

## WINDMILLS IN HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT —A REVISED LIST OF SITES

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### INTRODUCTION

WINDMILLS were to be found in Hampshire from the middle ages onwards, their number being greater than there is visual evidence for today. The first article on Hampshire's mills was by A. Keeble Shaw (1960). The gazetteer of mills published by Ellis (1968) listed a total of 170 mills still in existence, of which only five were windmills. The three inland sites of Chalton, Grateley and Bursledon are brick built, whilst stone was used for those at Portchester and Langstone. A brick and flint tower mill at West Meon, later converted into a dovecote, was omitted from the gazetteer although it is marked on an Ordnance Survey 6 in. map. The Isle of Wight was excluded from the survey. The most recent work on Hampshire windmills is that by Triggs (1969). Triggs examined the county in general, and then the mills of Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, and Hayling Island, and produced evidence for Hampshire's windmills past and present, using place-name evidence, written sources and maps. Some of the sources used were not exploited to the full, especially Isaac Taylor's map of the county published in 1759. This present note, which is based on a review of Trigg's paper which formed part of an undergraduate course at the University of Southampton, produces further evidence for windmills in the county, and discusses the role of this type of mill in a part of England which has always been dominated by the watermill.

The earliest windmills known in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight were post mills, documented in the thirteenth century. The tower mill made its first appearance in

Europe at the beginning of the fifteenth century, and the earliest extant example in this country is at Burton Dassett, Warwickshire, which was built towards the end of the fifteenth century. The post mill survived at least until the late eighteenth century in Hampshire, and the only tower mills that are still standing are all nineteenth century.

There are two sites in Hampshire which had windmills from the middle ages through to the nineteenth century, although no doubt many times rebuilt. These sites are Windmill Hill, Chalton, and the Lumps Fort area, east of Southsea Castle. The Chalton mill, the only one to be depicted on Speed's map of 1611, is first mentioned in 1289 (Page 1908, 104, fn. 40), when it was valued at 40s. Perhaps because of its fine position it is the one windmill marked on all seventeenth century and later maps of Hampshire that the writer has seen. It probably remained as a post mill until the early nineteenth century, and certainly it is marked as a post mill on Taylor's map. Taylor was unique in using both the post and tower mill symbols for his map, and it is unfortunate that other map makers did not follow his lead.

Both Triggs and Shaw state that there was a windmill by the thirteenth century in the Lumps area by Southsea, though in fact there is no evidence for a windmill, only a water mill. Nevertheless, there was a windmill in existence by 1538. In a letter of that date sent to the Earl of Southampton, John Chaderton mentioned that a Southampton vessel was pursued by four French ships and that the former ran aground 'besides the Windmill hill at this town called Palshyds Bulwerk' (*L. & P. Hen VIII* 13 (1), 176. No.

485). This bulwark was a small earthen battery for guns in the area later occupied by Lumps Fort, and the position of the bulwark may be seen in the engraving, made in the eighteenth century and published by the Society of Antiquaries, of the Cowdray drawing depicting the French fleet off Portsmouth and the sinking of the *Mary Rose* in 1545. W. G. Gates includes an illustration of the nineteenth century disused Lumps tower mill in his *Portsmouth in the Past* (1972, 62). Another early mill, besides those at Southampton, was one at Chark, west of Gosport, owned by Quarr Abbey, on the Isle of Wight, in the thirteenth century.

In spite of the work done by R. A. Pelham (1963) on the Southampton mills, Triggs does not mention the early windmills. Most of Pelham's monograph is concerned with the more important tidal water mills, but the town did possess a few windmills through the ages, the last one standing on the castle motte in the eighteenth century. In the suburb of Fulflood, north of Bargate, two windmills are recorded in the middle ages, both mentioned in connection with the Horder family. A rental of 1278 stated that William le Horder owed 6d. for the place 'where the windmill is built, in Fulflood'. In 1305 Adam le Horder built a windmill in the same suburb.

It has already been seen how valuable Isaac Taylor's map is for depicting post and tower windmills. Triggs naturally made use of it, although he makes one wrong identification in regard to mill type. It is interesting to note that the Bembridge windmill in the south-east area of the Isle of Wight is shown as a post mill on this map of 1759. J. K. Major in his book (Major 1970) on Isle of Wight mills assumed that the present tower mill was built in 1746, the date carved on the ladder. Either Taylor has used the wrong symbol or the 1746 ladder is all that remains of the post mill. It is worth noting that the four windmills shown on Willdey's map of the Isle of Wight dated c.1720, on Compton

Down, Chillerton Down, Shanklin Down and Ashey Down are not included on Taylor's map.

Isaac Taylor depicted a tower mill at Weston near Freshwater, and the *Victoria County History* (Page 1912, 241) mentions that a windmill existed here in 1262 (quoted as 1292 by Major), and that it was rebuilt in 1300. As the mill was worth nothing in 1262, it seems likely that it was by then in a ruinous state. Another tower mill is located just to the east of Yarmouth. The East Cowes tower mill is shown without any sails, but an engraving of 1812 has the mill in working order. The Yarmouth mill and a post mill at Weyhill in north-west Hampshire were missed by Triggs, and the mill at Stoke Charity was a tower mill in 1759, not, as Triggs records, a post windmill.

Milne's map of 1791 also provides further evidence of windmills, but it is difficult to say whether the absence of mills on this map which had been included by Taylor, was due to destruction or whether they were simply omitted. The Weyhill mill is not shown, but Milne did depict the one at Kimpton, two miles from Weyhill. The Stoke Charity windmill is also omitted, but two other mills that are on the map are south of Widley on Portsdown, and on Galley Down, north-west of Bishop's Waltham. Wyld's map of c.1820 of the Winchester district plots the Froxall mill accurately enough to give the modern grid reference, SU 723281. It lay south-west of Priors Dean, and today there is a house called Windmill Cottage at this point.

The abundance of water running down from the chalk makes Hampshire an ideal county for watermills, and it is for this reason that so many exist to this day. One is left therefore to try and explain why there were many windmills in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight over the past seven hundred years. There are obviously several fine sites for windmills, as witness Windmill Hill, Chalton, and the absence of a suitable water supply

may account for the occurrence of the windmills. However, a large percentage of the mills through the ages have been close to the shore of the sea and estuaries, especially in the Portsmouth area. The majority seem to have milled grain; the Shipwright's and Dockyardmen's mills were built by co-operatives to provide cheaper bread for the poor, and the latter actually had its own bakery. Windmills on the coast would be just as effective as those on high ground because of strong winds coming across the channel. The importance of Portsmouth as a military centre may also have had some effect on the building and life span of the windmills. Shaw (1958, 1960) mentions that in 1714 the government bought a mill to provide flour for the armed forces, and in the previous century the Isle of Wight was the major grain source for Portsmouth. In the nineteenth century, especially from the 1850's-60's with the construction of the forts west of Gosport and on Portsdown, the increase in the number of the armed forces in south Hampshire, and also on the Isle of Wight, meant that grain had to be brought in from Devon. Wind and water mills were continually in operation, and many of the Isle of Wight water mills were enlarged to cater for this increase in work.

Water mills at Portsmouth were never a very practical proposition, but there was a tidal mill, King's Mill, which provided flour for the Royal Navy. Old maps mark windmills on Portsdown, and it would indeed be surprising if that fine ridge had not been utilised for such a purpose. It is likely that the Widley mill, and perhaps others, were destroyed during the construction of the five forts and one redoubt in the 1860's.

A final fact worth noting about the distribution of windmills on the mainland is that virtually all are located to the east of a line running due north from Southampton. Only Crawley, Weyhill and Kimpton are west of the line. Triggs mentions that there were some mills near Lymington on the coast,

however, and also that Bucklers Hard had a mill for sawing timber for ship-building, dating to the eighteenth century. The Lymington mills may in fact have been windpumps for salterns.

From the various sources cited in the bibliography and the evidence of further sites which have been located, it seems that over fifty different windmill sites existed at one time or other in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The value of windmills was realised at an early date as not everywhere was served by suitable rivers for watermills.

#### LIST OF WINDMILL SITES IN HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

After the name of each site there follows the type of mill if it is known for certain (PM=post mill; TM=tower mill; SM=smock mill). An early date for a windmill implies that it originally was a post mill. The source of information is also added, the full details of which may be found in the references. Windpumps have been excluded.

##### HAMPSHIRE

- Beaulieu, Bucklers Hard (Triggs 1969, 1)
- Bentworth, Windmill Hill (Page 1911, 68)
- Boarhunt (PM) (Taylor 1759)
- Bishop's Waltham, Galley Down (Milne 1791)
- Bursledon (TM) (Ellis 1968, 138)
- Catherington (14th cent) (Page 1908, 96)
- Chalton, Windmill Hill (PM then TM)  
(Taylor 1759; Ellis 1968, 138)
- Chawton (Shaw 1959, 108)
- Crawley, Windmill Hill
- Denmead (TM) (Shaw 1959, 108)
- Ewhurst (14th cent) (Page 1911, 248)
- Fareham (PM) (Taylor 1759)
- Froxfield, Froxall (Wyld 1820)
- Gosport (Triggs 1969, 3)
- Haslar (Triggs 1969, 3)
- Grateley (TM) (Ellis 1968, 138)
- Hambledon (PM then 2 TMs) (Taylor 1759;  
Shaw 1959, 108)
- Glidden (Milne 1791)
- Havant, Langstone (TM) (Ellis 1968, 138)
- Hayling Island (2 PMs, TM) (Shaw 1959, 108)

- Hinton Daubney (Milne 1791)  
 Horndean (TM) (Shaw 1959, 108-9)  
 Kimpton (Milne 1791)  
 Kingsclere (16th cent) (Page 1911, 252)  
 Newton Valence, Windmill Field (Page 1908, 24)  
 Otterbourne (SM) (Shaw 1959, 109)  
 Owslebury (2 TMs) (Shaw 1959, 109)  
 Penton Grafton, Ramridge (14th cent) (Page 1911, 397)  
 Weyhill (PM) (Taylor 1759) (May be same as previous site)  
 Portchester (TM) (Ellis 1968, 138; Triggs 1969, 3)
- Portsmouth**  
 Ballard's mill (TM) (Triggs 1969, 6)  
 Cole Harbour (17th cent) (Gates 1946, 87)  
 Dock mill (TM) (Triggs 1969, 7-8)  
 Lumps mill (?PM, then TM) (*L. & P. Hen VIII* 13 (1), 176, no 485; Shaw 1959, 125)  
 Rudmore mill (TM) (Triggs 1969, 7)  
 Shipwrights' mill (Triggs 1969, 8)  
 Stamshaw (2 TMs) (Triggs 1969, 6)  
 Rowner (Triggs 1969, 3)  
 Selborne (Triggs 1969, 1)  
 South Chewton (16th cent) (Page 1912, 126)
- Southampton**  
 Fulflood (13th and 14th cent) (Pelham 1963, 34; Platt 1973, 244)  
 By the river Itchen (Pelham 1963, 34)
- Southampton (continued)**  
 In 'Kayneshoyt' (1550) (Shaw 1959, 126)  
 Rowse's mill (Pelham 1963, 34-35)  
 The castle (Pelham 1963, 35)  
 Weston (Shaw 1959, 126)  
 33)  
 Stockbridge (Triggs 1969, 3)  
 Stoke Charity (TM) (Taylor 1759)  
 Titchfield, Chark (13th cent) (Hockey 1970, 33)  
 Upper Clatford (Page 1911, 364)  
 West Meon (TM) (6 in. map)  
 Widley (Milne 1791)
- ISLE OF WIGHT**  
 Ashley Down (Willdey 1720)  
 Bembridge (PM then TM) (Taylor 1759; Albin 1805; Major 1970, 23-4)  
 Chale (15th cent) (Major 1970, 63)  
 East Cowes (TM) (Taylor 1759)  
 Freshwater, Compton Down (Willdey 1720)  
 Gatcombe, Chillerton Down (Willdey 1720)  
 Ryde (TM) (Major 1970, 89)  
 Aldermoor (TM) (Major 1970, 21)  
 Shanklin Down (Willdey 1720)  
 Shorwell, Kingston (13th cent) (Page 1912, 250)  
 Totland, Weston (TM) (13th-14th cent) (Taylor 1759; Page 1912, 241)  
 West Cowes (TM) (Major 1970, 93)  
 Yarmouth (TM) (Taylor 1759)

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*Abbreviations*

*Proc.* = *Proc. Hants. Field Club and Archaeol. Soc.*

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