

NAME OF MILL **SPRINGHEAD MILL..**
TOWN **FONTMELL MAGNA**
SOURCE of POWER **FONTMELL BROOK (FED FROM SEVEN SPRINGS)**
MAP REFERENCE **194-ST-875169**
MILL REF **DOR.WT.S.137**

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Higher Mill 1½ml E of Ch. marked on 1811 map.

Higher Mill is E of village, on S side of lane that goes to meet the Shaftesbury/Blandford road

(*Simmons*)

1781 Jeremiah COLE of Fonthill in Dorset, clothier. On his dwelling house, rn & stable under one roof situate as aforesaid £1,000. A mill called Corner Mill in the Parish aforesaid £30. (*Sun Fire Ins. No.449402. 12 Oct 1781*) (S) "called Corner Mill...Springhead is not on the corner!! TY"

1808 BISHOP Joseph of Fonthill, Dorset, miller. 'a minor with the consent of his parents' (*Hants.Marr.Lic. 14 Dec 1808.*) (S)

1811 marked as "Higher Mill" OS rev.ed. 1855 K MILES F, miller, Fontmell Magna. (S)

1855 K MILES J.G, miller, Fontmell Magna. (S)

1859 K MILES F.G, miller, Fontmell Magna. (S)

1867 K MILES F.G, miller, Fontmell Magna. (S)

1875 MILES Frederick Good, farmer & miller Higher Mill (S)

1882 To be let with immediate possession, Higher Mills, Fontmell Magna, Shaftesbury, Dorset, containing three pairs of stones and fitted with all modern machinery. The water supply is never failing. Apply to Mr H.J.Rickman, Oakfield, Blandford, Dorset. (*The Miller 6 March 1882*) (S)

1906 Eclipse Works moved to Wimborne in 1906 from this site.

Copy of 'John Walter Flower M.B.E/ 1857 - 1941' - note son the firm by Joan Brocklebank, with memories of JWF by his grandson Desmond Flower. 12 page booklet, well illustrated in colour, telling the story of the Eclipse Works making Eclipse Automatic Filling & Corking machines & the Lightening Dry Hopper as well as other related machies;

1945 Pond is shown but mill not marked on OS 1inch 1945. (S)

1952 Probably reconstructed in the latter end of the 19th century in stone brick and slate with an outside iron wheel. The wheel is used to turn a circular saw and is in working order. (*C.P.O.1952*)

1963 Springhead Mill on Fontmell Brook. Turbine working. Is fed from a number of springs gushing out from bottom of the hill. (*A&W.1963*) (S)

1963 At Fontmell Magna Mill the gudgeon, which is 2.5in by 2½in and 3in square where it is let into the shaft, is held in position by a keep bar bolted to the bottom of the upright shaft with two bolts. The sack hoist was a slack chain drive, as at Fiddleford mill. (*A&W 1963*) (S)

(Since A&W give only Piper's and Springhead Mills for Fontmell Magna, the mill refered to in the text as Fontmell Mill must be either one or other of the above. Simmons) Addison & Wailes say that there was a working turbine at the mill in 1961. (Newcomen Soc.Trans 1962)

John Hanson rang re Turbine at mill. Tel 0297-443082.The mill was the home of Ralph Gardener, a practising ecologist. He died and in 1991 his wife died.The mill is run by a trust & is a study centre. Director is Peter Hood. Tel 0747-811853. It has been suggested that a brand new German turbine is installed a little lower to power a heat exchanger for the Centre. (is this an Osberger costing £15,000 ??)What make is the present turbine and can it be made to work?

1992 17 June Visited mill. a lovely site; the mill and cottages are now part of a residential study centre.No mill machinery exists. The building is much altered.The turbine is between the spillway and the race below the building. It is a double verticle, self contained with a horizontal gate and a 15" supply pipe and two draught tubes below the turbine taking the water into the mill race.It drove a generator and it is said the storage was in ex 'U' boat batteries from Scapa, so it was most likely installed post WW1 (say 1919/20).There is also the remains of a box gate with another supply pipe which is from a former turbine installation.Was unable to find a makers plate, but the whole assembly is covered in moss and plants. (TY 6/92)

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revised 10/1992.