

THE MACHINERY, DRINKSTONE POST MILL.

The machinery is shown without the body framing.

When first built, Drinkstone Mill would almost certainly have had a single pair of millstones in the head, driven from the brake-wheel. Like most other mills, a second pair was added in the tail, and also a flour dresser, now missing, but evidence of its wooden case remains.

Oddly, the brake wheel has provision for wooden cogs on the forward side as well as the normal side facing tailwards (later replaced by cast-iron segments). The wheel has been converted from a compass arm wheel by the addition of clasp-arm spokes. The forward-facing cog mortises are built into the clasp-arm spokes, so they must date from that conversion, or later.

It is not clear whether the forward-facing cogs were ever used, but if so, they may have driven a pair of stones on a hurst frame on the lower floor of the buck.

The buck has been extended forwards, but also appears to have been shortened by a little since. Perhaps the possible hurst-frame stones overloaded the head of the buck, and were subsequently removed.

The windshaft is of wood, and dates from after the clasp-arm conversion. The original mortised head of this shaft has been removed and replaced by a cast-iron neck and canister. The design of the attachment of this iron canister is poor, and similar to that used at Stanton Mill. At some time it has come loose (as also at Stanton), and a large cast-iron corset has been provided to improve the connection.

As well as governor control and a normal tenter-screw, the headstones had a hand-tentering lever, cord and weight. This was a throwback to an earlier system before the invention of governors (regulators).

The mill buck etc was extensively repaired in 2005. Unfortunately, the machinery was never properly reinstated, and remains in some disarray. It is to be hoped that the restoration of the machinery, roundhouse and the sails of this important, historic windmill will take place at some future date.

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