

BERKSHIRE WATERMILLS

J. KENNETH MAJOR

FOLLOWING THE lecture on Industrial Archaeology given to the Society by Rex Wailes in February 1963, the author was asked to prepare a schedule and report on Berkshire Watermills as part of the Industrial Monuments Survey.

As will be seen from the lists, 112 Watermills or sites were visited. There are obviously very many that have been converted into houses, and this is all too common in the Home Counties. However, there are several remaining mills which are at work or which are described as workable, and it is to these that the report must really draw attention. Those mills which have been converted into houses may well have preserved the buildings as part of the landscape, but as monuments of their industry they cease to have much impact. The mills of Berkshire are extremely varied, and this has been considered in reporting on the need for preservation.

Of the "modern" working mills, the preservation of the following are important as the buildings form an integral part of the landscape or are in themselves good buildings:

Marsh Mills

Sindlesham Mill

Sonning Mill (though this may officially be in Oxfordshire)

Temple Mills (Paper)

Of the remaining mills preservation should be sought for:

East Hagbourne Mill (which is still working)

Bucklebury, River Barn

Hamstead Mill

Eversley New Mill (which is technically in Finchampstead parish)

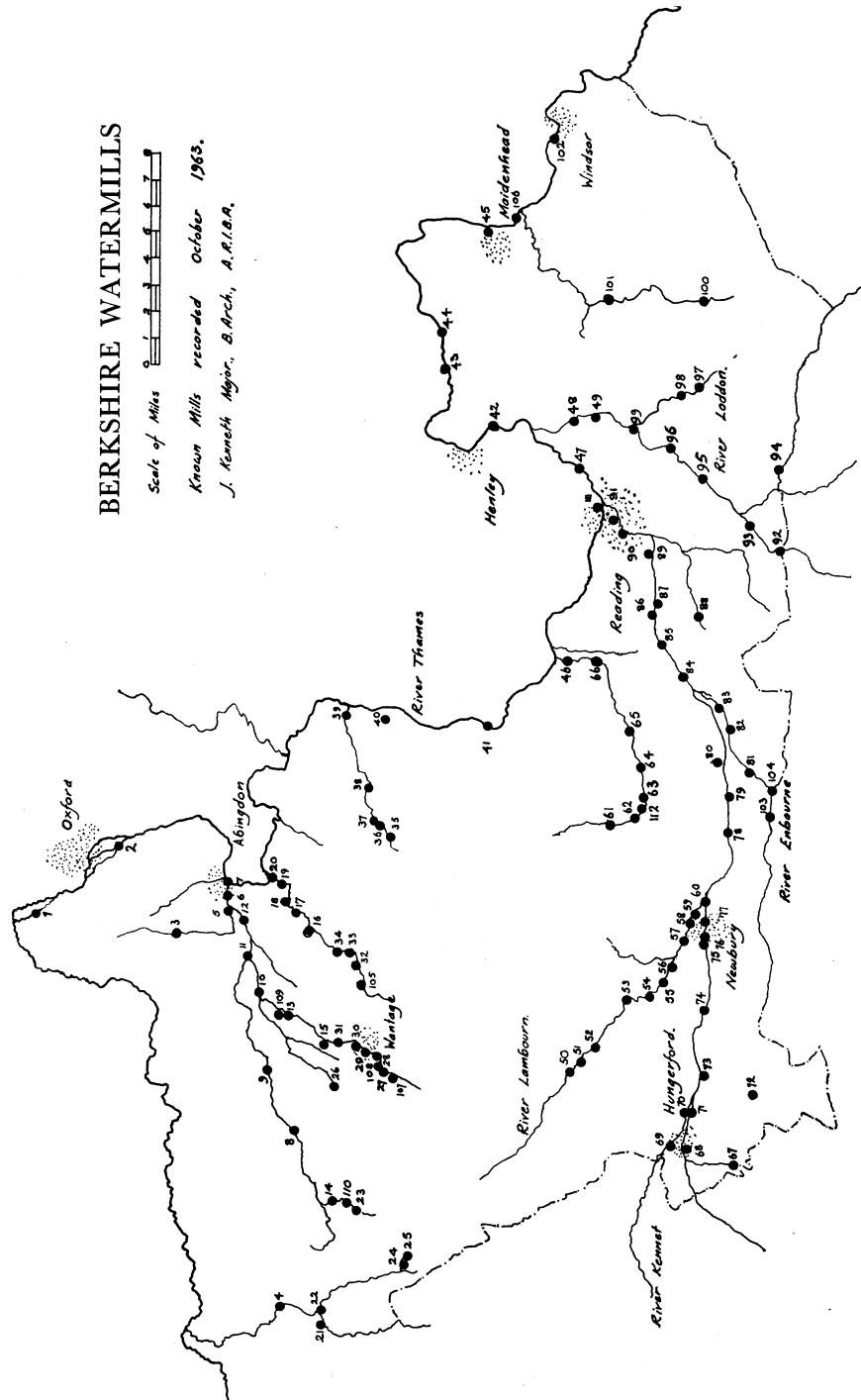
Woolhampton Mill

Again if preservation could not be achieved, then these should be recorded both with photographs and measured drawings or details, and there are several other mills which fall into this category such as Chamberhouse Mill, Thatcham, and Abbey Mills, Abingdon.

As a result of this report there have been 5 mills listed as ancient monuments under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

It is hoped that other investigators will proceed on similar lines and produce reports either of single industrial units or the complete survey of one industry within the county.

BERKSHIRE WATERMILLS



1	Wytham	29	Wantage	57	Donnington	85	Theale
2	South Hinksey	30	Wantage	58	Shaw	86	Calcot
3	Dry Sandford	31	Grove	59	Newbury Mill	87	Burghfield
4	Coleshill	32	West Hendred	60	Han Mill	88	Burghfield
5	Abingdon	33	East Hendred	61	Friulham	89	Reading
6	Abingdon	34	East Hendred	62	River Barn	90	Reading
7	Abingdon	35	Blewbury	63	Bucklebury	91	Reading
8	Stanford in the Vale	36	Blewbury	64	Stanford Dingley	92	Stanford End
9	Charney Bassett	37	East Hagbourne	65	Bradfield	93	Swallowfield
10	Venn Mill	38	South Moreton	66	Tidmarsh	94	Eversley
11	Marcham	39	Wallingford	67	Bagshot	95	Arborfield
12	Sutton Wick	40	Cholsey	68	Hungerford	96	Sindlesham
13	East Hanney	41	Streatley	69	Eddington	97	Wokingham
14	Uffington	42	Marsh Mills	70	Denford	98	Wokingham
15	Grove Mill	43	Hurley	71	Denford	99	Sandford
16	Steventon	44	Temple Mills	72	New Mill	100	Bracknell
17	Milton	45	Maidenhead	73	Kintbury	101	Westley Mill
18	Drayton	46	Pangbourne	74	Hampstead Marshall	102	Clewer
19	Sutton Courtenay	47	Sonning	75	Newbury	103	Mill Green
20	Sutton Courtenay	48	Twyford	76	Newbury	104	Brimpton
21	Shrivenham	49	Whistley Mill	77	Newbury	105	Arrington
22	Watchfield	50	Shefford	78	Chamberhouse Mill	106	Bray
23	Woolstone	51	East Shefford	79	Brimpton	107	Letcombe Bassett
24	Ashbury	52	Weston	80	Woolhampton	108	Letcombe Regis
25	Ashbury	53	Boxford	81	Wasing	109	East Hanney
26	Challow	54	Boxford	82	Aldermaston	110	Uffington
27	Letcombe Regis	55	Woodspeen	83	Padworth	111	Reading
28	Wantage	56	Bagnor	84	Sulhamstead	112	Bucklebury

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Mill and No. on attached map	National Grid Ref.	Mill Index	Number	River	Wheel or Turbine	Stones	Photos	Dates	Work	Condition	Remarks
7 Abingdon, Abbey Mill	500	971	41/102	Thames	2 Wheels		7 Pairs	Pre 1500		Decaying rapidly	Magnificent brick and tile building
6 Abingdon, Ock Mill	487	970	41/103	Ock	Wheel			Pre 1847	Gear removed	Converted to small factory	
5 Abingdon, St. Helens Mill	491	968	41/104	Ock				Pre 1847	Gear removed	Preserved as a hotel	
82 Aldermaston Old Mill	591	662	41/105	Kennet				Pre 1847	Gear removed		
95 Arborfield	748	681	41/106	Loddon				Pre 1847	Gone		Site only (sometime Paper Mill)
24 Ashbury, Upper Mill, Kingstone, Winslow	266	855	41/107	Source of Cole	Wheel			Pre 1863	Gear removed	Converted to a house.	
25 Ashbury, Lower Mill, Kingstone, Winslow	263	857	41/108	Source of Cole	Wheel			Pre 1863	Gear removed	Dam remains	
56 Bagnor Mill	451	694	41/109	Lambourn	Wheel			Pre 1847	Gear removed	Converted to a house	
67 Bagshot	323	651	41/110	Ham				Pre 1903	Gear removed	Building preserved	
35 Blewbury Priors Mill	532	862	41/111	Mill Brook				Pre 1847	Gear removed	Building preserved	
36 Blewbury Mill	536	872	41/112	Mill Brook	Wheel			Pre 1847	Gone	Converted to a house	
53 Boxford	427	716	41/113	Lambourn	Wheel			Pre 1847	Gear removed	Wheel preserved in garden	
54 Boxford	430	718	41/114	Lambourn	Wheel			Pre 1847	Gone	Converted to a house	
100 Bracknell	860	682	41/115		Wheel			Pre 1847	Gear removed		
65 Bradfield Mill	603	726	41/116	Pang	Wheel			Pre 1847	Gutted		
79 Brimpton Mill	554	658	41/117	Kennet	Wheel (25' diam., 25' wide app.)			Pre 1847	Gutted		
104 Brimpton Hyde End Mill	559	640	41/118	Enbourne	Wheel			Pre 1847	Gone		
62 Bucklebury, River Barn, Marston	542	715	41/119	Pang	Wheel			1884	c. 1960	Fairish	
63 Bucklebury	553	710	41/120	Pang	Wheel			1 Pair P.			
								1 Pair P.			

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87 Burghfield Mill	671 708	41/121 Kennet	Wheel	Gear removed	Wheel generates electricity. Sack factory
88 Burghfield	665 683	41/122 Trib. of Kennet	Wheel	Gear removed	Building altered, coal and corn chandler. Dam
86 Calcot	669 715	41/123 Holy Brook			Modern mill buildings Site only, mill name confirms
26 Challow	367 894	41/124 Childrey Brook	Wheel		Building preserved
9 Charney Bassett Mill	382 944	41/125 Ock			Converted to a house
40 Cholsey, Mill Court	602 870	41/126 Trib. of Thames	Wheel	Pre 1847	
102 Clewer	955 773	41/127 Thames	Wheel	P.	
4 Coleshill	235 934	41/128 Cole	Wheel		Converted to a house
70 Denford Mill	352 684	41/129 Kennet	Wheel	Pre 1847	Gear removed
71 Denford, Dunn Mill	351 682	41/130 Kennet, Kennet and Avon Canal	Wheel	P.	Gear removed
57 Domnington Mill	466 686	41/131 Lambourn	Wheel	P.	Gear removed
18 Drayton Mill	489 935	41/132 Ginge Brook	Wheel (with dished spokes)	4 Pairs P.	Gear removed
3 Dry Sandford	465 997	41/133 Sandford Brook	Wheel	Pre 1847	Workable
37 East Hagbourne Mill	537 875	41/134 Mill Brook	Wheel	P.	Granary areas used for seed dressing
33 East Hendred Mill	454 890	41/135 Ginge Brook	Wheel	3 Pairs	Converted to a house and garage
34 East Hendred, Ludbridge Mill	455 895	41/136 Ginge Brook	Wheel	Pre 1847	Brick ground floor.
51 East Shefford Mill	392 745	41/137 Lambourn	Wheel	2 Pairs P *1	Timber over. Tile roof.
69 Eddington	341 693	41/138 Kennet	Wheel		Excellent
94 Eversley, New Mill	763 629	41/001 Blackwater	Wheel		Preserved as a joiners shop
61 Frilsham	538 731	41/139 Pang	Wheel		Preserved as a house
10 Garford, Venn Mill	430 949	41/140 Childrey Brook	Wheel	2 Pairs	Building used for hens and a garage
31 Grove	400 896	41/141 Letcombe Brook	Wheel	c. 1939	Building used as a dairy
15 Grove	402 904	41/142 Letcombe Brook		P.	
				Pre 1847	Derelict

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Mill and No. on attached map	National Grid Ref.	Mill Index No.	River	Wheel or Turbine	Stones	Photos.	Dates	Ceased Work	Condition	Remarks
74 Hamstead Mill	424 670	41/143 Kennet		Wheel and Turbine	P.					T. used for elec. generator. Mill not working. Excellent buildings. Classical style
68 Hungerford 43 Hurley	340 688 827 842	41/144 Kennet, Dun 41/145 Thames					Pre 1847	Gear removed	Preserved as a house	
72 Inkpen, New Mill	380 647	41/146 Trib. of Kennet					Gone		Large mill pond and fine house remain	
73 Kintbury	386 672	41/147 Kennet			P.		Pre 1847	Gear removed	Buildings preserved as agric. warehouse and store	
107 Letcombe Bassett	377 856	41/148 Letcombe Brook						Gone	Preserved as a house	
27 Letcombe Regis, Mill Farm	381 870	41/149 Letcombe Brook								
108 Letcombe Regis, Fulling Mill	383 872	41/150 Letcombe Brook								
45 Maidenhead	892 819	41/151 Trib. of Thames								
11 Marcham Mill	456 953	41/152 Ock	Wheel							
42 Marsh Mills	774 818	41/153 Thames								
103 Mill Green 17 Milton	530 633 481 926	41/154 Enborne 41/155 Ginge Brook		2 Wheels	P.		Pre 1847	Gear removed	Fine buildings and modern mill Site only, derelict sluices Demolished 1963 Furniture repository	
75 Newbury, West Mills	467 672	41/156 Kennet			P.		Pre 1500	Working Good	Very old mill incorporated in modern mill Modern mill incorporating older buildings Mill house changed hands 1963	
76 Newbury, Town Mill	469 672	41/157 Kennet			P.				Mill house c. 1930. changed hands 1962	
77 Newbury, Greenham Mill	478 673	41/158 Kennet							Incorporated in water-works	
60 Newbury, Ham Mill	487 674	41/159 Kennet	Wheel							
83 Padworth	606 666	41/160 Kennet								
46 Pangbourne	635 766	41/161 Pang					Pre 1847			

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91 Reading, Abbey Mill (alias Soundy's Mill)	718 737 41/017 Holy Brook	2 Wheels	7 Pairs P. plus	Pre 1500 c. 1960
90 Reading	705 720 41/162 Holy Brook	Wheel		
89 Reading, St. Giles Mill	716 733 41/163 Kennet			
99 Sandford Mill	781 730 41/164 Loddon	Wheel	P.	Pre 1847
58 Shaw Mill	477 681 41/042 Lambourn	Wheel	P.	Pre 1847
50 Shefford	385 753 41/165 Lambourn	Wheel	3 Pairs P.	Gear removed Decaying
21 Shruvenham, Friars Farm	222 905 41/166 Cole	Wheel		Gone
96 Sindlesham	767 703 41/101 Loddon		P.	Working Good
47 Sonning	754 758 41/021 Thames	Wheel and Turbines		Working Good
2 South Hinksey	SP/518 039 42/018 Hinksey Brook	Wheel		Gone
38 South Moreton	599/880 41/167 Mill Brook	Wheel		Gone
64 Stanford Dingley	577 716 41/168 Pang	Wheel		Gutted
92 Stanford End	707 631 41/099 Loddon	Turbine	4 Pairs P.	Decaying
8 Stanford in the Vale	344 926 41/169 Ock	Wheel		Gear removed
16 Steventon	465 913 41/170 Ging Brook	Wheel		Gear removed
41 Streetley	595 807 41/171 Thames			Gone
84 Sulhamstead, Tyle Mill	625 693 41/172 Kennet			Gutted
19 Sutton Courtenay, Upper Mill	498 935 41/173 Ging Brook	Wheel	2 Pairs	Workable, good
20 Sutton Courtenay	504 945 41/174 Thames	Wheel		Coupled to a circular saw
12 Sutton Wick, New Cut Mill	479 963 41/175 Ock	Wheel		Preserved as a house
93 Swallowfield,	720 654 41/039 Loddon	Wheel	P.	Ruined walls remain
Sheepbridge Mill				Burnt out 1961
44 Temple Mills (Paper)	840 843 41/176 Thames			Good Georgian buildings
78 Thatcham, Chamberhouse Mill	530 661 41/177 Kennet	Wheel	P.	Worked intermittently by owner

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645 705	41/178	Theale 66 Tidmarsh	Kennet	Wheel				Gone	Gear removed	Ruined walls remain House conversion
635 747	41/179	Twyford	Pang	Wheel				Gear removed	Gear removed	Modern mill buildings, old site
785 760	41/180	Uffington, Moor Mill	Loddon	Wheel				Gear removed	Gear removed	Building preserved. Dam remains
308 908	41/181	Uffington, Uffington Mill	Ock	Wheel				Gear removed	Gear removed	House conversion
302 893	41/182	Wallingford	Ock	Wheel				Gear removed	Gear removed	Agricultural Merchants Warehouse
608 891	41/183	Wantage, The Ham Mill	Mill Brook	Wheel				Gear removed	Gear removed	Preserved as a house recently
392 876	41/184	Wantage	Letcombe Brook	Wheel				Gear removed	Gear removed	Modern mill in older building
394 878	41/185	Wantage	Letcombe Brook	Wheel				Gear removed	Gear removed	Site only, leat remains
397 880	41/186	Wasing, Shalford Farm	Emborne Brook	Wheel				Gutted	Gutted	Ruined walls remain
569 649	41/187	Watchfield, West Mill	Emborne Cole	Wheel				Gone	Gone	House conversion
232 908	41/188	West Hendred Farm	Ginge Brook	Wheel				Gone	Gone	Mill farm remains
453 887	41/189	West Hendred Mill	The Cut (or Bull Brook)	Wheel				Workable	Workable	Also carpenters equipment
860 741	41/190	Westley Mill	Lambourn	Wheel						House conversion
401 737	41/191	Whistley Mill	Loddon	2 Pairs						Light industry
787 747	41/192	Wokingham, Emm-Brook Mill	Emm Brook	2 Pairs	P.	*2				Buildings preserved
800 695	41/193	Wokingham	Emm Brook	Wheel						Building preserved
444 693	41/195	Woodspen	Lambourn	Wheel						Gear preserved
573 667	41/196	Woolhampton	Kennet	Wheel						Gear removed
294 883	41/197	Woolstone	Ock	Wheel						Fairish
SP/476 095	42/017	Wytham	Seacourt Stream	Wheel						An important mill.
428 882	41/198	Ardington	Trib. of Ginge Brook	Wheel						Small brick, board and slate building
										Converted to a house
										Converted to a house—Oxford University
										Building preserved

106 Bray	910 797	41/199 Thames			
13 East Hanney	413 927	41/200 Leiccombe	Wheel	P	Gear removed
109 East Hanney, Lower Mill	417 932	41/201 Leiccombe Brook			A large mill converted to a studio
59 Newbury Mill	483 675	41/202 Lambourn			
111 Reading, King's Mill (Caversham shore)	734 743	41/203 Thames			A modern mill on an old site
112 Bucklebury. The Foundry	551 710	41/212 Pang	Wheel	P.	A modern mill
					Wheel drove machinery, forge bellows, furnace fans. c. 1875

1* Drawing prepared by J.K.M., 1963.

2* Drawings in "Watermills, Vol. 3" by Anders Jespersen