

Note on Engleton Mill, Brewood, Staffs (nr Wolverhampton).

Grid ref : SJ 8920 0988

On R. Penk, (tributary of R. Sow(e), which runs into R. Trent)

1. I visited this mill on 22nd April 1965 and made some notes roughly on an SPAB watermill survey questionnaire form which had already, as with the forms for the two Somerford mills, been partly filled in by the owner, Mr A.S.Monckton, at his office earlier in the month of my visit. I wrote this up on a fresh form along with a bit of historical information I had found and sent it in to SPAB. It is now at Mills Archive under reference SPAB-WAS-STAFFS-06. The mill was standing, though gutted of machinery; the work of demolition jokingly referred to (by Mr Monckton) as undertaken by vandals just refers to the general dilapidation that had taken place.
2. Further nuggets of information that appear from my original notes but were not put on the fair copy sent to SPAB – walls were 9in thick, size of brick was 2¼” x 4¼” x 9”. The first storey was 7 ft high. I found the mark of a sluicgate [on the building, presumably] and reckoned the waterwheel had been exterior. From somewhere I also picked up the information that “There is structural evidence that [the mill] dates from not later than the 17th century, at least in parts” (the sandstone part, perhaps?)
3. I have a note that says that the mill machinery used to be in the part of the buildings of which one gable end appears in my photo of the mill from the road (ST11a), the other gable end being the far one in my picture of the back of the mill (ST11b).
4. There is more historical information on the mill in an article on mills of the R. Penk and tributaries by M.V.Cooksley in Midland Wind and Water Mills Group Journal no 15 (1996) including the remark that the mill was out of use by 1896.
5. More information is available on the internet, and at Staffs record office. The property is now a private house, in its entirety apparently. (See Express and Star newspaper articles from 1966 and 1969).

John Bedington, 2020

Items of mine relating to this note;

The SPAB watermill survey form mentioned above and

Printed items: Newspaper cuttings from the "Express and Star"
(Wolverhampton newspaper), 3 Nov 1966 and 20 Dec 1969. (I don't have the
copyright)

B/W photos: Taken on 22nd April 1965 – ST11a Mill from road; ST11b Back of
mill.