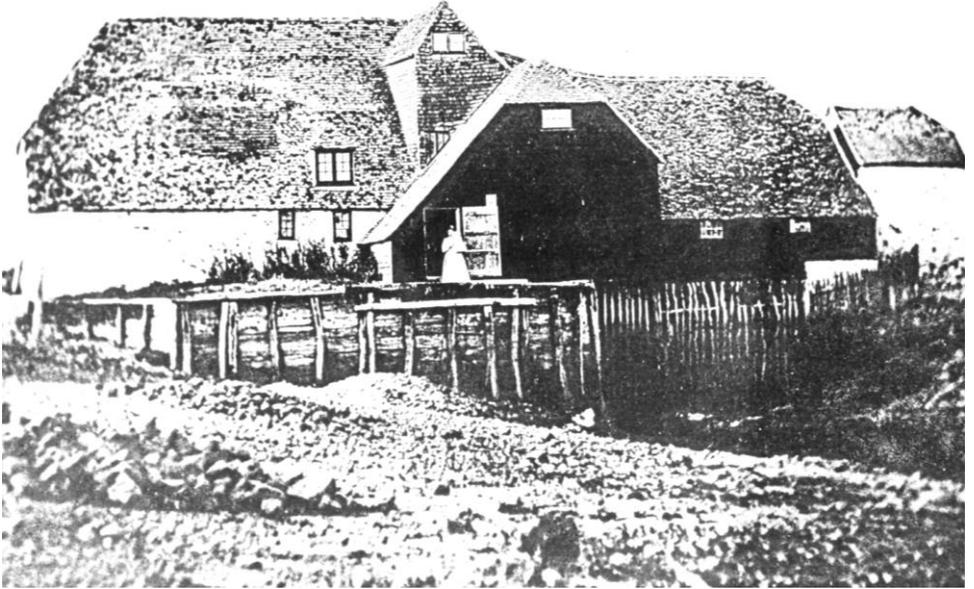


Hayling Island Mills



Photograph of Hayling Water Mill.¹ *Photograph Courtesy of Hampshire Records Office 70A09/1*

Compiled by
Jennifer Bishop.

Borough of Havant History Booklet No. 103

Read also:

Havant Mills

Emsworth Mills

Bedhampton Mills

Read all booklets at:

thespring.org.uk/booklets/heritage/local-history-booklets/

Hayling Island Mills

Compiled by Jennifer Bishop

The earliest evidence of a mill on Hayling Island was discovered during excavations of a Neolithic burial mound just north of Tournurbury Woods. This is the highest point of the island and explains the name Windmill Hill. The remains were of two windmills, one showed evidence of having burnt down.²

The medieval mills were called Post Mills as they mainly consisted of a single post which was turned by the sails. Often trees were bent and crossed to form a mound as the foundations.

The Domesday survey³ shows four entries for Hayling manors but none of these lists a mill in their resources. The northern part of the island was held at this time by the Bishopric of Winchester so the corn would have been sent to their Havant mill. The majority of the southern part of the island was held by the Abbey of Jumièges and the produce probably exported to the abbey in Normandy until they built their priory and their own mill around the thirteenth century. The other two manors were Eastoke, listed separately, where in 1086 the lord was the Abbey of Troarn; and a small parcel of land whose Lord in 1066 was Leofman of Soberton, then by 1086 King William. Today the island consists of two parishes, North Hayling and South Hayling.

Following the dissolution of the alien priories in 1414 the Hayling manors were granted to Sheene Abbey by Henry V, and then again they were confiscated under the act of dissolution by Henry VIII who found the south manor in 1515 to be leased to John Tawke a reeve of the crown.⁴

There is mention of the water tide mill in the accounts. The *Hundred of Bosmere*⁴, states:

They took credit for £4, the amount of the vicar's pension by the year; 20s. for the water mill, standing waste; and £55 14s .7d. for money paid on repairing and newly making the mill of Hailinge; with 100s. for two pair of

millstones and divers other necessaries purchased and provided for the repair of the same, in accordance with a bill of particulars then delivered by John Lorymer, surveyor and steward of the late prior of Sheene.

During 1541 Henry VIII granted the Hayling manor to Holy Trinity College at Arundel in exchange for the manor of Bury in the county of Sussex.

In 1546 the lands of the college, which included Hayling, were bestowed on Henry, 19th Earl of Arundel who left it to his daughter Joan, who was married to Lord Lumley. When Joan died childless, her husband, upon his own death, left all the Arundel estates to his nephew, Phillip Howard, Duke of Norfolk, who became the 20th Earl of Arundel. Following his imprisonment in the Tower of London in 1580 until his death in 1595, his son Thomas Howard, 21st Earl of Arundel (1585-1646) inherited the estates and although his father's estates were attainted in 1589, they were restored to Thomas in 1604 by King James I.

There is another mention in the 1700s of the mill at Mill Rythe which indicates it was in a state of disrepair, In the *Hundred of Bosmere* ⁴, it states:

On June 10, 1724, Thomas, 8th Duke of Norfolk, then lord of the manor, granted to John Warne a lease of the mill-rife for the term of ninety nine years, described as then being in the occupation of his grace as lord, where an ancient corn mill had stood in former times, with liberty to re-build the mill or to erect a new one.

John Warne re-built the mill and then mentioned it in his will of 1802.

The Hayling estates remained the property of the successive Dukes of Norfolk until 1825 when the Hayling manor was purchased by William Padwick, a lawyer, through an act of Parliament.

Following his death in 1861, aged 70, the estate was advertised for sale and remained unsold for many years, finally the majority of the manor was enfranchised the remainder being bought in 1871 by Mr J. C. Park and whose own son C. J. Park inherited the estate in 1887.⁵



Photograph of William Padwick.
Courtesy of Hampshire Records Office,
162A08/4/18.1

Hayling tide mill was advertised to let in the *Hampshire Advertiser* of December 1871 and again in August 1872.

TO BE LET, BY TENDER, the TIDE CORN mill in Hayling Island, driving three pairs of stones. &c. Also THREE OR FOUR ACRES of LAND and a COTTAGE which might be enlarged if required.

The census returns for Hayling south show that in 1841 the miller was one Joseph Guy who lived in Mill Cottage with his wife Fanny. The following census in 1851 shows no miller residing at the mill. In 1861 William Peasey, miller, born in Leicester, and his nephew are registered. From this point onward I can find no millers at Mill Rythe only agricultural labourers living in the mill cottage. One can only assume this mill was falling into disrepair again until it was restored in 1876 just a year before it burnt down.

There had continued to be a tide mill on this site throughout the centuries, it having been re-built several times until the last one burnt down on the 5 January 1877.

Flour mills lived with the constant threat of fire, the starch in the flour contains glucose made up of molecules which when mixed with oxygen are

extremely flammable. The dust in the flour mill surrounded by oxygen only requires a spark to ignite. This could be from friction from the millstones or from metal gears. Many mills met with this fate, the wooden structures adding to the problem.

A tide mill used the rise and fall of the tides to power the machinery. An inlet would be dammed and when the tide came in it entered the inlet through sea gates which automatically shut when the tide turned. The water trapped in the mill dam or pond would then be controlled by sluice gates which directed it through narrow channels to the blades of the water wheel which powered the machinery. The peculiarity of Mill Rythe tide mill was that it had double water wheels, one worked with the incoming tide, the other with the ebb tide. They drove five pairs of stones. The mill plot, mill pond and paddock covered 15 acres. Today you can still see the outline of the old mill dam at Mill Rythe at low tide. It covered seven acres some of which has been reclaimed and is currently used for agriculture. The quay formerly used for the transportation of corn and meal continued to be used after the mill fell into disuse in order to import and export goods to and from Hayling Island. Today (2018) the site is a boat yard.



The mill pond at Mill Rythe



Mill Rythe Dock. *Photograph Courtesy of Hampshire Records Office, 162A08/4/143.1*

The photograph below shows the site of the water tide mill today; this is the point at which the Mill Rythe estuary was dammed to harness the power of the sea in order to drive the machinery of the water tide mill. You can still see the outline of the mill dam which formed the millpond. These buildings may have belonged to the mill.



Photograph J. Bishop.



Hayling Windmill, Photograph *Hampshire Telegraph & Post*. 21 January 1932

Hayling Stoke Windmill

The other corn mill on Hayling Island surviving into the nineteenth century was the windmill situated at Stoke Common near the Northney railway halt. The tower mill had fan winding gears, common sails and drove two pair of stones. In 1805 the millers were George Lewer and Edward West who then sold the mill to Henry Ford. It is unknown when this windmill was built but there is certainly evidence of this mill being in existence around 1800 and the mill-house being built by 1810 as shown by notices in the newspapers.

In 1805 a 'Dissolution of Partnership' notice was posted in the *Hampshire Telegraph* between Edward West and George Lewer of Cosham Farms by mutual consent. It indicates George Lewer was now the sole owner of the mill with his son Thomas in residence.

This is endorsed when it was advertised in the *Hampshire Telegraph* in 1810. To be sold by auction unless disposed of by private contract, described as a substantial and well-built windmill, with a new-built dwelling- house being in the occupation of Henry Ford, and states; for particulars apply to the proprietor, George Lewer of Cosham Farms. It would appear the likely purchaser was Henry Ford himself as it was followed in 1816 by this next advertisement which informs us the miller, Henry Ford was declared bankrupt.

HAYLING ISLAND

TO be SOLD by AUCTION by Mr VICAT, at the Kings Arms Inn, Portsea, before the major part of the Commissioners named and authorised in and by a Commission of Bankrupt, awarded and issued forth against HENRY FORD, of Hayling North in Hayling Island, in the County of Southampton, Miller, Dealer and Chapman, on Monday, the 8th day of April next, at twelve o'clock at noon, all that desirable and well-built WINDMILL, with the newly- erected convenient Dwelling- house, Storehouse, stable ,land, and Appurtenances thereto belonging; containing by estimation 2 acres more or less, situate in Hayling North aforesaid, and most desirable for wind, and in the occupation of the said Henry Ford.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Auctioneer, Portsmouth,

Mr EDGCOMBE, Solicitor, North Street, Portsea.

Hampshire Courier, Monday, 8 April 1816

By the 1840s it was in the occupation of a Mr Thomas Tribe and then vacant as described in this next advertisement:

HAYLING ISLAND

To millers, corn factors, and others,

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr R. MARVIN

at the Queen Charlotte's Head Tavern, Charlotte-street, Landport, on Monday, April 1st, 1844, at seven o'clock in the evening. All the Estate and interest of the Mortgagee of and in all that desirable and well-built FREEHOLD WINDMILL, with convenient DWELLING- HOUSE, Store-house, Stable, land (containing by estimation 2A., more or less),and appurtenances thereto belonging; situate in the parish of North Hayling aforesaid, formerly in the occupation of Mr Tribe, but now untenanted.

The Mill is most desirably situate for wind, and will be sold a decided bargain.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Auctioneer, Queen-street; or to Mr Marshall, Solicitor, Hanover-street, Portsea.

Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle, 25 March 1844

The Sparkes and the Wakeford Families.

Amelia Silvester was born in 1809 to Ann and James Silvester of Westbourne, she married William Wakeford, brewer of Westbourne and bore two children, Amelia Wakeford, baptised 1835 and George Wakeford, baptised 1841. William, her husband died in 1848 and Amelia re-married in 1849 to George Sparkes, journeyman miller, born at Langstone to Sarah and William Sparkes and baptised in 1826.

The Silvester, Sparkes and Wakeford families were Dissenters. This excerpt is taken from *The Havant Cemeteries* compiled by Ralph Cousins: ⁶

The Dissenters (Nonconformists) were those who did not follow an Established Church. In 1728 they built a church in the Pallant and later became known as Congregationalists. Their new church was built in North Street in 1891 and their name was changed to the United Reformed Church when they merged with the Presbyterian Church in 1972.

The 1851 census shows George Sparkes, journeyman miller, and his wife Amelia (widow of William Wakeford, Brewer of Westbourne), as living in North Hayling, these early censuses provide no house names, but it is likely that he was working at the mill. George Sparkes describing himself as a journeyman miller suggests he was employed by a miller and in 1855 the mill was again advertised for sale and provides a good description of the premises.

HAYLING ISLAND NORTH, adjacent to HAVANT, HAMPSHIRE.

—Desirable Freehold Wind Corn Mill, Store, Dwelling house, and about 2 acres of rich land.

Mr Smith is instructed by the Mortgagee, under a power of sale, TO OFFER FOR SALE BY AUCTION, at the Bear Inn, Havant, on FRIDAY, the 1st day of June, 1855 at 1 o'clock

A COMPACT FREEHOLD PROPERTY, known as Stoke Mill, comprising a substantial brick built Tower Wind Corn Mill, with fantail, driving two pairs of stones, flour machine bolter and running gear complete; a spacious brick and tile built store-house, 40 feet by 20 feet: a brick and tile dwelling house containing eight rooms, a productive garden, a plot of rich pasture land, in the whole about 2 acres, agreeably placed, adjoining a good road, and facing Stoke Common, in Hayling Island, distant about 12 miles from Chichester, 1 from Portsmouth, and two from Havant Station on the London, Brighton, and Portsmouth Railway.

Hayling Island is bounded by The English Channel, has a population of about 1,200, and there is one but other Mill on the Island.

The property presents a most favourable opportunity to any person desirous of embarking in the business of a miller.

May be viewed upon application at the premises, and particulars had at the Dolphin Hotel, Chichester; at the Hampshire Telegraph Newspaper Office, Portsmouth; Bear Inn, Havant; of Mr JOHN LEWIS, solicitor, Lewes; and at the office of the AUCTIONEER, East Grinstead.

N.B. - £300, part of the Purchase Money, may remain on the mortgage, if required, at £5 per cent.

The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette. &c., 29 May 1855

The wording – *is instructed by the Mortgagee, under a power of sale* – in this advertisement tells us this was a sale forced by the mortgage holder in order to re-coup their losses usually because the borrower has defaulted. Which could imply the mill was a bargain.

If the purchaser of the mill was a miller himself he would require the accommodation, whereas very often they were local farmers, corn merchants or businessmen and the employee miller (journeyman) would live on site.

The 1861 census shows George Sparkes described a journeyman miller, which implies he was working for an employer. At the time of the census George and his wife were living at Langstone but could have been working at the mill. William Agate, miller from Hayling Island was living in the mill-house.

Under the terms of her father's (James Silvester) will Amelia received a monthly allowance, and her father had also put money into trust for his grandchildren to be invested in stocks and shares. She may also have inherited monies from her late husband, William Wakeford.

On the 22 January 1863, Amelia's son, from her first marriage, George Wakeford, married Ann Little. His sister also Amelia, married a Richard Bannister, whose father, William Bannister, was a miller working at the windmill. Both families are shown as unsecured creditors in the bankruptcy proceedings against George Wakeford below. The only unsecured creditor not related is Mr G. Stallard who had George detained.

George Wakeford was declared bankrupt in 1865, the report below shows George Sparkes and Amelia are back living in the windmill and holding the mortgage as security against monies lent to George Wakeford. This implies George was the owner of this mill prior to his bankruptcy. His mother and stepfather now cited as creditors in the bankruptcy of George, who had until recently had been employed at Brockhampton Mill. Newspapers reported:

FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY
(Before Mr Commissioner Winslow)
IN RE GEORGE WAKEFORD

The bankrupt, a journeyman miller, of Brockhampton, near Havant, was adjudicated whilst in prison by Mr Registrar Godwin, the detaining creditor being Mr G. Stallard of West-street, Havant, carpenter. The accounts filed by the bankrupt show that he owes to unsecured creditors 187l.; to creditors holding security, 1017l.; and to creditors to be paid in full 6l. There are no available assets, the property held as security being valued at 1040l. The secured creditors are Miss Charge, of East-street, Havant, linen draper, whose debt is 247l., her security consisting of a charge on the bankrupts reversionary property. Mr Sparkes of Stoke Mill, Hayling Island, Hants, a creditor for 750l., is also secured to the extent of 740l. The principal unsecured creditors are R. Bannister of Stoke Mill, Hayling Island, grocer, 50l.; J. Little, of West-street, Havant, coal merchant, for 35l.; and J. G. Stallard, of Havant, carpenter, the creditor who arrested the bankrupt for 29l. The bankrupt returns his expenditure at 85l. per year. The case was before the court on 17th November, 1865, when upon the application of Mr Aldridge, solicitor for the official assignee, an adjournment was ordered for the bankrupt to furnish copies of the mortgages on his property.

Upon the case being called the bankrupt did not answer, and it appearing the bankrupt had not complied with the former order of the court, an adjournment sine die was ordered.

Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle, 17 January 1866

These proceedings show George and Amelia Sparkes taking ownership of the windmill in lieu of the monies owed to them by George Wakeford.

Whereas previously this mill had at times struggled to be profitable, George and Amelia now having ownership, together with her lifelong allowance from her father's will gave them extra security.

The Sparkes remained in the windmill for the duration of their lives; Amelia died on 18 November 1885 aged 77. The 1911 census shows George Sparkes listed as a retired miller and widower aged 86 living in the Mill Cottage. George had continued in his occupation until the mill burnt down, when retired he continued to reside in the mill house. He died on 22 April 1914 aged 88.

Some accounts state this mill burnt down in 1886 but this report in the *Evening News* of 9 October 1890 states:

HAYLING ISLAND WINDMILL ON FIRE

A fire broke out yesterday morning between ten and eleven o'clock at the windmill at North Hayling, owned by Mr. Sparkes. It is supposed that the fire was caused by friction in the axle of the fan, as the flames shot out at the top of the mill, and in a short time the fan fell to the ground with a great crash, but happily no one was hurt by the fall. The Havant Fire Brigade were summoned, and with their engine, soon arrived. Mr. Edney, one of the Fire Brigade, who was on the spot, at once worked to husband the water supply by clearing out a ditch, and Mr G. Jones is deserving of praise for the promptitude in which he conveyed the message to Captain Street, a distance of three miles. The mill was completely burned out, but fortunately was insured.

This account would put the date as October 8th 1890 when this mill burnt down, Hayling then having no corn mills. The mill though insured was not rebuilt probably as by this time independent mills were going into decline due to the advances in transport and new technology, like the steam engine, together with George Sparkes being aged 64 at the time of the fire.

In 1932 this article was published.

THE MILLS of Hayling Island
Last one destroyed by fire

The North Hayling windmill which was such a well-known feature of the landscape opposite North Hayling Railway Station was totally destroyed by fire in 1886. There is no record of the date of its erection, but at the time of its destruction it was the only remaining mill on the Island, Mr George Sparkes being the owner and miller. Fire seems to have been the cause of the loss of practically all the Hayling Mills.

Hampshire Telegraph & Post, Friday, 21 January 1932

The local historical records show that at one time there were two if not three mills situated in other parts of the Island. The tidal water mill which was situated on the eastern shore opposite the present Maypole Inn was destroyed by fire on 5 January 1877. This mill which belonged to the Manor had been in use for many centuries. It is mentioned in the inventory of the Hayling Priory in 1294, its annual value being £3. In the valuation of the Priory made in March 1325 it was stated that there were two mills belonging to the Prior. Owing to the great inundation of the island by the sea there was a petition to the crown by the Prior asking for a remission of taxation, and the inquisition sat to ascertain the truth of the statements in the petition.

This was heard by Ralph de Bereford and Richard de Wescote, described as wardens of the alien religious houses in the county of Southampton. The petitioners appear to have made out their case, and in subsequent valuation it was stated that there were two mills, which had depreciated to the value of £1 per annum, owing to the *loss because the tenants used to grind at the said mills*. The second mill mentioned was undoubtedly a windmill of which there is no record except that the field in which the remains were recently found has always been known locally as Windmill Hill.

The finding of the site was accidental. A few years ago Mr E. S. McEuan, J.P., while excavating a tumulus, came across the remains of what appeared to be two distinct windmills on the top of the Neolithic burial place. There was

charred wood and iron, parts of one at least destroyed by fire, but with regard to the other there were no means of ascertaining if it was burned or destroyed by other means. The site is about midway between the National Schools and Tournor Bury, which is marked on the Ordnance map as the highest point of Hayling.

The only evidence I could find of the site of Stoke windmill today is a private road called Mill Close, the present houses having been built on the site of the former mill. The mill-house still survives and has been converted into flats.



Mill Close street name-plate. *Photograph J. Bishop*

Acknowledgements

1. Hampshire Archives and Local Studies Office, Hampshire Records Office, Winchester, 70A09/1, 162A08/4/18, 162A08/4/143.

2.http://www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk/publications/hampshirstudies/digital/1950s/vol21/Shaw_pt1.pdf

2a.Hampshire Field Club and Archaeology Society report; Hampshire Chronicle 15-06-1901.

3. <http://opendomesday.org/place/SU7106/Havant/>
Site by Anna Powell-Smith. Domesday data created by Professor J.J.N. Palmer, University of Hull.

4. *A Topical Account of the Hundred of Bosmere* by Charles John Longcroft Published by Frank Westwood, The Petersfield Bookshop, 16a Chapel Street, Petersfield, Hants. P239-P242, 254,289,

5. *Hayling Island*, in *A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1908), pp. 129-134. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol3/pp129-134>

6.<http://thespring.co.uk/media/3000/a-no-24> *The Havant Cemeteries*, pdf P8 compiled by Ralph Cousins

My thanks to Ann Griffiths and Ralph Cousins for their help and continued support.