

NAME OF MILL **KINGS MILL**
TOWN **MARNHULL.**
SOURCE OF POWER **R. STOUR**
MAP REFERENCE **183-ST-767 171**
MILL REF **DOR.WT.207**

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1ml 3f SW of Church. Standing derelict. Shown on maps 1884, 1905 & 1928.

Kings mill so named on 1884 and 1905 OS maps, by Kings Bridge.

Stands between Stalbridge and Marnhull. Is on the Stalbridge road some distance before the railway is reached, just above the confluence of the rivers Lyddon and Stour, at Kings Mill Bridge. (*Simmons*).

Photo of this tall old grey stone building on left of the stream in G.D. Johnston's 'The Dorset Stour' (*DCM. Lib 1958.38.1*)

Mill Mead on sketch map, lands of Mr J Hussey. (*CRO D/FRE:6003*)

1709/10 WILLIAM MOORE and ANN (wife) and JOHN MOORE, mentioned in deed re Kings Mill.

(*DorRO D/MOT 910 (very poor condition - parts unreadable)*)

1799 One watermill (*ex Proceedings of the Defence of the County of Dorset at DorRO*)

1819 Water grist mill & mill house called Kings Mill. [\[1\]](#) (appointment by mortgage) (*CRO D/MOT:955*)

1830 JNO. PASONS, miller Kings Mill, Stalbridge. (*dir.*).

1834 A further charge for securing £782 and interest to Lord Ashley and Messrs Moore, Read and Foot. dated 27 September 1834. (*DorRO D/MOT:964*)

1837 Kings Mill sold by Moore family to Mr Castleman; sold by him to the Marquess of Westminster in 1863. (*Hutchins 3rd ed.*)

1837 Appointment of Kings Mill and other hereditaments (Water grist mill & mill house) at Marnhull, from CHARLES PARSONS an ELIZABETH his wife to Mr CASTLERMAN of Winbourne Minster, Gent. (Eliz. Waugh d/o and only child of William Waugh of Stalbridge, Dec'd). dated 31 August 1837. (*CRO D/MOT:965*)

c1840 Courts Mill started by Mr A'COURT 'commonly called the 'stocking' factory' - a French man named A'COURT started a woollen factory & sold cloths to shops in the district. (*'Dorset Downalong' 1951*)

1867 STEPHEN WELCH, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1875 STEPHEN WELCH, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1889 JAMES LODDER, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1895 JAMES LODDER, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1899 JAMES LODDER, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1902 Kings Mill on OS 6 " sheet VII. SW

1907 WM. GEO. JOHNSON, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1911 WM. GEO. JOHNSON, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1915 WM. GEO. JOHNSON, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1920 WM. GEO. JOHNSON, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1923 WM. GEO. JOHNSON, miller, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1927 WM. GEO. JOHNSON & Son, millers (water) and farmers, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1931 WM. GEO. JOHNSON & Son, millers (water) and farmers, Kings Mill. (*Kdir.*).

1934 Mill stopped working. (*Kdir.*).

1938 Dr D Johnston describes 'Marnhull Mill' as 'quite disused'.

(*Typescript 'Dorset Rivers' DCM Lib 1/10/1938*)

- 1836 Messuage in Old Mill Lane. (This refers to the flour & cloth mill, but not necessarily Kings Mill)
(*DorRO D651:T45*)
- 1935 WILLIAM FRED JOHNSON, farmer, Kingsmill. (*Kdir.*).
1939 WILLIAM FRED JOHNSON, farmer, Kingsmill. (*Kdir.*).
- 1944 Now closed. Kings Mill is the first mill upstraem from Cutt Mill, Hinton St Mary. Larger than Cutt Mill and possibly older. All stone built. FRED JOHNSON is the owner and was the last to work it. His fathe worked it before him. Undershot wheel, wood, wide. Approximately 12ft wide by 12 ft high. Wood boards. Ourside wheel. (*Mr Hunt, Arrow Mill, Warwick. 1944*).
- 1952 Owing to the lack of water pressure this mill no longer works. The wheel now is in a very dilapidated state; is of double width. The stone and slate buildings are quite imposing and were probably rebuilt in the late C18th or C19th. The lower stonework however shows a considerably older foundation. (CPO.1952)
- 1963 The wheel ceased work c1923 and is derelict. Ratio of spur wheel to stone nuts 72:17. An older winnower here. (A & W 1963.)
- 1992 PETER LUSH and son have purchased the mill and wish to return it to working order.
"A man whose business is selling petrol & oil across the world is bringing power from water back into operation in North Dorset. It was while on a flight to the Far East 3 years ago that 48 year old JohLush who runs the oil products division of a New York-based international trading conglomerate picked up a magazine and learnt that the derelict Kings Mill at Marnhull in his native Dorset was for sale.
The prospect of a multi-thousand pound restoration of the watermill on the Stour where time has stood still for nearly 60 years fired the imagination of Mr Lush & his family whose roots in Dorset go back at least 7 generations. Excitedd at the prospect, too, are people like free-lance mill restorer Martin Watts from Buckfastleigh in Devon.
Kings Mill is remarkable in that although it ground to a halt in about 1934, visiting it today, it still feels as if the miller has only just put his things down and walked out. In the office where cartoons, advertisements and other ephemera still paper the wals, invoices, nibbled at the corners by many generations of mice, are still on their spike.
It is unusual for such features to survive and they are part of the working history of the mill, which should be conserved for future interest, he said. Spare parts, all manner of bits and pieces and all the paraphernalia of milling are strewn around the three-storey building.
Apart from the waterwheel, the main drive to the three sets of mill stones is in pretty good condition, according to Mr Watts. He describes it as a 'typical mill', dating from the early 19th century - although records show there were mills on the site from Saxon tmes.
Already, Mr Lush has put in hand irgent roof repairs costong some £3,000/ Another £70.000 or more will be needed to bring the mill back into operation. The aim, said Mr Lush's father, retired Dorset newspaper editor, is to restore it to a fully working mill and probably open it to the public.
The reharnessed water power could be used to operate a lathe, perhaps, so that some craftsman could set up a workshop on the premises. There would be plenty of room for that, said Mr Lush, whose son is in America.
With a weather eye to planet earth's survival, Martin Watts added 'Wind and water power have become very important again these days'.
There is a picture of Peter Lush (snr) by one of the pairs of stones in the mill.
(*Precis of article Western Gazette 2 July 1992.*)
- 1996 Nov - heard that John Lush has died & son Peter is carrying on. (TY)

3/1992. revised 1/1998. 8/2000

[\[1\]](#) Appointment by way of mortgage for securing £1,000 and interest at 4½% (from G.G.) on an estate at Marnhull in the Co. of Dorset. CHARLES PARSONS of Kings Mill, Marnhull, Gent., and ELIZABETH (his wife, late Elizabeth Waugh Toogod widow), of the one part and GEORGE GAIMES of Melbourne Port (Soms) Gent., of the other part. dated 20 February 1819.