

Note on Longdon Mill, Staffs (also called Brook End Mill, Longdon). Near Rugeley.

Grid ref SK 0795 1440  
Trent.

Shropshire Brook, a small tributary of R.

1. My note of my visit to the mill on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1974 reads "Longdon Mill Grid Ref SK 079144. Visit 9<sup>th</sup> June 1974. These notes same day.

Measurements noted down on spot on piece of card attached.

Two storeys and attic. Note arched apertures (mostly blocked) in brickwork. Whitewashed at front, not back. Mill house adjoining. Pond (drained) at rear. First floor, but not attic floor, replaced since waterdriven machinery removed.

Only pieces of machinery now remaining are - wheelshaft (not in situ, but outside, cast iron, cylindrical, and hollow, 4 ribs, 10ft3in long excluding gudgeon pins, 12in dm (13½in at end, across collar bits).

Occupier of mill will give it to anyone needing it, he says); the upper pulley of the sack hoist (wooden, clasp arm, 9½in wide, 40 or 46in dm, on a small dm wooden shaft (with iron or steel batons for the chain) loose in attic); and one peak or local stone (4ft dm, used as well head, conical back, with notches for X rynd and no dressing) and two French stones (both 4ft dm, runners, with balance rynds still in, in wall behind stable at front of mill); also loose iron pulley, estimated from memory at 4ft dm.

Wheelpit inside mill. Occupier said that until recently it had been concreted over, and he had excavated it. Outer bearing stone and its bearing (including brass) in situ. Indicates wheel was 5ft 8in wide by 8ft 4 in radius (ie, measured from pit and allowing a few inches clearance).

Water entered wheel at 57in, or possibly slightly more, above centre of wheelshaft (ie high breast). Note "chimney" down from attic (ie bin floor) to downstream side of pit, for disposal of sweepings, said occupier [but considering it now I think outlet of a fan is more likely e.g either for chaff etc from a grain cleaner or from a "dust extractor" on millstones]. Position of upper bearing of upright shaft can be seen in a joist of attic floor. Bins in attic.

Occupier said present mill thought to be early 18<sup>th</sup> cent (note old timber in roof) though said to have been a mill there in Tudor times; mill house adjoining mill thought by him to be built 1767 because of pane of glass in it with that date on; there had been a previous [water] wheel to that last used ( he pointed out likely lower bearing position in the wheelpit); the mill was last used by water power just before WW2, by Hunts of Gt Hayward; they smashed up the waterwheel then and many of the pieces of it were found when the occupier dug out wheelpit; these showed it was an all iron or steel wheel, including the buckets; after that it was used as a motorised mill; a hammer mill was used and it was said to have caused the only crack in the brickwork that the occupier had found.; finished altogether as a mill about 15 years ago; occupier hoped to rebuild waterwheel out of various bits and pieces including train axle, and fibreglass pentrough, and reflood pond and drive generator for household use by the waterwheel. JAB 9.6.74"

2. Charles Howell, who was the miller at Worston Mill, and had enormous knowledge of Staffordshire Mills, told me (in a conversation on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 1968 that I noted) that he was born at Longdon Mill in 1926 (he died in 1993) but that his father, William Howell jnr, was only miller of Longdon Mill for a short time.
3. Note that Upper Longdon windmill at Brereton Cross (Grid Ref SK 067148) is also sometimes referred to as Longdon Mill.
4. Names of millers can be seen in the people database at Mills Archive. Staffs Record Office appear to have relevant items, too.

John Bedington,

2020.....

My photos with this note:

*B/W photos:* Taken 9<sup>th</sup> June 1974 – ST93a, front (tail side) of mill, with house; ST93b, rear (head side) of mill, with house; ST94c, shaft of waterwheel, outside mill; ST94d, the wheelpit, from head side.

*Colour slides:* Taken in 1974 –ST bl 1, front of mill, with house. Taken in June 1982 –ST bl 2, front of mill.

