Draper's Mill, Margate, Kent.

Present condition and repairs required to sustain current use.

The mill was extensively repaired in the early 2000s, and is mostly in good condition.

The mill stands in a town environment, but is surrounded by school playing fields that allow wind to reach the mill almost unimpeded. Buildings close to the mill are mostly low, and do not pose a problem to the wind supply.

The mill dates from 1845, and is typical of its date, with mostly cast-iron machinery. It was repaired by the Draper's Mill Trust in the late 1960s/ early1970s, and shortly after, the KCC took responsibility for its upkeep. The mill grinds occasionally by wind power, and a gas engine was installed recently as auxiliary power to replace a former engine that had been scrapped long ago.

Sweeps.

The mill carries 4 double-shuttered sweeps with a full set of shutters. The stocks have been renewed recently, and the sweeps repaired, but there is still some work needed to finish them off and to get the shutters working properly.

The sweeps should last at least another 5 years before repair is necessary.

Fantail.

The fan is in good condition, but the fantail staging is in need of some repair: The top rails on to the cap are starting to rot and need renewing. Some of the decking boards also require renewing, and the decking should be re-laid on sheet metal cappings to the supports, as the present roofing felt is perished.

The gearing and shafts appear to be in fair condition, except for the top bearing of the sloping driveshaft into the cap, which is worn and needs replacing or bushing. The bottom bevel gear on this shaft is not well aligned with its partner, and needs moving up a little.

Cap.

The structure of the cap appears sound, but the weatherboarding needs to be re-tarred. The sheet metal cladding around the windshaft neck needs attention.

Curb.

The curb appears to be in good order.

Tower.

The tower structure is mostly in good condition except for parts of the sills (wallplates): The sill under the southern stage door is rotten, and the adjacent sill is

not well attached where it is jointed to part of an old sill. These sections of sill need renewing in oak, and fastening with suitable steelwork.

Both stage doors are becoming rotten and need renewing, together with their hinges.

The weatherboarding on the tower needs re-tarring, and repairs to flashings where necessary.

Stage.

The stage appears to be sound, but the black areas need re-painting. The part of the deck that is boarded and felted needs to be extended a little to cover the porch below. The handrails need more safeguards in the way of sheep wire or an extra rail to avoid accidents.

Machinery.

The main drive machinery appears to be in good condition.

The striking gear for the shutters in the sweeps is not working properly at the moment. The elbow casting of the lever striking gear has broken where the stub arm is attached, and needs re-drilling for a new bolt. This damage may have been caused by attempts to operate the shutters, which are very stiff at present.

Repairs and alterations required to bring the mill into working order.

Cap.

No work required.

Dust Floor.

Make four new freestanding bins to fit under removable flooring, shellac finished, with lids.

Check and adjust sack hoist, and test existing chain.

Stone Floor.

Make new pine chutes to connect bins above to hoppers of peak and burr stones.

Dismantle, clean and shellac finish two existing stone cases, hoppers, horses, shoes etc.

Lift and dress burr and peak stones, checking bearing brasses and stone spindles, allowing for some repair.

Make new pine chute to supply flour dresser on floor below, shellac finished.

Spout Floor.

Adapt existing spouts to bagging off points, clean and shellac finish. Provide sack formers and sampling hatches.

Make new feed chute to flour dresser.

Clean and shellac finish the existing flour dresser, and make removable partition.

Provide guard to dresser drive belt.

Ground Floor.

No changes required.

Museum space under Stage.

Establish a bagging-off area, suitably lined, and provided with work surfaces, scales, mixer and all necessary equipment. This may alternatively be placed on the ground floor of the mill.

Engine Room under Stage.

Install an electric motor and gearbox fixed to the concrete floor. Set up the motor to drive the horizontal shaft entering the mill by pulleys and vee belts, including switchgear, starter and cabling.

Make suitable guards to shield the above installation.

3-Phase Power.

At present, only single-phase electricity is available at the mill. To power the auxiliary electric motor, a new 3-phase supply will need to be laid on, brought from College Road.