

The demise of the last Tadcaster watermill building (the grain warehouse)

The demolition of the Tadcaster Corn Mill building itself (having been empty for several years) took place in the winter of 1963/64 leaving the Grain warehouse in splendid isolation as depicted in this photograph.



Herewith details of the grain store warehouse development and final demolition:

- **1873** Londesborough sale includes the mill and Mill House (details of both in catalogue) [[source sale catalogue](#)]
- **1873** J A Ingleby buys Ingleby's Mill at sale for £10,600 [[source Annotation on sale catalogue](#)]
- **1881** J A Ingleby living in Mill House - Corn Miller employing 31 men [[source 1881 Census](#)]
- **1883** Branch rail-line to Ingleby's Mill laid [[source Act of Parliament London Gazette 21/11/1882](#)]

1883: J A Ingleby (the miller of the day and living in Mill House) proceeds with the building of his large granary. The branch rail line will give access to a bigger, faster and more diverse wheat supply (including imported US hard wheats) and a better, more manageable, supply of local coal for the mill's steam engine.

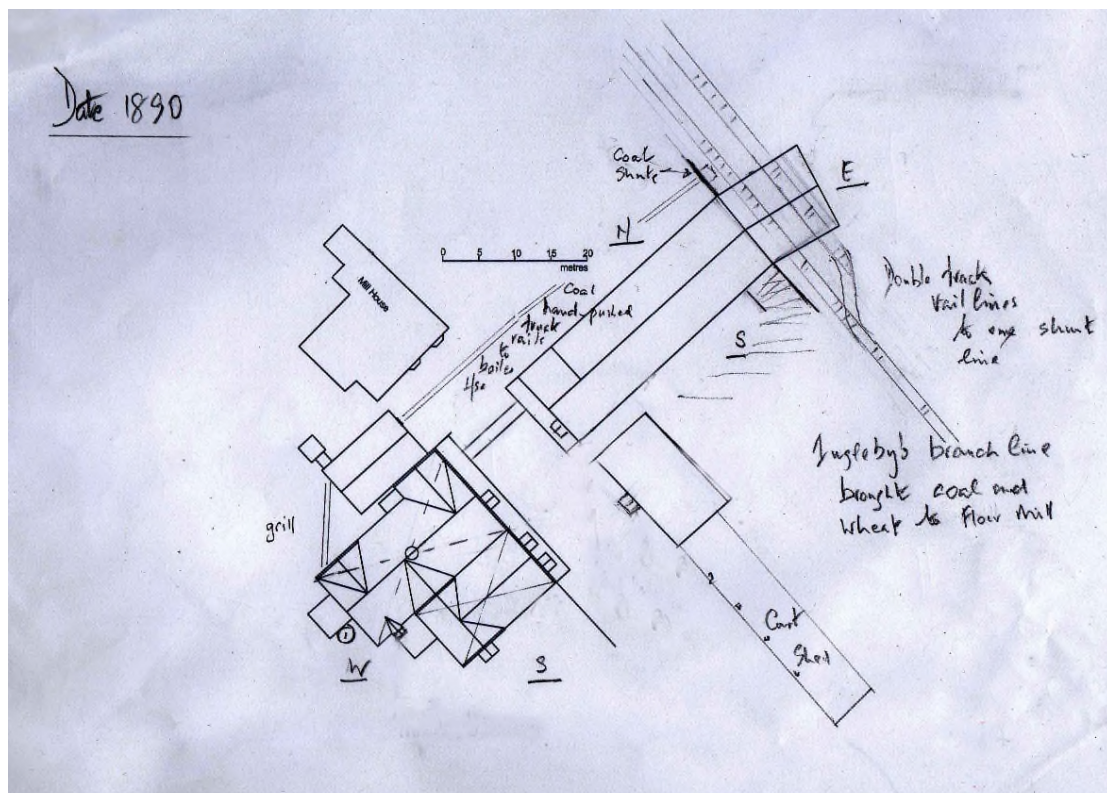
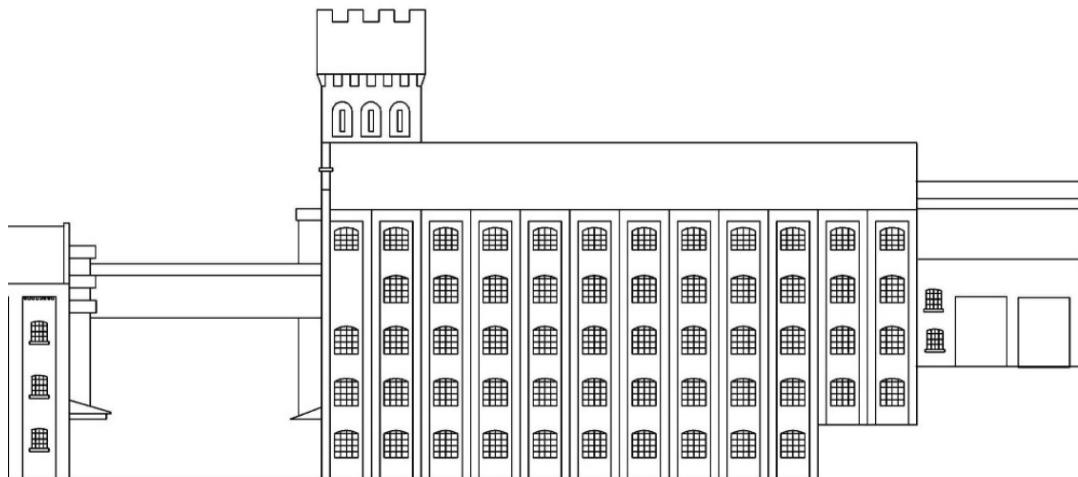


Artist's impression
- clay extraction for granary building
Artist: J David Page

(not drawn to scale)

This panoramic artist's impression, with the mill and granary stripped away, gives an idea of the undertaking Ingleby had embarked upon. Huge quantities of very heavy clay had to be excavated by hand and disposed of, to make way for the granary's foundations. Maybe the clay was transported to the local brickworks off Wighill Lane, Tadcaster (just east of the site and less than a mile away) to make bricks from which the granary was built [Assumption!]. Ingleby was living 'on top of' and amongst a huge building site.

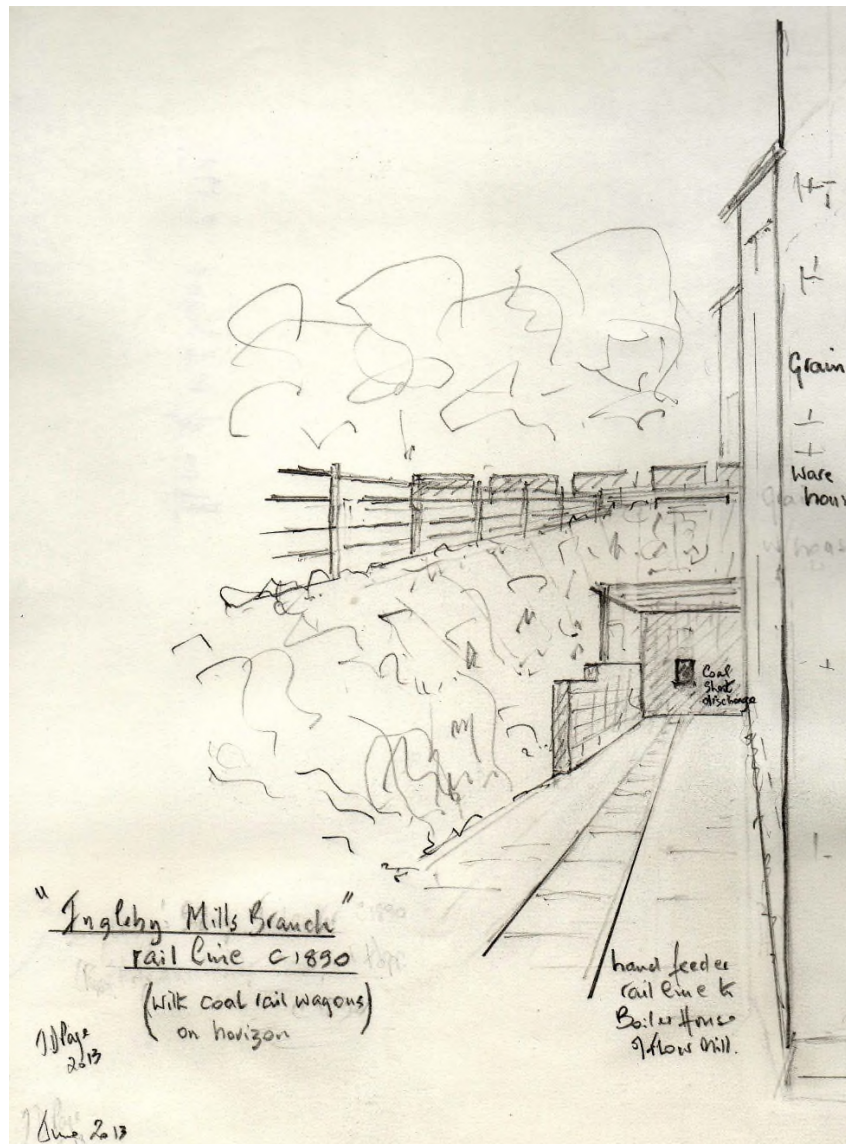
- **1889** "A new warehouse was built, with silos holding 6,000 quarters of wheat. The wheat on arrival is emptied direct from the railway trucks through warehouse separator, and distributed automatically to the silos or any other part of the mill. The premises throughout are lighted by electricity". [source <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/ARY/Tadcaster/Tadcaster90>]



[source: 2x drawings to scale by John Firth, Tadcaster Historical Society]

Having purchased the Tadcaster Watermill in 1873, J A Ingleby proceeded to extend the mill building, added steam power, upgraded the flour milling machinery and extended Mill House.

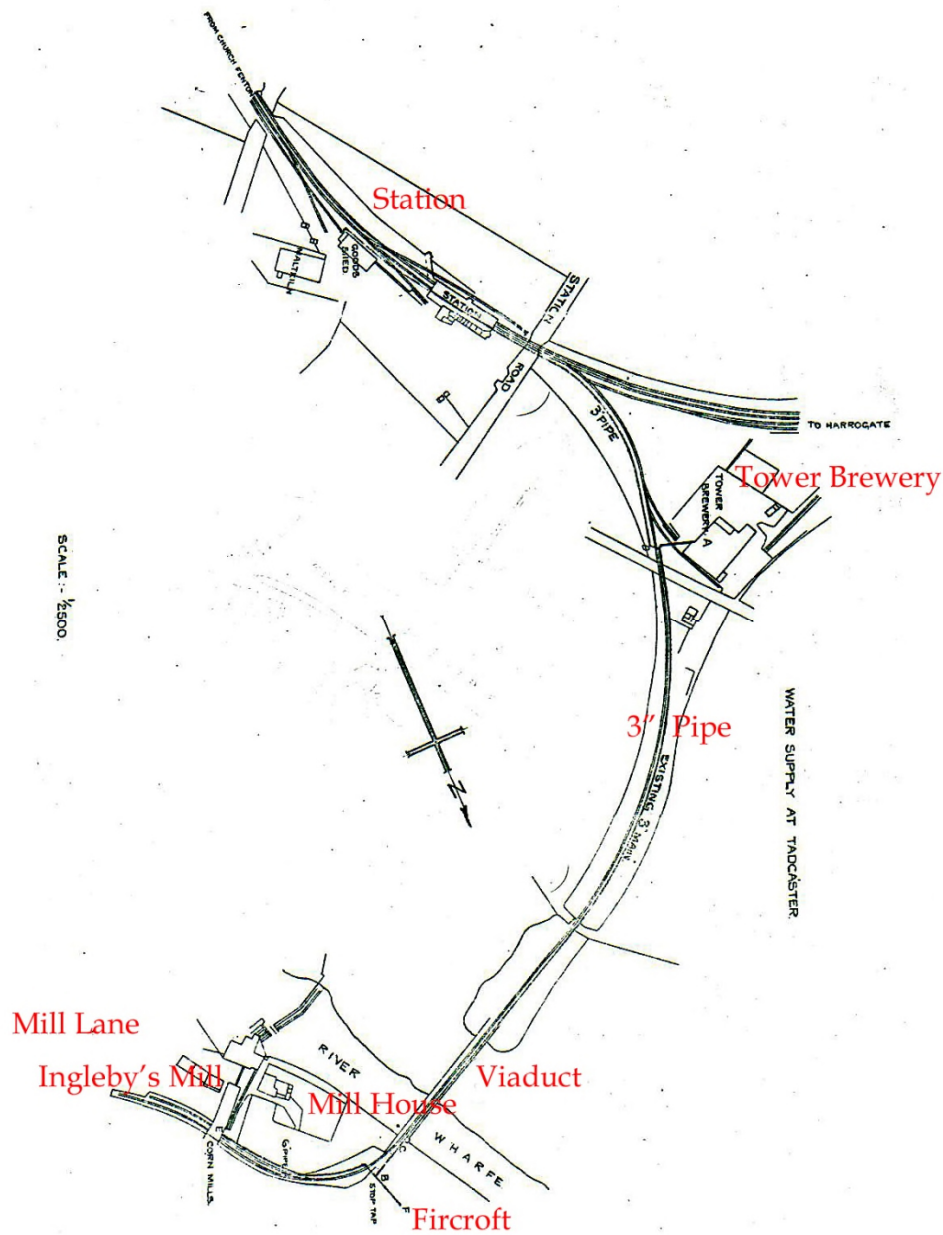
By the 1880's milling competition was mounting, principally from the large Port Millers, so then came the branch rail line link 1883 and large grain warehouse extension (completed in 1889) to compete with the port Millers for reliable quality wheat supplies. 1885 saw electric lighting installed in Ingleby's Mill [source [Report of Convention of British and Irish Millers](#)]



Sketch drawing by J David Page showing coal rail trucks - the coal from which came down a chute to feed a small rail wagon which carried the coal to the Mill steam engine house

But why did Ingleby build his granary with such a large castellated tall water tower in typical Victorian embellished style of the day? The entrepreneurial spirit and answers are evident in the end result (the building incidentally dominated the skyline to the northeast of Tadcaster for the next hundred years - until its eventual demise).

Location plan below: shows a 3" water pipe connecting the Watermill (referred to as Ingleby's Mill on plan) to the Tower Brewery and Tadcaster railway station – this is the same route that 'Ingleby's Branch Line' takes (but not shown on plan).



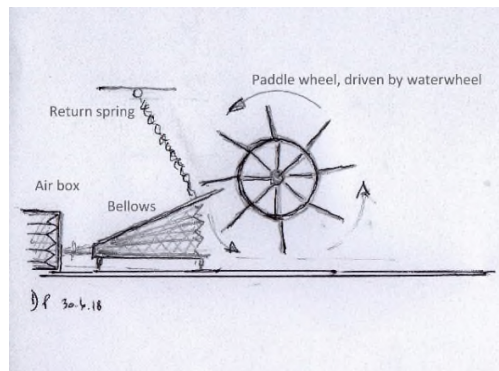
Ingleby, supplies gravity fed river water from the water tower to newly erected Tower Brewery, to wash and clean Brewery equipment and to the Station to replenish water to thirsty steam railway engines (note water supply to Fircroft - explained later in the chapter*)

The above plan is taken from one of several agreements relating to water supply from this tower – the first formal agreement** (see intestate note) is dated March 1905 - Ingleby to LNER for river water extraction and maintenance of piping etc Another agreement dated April 29th 1921 as between The Tadcaster Electricity Co Ltd and the Tadcaster Tower Brewery Co confirms the continued supply of water from the river Wharfe *'for the purposes of cleansing the boilers, vats, cisterns and other appliances of and in connection with the Company's Brewery ... at the rate of 6d (2 1/2p) per 1,000 gallons* [sources: [Tadcaster Historical Society](#)]

By the end of the 1880's the Tadcaster watermill must have been at the height of its flour production. The reader could be excused if he or she were to conclude that Ingleby would appear to have over extended himself financially – this might or might not have been the case but events did not allow his financial investment to be proven for in 1890 J A Ingleby, the driving force of the mill's expansion dies and dies 'intestate' (**with all its ramifications): [[source '1919 Abstract of Title relating to ... &c; document Simpson & Curtis, Leeds.'](#)] [Tadcaster Historical Society](#). This was a cruel turn of events after all his hard work over the proceeding 17 years.

- **1890** 10th May **John Auton Ingleby dies** [[source Parish records](#)]
- **1890 – 1900** John Henry Ingleby (son of J A Ingleby) carries on milling
- **1897** J H Ingleby Fircroft* – having moved from Mill House [[source Electoral Register 1897](#)]
- **1898** Rishworth, Ingleby and Lofthouse open Swan Mill at Hull [[Milling in Hull Mikdred Cookson The Mills Archive](#)]

*J H Ingleby builds Fircroft House on the east bank of the river just upstream from the viaduct - moving into this house from Mill House in 1897 – a country house of some size which includes an organ, the air bellows of which are operated from water power derived from the granary!



Drawing by J David Page

Ingenious!

Flour milling in Tadcaster ceases in 1901

This chapter is about the grain warehouse and its uses - so what happens next to this building? Not very much for 50 years or so other than being a general store for John Smith's Brewery with goods still being brought in and out occasionally by rail the last being 1955.

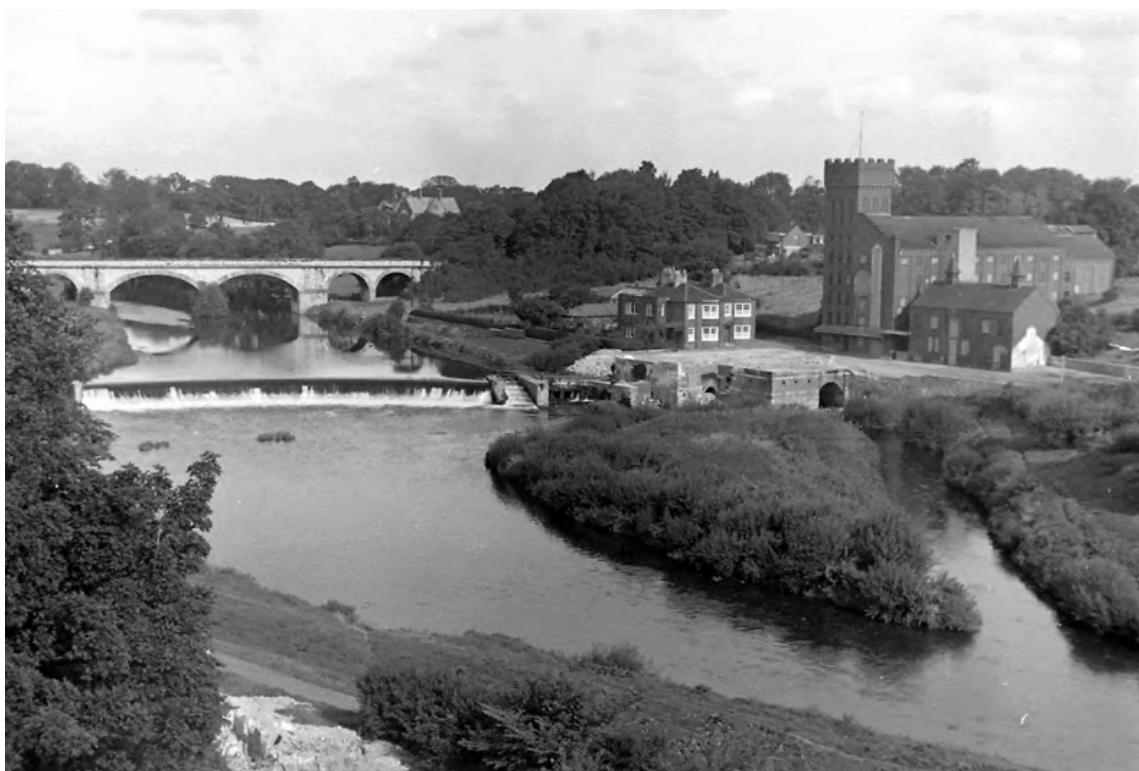
However, in the mid 1950's John Smith's Brewery convert the grain warehouse into a 'Wine and Spirit' Bond Warehouse under the strict control of H M Customs & Excise which remains as such for 20/25 years.



Drawing by Paul Shearsmith, Tadcaster



Circa 1984 – the Page Co buys the bond warehouse after which it is demolished forthwith.



[source: 2x photographs, Tadcaster Historical Society]

The end of an era

Document compiled by J David Page b. Mill House 1936 – lived in Mill House until 1958