies after by euna porcons And if the rent be unpaid (being demanded at the Millhouse) then to re enter and re possesse.

The said John Crissick doeth covenant to doe all reparacons of the Milhouse, soke, mildam wharfs, alls banks about the poole and the seawalls and banks on each side of the myll and on both sides of the ryver 21 foote on each side of the said mill with all workmanship at his own coste and chardges.

That Tho: and Jo: Rawlins and theire servaunts shall once in a yeare enter to view & serch the reparacons.

The said Crissicke covenauuntoth to leave two good french mylstones roady and lyinge in the mill the stones to be breadth six foote of assise & one to be fifteene inches thicke at the hole and the other nyne inches thicke at the hole, or sixtene shilling for everye inche the said stone shall want of thikness.

That Crisick shall not dig up or take awaie the milmarke of the said poole.

That he shall not sell or doe awaie his lease without the lycense of the said Tho: and John Rawlins.

Thomas and Jo: Rawlin's doe covenauant within two months after equest allow deliver and give to the said Crissicke some place within five hundred foote of the said mill all such tymber as shall be needfull, for repayringe the same mill. (cogg tymber only excepted).

And that Crissicke shall have pasturing nere the said mill of one Sow and three hoggs. so as they be well and sufficientlie raysed.

A covenauant that Crissicke shall enieye the demysed premises without lett or interuption of the said Thomas and Jo: Rawlin's or of any other of theirs procurment.

In 1593. William Willstrom plaintiff *v* Richard Thorn and another defendant were to be relieved against a bond which the plaintiff had entered into upon an assignment of a lease of a water mill in Lt Wakering called Wakering Mill in the Co of Essex. Which lease

was granted by Thomas Rawlings. [4]

A survey of Wakering Hall taken, in 1598, by William Haywarde describes what was evidently a tide mill as it was stated that: "The dam reseyveth his water at the flowing of the sea and serveth the mill sufficientlee all time of the Ebbe" [5]. The mill probably had two pairs of mill stones since it was described as "two water corn mills" in 1591 and 1595 in a Feet of Fine concerning Thomas Rawlins and the manor of Gt Wakering.

The mill had probably gone out of use by 1650 when deeds refer to a "parcel of ground newly inned commonly called or known by the name of the mill pond" [6]. The location of the mill pond can be identified from the tithe award map, of 1841, which gives field-names: №.152(a) part of mill pond and banks; №.152 mill pond and banks; №.153 mill head piece and №.170 mill pond marsh [7]. The site of the mill is marked on modern maps as Mill Head.

NOTES.

- 1] Ministers Accounts P.R.O per P.H. Reaney, Place Names of Essex.
- 2] Morant v1, pp307.
- 3] E.R.O T/Z 38/67
- 4] cal of P in C Temp Elz (per Simmons)
- 5] E.R.O D/DKe M1
- 6] E.R.O D/DSf T1
- 7] E.R.O D/CT 376]

Barling

In 1181 a mill here answered weekly for one Bushel of corn ground free [1]. This was probably the wind mill at Mucking Hall held by Thomas de Mocking and his wife sabina in 1249 [2].

Notes

- 1] Morant V1,pp308
- 2] Inquisition post Mortum