

Herne Windmill in the Kent County Council Collection

The material on Herne smock mill (mill code: A5/8B – 4) comprises the following files:

Box	File code	Contents	Date range
136	Heritage 35	Log book by H. Jones	1957-94
146	File 1	General correspondence	1991-96
146	File 2	General correspondence	1996-98
146	File 3	General correspondence	1998
146	File 4	General correspondence	1999-2000
153	M/7/2 C	File	1956-57
153	?	Mill Papers	1980's

The **log book** from Box 136 contains:

- An index of its contents
- A copied set of handwritten correspondence and typed reports, selected from the other files listed above. These documents describe changes to the condition of the mill between the late 1950's and the early 1990's and provide details of many of the repairs specified, and subsequently commissioned, between these dates.
- A set of hand-drawn annotated sketches recording the structure and fittings of the mill
- A set of computer-generated drawings, worked up using information from the hand-drawn sketches
- A set of exterior and interior photographs of the mill, taken at the latter end of the date range given above, with captions. The photographs are adhesive-mounted on the A4 pages of the log book, some being panoramic views

File 1 from Box 146 contains correspondence and background information about problems with the mill's working parts following extensive repairs in 1990-91 and other issues relating to public and private access to the site. This includes:

- Copies of correspondence with the owners of the adjacent mill house, Mr & Mrs Tritton, and maps relating to the exchange of land surrounding the mill site (1994)
- Copies of A5-size guide books produced by the Friends of Herne Mill
- Copies of newsletters produced by the Friends of Herne Mill
- A 6-page document produced by the Friends, entitled 'General Information on Herne Mill'
- A survey of the mill focusing on the provision of health and safety measures, by Howard Jones (Feb/Mar 1994)
- Typed and handwritten reports on the structure and working parts of the mill by Howard Jones (1994)

Items of particular interest in the file comprise:

- Details of the listing of the mill in 1981
- Copies of estate agents' particulars, with maps and an isometric drawing of the site and boundary (Jan 1983)
- Copies of A4-size drawings of parts of the mill, specifically the proposed 'pulley house' (1991) and plans of the cap and curb, by Ken Cole

- Copies of computer-generated drawings of parts of the mill by Megan Taylor. These focus on the sweeps and the proposed new shutters (May 1996) and a proposed new window in the smock tower (1996)
- Reports of surveys and details of subsequent work undertaken by E. Hole, millwrights. These comprise a 4-page condition survey (Nov 1993); subsequent status checks (June & August 1994; June 1996) and invoices for new curb cogs and a new brake lever (April 1994)

Certain individuals and organisations feature prominently in the correspondence and reports in **File 1**. A list of these appears below, together with the date ranges during which they were active:

Kent County Council

- Mike S L Adams, Principal Land Agent, County Estates and Valuation Department (1971 – January 1992)
- Simon Letts, Principal Land Agent (1992)
- Howard Jones, Conservation Officer (1994)
- Sharon Kirby, Estates Services (1994)
- Peter Cobley, Heritage Conservation (1995-2002)
- John Williams, Head of Heritage Conservation (1992-5)

Friends of Herne Mill

- Tony Jarvis, Chairman (1989-92?)
- Ken Cole, Chairman (1993-present)
- Megan Taylor, Architect (1994-present)
- John Fishpool (1994)

Millwrights

- Vincent Pargeter (Dec 1974 – Sept 2001)
- E. Hole, Burgess Hill, Sussex – Mr A. E. M. Hole (February 1976 – 1995)
- The Chiltern Partnership, Reading – Mr D. Nicholls (1996)
- IJP Building Conservation, Henley – J. Chitty (2001)

File 2 from Box 146 contains correspondence with Friends of Herne Mill, and with individual contractors, relating to continuing problems with the mill's working parts. These events led to the removal of sweeps and midlings from the mill in September 1996 and a subsequent application to English Heritage for grants towards further extensive repairs, which commenced in July 1998. Documents include:

- General correspondence with members of the Friends of Herne Mill, including minutes of meetings, relating to day-to-day issues
- Sketches and handwritten notes prepared by Peter Cobley during site visits and meetings at the mill (1996)
- A 15-page specification, by Peter Cobley, for the repair and repainting of the windmill (Feb 1997). Two copies have been filled out and returned by millwrighting contractors Dorothea of Bristol (on behalf of E. Hole of Burgess Hill) and the Chiltern Partnership of Reading
- Correspondence and notes from Sharon Kirby, KCC Estates and Services, relating to the proposed re-location of the entrance to the mill site and adjacent properties (November 1997)

- Background document for proposed improvement work to the mill (Feb 1998)
- Copy of questionnaire relating to industrial heritage sites in the UK (Feb 1998)
- Handwritten report, by Peter Cobley, of site meeting (May 1998)
- Detailed correspondence from David Nicholls, millwright, relating to the repair programme under way in 1998
- A 60-page specification by Project Management Consultancy, Dover, for 'provision of meeting room and facilities to Herne Mill' (March 2000)
- A2-size copy of design for interpretation board layout by the Friends of Herne Mill (1998)

Items of particular interest in the file comprise:

- Copy of a document containing details of the listing of Herne mill and the adjacent miller's house in September 1951
- An A4-size schematic drawing and accompanying notes, by Ken Cole, relating to the operation of the fantail gearing (1996)
- 3-page report of a detailed condition survey of the mill's winding mechanism by David Nicholls of the Chiltern Partnership (Aug 1996)
- 2-page list of work tasks for volunteers from the Friends (Winter 1996)
- 7-page report of condition survey, with suggested remedies to observed problems, by Vincent Pargeter (Dec 1996)
- 2-page response to V. Pargeter's report from A. E. M. Hole (Jan 1997)
- Detailed application to English Heritage for grant aid for repairs, including two colour-photocopied photograph sheets showing sweeps being refitted