

YCCART 2018/Y1

Ruined windmill on Cleeve Hill, Cleeve: documentary and photographic study

**YATTON, CONGRESBURY, CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH TEAM (YCCART)**

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Ruined windmill on Cleeve Hill 1788 by SH Grimm (British Library)

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Abstract

The ruins of a windmill on Cleeve Hill, Cleeve (though formerly part of the manor of Brockley) are now deep in mature woodland. Past records of the site have been confused, although the existence of a windmill at Brockley since at least 1527 has not been questioned. There is no proof however, that it was on the current Old Windmill site. Conflicting accounts of the origin of the current structure appear unresolvable, other than to say it is probably 18th century in date.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks to the land owner, Mr David Ridley of Goblin Coombe Farm, Cleeve, who I am sure will not mind me describing him as an old friend of YCCCART, for access and information on recent history and for insightful comments on an earlier draft. I would also like to thank the late Mary Campbell for the unique records she curated in her Cleeve Parish survey files.

Introduction

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) is one of a number of Community Archaeology teams across northern Somerset, formerly supported by the North Somerset Council Development Management Team.

Our objective is to undertake archaeological fieldwork to enable a better understanding and management of the heritage of the area while recording and publishing the activities and locations of the research carried out. References headed SHC refer to documents in the Somerset Heritage Centre, Norton Fitzwarren.

*With many a pause and oft reverted eye
I climb the Coomb's ascent: sweet songsters near
Warble in shade their wild-wood melody:
Far off the unvarying Cuckoo soothes my ear.
Up scour the startling stragglers of the flock
That on green plots o'er precipices browse:
From the deep fissures of the naked rock
The Yew-tree bursts! Beneath its dark green boughs
(Mid which the May-thorn blends its blossoms white)
Where broad smooth stones jut out in mossy seats,
I rest: -and now have gained the topmost site.
Ah! what a luxury of landscape meets
My gaze! Proud towers, and Cots more dear to me,
Elm-shadowed Fields, and prospect-bounding Sea.
Deep sighs my lonely heart: I drop the tear:
Enchanting spot! O were my Sara here.*

Brockley Coomb: Samuel Coleridge 1795

Site location



Fig 1: Location of the windmill

The windmill ruin is located in private woodland at ST47306607, 1.15km SSE of Brockley parish church, Somerset. The site is on one of the highest points in the formerly open and treeless Broadfield Down, just inside the parish boundary of Cleeve (formerly Yatton) with Brockley. **WARNING: These woods are full of mining remains, with some very deep and uncapped shafts. If walking in the area, do NOT stray from the established paths, since new shafts are constantly and unpredictably opening up in these woods.**

Land use and Geology

The site lies on the metalliferous Clifton Down Limestones of Broadfield Down. The mines in the wood in this area were principally for lead, although iron and hard stone were also won, as well as limestone for burning. A limekiln lies only 100m south of the windmill. The windmill is set in what is now mature broadleaved woodland, cropped for timber. There is no public access to this site.

Historical and archaeological context

In a pre-industrial agrarian society, it is a truism that bread is a staple of life. This can only be produced from grains (wheat, barley, oats, rye and a few minor grains, and occasionally, beans and later potatoes) that have been processed into flour by grinding.

While for millennia, this was carried out on a domestic level by the use of querns, the invention of first water- then wind-powered machinery to grind grain was some of the first labour-saving machinery devised.

While there seems to be pretty general agreement that the water-wheel powered machine originated in the area now modern Greece and Turkey in the 3rd century BC, was spread to Britain in the Roman period, and then was never completely lost, it had one obvious issue. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watermill>). To operate a mill, there has to be a suitable stream or river (or, of course, tidal inlet), which frequently requires extreme engineering (such as, for example, the enormous leat from Wookey to Panborough west of Wells (Somerset), or the river engineering in pre-Conquest times at West Mill, in Congresbury). In some manors, there was never sufficient water-power to supply a mill, and those in adjacent manors' mills were used, with presumably all the attendant local political problems included.

The vertical windmill is first recorded in 12th century NW Europe, the earliest record so far being in Weedley in Yorkshire in 1185. These early mills were all post-mills, where the whole wooden body of the mill can rotate to face the wind. Later, in the thirteenth century, the invention of the mill-cap, which can turn itself and the motive sails into the wind, made the tower-mill possible, where a permanent tower can house the machinery. These were often stone-built, as was the mill on Cleeve Hill (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windmill>).

Brockley has no suitable streams for powering a water mill. It is noticeable that few of the adjacent manors possessed mills at Domesday in 1086, either.

The manor was thus likely to have built a windmill at an early date, although the earliest record we possess so far dates to 1527:

'By an inquisition taken at Langport 17 Oct. 20 Hen. VIII. it appeared that Richard the son and heir of Humphry Harvey died Jan 4, 17 Hen. VIII seized of one third of the manor of Brockley, five messuages, one cottage, one windmill, one dove-house, five gardens, twenty-three acres of arable, fifteen of meadow, eighty-eight acres of wood, and tenpence rent in Brockley, together with the advowson of the church. Which premises were certified to be holden of the King as of his barony of Wigmore by knight's service' (Collinson 1791 (2): 128).

While there is no guarantee that this mill was on the site of the tower mill on Cleeve Hill, there is equally no reason to place it elsewhere.

In November 1630, one Edward Hill of Brockley, miller, was examined about the theft of corn from his mill at the quarter sessions (SHC Q/SR/64/233-239).

The case revolved around the apparent theft of corn from the mill. It includes many aspects of the case that imply that the mill was on or near its present site (references to 'uphill to the mill' and 'down from the mill').

George Lockier, from Brockley (always spelled 'Brockly' in the documents) had left 5 peckes of meslin corn to be ground on Friday 5th November that year. (5 pecks is 10 gallons (around 45 litres) of corn, weighing around 72 lb (approx 32 kilos). This would not be his whole crop, and is being delivered for grinding in November, while probably having been initially harvested in August. Meslin corn is a mixed crop, planted, harvested, ground and used together, usually wheat and rye. He was promised that the corn would be ground quickly, but the miller called in on the Monday to say that there had been no wind, so the corn had not been ground.

William Chaundler of Backwell left 3 pecks of wheat and 1 of meslin on Tuesday 9 November, and Nicolas Tilley left 5 pecks of wheat.

The next night, Lockier called at the mill to collect his corn, but the mill was locked and the miller absent. So on the Thursday, Lockier's wife went to the house of Joseph Goold (13 years old) who was the millers servant. The wife and servant went up to the mill to collect it, but on approaching the mill, the boy said that the mill had been robbed, as the cloths for the sails had been removed.

At this point, Nicolas Tilley smelled a rat, and attained a warrant for the arrest of Edward Hill, and set off with the 'officer' to apprehend Hill where he was thought to be at Worle. Stopping off at the house of John Tuckey in Wick St Lawrence to ask after Hill, Tuckey denied any knowledge of his whereabouts, but Tilley spotted Hill's dog in the house. John Miles, the miller at Bourton (wind)mill on the other side of the road came over to enquire what was going on. It transpired that Hill was at Miles's fathers house in Worle, where Tilley and the officer called him out. Hill ran for it (2 or 3 furlongs), but when Tilley caught him Hill said (presumably a bit breathlessly) 'My good Nicolas, be good to me and I will satisfy you for your corne', at which point Tilley handed him over to the officer.

Hill's account tallied up to the Wednesday, but he said that he then went to John Tuckey's house, where he stayed until 2am, then went over and stayed in Bourton Mill with John Miles, Jr (we should not, perhaps, read too much into Hill 'laying' with both his boy (at one point) and Miles on this occasion: people of the same sex sharing beds was commonplace until the 19th century and held no implications about sexuality). He said that on the Thursday morning he returned to Brockley Mill and found it had been robbed, when he returned to John Miles Sr.'s house in Worle.

Both Miles (Jr) and Faith Crane, Tuckey's maidservant, said they had colluded to hide Hill because they thought he was in debt and pursued by bailiffs.

Because this is a quarter session record, the result of all this shennigans is unknown. Hill certainly seems to have had something to hide, and there were no supporting witnesses to say that he had gone back to Brockley and found the mill robbed. His 'boy' had only been working for him for a week, and Hill's more-or-less confession to Tilley when caught, makes the case look black against him.

The full text of the examinations is in Appendix 1.

The mill lay at the modern junction of three parishes, Brockley, Cleeve (formerly part of Yatton) and Wrington, and a sketch of the mill is recorded on the corner of the 1739 map of Wrington (<http://langfordhistory.com/lhg/2010/03/25/1739-john-rocque-survey-map-of-the-manor-of-wrington/>).



Fig 2: 'Brockly Windmill' from the Wrington map

This shows a traditional 4-sail tower mill next to the manor / parish boundary.

The mill also features on Donn's map of 1770 (Fig 3) and other county-scale maps, as it must have been a very prominent feature in a treeless upland landscape.

Donn's map portrays the windmill in approximately the right place, although the accuracy of his hundredal boundaries leave something to be desired.



Fig 3: Donn's map of 'A map of the country eleven miles around Bristol, from an actual survey, 1770

His map appears to show a working mill, but by 1788, as the image on the front cover shows, this was no longer the case.

In the late 18th century, of course, the craze for ruins and 'Gothick' follies was at its height,

and it is tempting to ask whether the mill might not have been adopted as a 'romantic ruin' by the Pigotts, to be viewed or visited from the old bowling green nearby.

Another of Grimm's drawings illustrates this, as only the windmill and the adjacent tree-protected old bowling green figure in an open, mine-scarred landscape (Fig 4).

Given all this, it is odd that a lease of earl Poulett in May 1787 to Mr Grimstead, states that it was '..lately erected on the common hill in Cleeve near Brockley Park..' (Mary Campbell archive) This statement and the mills appearance only a year later are incompatible.



Fig 4: Figures in an empty landscape: the old bowling green (left) and the mill (right) in 1788 (British Library)



Fig 5: The ruined mill and open landscape of Broadfield Down in 1788 (British Library)

From these drawings, the sails had gone, and the wooden cap was broken by 1788.

Certainly by 1829, John Rutter was able to describe it as '..the ruins of an old wind-mill, erected on the very apex of the down, commanding a panoramic view of the surrounding country..' (Rutter 1829: 31). He also gives the slightly alarming news that the Pigotts were intending to 'erect a facsimile of the temple of Vesta at Tivoli, upon the highest point of the rocks', but mercifully, perhaps, this seems not to have happened. As late as 1858, the windmill was mentioned in a draft conveyance (SHC DD\FS/70/5/5).

The ruin became a point for 'rambles', and Mary Campbell's archives included a picture from the 1950s (Fig 6) of two children climbing on the structure, which even from this evidence was far better preserved than today. A second, undated, photograph (Fig 7) shows someone apparently old enough to know better also climbing the mill (was this some local pastime?)



Fig 6: The mill in 1954, with David Ridley (left) and John Luffman

The mill is then described in passing in the standard works on windmills, such as Coulthard and Watts (1978), before being sketch surveyed in the 1980s by George Maddicks.



Fig 7: Mill as climbing wall (Maurice Inglis, 1940s) (from David Ridley archive)

Martin Watts described the ruin in 1973: 'BROCKLEY ST 473661 A windmill was recorded in the parish in 1529 but the remains of the tower mill now standing in Brockley wood are of late 18th-century date. The north side of the tower is standing to a height of 18'-20' but the south side has collapsed and much rubble fills the original ground floor level. The tower is of a large diameter for the region, 16'9" internally with 2'6" thick rubble walls and is unusual in that it has a pronounced convex batter'. (Watts 1973). Mary Campbell's

archive contains two plans of the mill made by George Maddicks in 1984.

It is immediately obvious from these important records that much of the structure has been lost (largely due to casual vandalism) since 1984. The inside diameter is given as 15 feet (4.57m) (16 feet 9 inches (5.1m) by Watts 1973).

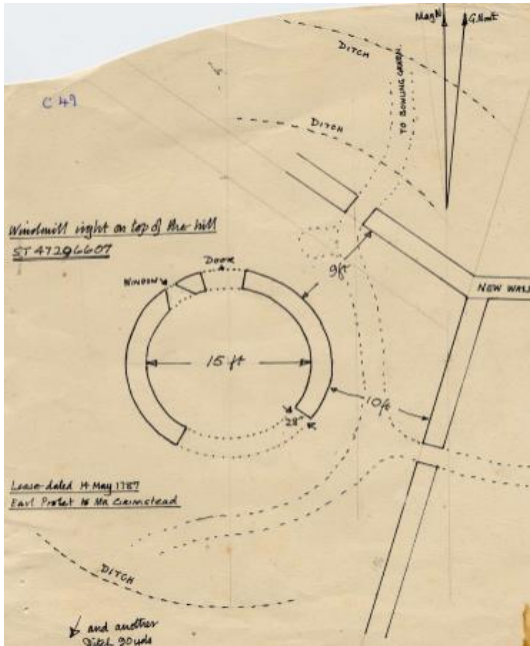


Fig 8: George Maddicks first plan (1984) (Mary Campbell archive)

The wall thickness is given as 28 inches (0.71m), and it is clear that at this date, both sides of the elevated door were visible.

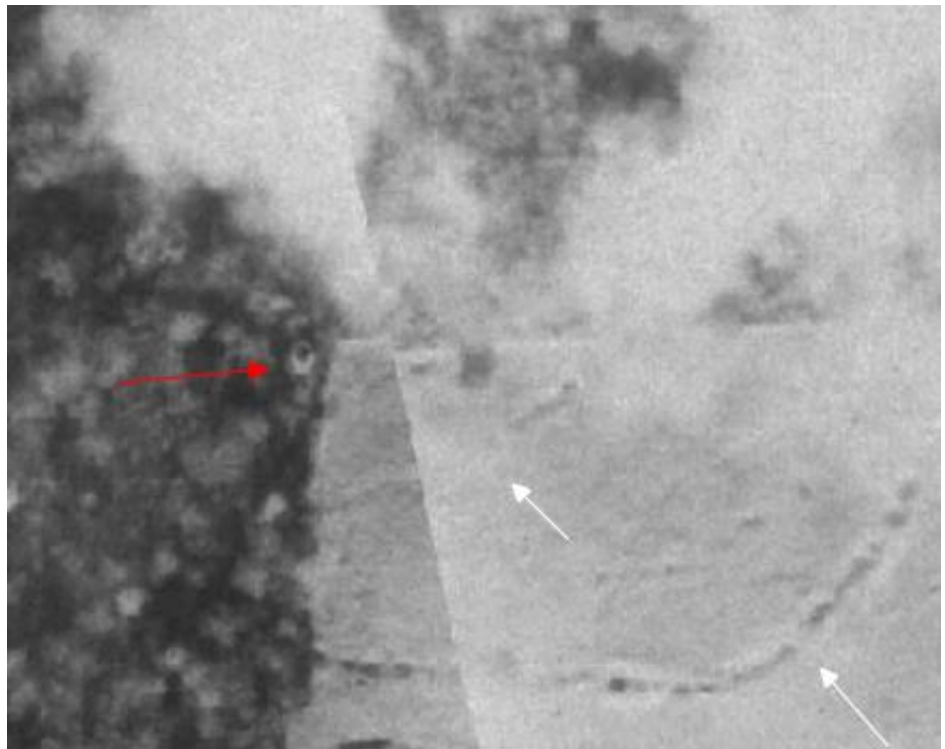
Two of his clear openings in the 'New walls' (actually dating to the Inclosure Act of 1815!) are no longer visible, nor are the tracks measured out in the plan.

The concentric 'ditches' to be seen on this plan and the second, are in fact the remains of mining around the high point on the hill, as can be seen on 1946 air photographs.

Fig 9: the mill and 'ditches' in 1946

When the 1946 air photograph was taken, the south side of the mill (red arrow) looks intact, so presumably collapsed subsequently.

The 'ditches' of the Maddicks surveys can be seen very clearly to be mining remains (white arrows).



Buildings: Photographs

Photographs of the mill in April 1976 were taken by Peter English as part of a general survey of windmills in the area.



Fig 11: The mill in April 1976



Fig 12: the windmill from the south, December 2016

The windmill has become overgrown to the extent that the interior is not currently accessible, but on Health and Safety grounds alone this is satisfactory. The structure is in a ruinous condition. A series of photographs taken after a clearance in 2014 can be seen on Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52537688@N06/15118828273>). These show that more of the structure has collapsed since that date.

The building and its curved 'bottle' shape are very like the surviving Stembridge Mill, at High Ham, near Langport in Somerset (see Appendix 2)



Fig 13: The windmill from the south-east, December 2016



Fig 14: The windmill and the wall junction marking the meeting of Cleeve, Wrington and Brockley parishes, December 2016



Fig 15: The windmill from the north, December 2016



Fig 16: The windmill in summer 2014 (c) Flickr user PE175

It is noticeable in this photograph that the side of the entry door, and part of its wooden lintel, still existed in 2014, but storm damage since has removed this part of the structure. The lintel is stored off-site.

References

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Collinson, J. 1791 | <i>The History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset</i> Bath |
| Watts, M. 1973 | <i>Windmills of Somerset</i> Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society Journal 6 (no pagination) |

Author

Vince Russett January 2018

Appendix 1: Trouble at t'mill 1630

(The lines preserve the length of the originals in the documents)

Q/SR/64/233-239

1

The information of George Lockier & his wife of Brockly, taken before Richard Cole, Esqr one of his Ma^{ties} Justices of the peace for this Countie, 11 day of November, Anno rrgs Caroli Angl etc sexto ano dm 1630

Who saith that he (the said George Lockier) delivered 5 peckes of Meslin Corne¹ on friday the 5 of November to Edward Hill miller at Brockly windmill, who promised him that he would speedily grind it, and send it home to this informers house, but the said miller came to this informers house on munday after & told this informer & his wife that he had noe wind, & there fore their corne was not ground; & on wenesday night following this informer went to the mill, & found the doore shutt, & noe body there, the next morning this informer sent his wife to the house of Edith Goold, whose son (Being a boy of 13 yeare old) was servant to the miller, & demaunding of the boy her corne, the boy answered her (as she affirmeth) that it was ready, and that he would goe to the mill & deliver it to her, and accordingly went up the hill toward the mill, and further she saith that assoone as they came within sight of the mill, the boy said unto this informer (as she affirmeth) that he thought the mill was robbed, because he saw that the clothes that were on the vanes were taken off, & then the said boy told this informer that both Nicolas Tilley his corne & this informers was carried away, whereupon shee (this informer) went downe from the mill & acquainted her husband & then this informers husband & Nicolas Tilley went to the mill & found that their corne was carried away & the miller could not be spoke withall, nor found; & further they cannot say

Rich Cole

2

The Information of William Chaundler of Backewell, husbandman, taken before Richard Cole, Esqr, one of his Ma^{ties} Justices of peace for this Countie, the 28 of November 1630

Who saith that on teusday the 9 of this November, he brought 3 peckes of Wheate in one bagge, & one pecke of

meslin in another bagge to Brockly windmill, & delivered it to the millers boy, the miller himselfe as this informer supposeth, being on bedd in the mill, & there this informer said while some of his corne was ground, but the wind being somewhat calme soe that the mill could not grinde apace this informer went away from the mill, & came not hither againe untill friday following, at which time he came for his corne, & then he understood that the mill was robbed & the miller gone away & further he cannot say

Rich Cole

3

The exa' of Joseph Goold (a boy about 13 yeare old) servant to Edward Hill, miller of Brockly windmill, taken before Richard Cole, Esqr, one of his Ma^{ts} Justices of peace for this Countie, the 11 day of Novembr anno rr Caroli Angl etc sexto anno dm 1630

Who saith that he had served Edward Hill, in Brockly windmill for a penny a day (about the space of a weeke, & saith that on Friday morning (the 5 of this November) he saw one George Lockier, of Brockly aforesaid, bring 5 peckes of Corne to the aforesaid mill at Brockly, and delivered to this Exa' Master, and further this exat' saith that Nicolas Tilley of Brockly afore said brought Corne to the said mill on teusday following (being the 9 of the said November) & his Master being not at home this exat' received it; & further saith, that that teusday night he came home to the mill, & this exat' lay with him; the next morning being wenesday his Master told this exa' that he was to goe to Pensford for that he was warned to appeare there at a meeting before the Justices, and therefore willed him (this exat') to goe downe to this exat' masters house (being halfe a mile distant from the mill or thereabout, who accordingly went, & left his Master in the mill; & this exat' further saith that he came not to the mill againe untill thursday following in the morning, at wch time he went up wth one Margaret the wife of George Lockier of Brockly aforesaid to the mill to deliver her corne, which (as he supposed) was then in the mill but assoone as they came within sight of the mill, seeing the clothes of the mill taken off, he (this exat') told the said Margaret that he thought the mill was robbed, & when he came up to the mill he found it soe to be, but this exat' saith that he knowes not who did take away the baggs & corne & other things that were gone out of the mill

Rich Cole

The Information of Nicolas Tilley of Brockly husbandman, taken before Richard Cole, one of his Mats Justices of peace for this Countie, the 12 of November 1630

Who saith that on Teusday the 9 of this instant November he brought one bushell & halfe of Wheate to Brockly wind mill to be ground, & delivered it to Joseph Goold servant to Edward Hill, the miller, but the thursday following understanding & appertaining that his corne was gone out of the mill & the miller absent & not to be spoken withall, & the boy the millers servant telling this informer that it was stollen this informer (having presently suspition of the miller, that he had conveyed it away and meant to couzen this informer of his corne) came the same day & had a warrant to apprehend the said miller & his boy, & friday morning following suspecting the said miller was gone downe to Worle, about six miles from Brockly where he used to resort, this informer went that way after him, by the waye at Weeke St Lawrence enquired for him at the house of one John Tucker master of the house (as this informer affirmeth) & then this informer and his neighbour George Lockier seeing a dog of the said Edward Hills standing at the doore of John Tucker his house, demaunded how that dog came thither, and the said maid servant answered them, that one John Miles, miller of the mill that stands on the other side of the way, called Boortons windmill, brought the said dog hither & then this informer perceiving the said John Miles coming over the high way where stood a straunger (whome this informer knew not) & spake unto the said Miles and said these men come to looke for Edward Hill (which wordes this informer overheard) & presently the said John Miles went to the foresaid house of John Tuckey, and from thence as fast as he could toward Worle, and this informer presently followed after him & overtooke him, and then this informer asked the said Miles whether he saw Edward Hill, who answered that he saw him not this quarter of this yeare, & further this informer asked the said Miles, how he came by Hills dog which he brought to Tuckeyes house, being in Worle aforesaid, & as this informer conteineth, gave notice to Hill (who was then in the house) that there were some without to apprehend him for this informer presently saw Hill run out of the doore, & away as fast as he could, & this informer ran after him over ditches & quicke set hedges about 2 or 3 furlongs & in the end overtooke him to whome Hill said My good Nicolas be good to me I will satisfy you for your for your corne & soe this informer

brought him backe & the officer apprehended him, & coming backe to old John Miles his house & requiring to search the doores were shut against them, but the officer shewing his warrant after the space of a quarter of an hour was permitted to come in, & did search but found nothing

Rich Cole

5

The exat' of Edward Hill of Brockly, miller
taken before Richard Cole, Esqr, one of his Maties
Justices of peace for this Countie the 12 of
November anno rr Caroli Angl' etc sexto anno dm 1630

Whoe saith that on Friday 5 November, he was at his owne mill (called Brockly windmill) & thither came George Lockier brought to his mill one bushell of meslin corne to be ground which corne he this exat' received, but saith he did not grind it till teusday after in the mourning at which time he went from his mill, and was absent all that day, , but coming into his mill in the evening saw there a bagge of corne newly brought in, demaunding of his boy (one Joseph Goold) whose bagge of Corne it was, his said servant answered him, that Nicolas Tilley of the said parish of Brockly, brought it thither that afternoone, which corne this exat' supposed to be about a bushell & halfe, but this exat' did not grind it (as he saith) neither that night nor the next mourning for want of wind the next day (being wenesday the 10 of November) this exat' went, as he saith, to one John Tuckey his house of Weeke St Lawrence, where he stayed until two houres in the night and then from thence went over the high way to a mill that stood fast by called Boortons windmill & there he lay all that night with one John Miles the miller of the said mill, and further this exat' saith that the next day being thursday, he went back to his owne mill at Brockly but being demaunded whome he met by the way, answered that he met not any that he knew, but when he came to Brockly and perceiving that his mill was robbed went presently to Worle to one John Miles his house. the elder, father to John Miles miller of Boortons mill, where this exat' lay the night before, & coming to Worle aforesaid this exat' saith that he stayed there at the said Miles his house, lay there thursday night, and continued there till friday ten of the clocke in the mourning, at which time perceiving some men coming toward the house whome he thought did looke for him, he (this exat') went away from the house as fast as he could but this exat' confeseth that Nicolas Tilley

running fast after him overtooke him, unto whome this
exat' said My good Nicolas be good to me & I will recom
pence you for all yor corne

Rich Cole

6

The exa' of John Miles the younger of Worle
miller, taken before Richard Cole, Esqr, one of his
Maties Justices of peace for the Countie the 18
day of November 1630

Who saith that being at his mill at Boorton on wenesday
the 10 of November, went to one John Tuckey his house (which
is fast by the said mill) for fire, & when he this exat' came
into the said John Tickey his house, he saw Edward Hill
there, who desired this exat' to lie with him at his mill
which this exat' granted him, and soe they lay both together
that night at the said mill (as this exat' confesseth) the
next morning the said Hill went away from the mill
this exat' knowing not whither, but this exat' saith that the
next day being friday, he saw men in the street at
Boorton aforesaid, & this exat' going over the way toward
the said Tuckeyes house and Thomas Tucker of Weeke
told this exat' that those men were come to looke for
Edward Hill & soe this exat went to the said Tuckeyes
house, from thence to Worle as fast as he could, being
a mile & halfe distant from that place, but before this
exat' came to Worle those men that came to looke for
Hill overtooke him & asked whether he saw Edward Hill
to whome this exat' answered that he saw him the last
weeke (being willing as he confessed to conceale him
because he thought he was in debt) & being demaunded
againe by them whether he this exat' brought not Hills
dogge to Tuckey his house, , answered that he brought
noe dogge thither, for he knew not any dogge that Hill
had, & then this exat' departed from them, and went to his
ffathers house in Worle aforesaid & when he came
unto the house he told his mother that there were men
without that did looke for Edward Hill but as this exat'
saith, the said Hill, being in another roome of the house
(unknowen to this exat') heard what he said to his mother
& therupon made hast & went out of the house and presently
asked this exat' heard an uproar in the street that Hill was taken

Rich Cole

7

The exa' of John Tuckey of Weeke St Lawrence husbandman, taken before Richard Cole, Esqr, one of his Mates Justices of peace for this Countie, the 18 day of November 1630

Who saith that Edward Hill, miller of Brockly windmill came to his house in Weeke aforesaid on wenesday night the 10 of this November, & there staid the space of an houre from henceforth said Hill went with John Miles, junior, to a mill standing on the other side of the way, whereof the said Miles was miller; & what became of the said Hill thursday this exat' knowes not, but saith that on friday following there came certaine men to his house to looke for the said Hill searched this exat's house, but they demaunding noe question in particular of this exat, this exat' answered them not any thing (as he affirmeth) & this exat' further saith, that it is true that John Miles the younger came to his house on friday aforesaid, & told this exat' that those men that were without the doore of this exat's house came to looke for the said Edward Hill, and that presently the said Miles went home to his fathers house to Worle, as this exat' supposeth

Rich Cole

8

The exa' of ffaith Crane servant to John Tuckey aforesaid taken before Richard Cole, Esqr, one of his Maties Justices of peace for this Countie, the 18 day of November 1630

Who saith that Edward Hill came to her Master John Tuckey his house on wnesday night the 10 of November staid there about the space of an houre, and then went with young John Miles to the said Miles his mill; & further this exat' saith that friday morning following there came certaine men to her Master's house, and enquired of this exat' whether Edward Hill was there or noe, to whome this exat' answered that he was not there, & being demaunded againe when she saw him, she confesseth that she denied he knowledge of the said Hill, which was at her Masters house the wenesday before because she conceived him to be in debt & danger of Bayliefes; & this exat' being demaunded how Hills dogge came thither to her masters house, answered that the dogge came as a straunge dogge thither, but with whome he came thither, shee this exat Knows not

Rich Cole

23

Appendix 2 Stembridge Mill, High Ham (ST43283052)



The National Trust own Stembridge Mill 'the last remaining thatched tower mill in England'. It is usually open to the public from time to time, but is currently (August 2017) closed for the foreseeable future 'for conservation reasons' (still so January 2018).

To see interior of a traditional tower mill, the tower mill at Chapel Allerton in Somerset is opened to the public (<http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ashtonwindmill>). This is at ST41465030, beside the road from Wedmore to Lower Weare.

Appendix 3: Clearance during 2013

Landowner David Ridley cleared the area around the mill in 2013, for both display and safety reasons. He has kindly donated a number of photographs taken on this occasion (below)





Owner Mr David Ridley with the mill