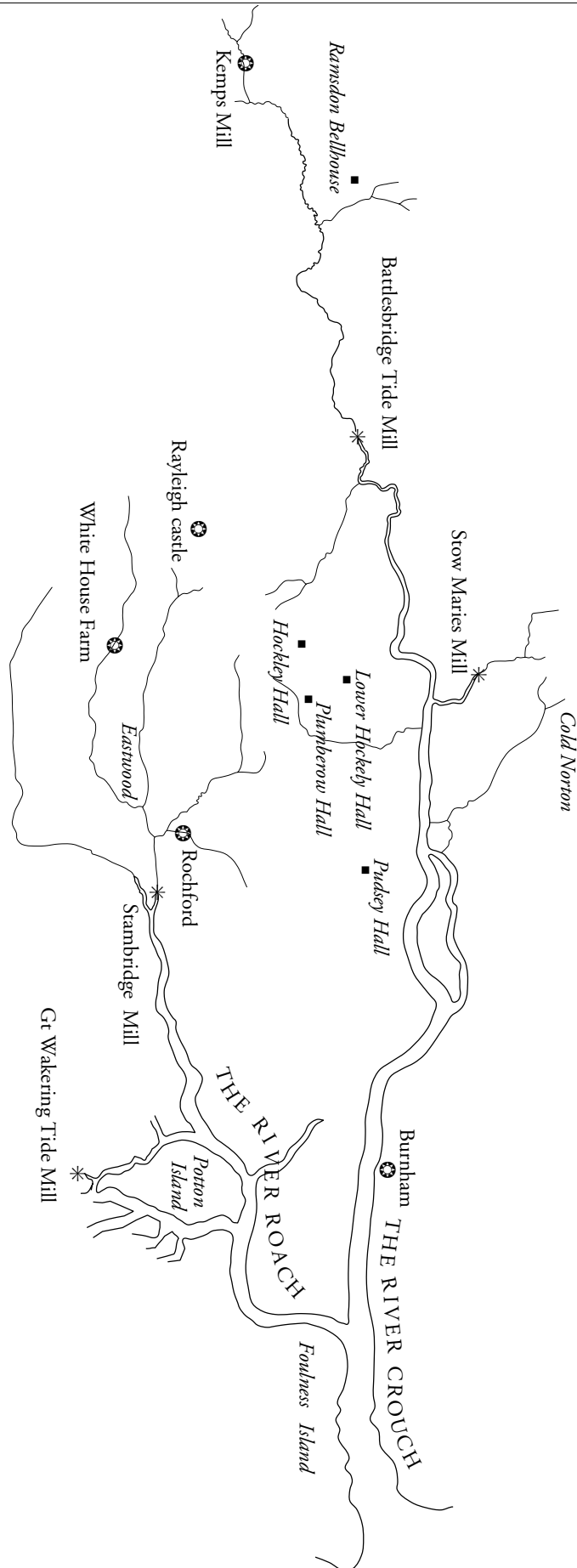


WATER MILLS OF THE RIVERS  
CROUCH AND ROACH

THE MILLS OF THE RIVERS CROUCH AND ROACH



## THE RIVER ROACH

### Hockley

The survey of 1086 list a number of mills in Hockley most being in the hands of Swein of Essex, who built his castle at Rayleigh.

#### *Hocheleia* (Hockley Hall)

In lands always held by St. Mary's, Barking, one mill. Records of Barking Abby refer to a mill in Hockley, there was a mill when the abby lands were taken by Henry VIII.

#### *Hocheleiam* (Lower Hockley Hall)

In the lands of Swein of Essex, (held by two Frenchmen, before them by a free man), always one mill.

*Hacheleia*. In the lands of Swein of Essex, (held by Payne), now one mill.

*Puteseiam* (Pudsey Hall) In the lands of Swein of Essex, (held by Ascelin, before by a free man), now one mill.

*Plumbga* (Plumberow manor) In the lands of Swein of Essex, (held by Ascelin, before by Robert son of Wymarc as manor), now one mill.

There was a windmill at Plumberow in 1295 which in 1322 was held by Thomas de Wodeham by service 10/8d yearly [Inq post Mort].

### Eastwood

In 1086 there was in *Estuuda* (Eastwood) In the lands of Swein, (held before 1066, by his father as one manor), now one mill. The Feet of Fines record in 1239 1 mill with appurts in Estwod.

### Sutton

Phillip de Hevenyeglan of Sutton possessed a water mill in 1322. [Inq post Mort].

### Rayleigh

In 1306 William de Dunhamleigh chaplain, granted to Peter Burre and his wife, one messuage, 1 mill and three acres of land in Reylegh [1]. Greenwood's county maps of 1824 and 1831 shows two mill symbols one a wind mill and the other a water mill below Rayleigh castle mount, the water mill possible feed from a pond. A pond in the castle is shown in a map of 1825 [2]. The tith award map of 1839 shows no water mill and indicates only Rayleigh tower windmill which is to the north of the windmill site indicated by Greenwood [3].

At White House Farm on the Eastwood road there were said to have been in the 19th century indications of a mill dam across the stream with ponds in the vicinity called Fishponds about 2 acres in area, the mill standing on the boundry with South Benfleet Manor. The Tith map for Rayleigh gives field number 555 as Fish Pond field. Documents relating to Whitehouse Farm dated May 1687 refer to a messuage or tenement and mill, but what type of mill is not stated [5].

### NOTES

1] Feet of Fines for Essex.

2] E.R.O D/DNe P7

3] E.R.O D/CT 285

4] History of Rochford Hundred, P. Benton. 1886.

5] E.R.O D/DU 817/18

### Rochford

In 1086 there was at *Rochefort* (Rochford) on the lands of Swein, (held by Alfred, before by a free man as a manor), one mill.

L R Cryer in "A History of Rochford" published in 1978 states that there was a water mill in West Street Rochford. Arthur Topsfield, a blacksmith in what was then Church St, lived in a cottage adjacent to his workshop. He later purchased the adjoining cottage which was called "The Old Water Mill". A stream that ran across the grounds of the old Union Workhouse (now Rochford Hospital) went under the building across the street in to the brook. Arthur Topsfield's son Jack relates that in 1902 part of the wheel was found and also that one end of the house was much lower than the remainder.

### Gt & Lt Stambridge

Rochford or Lt Stambridge tide mill.

In 1086 there was at *Stanbruge* (Gt. Stambridge) on the lands of the Bishop of Bayeux, (held by Swein, before 1066 by Oswald), one mill.

Rich Lord Rich in his will, dated 1568, included a mill called Rochford mill which in a survey taken in 1577 was identified a water mill in the manor of Rochford. In 1662 Rochford mill was said to be now or late in the occupation of Hellen Garnington, widow [1]. The tide mill is shown on Norden's county map of Essex, dated 1594.

The mill may have at some time been moved since in a conveyance of land dated 1659, there is reference to a piece of land that abutted on the East upon a lane leading from Gt Stambridge towards Salt Cove some-

times called the Old Mill, and abutting West upon the lane leading towards New mill [2] The tith award map for Rochford indicates a Salt Bridge field (No. 325) next to Salt bridge which is upstream of the existing tide mill site [3], this would not seem to correspond with the location of Salt Cove which would seem to be in Gt Stambridge, but is not identified on the tith award for Gt Stambridge.

Rochford Hall was purchased by Lord Tylney Long of Wanstead House [4], the tide mill is shown in detail on a map of the Tylney Long estates dated 1795 [5]. John Davis was tenant in 1780 when he insured his utensils and stock in trade in his water corn mill called the New mill, timber and tiled for the sum of £700 [6]. John Bullock as trustee to the estates of the late Lord Tylney insured the dwelling house and water corn mill adjoining and communicating, brick and timber built and tiled for £800 and the water wheel and gears for £50 [7].

In 1809 Miss Catherine Tylney Long leased the mill to John and Robert Kemp following the death of James Davis [8]. As the mill was taken over from the trustees of James Davis estate an inventory was taken on the 29th of September 1809 which listed the following [8]:

STAGE. Sack tackle with gudgeons hoops and keeps Sprogger wheel Round ropes Sack rope and chain Snap cords and iron sheath all complete 20 feet of Elm slab One sack cart broom and old shutter 5 feet of board

FLOOR CHAMBER. 71 feet of three inch leather strop 26 feet of 6 inch .. Bunch of riggers 2 foot 3 inches high by 15 inches thick Iron Gudgeons and two brasses to d°. double frame 4 feet long by 26 inches wide screw lifting riggers poppets all as fixed complete two standing flour mills hoppers shoes and riggers complete 2 No. 14 cloths and 3 old D°. Block hae and shovel Sack jack and chain 3 feet 6 in Scale beam 2 scales and ropes stacking sack etc. One 4ft 2in scale beam five 56lb one 28lb Iron weights, 4lb brass d°. One iron Cap One sack cart 4 wooden shovels 4 have brooms One hand shovel Buish and Strike One peck measure and one Quarter of d°. Wire Sieve and Scraper. One old Rigger 5 feet of deal ..uze bags, 14 feet shooting spout

CATCH MILL FLOOR. Old catch mill as fixed 37 feet of 37 inch leather strap horizontal shaft 13 feet long gudgeons hoops brasses and coupling bolts nut hoops and bolts bunch of riggers 2 feet high by 12 ins thick 7 iron bolts to d°. poppets and brasses as fixed complete puniper with 3 wire iron crank riggers coupling bolts poppets brasses as fixed complete 50 feet of \_\_\_ rope one rigger and two chains four flour cloths number 9 No.11 No.12 and No.14 4oze bags and hooks one sack cart and one pair of heads.

HIRST. 2 strait staves one oak and one mahogany two bill thrifts fly wheel 4 feet high bolts & coggs Oak upright shaft gudgeons hoops step and coupling brass top bridge tree 9 feet long 9 by 9 spur wheels bolts Coggs willow mot bolts hoops and coggs complete 2 eleven felt deals 2 wheat screens 2 spouts as fixed complete One sack bag and barley hopper

complete One pair 4 feet 4 inch french stones Iron box spindle ring and damsel Lals ladder hopper shoes and Iron grat bridge tree and brass bray and lighter fere.. and iron budging box One pair of 4 foot 4 inch french stones as above for \_\_\_\_\_ complete 3 stone nuts and coggs and bolts stone bo.. rope and iron clamps fore heving stone over two setts of stone bearers 2 saddles 2 stonewedges One notch clock and 3 levers 3 hammers and one cogg chissell 3 iron crows broome wire siev one trangle 2 levels and rubbing lever Sundry lot of Coggs Riggers & wire rat trap and hand shovel. LOWER FLOOR. 26 mill bags 4 feet 2 inch scale beam with scales and ropes four 56lb and 56lb of different weights iron 3lb of brass weights and 52lb of lead d°. small scale beam 1 in scale and wood d°. 2 meal troughs and an old scuttle tool hutch and flour hutch 3 cupboards as fixed 3 sack jacks sundry lot of tools and box sackbarrow broom and brush. 3 oz bags lined lanthorn stool and 4 candles sticks basket & strike.

WATER HOUSE. grindstone Irons and troughs as fixed Crow bar Sundry lot of old iron pitch kettle stand and two ladles, 14 feet of inch elm board One oak gate bar 34lb of pitch rope 72 flour sacks 4 barley meal sacks 46 corn sacks 5 Bran bags

Valued at £274..16..0. by William Cureton & Wood.

Kemp took Possession on 24th September 1809 and agreed to take the going gears and utensils in the mill for consideration of £500 [9]. The lease was for a period of 25 years at £220 per annum being on a Tide or water corn mill called Little Stambridge or Rochford Mill, with the mill pond, banks, walls, waterwheel, waterwheel shaft, pit wheel, tide gates swingbridge and land all in Lt Stambridge and Eastwood. The premises was to be insured for at least £3000. In October 1809 John Kemp insured the water wheels, standing and going gears, mill stones, wire machines, dressing mills for £400 and his stock in trade for £800, it was warranted that there was no steam engine [10].

It would seem that the tide mill was in need of repairs since William Cureton, millwright and builder from Maldon, produced an estimate, dated 14 August 1810, for erecting a new tide mill [11].

Surviving plans of the mill dated 1811 show a single water wheel driving 5 pairs of stones, the mill building having four floors with a mansard roof [12]. The estimated cost of the repairs was put at £2907, [13], but it would seem likely that the final cost exceeded this. [14]. John and Robert Kemp mortgaged the mill for £1500 at 3% in 1812 with a Josiah Taylor of High Holborn. 1815 John and Robert Kemp agreed to build a "good and substantial post wind mill" which with the going gears would be worth £700. The Kemp brothers also leased a windmill in Prittlewell which seem to have been transferred to a James Robsant for £200. In 1820 Robert assigned his part of the lease to his brother John who in 1822 made an agreement to sell the lease. John

WILLIAM CURETON'S ESTIMATE FOR ERECTING NEW TIDE MILL  
14th August 1810

Two walls for water course 45 feet long 10 feet deep 3 bricks thick, 2 oak cells 21 feet long 9<sup>in</sup> by 12<sup>in</sup>  
Four sleepers 4 feet long 9<sup>in</sup> by 9<sup>in</sup>  
Two pillar blocks 5 feet long 18<sup>in</sup> by 20<sup>in</sup>  
Three elm cells 12 feet long 9<sup>in</sup> by 12<sup>in</sup>  
20 circular ribs 5 by 6  
2 oak stable posts 12 feet long 11 by 17  
one oak cap all 14 feet long 12 by 12  
100 feet of 3 in elm for breast one iron plate D°. 4 iron  
Racks, 4 pinions, 2 wheels shafts brasses iron work etc belonging thereto and 2 wood shuts labour and  
framing water wheel 20 feet diameter by 10 feet wide 3 sets of arms and rings arms 10<sup>in</sup> wide by 4<sup>in</sup> thick  
Rings 7 by 5 starts 3 by 4 all of oak float boards and back boards of elm and all Iron work belonging thereto.  
Main axeltree oak 18 feet by 34<sup>in</sup> diameter 2 iron gudgeons 6 hoops 2 iron Bearings and 2 Brasses.

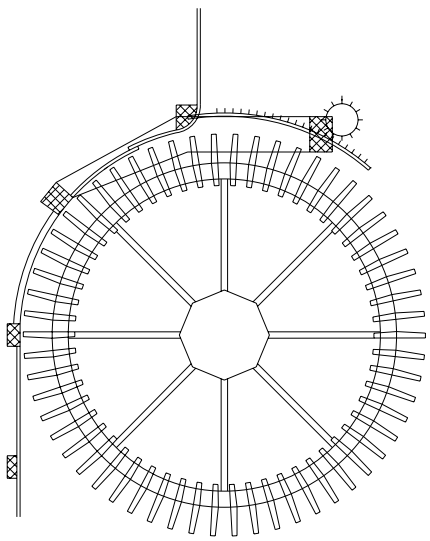
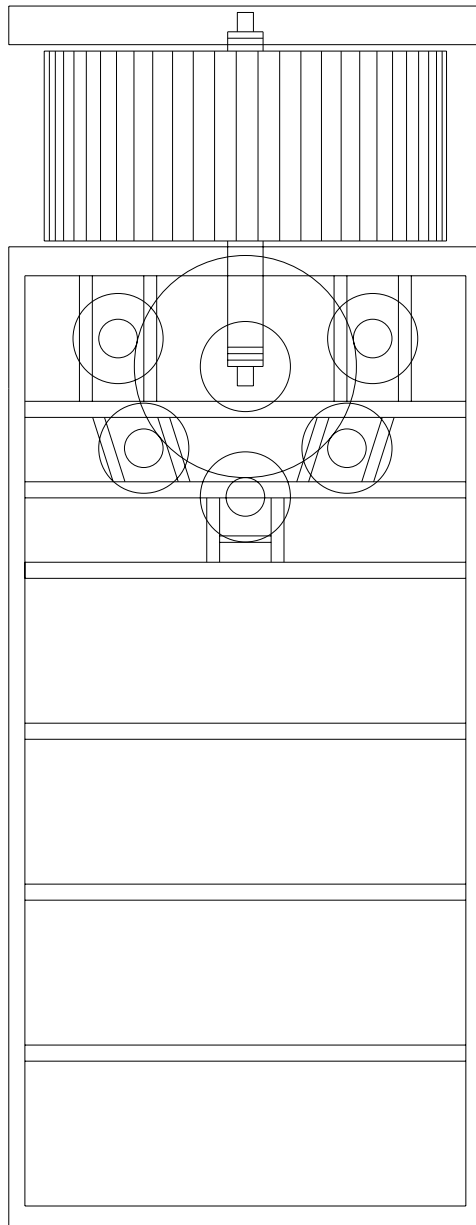
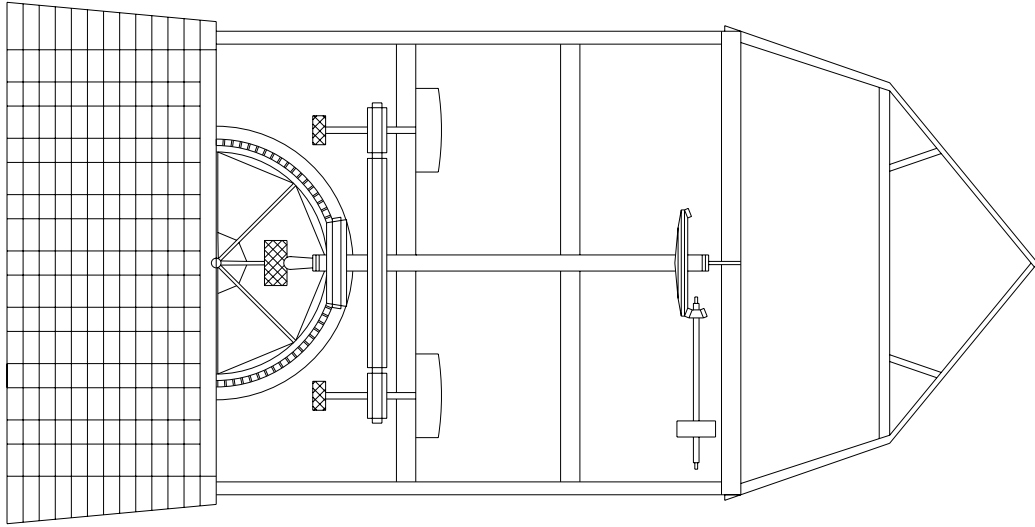
Stone hurst oak

3 bottom cells 20 feet long	9 by 12	
3 top D°. 20 feet long	10 by 12	
4 staple posts 10 feet long	12 by 12	
3 D° D°	14 by 14	
3 elm caps 14 feet long		6 by 9
10 stone bearers	9 by 12	
2 brays 6 feet long	10 by 12	
Elm bridge tree 14 feet long	8 by 18	
5 stone bridge trees 30 feet long	10 by 10	
Joice and Braces	4 by 10	

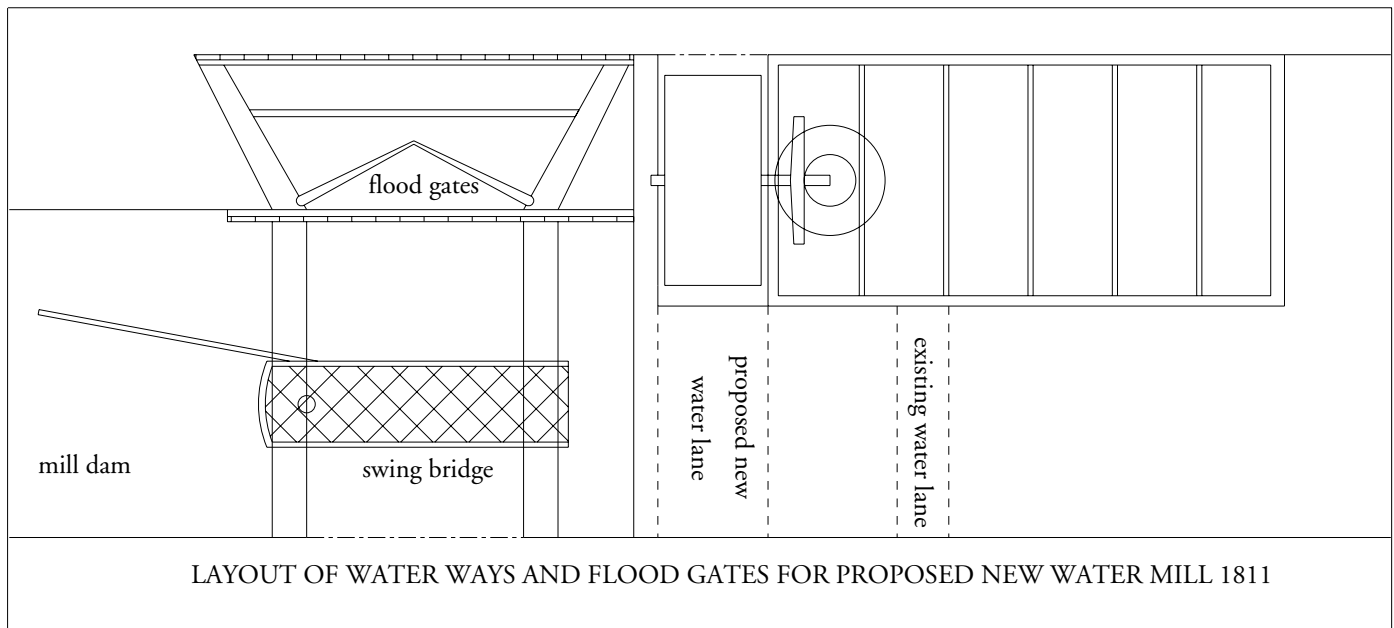
6 large knces 5 iron frames for bridge trees 6 iron bolts framing and fixing etc etc  
cog pit walls and walls for hurst  
Pit wheel 13 feet diameter 11<sup>in</sup> thick arms 14 by 14  
cogs for D°. Irons bolts pins etc. Labour for putting in the same  
Brick apron at the tail of the wheel and likewise head  
Two side walls of mill 48 feet long each & 14 feet high  
2 End D°. 20 feet long fourteen feet high  
altering the floors and uncovering and raising the old mill with an additional new end to mill 16ft long and  
23ft wide with brick piers plank and story post thereto the old mill to be new weather boarded the same as the new  
part with battens painting etc.  
Two side walls for the tide gates 39 feet long, 9 feet deep 4 bricks thick the bottom apron paved with bricks.  
Tide gates 14ft long 9ft deep with the draw gate in each. Racks pinnions irons etc with a swing bridge over the  
same. one brick at the foot of warf 9 feet long 8 feet deep 2 bricks thick.

Kiln 18ft square with a granary attached thereto 24ft by 24ft  
20 feet upon the stud with 2 floor girders 12<sup>in</sup> by 12<sup>in</sup> joice 3 by 6 story post 6 by 6 floor 1/4<sup>in</sup> thick plates for the roof  
4 by 8 principal rafters 6 by 4 D°. small 2 1/2 by 4 beams 6 by 6 collar beams 6 by 4 purlines 4 by 4  
brick foundations with tiled roof doors windows and ladders.

The above estimate for building the said mill including all materials will amount to £2907 4s 2d.



LAYOUT OF WATER WHEEL, GEAR WHEELS AND MILL STONES FOR PROPOSED NEW MILL AT ROCHFORD, 1811.



Kemp, miller and farmer, with Josiah Taylor, of High Holborn bookseller, agreed to sell the lease on Stambridge mills to William Rankin, of Bocking gentleman, and John English Tabor, of Bocking gentleman. The sum of £2000 was to be paid to John Kemp and the sum of £1205..12..6d to Josiah Taylor, the fixture and fittings in the mill were purchased from Kemp for £154..19..0d [15].

In 1829 Tabor and Rankin insured their stock in trade in the water mill for £1550 and in 1835 they insured for £1200 the water corn mill with waterwheel Iron pit wheel as fixed for the sum of £400 the stones and going gear therein and for £400 their dwelling house divided from mill by brick work also for £400 the post wind mill, timber built near. [16]. In 1838 the Hon William Long Wellesley and Tabor & Rankin insured for the sums of £1000 on the water corn mill at 4/-, £300 on the water wheel iron pit wheel and 5 pair of stones hirsts as fixed. £500 on windmill near and £200 on going gears therein. The going gears and machinery in the water mill were insured by Tabor and Rankin for £450 [17]. John Tabor latter retired from the business which was carried on by William Rankin.

By 1858 the mill pond was not retaining sufficient quantities of water and it was found necessary to enlarge the mill pond and deepen it by taking out the mud which was done for an outlay of £477 10s 0d.

In 1867 the Rochford Hall estates were put up for sale by auction. The mills formed lot 26 and were described as:

**LITTLE STAMBRIDGE OR ROCHFORD MILL.**  
**A VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY,**  
 Situated in the Parishes of Eastwood and Little Stambridge,

One mile from the Town of Rochford, on the road to Cricksea ferry, and intersected by the tidal river Roach.

COMPRISING  
 A SUPERIOR WATER CORN MILL OF FOUR FLOORS  
 DRIVING SIX PAIRS OF STONES  
 FLOUR MILL AND BOLTER  
 AND EVERY CONVENIENCE NECESSARY FOR THE BUSINESS

ADJOINING THE MILL IS  
 A CONVENIENT DWELLING HOUSE  
 CONTAINING

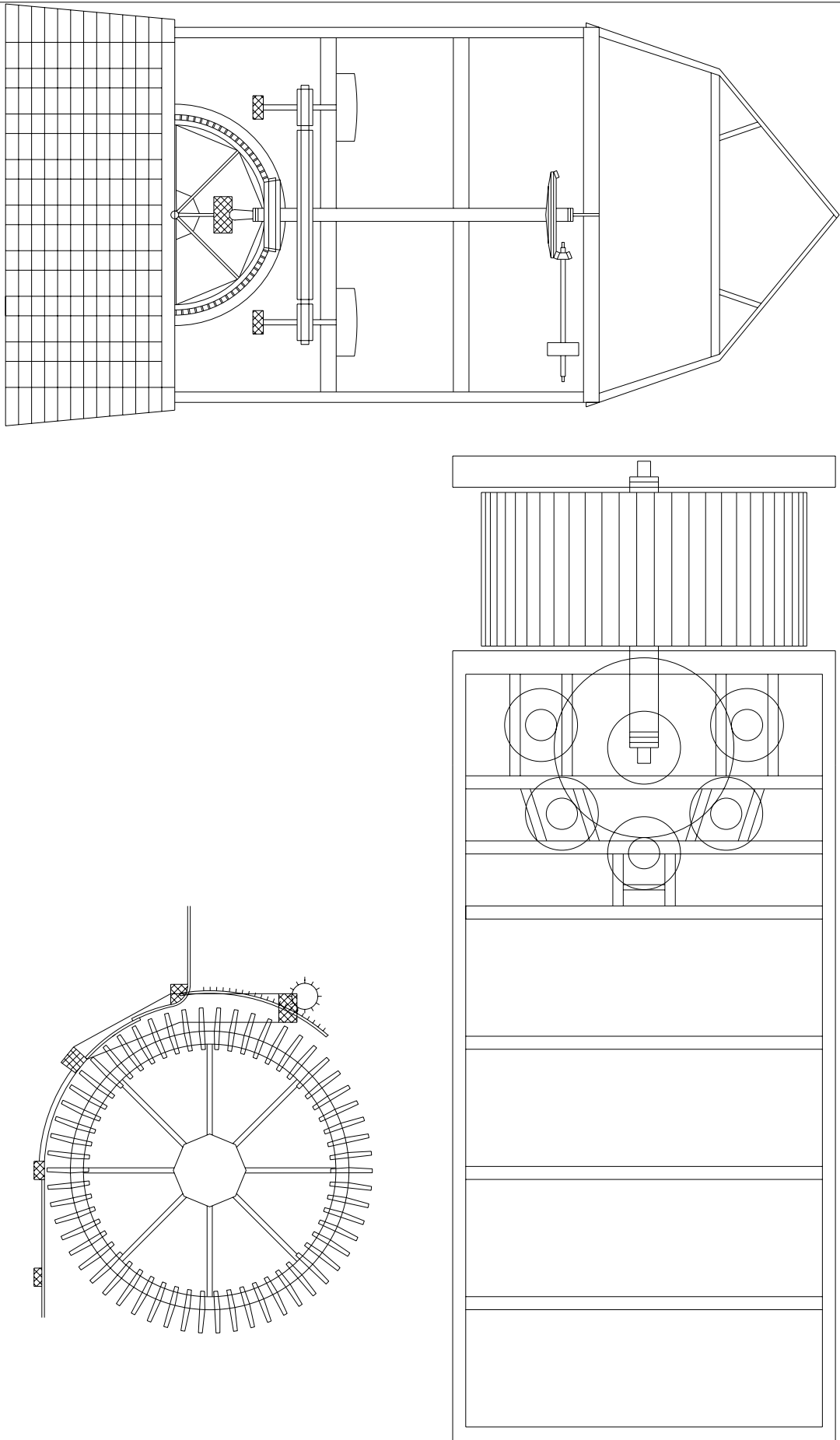
On the upper floor-Four attics and a small room  
 On the first floor-Four good Bed-rooms.  
 On the ground floor-Two sitting rooms, breakfast rooms, kitchen. washhouse, cellar, and counting house.

ALSO  
 A CAPITAL POST WINDMILL  
 On brick piers, with 2 Patent Sails, driving 2 pairs of stones.

Also included were workshops granary, Kiln, large coal yard, stabling, piggeries and henhouses with some 37 acres of land. At the time of the sale the mills were being leased by W.H. Rankin and Alfred. M. Rankin on a lease due to expire at Michaelmas, 1872, at an annual rent of £275. The mills were sold to the Rankins for the sum of £4500 [18].

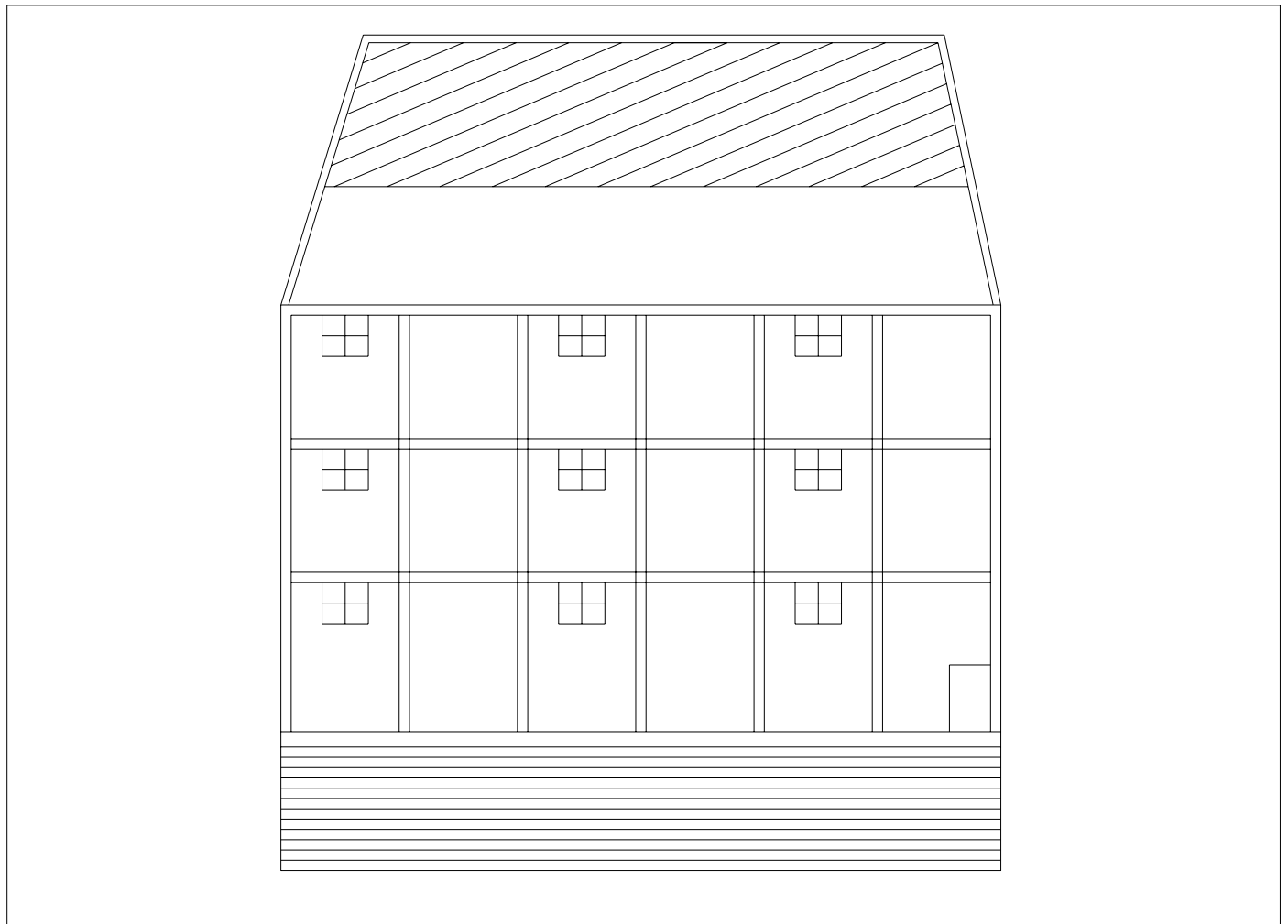
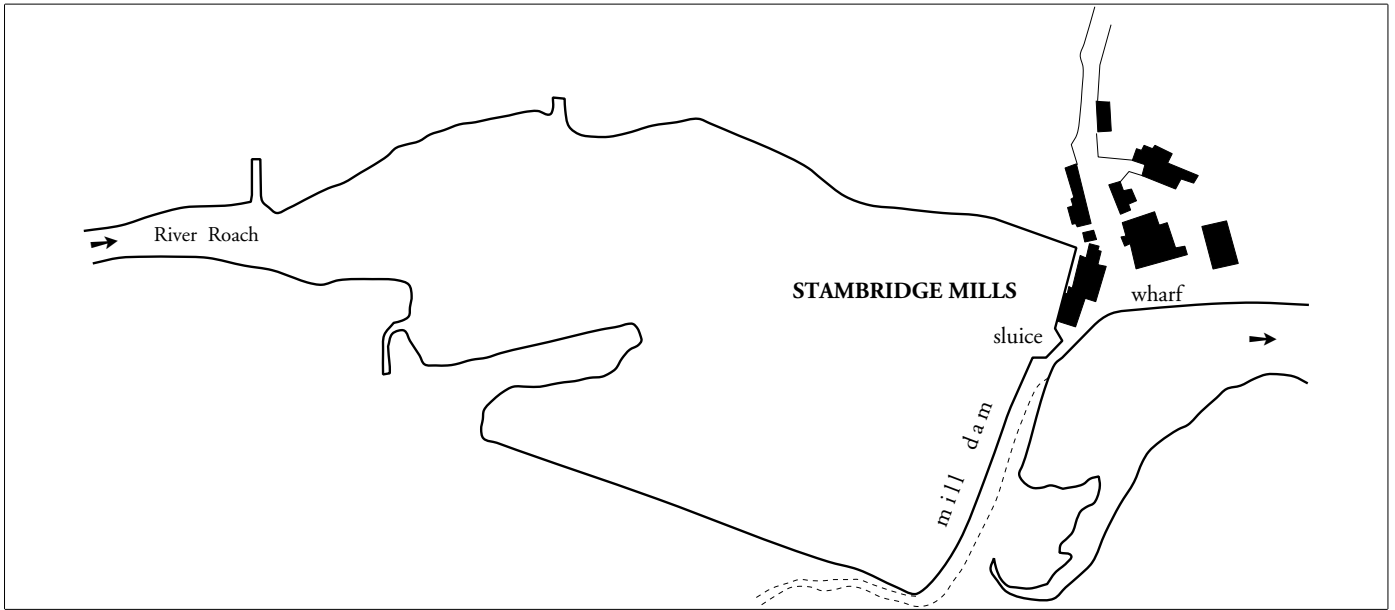
By 1872 water power had been augmented by steam, but in 1878 the steam mill was destroyed by fire [19]. The fire was it seems started by small children playing in the boiler house. The Southend Fire Brigade was sent for but arrived at the mill after a considerable delay, due apparently to lack of horses, but their hose burst so they were unable to save the mill. The Shoebury Brigade was telegraphed for and under the command of the commandant Col Hastings arrived just in time to save the water mill and mill house which stood on the opposite side of the road to the steam mill. The steam

LAYOUT OF WATER WHEEL, GEAR WHEELS AND MILL STONES FOR PROPOSED NEW MILL AT ROCHFORD, 1811.





Water Power in Essex—River Crouch and Roach



Elevation and framing of proposed new water mill, 1811.

mill was rebuilt in brick and tile on five floor with five pairs of stones.

In 1905 the Great Eastern Railway began construction on a reservoir and weir across the river immediately to the south of Rochford station this was seen by the owners of the tide mill as a threat to their water supply. A report was commissioned by solicitors acting on behalf of messers Rankin. [20]. Sections of this report are of interest in that it shows that the mill worked mainly by tidal power with the addition of fresh water supplied from the river Roach.

There are two mills adjacent to each other owned by our clients at the head of the northern arm of the river Roach, one of which is driven wholly by steam and the wholly by water power. The latter mill has a mill pond partly feed by tidal waters and partly by the inflow of land waters from the streams which converge to the northern arm of the river Roach. The mill wheel is of the breast type 18 feet in diameter 10 feet wide, has a float depth of 12 inches and is not shrouded. There is a clear fall of 4 feet between the bottom of the the cill in the mill pond and low water level and the top water level of the the water level is 4 feet above the cill. At high spring tides the tidal waters fill the mill pond but a neap tides the tidal water does not rise to the cill level and consequently none enter the mill pond. At high spring tides when the water collects in the mill pond 4 feet above the cill, the wheel can be and is worked for 7 hours each tide and as the tides fall off the hours worked are reduced correspondingly until the neaps fail to enter the mill pond at all.

In addition to the tidal waters, there are the waters which enter the mill pond from the streams. The drainage area of these streams is 7,650 acres and the average rainfall is 20 inches per year. The land is flat and of low elevation and it is probable that the evaporation and losses may come to 18 inches per year on the average. This would give a flow off equal to two inches per year or an average per day of 950,000 gallons.

The works being constructed by the railway company were to be constructed such that if the flow of water was below a rate of 130,000 gallons per day then no water would be abstracted, the weir stood across a stream with a catchment area of some 5000 acres which meant that the railway could take up to 500,000 gallons per day. This rate of abstraction was reckoned to be equal to  $\frac{2}{5}$  of a horse power all the year round, however the real loss to the mill would be at the neap tides when the water wheel was dependant on the upland waters. However the author of the report made the following observation on the effective use of the water resources by the tide mill:

This is not a case where we can fight very strongly because the present evidences of the value put on the water power put by our clients is against use. There was a considerable leakage from the mill head and the wheel is not shrouded, both of which facts point to some indifference as to the value of the water power.

Evidently the convenience of steam power had mitigated against the cost of keeping the old tide mill in good repair.

Kelly's directory for Essex gives A M & H Rankin working with steam and water upto 1929 and by steam after this date although the tide mill was in working order up to 1951 when subsidence of the wheel housing put the wheel out of use. The water mill was subsequently destroyed by fire in 1964.

NOTES.

- 1] E.R.O D/DP O40/1; D/DU 514/29/21; D/DU 514/29/28
- 2] E.R.O D/DU 560/2/6
- 3] E.R.O D/CT 291
- 4] E.R.O D/DCw T2,25; D/DCw T47/10,15; D/DGn 386.
- 5] E.R.O D/DCw P13
- 6] Sun Fire Insurance policy No.433115,19 Sept 1780
- 7] Royal Exchange Fire Insurance policy No. 151314, 6 June 1796.
- 8] E.R.O D/DS 253/7/7
- 9] E.R.O D/DS 253/7/1; D/DS 253/7/6
- 10] Royal Exchange Fire Insurance policy No. 248419, 5 October 1809.
- 11] E.R.O D/DS 253/7/5
- 12] E.R.O D/DCw P64
- 13] E.R.O T/B 213; D/DQs 13
- 14] E.R.O D/DU 18/57
- 15] E.R.O T/B 213
- 16] E.R.O D/F 21/5 pp114, 3 Sept 1829; D/F 21/7 pp115, 18/12/1835
- 17] E.R.O D/F 21/8 pp 85, 24/12/1838; pp86, 24/11/1838.
- 18] E.R.O D/DJe B16; T/P 83/2
- 19] E.R.O D/F 21/20 pp18; T/P 147
- 20] E.R.O D/DGs E28.

## THE RIVER CROUCH

### Gt Bursted

A survey of Gt Burstead for 1593 mentions a Kemps mill that was held by a copy hold tenant John Crouch, who lived in a cottage called Kemps lying by the Church yard. The mill was described as --Kemps mell lying by Kemps brook. The site could possibly be by Noak Bridge.

#### NOTES

1] E.R.O D/DP M986

### Ramesdon Belhouse

In 1086 there was in *Ramesdana* In the lands of the Bishop of London, (held by William), now one mill.

### Raweth

Battlesbridge tide mill.

On the 22nd of November 1765 the copy holders and others of the parish of Rettingdon petitioned Thomas Fitch of Danbury (the Lord of the manor) to grant Edward Bilding the elder of the hamblet of Moulsham, miller, permission to erect and build a water corn mill in the Parish of Rettingdon upon the river....claiming that such a mill when erected would be of great service to that part of the county [1] However the mill was built on the opposite side of the river in the parish of Raweth. A licence was given on the 3rd of March 1766,

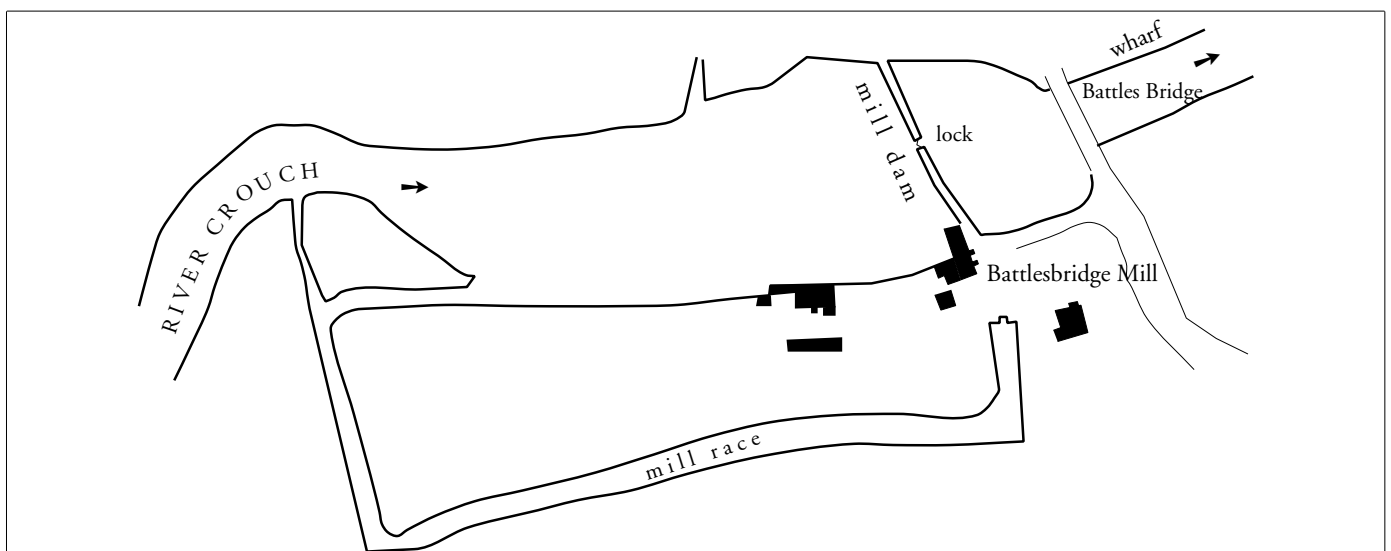
by Master, Fellows & Scholars of St John College, Cambridge, Lords of the Manor of Raweth to Edward Bilding of Moulsham to erect a water corn mill at Battlesbridge stating 'that a mill for grinding corn is much wanted in the parish of Raweth..... by our tenants and other inhabitants [2]. In June 1766 Thomas Fitch granted permission for Bilding to place stakes, piles and boards on the north bank of the river providing the proposed dam did not pen the water above the normal high water mark, a sum of £5 was to be paid quarterly to the Lord of the manor of Rettendon. The freehold to the land on which the proposed mill was to stand was purchased from the College [3]. The mill was certainly standing in February 1767 and may have been erected in the previous autum. On September 17th 1770 the county weights inspector visited the parish and found the weights and measures of Edw Bilding miller, to be "good" [4] By 1773 the mill seems to have been leased to Daniel Alger and in 1775 Elizebeth Ann Bilding leased to mill to Daniel Algar, of Gt Waltham and Lionel King of South Hanningfield. The mill advertised for sale in september 1775 [5].

To be sold to the highest bidder at the Blackboy Inn, Chelmsford, on the 27th of October 1775- Battlesbridge Mill .

The mill consists of 4 floors with good celler underneath and a very convient lodging room for servents, store room and bins. It works with two water wheels 4 pairs of french stones and goes by spur gears, it has therin 3 flour mills and is capable of grinding 20 loads of wheat weekly. The going gear and impliments of the mill to be taken by the purchaser at fair appraisment.

Freehold subject to £5 per annum payable to the lord of the manor of Rettendon. Also dwelling house and out house.

The mill may not have been sold at the auction and seems to have been sold by Elizebeth Bilding to Daniel Algar the transaction being completed in 1782 [6].



The mill and machinery was insured by Daniel Algar of Gt Waltham, in 1777 for the sum of £1950 the mill being described as being timber built and tiled [7]. 1784 Daniel Algar leased the mill to Edmund Taylor, miller of Raweth, who had purchased the mill by 1790 when he made his will [8]. On 14 Feb 1786 Thomas Bird, miller of South Okendon, insured the mill for the sum of £600 [9]. In the following year on the 9 Oct 1787 Edmund Taylor, miller, insured his dwelling house and the mill both said to be adjoining for £1000 and his utensils and trade for £850 [10]. On 24th December 1795, Edmund Taylor insured his water corn millhouse, timber and tiled for the sum of £2000, the mill was said to be tenanted by Duly & Vaughan, millers [10]. In 1795 Taylor insured the water wheel and gears millstones machines in his water corn millhouse for £420 [12].

In 1796 Edmund Taylor had made an agreement to sell a moiety of the mill to John Deely for the sum of £2550 the transaction being completed in 1800, the mill was leased to Augustine King George of Middlesex [13].

On the 24th of September 1797 John Deeley wrote to W Johnson, architect, Marybone, London concerning the state of the road near the mill [14]

Sir:

I take the liberty to inform you that Mr Hickman has removed the posts that stood by the mill into the hard road as you ordered, and the road is not made good, it was impassable a cart coming to my mill with five quarter and four bushels of wheat was turned bottom upwards and the horse thrown on his back, and a waggon with ten cwt of wheat and 6 or 7 horses set and broke a shaft, from which I judge the posts to be a great nuisance to me and other his Majesty's subjects, one post I have drawn up and two more I have sawed of that carriages may go on the old road. I understand that Mr Hickman is coming tomorrow to replace the posts and if the road is not made good prior to their so doing I shall again remove them as a common nuisance.

A reply to this letter was sent back to John Deely the following day, the 25 July which gives some indication of the speed of the post at that time!

Sir:

I think that before you had removed one of the posts you mentioned you should have requested one of the Magistrates of the Division to have inspected them and the road as it was from their report and an order of the last Quarter session that I gave directions to the workman to proceed

In April 1800 John Deely, insured his movable utensils and trade for £500. [15]. However by 1836 his business had failed as the Court of Bankruptcy made an order for the sale of Battlesbridge mill, the property of John

Deely, miller, dealer and chapman. The mill was advertised as a free hold Tide mill with dwelling house, stabling coach house and granary together with extensive coal wharf and brick yard with dry Kilns [16]. The mill was put up for sale by auction on 31st January 1837, being described as [17]:

The power of the mill is almost unlimited, from the constant and abundant supply of water at every tide. fall of 9ft; with breast wheel 18ft dia and 10ft wide. mill contains 4 floors with stage. 5pr french stones. and has ground upon an average 35 loads per week. The mill leat is capable of receiving lighters through the gates at every tide.

Coal wharf & trade & brick yard.

The ground plan of the mill is marked on a map of Battlesbridge dated 1836 and is shown as an L shaped building consisting of the mill house and mill, a granary stood downstream, on the other side of the bridge, presumably to give better access to sailing barges which would have had to lower their masts to reach the tide mill [18]. Deely's moiety of the mill was purchased by Messers Meeson and Flinton. In 1838 John Flinton retired and the business was continued by John Meeson. In 1841 articles of partnership were drawn up between Richard and James Meeson who obtained full possession of the mill in 1853 by purchasing the other moiety from a John Bridges for £2400 [19]. For 1841 the mill accounts [20], for William Meeson give:-

purchase	£4340
iron wheel	£200
conveyance	£100
repairs	£100
	£4740
mortgage	£4000

By 1847 the mill was being leased by Robert Burls who insured his stock in trade for £1000 but by 1854 only insured his stock for £600 [21]. By 1857 James Paritt, miller, was tenant when he insured his stock in trade for £600 [22]. A survey and valuation taken in 1858, lists a newly erected mill house Tide corn mill and old mill house adjoining, the mill with five pairs of stones was leased by Mr Pavitt at a rent of £246 per annum [23]. The milling of oats was not allowed under the insurance policy and in 1877 a remark on the insurance policy notes no steam engine [24]. Sometime after this date a new mill was built down river of the bridge, evidently it was intended to be originally water powered as the 2nd edition 25" O.S (1895) map shows an incomplete leat running between the old and new mills this, could not have been a success as the mills were driven by oil engines.

Kelly's trade Directory for Essex gives for 1874 James Parrit, 1882 Wm Meeson working with water and for

1886 Wm Meesom working with steam and water. Percy Meeson was listed as working with water and steam in 1926, however photographs of the tide dated to earlier than 1908 show that the mill was in a derelict state. Battlesbridge Mills were sold by Edith Meason to J.H. Mathews in 1926 [25]. In 1928 James & Geo Matthews were listed as working with steam, although the mill was fitted with two oil engines. The present owner of the mill restored the tide gates in 1989 and fitted a new wheel driving an electrical generator.

#### NOTES

- 1] E.R.O D/DSu M67
- 2] E.R.O D/DJe T73
- 3] *ibid* 2
- 4] E.R.O Q/SBb 263/29
- 5] Chelmsford Cronicle, 22 Sept 1775.
- 6] *ibid* 2
- 7] Royal Exchange Fire Insurance policy No.71210
- 8] E.R.O D/DJe T75; DAER 35/186
- 8] Royal Exchange Fire Insurance policy No.96541
- 9] Royal Exchange Fire Insurance policy No.103586
- 10] Royal Exchange Fire insurance policy No. 149061
- 11] Royal Exchange Fire insurance policy No. 149047, 24th December 1795
- 12] E.R.O D/DJe T73,T75
- 13] E.R.O Q/SBb 369/19
- 14] Royal Exchange Fire insurance policy No. 173747. 3rd April 1800.
- 15] E.R.O D/DJe T77, D/DJe B7; London Gazette 29/11/1836.
- 16] Chelmsford Cronicle 30/12/1836
- 17] E.R.O D/DDw P70
- 18] E.R.O D/DJe B7; D/CT 284; D/DJe T49.
- 19] E.R.O D/DJe B7
- 20] E.R.O D/F 21/11, 24/12/1847; D/F 21/14 pp102, 23 Oct 1854.
- 21] E.R.O D/F 21/15 pp107, 3/1/1857.
- 22] E.R.O D/DJe B7
- 23] E.R.O D/F 21/21 pp102 Oct 1874. Suffolk Alliance; D/F 21/22 pp307, 1877. James Parrott miller Raweth
- 24] E.R.O D/DU 205/193

#### Cold Norton

In 1086 there was in *Nortuna* on the lands of Ralph Baynard, (held before by Wulfric, a free man, as a manor), now one mill. In 1568 William Clark of Cold Norton, mentions a mill in his will, but whether this was a wind or water mill is not clear [1].

#### NOTES.

- 1) Wills of Essex.

#### Stow Maries

Tide mill at the head of Stow Creek.

The parish registers indicate that a mill stood on the parish during the 16th and 17th century [1]. In 1564 John Wade, miller of Stowemaris, was buried, to be followed by John Grove who is listed as miller in 1566. In 1600 the manor of Hayes in Stow maries possessed one water mill [2]. In 1601 John Morrice, miller of Stowe, was buried and in 1616 the occupation of a John Johnson was given as miller. For 1613 the registers note the burial of John, a mill picker a poor walking man. A mill existed in 1682 as a note in the parish register lists the liability of land owners "to repair ye church yard pale", and includes, "The mill - North east stile", the name of the owner or miller is unfortunately omitted. This note would seem to imply that only one mill was in the parish for the year 1682. Documents relating to Lord Petre of Writtle, dated 1632, mention a water mill in Stow Maries called Stowe Mill [3]. The sequestration accounts for Royalist Estates for the year 1644 [4], give a John Bugby as miller, for what would seem to be a wind mill:

Expenses about the repair of ye mill and house.  
For iron work and nails for one of the sails 2/-  
For fetching of clay 1/-  
For daubing of the house 14/-  
Summ 17/-

Possible by 1682 the water mill had been displaced by a wind mill, but this is not clear as no further reference to mills or millers after this date have been found by the author. The tith award map of 1840, indicates the site of a tide mill at the head of Stow Creek where the following field names are listed: (No.123) mill pool; (No.40) mill pool; (No.140) water; (No.135) upper fleet marsh and (No. 122) Home stead [5].

This must be the water mill recorded on manor of Hayes since both Gt and Lt Hays are situated near Stow Creek.

#### NOTES.

- 1) E.R.O, T/R 212/8; D/P 391/1/1
- 2) Essex Feet of Fines.
- 3) E.R.O, D/DPT 189
- 4) E.R.O, Q/SBa 8/70
- 5) E.R.O, D/CT 338

## **Burnham**

In 1086 there was in *Burnham* on the lands of Ralph Baynard, (held before 1066 by 10 free men), now one mill.

Walter Fitz Robert (C. 1126-1198) gave to Dunmow Priory his mill in Burnham which was described as being in salt water, so this mill may have been a tide mill [1].

### NOTES.

1) Harvesting the Air. E. J. Kealy, pp114.