

**The Old Mill,
Yeolmbridge,
Launceston, Cornwall**

**Level 2-3 Historic
Building Recording**

Client: MR MICHAEL HOWGILL

AB Heritage Project No:10682

Date:27/04/2016

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Analysis of the historic map evidence has confirmed that the likely construction date of the mill building to be around the late 18th – early 19th century, between c. 1761 and c. 1839. The map evidence also suggests that the single pitchback wheel was in operation by the 1st edition OS map of 1883.

The site visit has identified that the mill had two overshot waterwheels at one stage and is likely to have ended with a single pitchback wheel at the southern end of the wheelpit.

The site visit also confirmed that the majority of the mechanical elements of the mill machinery have been removed, including the gearing and millstones. Although the pit wheel pits and associated timber hurst frames for both waterwheel gearing mechanisms remain largely intact, as does the sack hoist drive wheel and associated features within the second floor loft space. The majority of the flooring, throughout the ground and first floors has been replaced but the flag stones of the ground floor are largely intact.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AB Heritage Limited (hereafter AB Heritage) has been commissioned by Mr Mike Howgill to undertake a Level 2-3 Historic Building Recording of the Grade II Listed The Old Mill, Yeolmbridge, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 8TH (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) ref: 130977).
- 1.1.2 The Historic Building Recording works were required as a condition (Condition 11) of Listed Building Consent granted by Cornwall Council (Application number: PA13/01237), for the conversion of The Old Mill building into a dwelling.

1.2 Site Location & Description

- 1.2.1 The Yeolmbridge Mill complex is located in the south-east of the village of Yeolmbridge, c.1km to the north-west of the town of Launceston. The Mill is situated on the northern bank of the River Otter, with pasture sloping gently away to the south. The grounds associated with the Grade II Listed The Old House (NHLE 1142821) rises relatively steeply beyond to the east and north.
- 1.2.2 The main B3254 road that runs north-south through the village is situated immediately to the west of Yeolmbridge Mill. The Scheduled Ancient Monument & Grade I Listed 14th century Yeolmbridge (NHLE 1003268 & 1161009), is located c. 20m to the south-west of the Mill complex.
- 1.2.3 A garden is present on the eastern side of the Old Mill, with a yard located on the north-west side of the complex. Trees enclose the complex on the northern and eastern sides.
- 1.2.4 Yeolmbridge Mill consists of a central three storey Mill building (The Old Mill) with a two storey extension on the western side. The former Post Office building, now a dwelling, is attached to the north-west corner of The Old Mill. The buildings are constructed from ragstone, with slate roofs.
- 1.2.5 A wheel pit is located on the eastern side of the Old Mill. The waterwheels were removed sometime before 1986 (Domesday Reloaded, 2015).
- 1.2.6 Two later corn mill buildings, now utilised as outbuildings, are situated in the south-east of the complex, immediately adjacent to the River Otter. These outbuildings are not included in the Level 2-3 Historic Building Recording.

1.3 Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The proposed development plan comprises the conversion of the existing Old Mill building into a three bedroom dwelling, although the lower ground floor will be retained unaltered and will not form part of the residential use.
- 1.3.2 Within the ground floor of the Old Mill building, the existing north door will be the main entrance leading into a hallway with a staircase to the first floor. Two bedrooms are to be provided within the existing rectangular floor plan of the Old Mill building, with the bathroom

and an en-suite bedroom with an en suite within the extension on the western side of the main mill building.

- 1.3.3 On the second floor, an open plan living room with kitchen exposed to the roof trusses and mezzanine platform is proposed. Surviving pulley wheels axles and attachments will be retained. Existing doorways and the window openings will be retained, with new timber joinery.
- 1.3.4 A replacement stairway is required between the first floor and second floor with existing ladder retained for access to the mezzanine floor. Within the second floor there will be no subdivision. The main room will provide kitchen facilities with cupboards placed along the south wall.
- 1.3.5 The stone walls are to be re-pointed using lime putty. The roof is to be re-slatted using reclaimed rag Delabole slates. Any new gutters and downpipes will all be cast iron. The clipped roof eaves are to be retained. The lower ground floor will be damp proof lined.

2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Works

2.1.1 The principle aim of the Level 2 -3 Historic Building Recording was to provide a thorough understanding of the building, its history and function.

2.2 Objectives

2.2.1 The principal objectives of the programme of works were to:

- Produce a written description of the key elements of the building, including the form, function, date, history and sequence of development, any significant architectural details or fixtures / fittings related to the history and function of the building.
- Undertake a photographic record of the overall appearance of the principle rooms and circulation areas, including any significant architectural details or fixtures / fittings related to the history and function of the building.
- Mark up existing plans supplied by the client, with key elements of the building and any significant architectural details or fixtures / fittings related to the history and function of the building.

2.3 Methodology of Works

2.3.1 The methodology for the Level 2 – 3 Historic Building Recording was carried out in accordance with *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* issued by English Heritage (now and hereafter Historic England) (2006) and NPPF (2012) and included the following:

- A review of relevant documents held at the Devon Heritage Centre & Cornwall Record Office was undertaken on the 15th of April 2016;
- Compilation of a basic descriptive recording of the key principle rooms and circulation areas, including any significant architectural details or fixtures / fittings related to the history and function of the building, as existing was undertaken on the 19th of April 2016;
- Production of a comprehensive photographic recording of the key principle rooms and circulation areas, including any significant architectural details or fixtures / fittings related to the history and function of the building, as existing was undertaken on the 19th of April 2016 and
- Completion of an Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) entry.

2.3.2 The survey was carried out broadly in accordance with a Historic England Level 2 - 3 recording.

2.3.3 The site visit was undertaken by Kerry Kerr-Peterson (Assistant Project Officer, AB Heritage) on the 19th April 2016. During the site visit descriptions were made and photographic

recording was undertaken of the principal areas of the building, significant architectural details, fixtures and fittings.

- 2.3.4 The photographic element of the recording was undertaken in a digital format using a DSLR Nikon D3300 24.2 Megapixel, 18-55mm lens camera, with tripod where necessary. A selective capture method with single shot image capture using a 23.5 x 15.6mm CMOS sensor was used. The images included a photographic scale where appropriate.
- 2.3.5 Multiply shots were taken and sorted during post capture processing.
- 2.3.6 The photographs are listed on an AB Heritage Photograph Register, included in Appendix 1 within the report. A selection of images are included in the report. The position of the selected images are illustrated on an associated plan (See Figures 2-4).
- 2.3.7 The capture and storage of the digital photographs has been carried out in accordance the Historic England guidelines *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice* (2015).
- 2.3.8 AB Heritage pro forma Room Data Sheets have been used to record the rooms/circulation areas during the site visit.

2.4 Documentary Research

- 2.4.1 A range of sources (hardcopy and online) were examined to inform this project, this included:
- Historic England Professional web pages, including the Cornwall Historic Environment Record (HER) data held on the Heritage Gateway web page (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>) & National Heritage List for England web page (<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>) was undertaken to gain an understanding of statutory designations;
 - The Devon Heritage Centre Online Catalogue http://www.devon.gov.uk/online_catalogues.htm was viewed to undertake an initial assessment of the records related to Yeolmbridge Mill held there and
 - The Cornwall Record Office Online Catalogue <http://crocat.cornwall.gov.uk/dserve/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl> was viewed to undertake an initial assessment of the records related to Yeolmbridge Mill held there.

2.5 Consultation

- 2.5.1 Initial advice issued by Phil Copleston (Cornwall Council Senior Development Officer Historic Environment) to the client prior to September 2015, stated:

‘What is required here is archaeological building recording – usually comprising a set of archive-quality photographs taken with a photographic scale in view, accompanied by a brief summary report of the known history of the building based on existing documentation, old photos and maps. This should be to English Heritage/Historic England Level 2-3 standards’ (Copleston, 2016, Pers Comm.).

2.5.2 Further consultation was undertaken between Kerry Kerr-Peterson (Assistant Project Officer, AB Heritage) and Phil Copleston via telephone on 30th September 2015. This identified that the Historic Building Recording should comprise mostly a photographic survey, with more detail elements of recording, where necessary, in particular relation to surviving machinery, significant joinery and architectural details. Phil Copleston identified that the key aim of the Historic Building Recording was to 'gain a thorough understanding of the building, its history and function' (Copleston, 2016, Pers Comm.).

2.6 Limitations

2.6.1 It should be noted that the report has been prepared under the express instruction and solely for the use of Mr Michael Howgill, and any associated parties they elect to share this information with. Measurements and distances referred to in the report should be taken as approximations only and should not be used for detailed design purposes.

2.6.2 All the work carried out in this report is based upon the professional knowledge and understanding of AB Heritage on current (April 2016) and relevant United Kingdom standards and codes, technology and legislation. Changes in these areas may occur in the future and cause changes to the conclusions, advice, recommendations or design given. AB Heritage does not accept responsibility for advising the client's or associated parties of the facts or implications of any such changes in the future.

2.6.3 All scale drawings have been sources directly from the client and have been annotated by AB Heritage where necessary.

2.6.4 The wheel pit was not entered during the site visit for health and safety reasons.

3. HISTORIC BACKGROUND

3.1 Statutory Designation

- 3.1.1 The Old Mill at Yeolmbridge is a statutory designated Grade II Listed Building (NHLE ref: 130977). The Old Mill was first designated on the 11th January 1989. The listing description is as follows:

'Water mill. Probably early C19. Stone rubble. Rag slate roof with hipped ends and lower slate roof with gable end to rear wing. Plan: Overall rectangular plan mill with originally overshot water wheel on front and entrance through small later C19 wing to rear. Exterior: 3 storey elevations to front. The ground rises to rear and the stone floor is therefore partly below ground. There are the remains of a slate launder for the overshot wheel (now largely gone). On the rear the lower two storey extension has a canted corner on right. Plank doors on ground and first floor with dressed stone arch on ground floor and timber lintel above. Interior: Not accessible. The machinery has been removed, but the 3-storey height suggests that the stone and bin floors may be intact.'

3.2 Watermills in Devon

- 3.2.1 The parish of Werrington was formerly located within the County of Devon, with the River Ottery previously forming the County boundary between Devon and Cornwall. The boundary moved further north, to the River Tamar, during the 1960s.
- 3.2.2 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records 95 mills in Devon, with only five recorded in Cornwall. The majority of early mills are known to have been utilised for grinding grain into flour or meal, although they soon began to take on a wider range of functions (Mills in the Devon Landscape, 2007).
- 3.2.3 Devon's mills were widely distributed, although fewer are recorded in the west of the county, the region in which Yeolmbridge Mill is located. Concentrations of mills could be found in the Exe and Otter valleys. These valleys were the ideal location, as they combined easy access to water and grain from the adjacent fertile farmland. (Mills in the Devon Landscape, 2007).

3.3 Yeolmbridge

- 3.3.1 The village of Yeolmbridge was first recorded in 1308 as *Yambridge*, an English name meaning 'the bridge by the water meadow' (Historic England, 2016). It seems likely that the village has earlier origins, with a bridge forming a key element of the settlement prior to this date. The earliest part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument & Grade I Listed Yeolm Bridge (NHLE 1003268 & 1161009), located c. 20m to the south-west of Yeolmbridge Mill complex, dates to the 14th century. The presence of a mill at Yeolmbridge is first recorded by the place name evidence of the name *lete* first recorded in 1330 (Historic England, 2016). Although the location of this medieval mill is uncertain.
- 3.3.2 The Werrington Estate records, held at the Cornwall Record Office (CRO), suggest that there were perhaps previously numerous mills at Yeolmbridge. References are made to '*Yeolmbridge Mills*' and '*Yeolm Mills*' in 1681 and 1734 respectively (CRO ref. WW/659 &

WW/660/3). However, the precise location of these mills is uncertain, although the area known as Milltown located on the western side of the village, may suggest the location of the former mills. In 1681 a headweir for one of the mills is described as located over the River Atrey (Ottery) and across the land owned by the Werrington Estate (CRO ref. WW/659).

3.4 Yeolmbridge Mill

- 3.4.1 The peak of milling grain by the use of stones was reached during the early 19th century, around the time that Yeolmbridge Mill was constructed.
- 3.4.2 Yeolmbridge Mill is recorded in a number of the Trade Directories of Devon and Devon & Cornwall from 1878-9 until 1902. The miller is recorded as John Pethick in 1878-9. By 1889 the miller, William Milnes also owned the nearby slate quarry. By 1902 the quarry & mill were owned by the Yeolmbridge Estate.
- 3.4.3 During the 1940's Yeolmbridge Mill is described as formerly having three sets of mill stones and a crusher. Four mill stones that formerly survived showed dressing marks made by the miller, Mr Pearn; who was also known to have made his own cogs (Domesday Reloaded, 2016).

4. HISTORIC MAP SOURCES

Survey of the Parishes of Werrington and St Giles, 1761 (Plate 1)

- 4.1.1 The 1761 survey of the parish of Werrington does not depict the present Yeolmbridge Mill complex. A building is shown in the location of the extant former school building, c.15m to the north-east of the mill building (located outside of the application boundary).

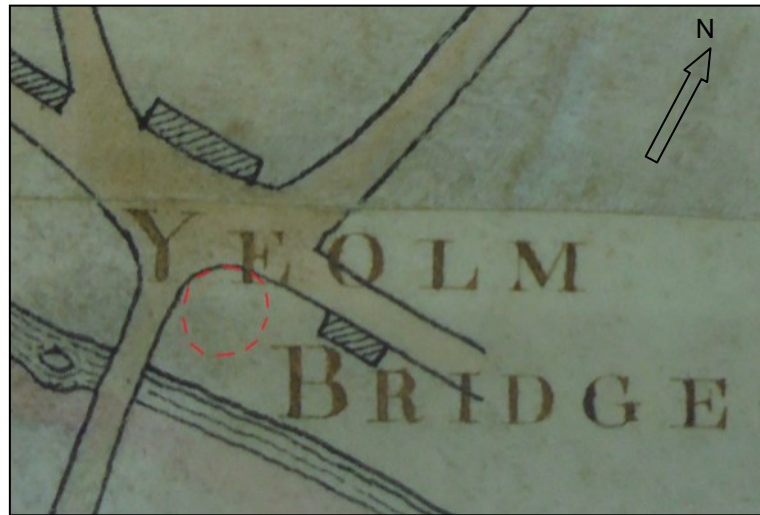


Plate 1: Survey of the Parishes of Werrington and St Giles, 1761. Approx. mill building site outlined in red. (Devon Heritage Centre ref. T1258M E27)

Plan of the Parish of Werrington, 1864 (Copied from the Tithe Map of c.1839) (Plate 2)

- 4.1.2 The earliest map depicting the mill complex is the Werrington parish Tithe Map of c.1839. A copy of the map was made in 1864 (Plate 2). The 1864 map shows the area exactly as it was depicted on the original c. 1839 version of the map. Comparison between this and the previous map, provide an approximate construction date for the mill and the adjoining former post office building (outside of the application boundary) somewhere between the late 18th and early 19th century, after c. 1761 but prior to c.1839.
- 4.1.3 The mill and former post office buildings form a sub c-shape, single building abutting the mill race to the east. The extension on the western side of the mill is already extant by c.1839. The 1839 tithe apportionment refers to the plot of the proposed development site as a yard, with no mention of the mill operating at the site. The river Ottery is shown running further to the south than at present. Two leats are shown running from the east, western towards the mill. The southern of which enters the mill race adjacent to the eastern side of the mill building. The northern one runs adjacent to the former road and enters the leat leading to the mill race further to the north.



Plate 2: Plan of the Parish of Werrington and St Giles, 1864. Surveyed mill outlined in red (Devon Heritage Centre ref. L1258M/0/E/MAP/7/2).

1st Edition OS 25" map, Sheet 86:5. Surveyed 1883 & Published 1884 (Plate 3)

- 4.1.4 The 25" 1st edition OS map surveyed in 1883 (Plate 3) shows the mill building as an L-shaped building, with the extension on the western side clearly visible. The area to the north-east corner of the mill, adjacent to the south elevation of the former post office building, appears to be roofed. The mill building is no longer shown connected to the former post office building (outside of the application area), at the north-east corner, with the latter reduced in length towards the west.
- 4.1.5 The launder above the wheel pit on the eastern side of the building is shown running from the area just to the north of the mill, along the eastern side and terminating at the south-east corner of the mill. Two ancillary buildings are shown in the south-east corner of the application site (not covered by the historic building recording), labelled as corn mills. A sluice is indicated at the northern end of the mill race. The southern of two leats depicted on the 1864 map (Plate 2) that entered the mill race adjacent to the mill is no longer extant on the 1st edition of the OS map. The northern leat appears to be culverted below a yard to the north-east of the mill.

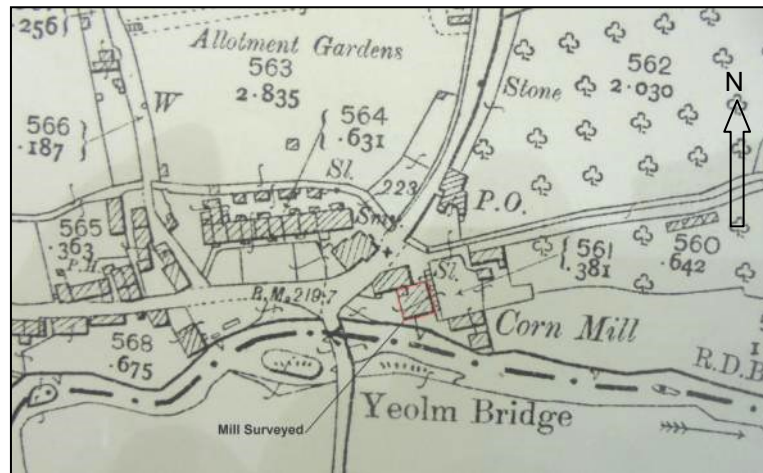


Plate 3: 25" 1st ed OS map, Sheet 86:5. Surveyed 1883, Published 1884. Surveyed mill outlined in red (Devon Heritage Centre)

25" OS Map, 1974 (Not Reproduced)

- 4.1.6 There is no change to the layout plan of the mill building from the 25" 1st ed OS map of 1883 through to the modern period. This is demonstrated by the 1974 edition of the OS map.

5. HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

- 5.1.1 The main eastern element of the mill building is a three storey structure with a wheel pit and remains of a launder located adjacent to the eastern elevation. The main part of the mill building has a hipped roof. A two storey extension with a pitched roof abuts the western elevation of the mill. The former post office building (outside of the application area) abuts the north-west corner of the mill building (See Figure 1).
- 5.1.2 The remains of a number of turf covered low slate constructed walls are present within the garden area immediately to the east of the mill. These include a c. 1m wide wall running c. 10m north-west – south-east along the eastern side of the wheel pit and another c. 0.5m wide wall running c. 10m north-east – south-west in line with the northern elevation of the mill (Not included in the Historic Building Recording). There is no evidence for the location of the former leat shown on the c. 1839 Werrington Tithe Map and the 1864 copy (Plate 2), that is shown running from the east into the mill race adjacent to the mill (as discussed above in Section 4.1.4).

Exterior

- 5.1.3 The exterior elevations of the mill building are constructed from roughly linear coursed rectangular slabs of slate ragstone, averaging c. 0.35m long, c. 0.3m wide and c. 0.05m thick in size, bonded together with white lime mortar. The elevations show evidence of re-pointing in places, particularly on the southern and eastern elevations. The roof has a covering of rectangular and square slate tiles, averaging c. 0.35m long, c. 0.3m wide and c. 0.01m thick in size, with slate ridge tiles.

Northern Elevation

- 5.1.4 The south-west corner of the former post office building abuts and obscured the western part of the northern elevation. A ground floor doorway is located in a former central location within the elevation, now abutting the wall of the former post office building to the west. The timber lintel above the doorway indicates that the width of the doorway has been reduced, with the aperture now only occupying the western side of the original doorway. The western part of the timber lintel is covered by a number of slate tiles c. 0.2m long and 0.1m wide (Photo 1).



Photo 1: Northern elevation of the mill. Scale 2m

Eastern Elevation

- 5.1.5 The wheel pit is located adjacent to the eastern elevation. The base of the wheel pit is present c. 1m below the adjacent ground level. The side and end walls of the wheel pit are constructed from slate ragstone slabs. Two apertures are present on the eastern elevation to house the axles for two waterwheels.
- 5.1.6 The position of the launder and the sluice gates suggests that the mill probably ended with a pitchback wheel that replaced both of the overshot wheels. Both waterwheel axle apertures are covered with slate slabs, with corresponding holes (Photo 3). A slate slab on the edge of the southern aperture is carved with the letters 'H P'. The remains of an iron waterwheel axle are located within the wheel pit. A single small timber casement window is present at second floor level, towards the southern end of the elevation. Two first floor timber casement windows have timber lintels and slate slab sills. A number of anchor plates are present at the southern end of the eastern elevation (Photo 2).



Photo 2: Eastern elevation of the mill with wheel pit & launder. Scale 1m

- 5.1.7 The remains of a launder are present adjacent to the eastern elevation, constructed from slate slabs up to c. 1m long and c. 0.5m wide. The southern end of the launder is no longer extant. The base of the launder is supported by a timber and iron frame. The frame is built into the eastern elevation of the mill building and into the adjacent low wall on the eastern side of the wheel pit. A number of iron supporting strops are located across the interior width of the launder (Photo 4). A slate built stack with slate steps has been constructed to provide access to the launder. The upper section of the steps has been repaired with bricks in the recent past (Photo 2 & 3).



Photo 3: The wheel pit, launder and waterwheel apertures, from the south

- 5.1.8 An iron lever for a missing slate sluice gate is protruding from a rectangular hole in the eastern elevation at the northern end of the launder (Photo 4). At the southern end of the remains of the launder, a slate sluice gate remains intact with a connecting iron shaft protruding from the eastern elevation of the mill (Photo 3). Some intact gearing remains at the top of the southern sluice gate. A hole for an iron lever is present above the shaft. Part of the northern end of the mill race is covered with a number of large slate slabs (Photo 2).

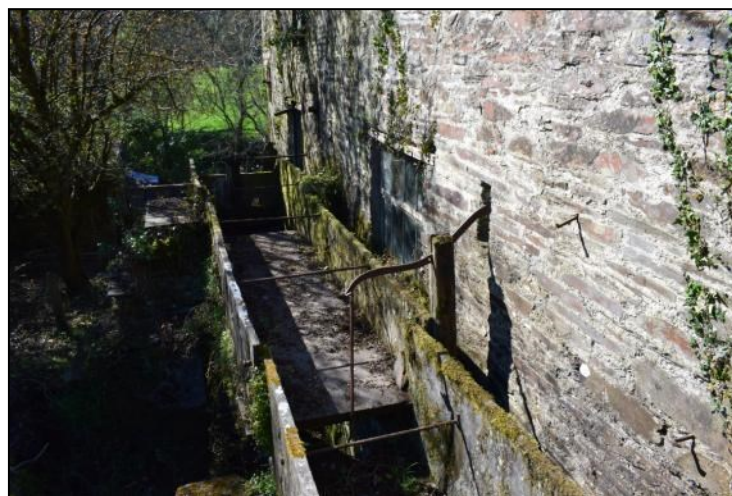


Photo 4: The top of the launder viewed from the north

Southern Elevation

- 5.1.9 A former doorway is present at ground floor level on the southern elevation that has been turned into a window, with a cast concrete lintel and a slate sill. The window frame no longer survives. A small timber casement window has been inserted at the first floor level. This also has a cast concrete lintel and slate sill. The western extension to the mill building abuts the south-west corner on the southern elevation (Photo 5).



Photo 5: Southern elevation, Scale 2m

Western Elevation

- 5.1.10 An extension to the mill building abuts the western elevation. A small timber casement window is present at second floor level. A small square window is present at ground floor level, although the original frame no longer survives. A former roof line is indicated by a horizontal line of slates protruding from the western elevation at second floor level.
- 5.1.11 A number of large slate slabs are located flat against the western elevation, adjacent to the pitched roof of the extension. The function of these slate slabs is uncertain, but they may have been used to repair the western elevation during the insertion of the extension. The former post office building abuts the north-west corner of the western elevation. Pieces of slate have been placed as barraging along the edge of the western gable roofline (Photo 6).



Photo 6: Western elevation, Scale 2m

5.1.12 The gable western elevation of the extension has a canted lower section at the south-east corner of the building. An off-centre doorway has a vertical slate constructed slightly curved over arch. The adjacent timber casement window has the same type of over arch. A grain door has been inserted later at first floor level and truncates the over arches of the ground floor window and doorway (Photo 6).

Interior–Ground Floor

5.1.13 The ground floor consists of two open plan sections, with the extension on the western side separated from the original part of the mill by two large slate pillars. A brick pillar has been inserted at a later date at the southern end of the building, along with a number of timber vertical posts with additional horizontal cross beams, to provide additional first floor support. The flag stone floor remains largely intact and the walls are white washed. All of the first floor joists and flooring have been replaced.



Photo 7: Eastern end of the ground floor with hurst and hopper. Scale 1m

5.1.14 The eastern end of the ground floor contains northern and southern pit wheel pits, enclosed by a boarded hurst, of which some of the boarding remains (Photo 7). The base of the pit

wheel pits was not visible due to the presence of debris and no original elements of the gearing mechanism remains in situ, apart from some of the bearings. The main elements of the timber hurst remain intact, including the bressumer, bridge posts, bridge trees and the stone beams (Photo 7 - 9). The main bridge post timbers are resting on a slate plinth (Photo 8).



Photo 8: View of the interior of the hurst from the north pit wheel pit. Scale 1m

- 5.1.15 Iron bearings are present in the apertures for the waterwheel axles. A number of additional bearings are located along the bridge beams suggesting the position of possible ancillary drives. A position of a horizontal bearing on the timber supporting the pit wheel axle, and a corresponding vertical bearing on the above bridge beam, suggests the millstones above had been operated by a spurwheel type drive with a crown wheel arrangement (Photo 9). A large hopper is located at the northern end of the ground floor (Photo 7). This is a later feature and retains some of the original sack tubes. This hopper was likely fed from the stone floor above.



Photo 9: Stone beams & vertical bearing on bridge beam above northern wheel pit wheel on the ground floor

First Floor

- 5.1.16 The first floor is an open plan space with a single modern timber partition wall. As mentioned above, the original floor timbers have been replaced and a number of the cross beams also appear to be replacements. A number of the cross beams forming the ceiling of the first floor appear to have been reused as there are a number of floor joist and other slots in the surface of the beams.
- 5.1.17 There is no evidence for the former use of the floor as a stone floor, although a hopper with sliding grain control door is located against a wall on the ground floor. An iron handle for operating a sluice gate of the launder, is located on the northern side of one of the windows on the eastern elevation (Photo 10). A hole is located above the handle for another missing mechanism. Another iron handle for operating a sluice gate at the northern end of the launder is protruding through a rectangular hole at the northern end of the first floor.



Photo 10: Launder sluice gate mechanism on the first floor

- 5.1.18 A former window with a timber lintel and a slate sill is located on the western wall of the main mill building section. The creation of the doorway through the former exterior wall on the western side of the room is evident from the undulating nature of the southern side of the doorway. The extension part of the first floor is a single open plan room. Two anchor plates are present on the former exterior wall surface, as is a small square opening. The roof has a timber king post structure.



Photo 11: Details of the former west facing exterior wall of the mill at first floor level

Second Floor

- 5.1.19 The second floor is once again an open plan room, with a small timber partition located at the southern end. The apex of the king post timber roof structure has a four bay ridge plank formation. A timber sack hoist drive wheel and chain drum is located in the loft section of the mill (See Figure 9) (Photo 12). The loft floor retains the sack trap with original doors (Photo 13). A timber and an iron pulley are located in the apex of the roof. A number of iron bearings are situated along the length of the floor suggesting the position of an ancillary drive mechanism, possibly relating to the sack hoist system.



Photo 12: Sack hoist drive wheel & chain drum in the second floor loft. Scale 1m



Photo 13: Sack trap with original doors. Scale 1m

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The Level 2/3 Historic Building Recording has provided an opportunity to update the current information that is known about the Old Mill at Yeolmbridge. The Historic England listing description (NHLE ref: 130977) of the building compiled in 1989 mentions only one overshot waterwheel. The site visit has identified that the mill in fact had two overshot waterwheels at one stage. The position of the launder continuing beyond the southern wheel suggests that the mill is likely to have ended with a single pitchback wheel at the southern end of the wheelpit.
- 6.1.2 The site visit confirmed that the majority of the mechanical elements of the mill machinery have been removed, including the gearing and millstones. Although the pit wheel pits and associated timber hurst frames for both waterwheel gearing mechanisms remain largely intact. The sack hoist drive wheel, chain drum, associated pulleys and sack hatch, also remain intact within the second floor loft space. The majority of the flooring, throughout the ground and first floors has been replaced but the flag stones on the ground floor are largely intact.
- 6.1.3 Analysis of the historic map evidence has confirmed that the likely construction date of the mill building to be around the late 18th – early 19th century, between 1761 and c. 1839 (See Plates 1 & 2). The map evidence suggests that the extension on the western side of the mill was likely constructed shortly after the original phase of the mill building, with the former post office building also constructed around the same time, abutting the mill building on the northern side. The map evidence also suggests that the single pitchback wheel was in operation by the 1st edition OS map of 1883.

7. REFERENCES

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7.3 Correspondence

- 7.3.1 Correspondence undertaken between Kerry Kerr-Peterson (Assistant Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage) and Phil Copleston (Senior Archaeologist, Cornwall Council) via telephone and email on the 30th September 2015.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Contact Photographic Archive & Photograph Register



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