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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**THE MILL TOWER, COURSERS ROAD  
COLNEY HEATH, ST ALBANS**

**HISTORIC BUILDING PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING**

Authors:	Tansy Collins BSc	
NGR: TL 2047 0544	Report No:	4083
District: St Albans	Site Code:	AS 1503
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No:	4565
Signed:	Date: May 2012	

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>The Mill Tower, Coursers Road, Colney Heath</i>		
<p><i>In May 2012, AS Ltd carried out an historic building photographic survey at The Mill Tower in Colney Heath, Hertfordshire. The recording was carried out in order to comply with a condition of planning / listed building consent for the installation of a high level passive ventilator into the apex of the mill tower and removal of existing external epoxy resin coating and refinishing in vapour permeable paint.</i></p> <p><i>The photographic recording was carried out with medium format black and white film duplicated by digital photography and included general views of the exterior of the mill tower as well as detailed shots of the nature of the brickwork as well as window apertures and similar.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4565</i>	Site code	<i>AS1503</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic building photographic recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Grade II Listed</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former windmill tower</i>		
Planned development	<i>Repair and renovation</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century mill tower</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>n/a</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>St Albans</i>	<i>Colney Heath</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 2047 0544</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 75m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>-</i>		
Project supervisor/s	<i>Tansy Collins</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr and Mrs Ketley</i>		
Full title	<i>The Mill Tower, Coursers Road, Colney Heath: historic building photographic recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Collins, T.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4083</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>May 2012</i>		

# THE MILL TOWER, COURSERS ROAD COLNEY HEATH, HERFORDSHIRE

## HISTORIC BUILDING PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING

### **SUMMARY**

*In May 2012, AS Ltd carried out an historic building photographic survey at The Mill Tower in Colney Heath, Hertfordshire. The recording was carried out in order to comply with a condition of planning / listed building consent for the installation of a high level passive ventilator into the apex of the mill tower and removal of existing external epoxy resin coating and refinishing in vapour permeable paint.*

*The photographic recording was carried out with medium format black and white film duplicated by digital photography and included general views of the exterior of the mill tower as well as detailed shots of the nature of the brickwork as well as window apertures and similar.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In May 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an historic building photographic survey at The Mill Tower in Colney Heath, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2047 0554). The recording was carried out in order to comply with a condition of planning / listed building consent for the installation of a high level passive ventilator into the apex of the mill tower and removal of existing external epoxy resin coating and refinishing in vapour permeable paint (St Albans Council Planning Ref. 5/11/1704LB & 5/11/1586).

1.2 The historic building assessment conformed to a specification prepared by AS dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 as well as guidelines laid out in the English Heritage document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2006). The programme of work defined in the specification comprised an initial external photographic recording following the removal of the existing epoxy resin coating and the exposure of the brick fabric, which is the subject of this report. Following the submission of this record, St Albans District Council (SADC) will confirm if any further recording works are required which will follow the objectives laid out in the second part of the specification.

1.3 The objective of this project included a full photographic recording of the exterior of the mill tower.

#### *Planning policy*

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the

significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

2.1 The site was visited on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 in order to carry out the photographic recording of the exterior of the building. The photographic recording was carried out by Tansy Collins using medium format (4.5cm x 6cm) black and white film and included all external views. This utilised a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 120mm film. Colour photographs were taken using a Canon 1000D (10 megapixels) digital camera, duplicating the black and white photography, and supplementary colour photography used 35mm Ektachrome colour transparency. External lighting and weather conditions were good at the time of the survey and a scale was used wherever possible.

2.2 Scaffolding had been erected around the tower to enable to the removal of the epoxy resin coating and these were in place at the time of the survey. Detailed shots were taken from each of the scaffolding levels and these were used to locate the photographs but do not relate to any floor levels within the building. The digital photographs have been included as colour plates, together with location plots shown on sketch plans (Fig. 2)

## **3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Fig. 1)**

3.1 Colney Heath is a comparatively large village situated south-east of St Albans and south-west of Hatfield in the southern part of Hertfordshire. The immediate landscape is fairly rural in appearance despite the proximity of Hatfield as well as motorways to the east and south.

3.2 The site itself lies to the south-west of the village on the west side of Coursers Road given access via a short driveway. The mill tower is now linked to the main house by modern connecting units to the south-east.

3.3 The mill tower is Grade II listed (Appendix 1) as mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in date, the sails removed c. 1890. It is constructed of red brick pierced by small casement windows. No early OS maps indicate the presence of a windmill, and by 1879 is referred to as a corn mill by which time it may have been steam powered. Porbable original structures formerly survived adjoining the mill tower,

but these were demolished with the construction of the modern extensions and the mill tower itself converted for residential use with no evidence for surviving machinery.



#### 4 PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY



DP 01 North-east elevation of the mill tower with house to the south-east, taken from the north-east



DP 02 North-east elevation of the mill tower, taken from the north-east



DP 03 North side of the mill tower with house to the rear, taken from the north



DP 04 North side of the mill tower, taken from the north





DP 05 West side of the mill tower with the house to the rear, taken from the west



DP 06 View of the house with the mill tower to the rear, taken from the east



DP 07 Sample of English bond brickwork at ground floor level, taken from the north-West



DP 08 Casement window on the west side at ground floor level, taken from the south-west





DP 09 Cambered arch over casement window on the west side at ground floor level with repaired brickwork, taken from the south-west



DP 10 Blocked aperture on the south side of the mill tower at Level 2, taken from the west





DP 11 Sample of brickwork laid in a variable bond at level 2, taken from the east



DP 12 Casement window on the west side at Level 3, taken from the north-east





DP 13 Sample of header bond brickwork at Level 4, taken from the north-west



DP 14 Header bond brickwork at Level 4, taken from the north-east





DP 15 North side of the mill tower at Level 5 showing casement window, taken from the north-west



DP 16 Casement window on the south side of the mill tower at Level 5, taken from the south-east



DP 17

Modern concrete dome and leading at the apex to the mill tower, taken from the west

## DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed. Copies of the final report will be issued to the local planning authority and Hertfordshire HER. The archive will be lodged with HALS.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Tony Statham of Briffa Phillips Ltd for commissioning the project on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs Ketley.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

English Heritage (EH) 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practise*. EH, Swindon

Moore, C. 1999 *Hertfordshire Windmills and Windmillers* Windsup Publishing Hertfordshire

## APPENDIX 1

### BUILDING LISTINGS

#### List entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

**Name:** MILL AT MILL HOUSE

**List entry Number:** 1296524

**Location:** MILL AT MILL HOUSE, COURSERS ROAD

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
Hertfordshire	St. Albans	District Authority	Colney Heath

**National Park:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** II

**Date first listed:** 27-Sep-1984

**Date of most recent amendment:** Not applicable to this List entry.

#### Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

**Legacy System:** LBS

**UID:** 163547

#### Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

#### List entry Description

##### Details:

TL 20 NW COLNEY HEATH COURSERS ROAD (west side) COLNEY HEATH

11/12 Mill at Mill House

- II

Windmill, the sails removed c.1890. Built soon after 1862. Tarred red brick cone with cemented top. Some C20 replacement brick to ground floor. Small casement windows on 3 levels, one on W side retaining glazing bars. About 15 metres high. Known as Colney Heath Mill. (M Tomkins Hertfordshire Countryside, 1972).

Listing NGR: TL2048505446

Book Reference - Author: M Tomkins - Title: Hertfordshire - Date: 1972

## APPENDIX 2

### HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	The Mill Tower, Coursers Road, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> St Albans
<b>Village/Town:</b> Colney Heath	<b>Parish:</b> Colney Heath
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	5/11/1704LB & 5/11/1586
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mr & Mrs M Ketley
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Repair and renovation
<b>Present land use:</b>	Residential
<b>Size of application area:</b>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 2047 0544
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1503
<b>Site director / organisation:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Historic building photographic recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	May 2012
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	
<b>Related SMR Nos: -</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In May 2012, AS Ltd carried out an historic building photographic survey at The Mill Tower in Colney Heath, Hertfordshire. The recording was carried out in order to comply with a condition of planning / listed building consent for the installation of a high level passive ventilator into the apex of the mill tower and removal of existing external epoxy resin coating and refinishing in vapour permeable paint.</i></p> <p><i>The photographic recording was carried out with medium format black and white film duplicated by digital photography and included general views of the exterior of the mill tower as well as detailed shots of the nature of the brickwork as well as window apertures and similar.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Tansy Collins	<b>Date of Summary:</b> May 2012



## APPENDIX 6

### BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM

<b>Site Details</b>							
<b>Site Name:</b> The Mill Tower, Coursers Road, Colney Heath					<b>NGR:</b> TL 2047 0544		
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire				<b>Museum Collecting Area:</b> HALS			
<b>Site Code:</b> AS 1503				<b>Project Number:</b> 4565			
<b>Date of Work:</b> May 2012				<b>Related Work:</b>			
<b>Brief/s</b>				<b>Specification/s</b>			
<b>Date</b>		<b>Present</b>		<b>Date</b>		<b>Present</b>	
None		-		15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011		Yes	
<b>Site Records (Description)</b>							
1 sheets A4 photographic locations							
<b>Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats &amp; Size)</b>							
-							
<b>Architect's Drawings:</b>							
-							
<b>Digital Drawings</b>							
<b>Printouts of Drawings</b>			<b>Printouts of Data</b>			<b>Digital Data</b>	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings on CD	
<b>Reports</b>							
<b>Report No</b>		<b>Report Type</b>				<b>Present</b>	
4083		Historic building recording				Yes	
<b>Site Photographs</b>							
Black & White Contact Prints					Colour Slides		
<b>Film No</b>	<b>Film Type</b>	<b>Negs</b>	<b>Negs Present</b>	<b>Contacts Present</b>	<b>Film No</b>	<b>Negs</b>	<b>Present</b>
1	120mm	1-14	Yes	Yes	1	22-27	Yes
<b>Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)</b>							
In report and separate printout in archive folder							
<b>Digital Photographs (Give Details):</b>							
Digital photography duplicates black and white photography. Index and selected plates printed in report. Separate printout of index included in archive folder and digitally on CD.							

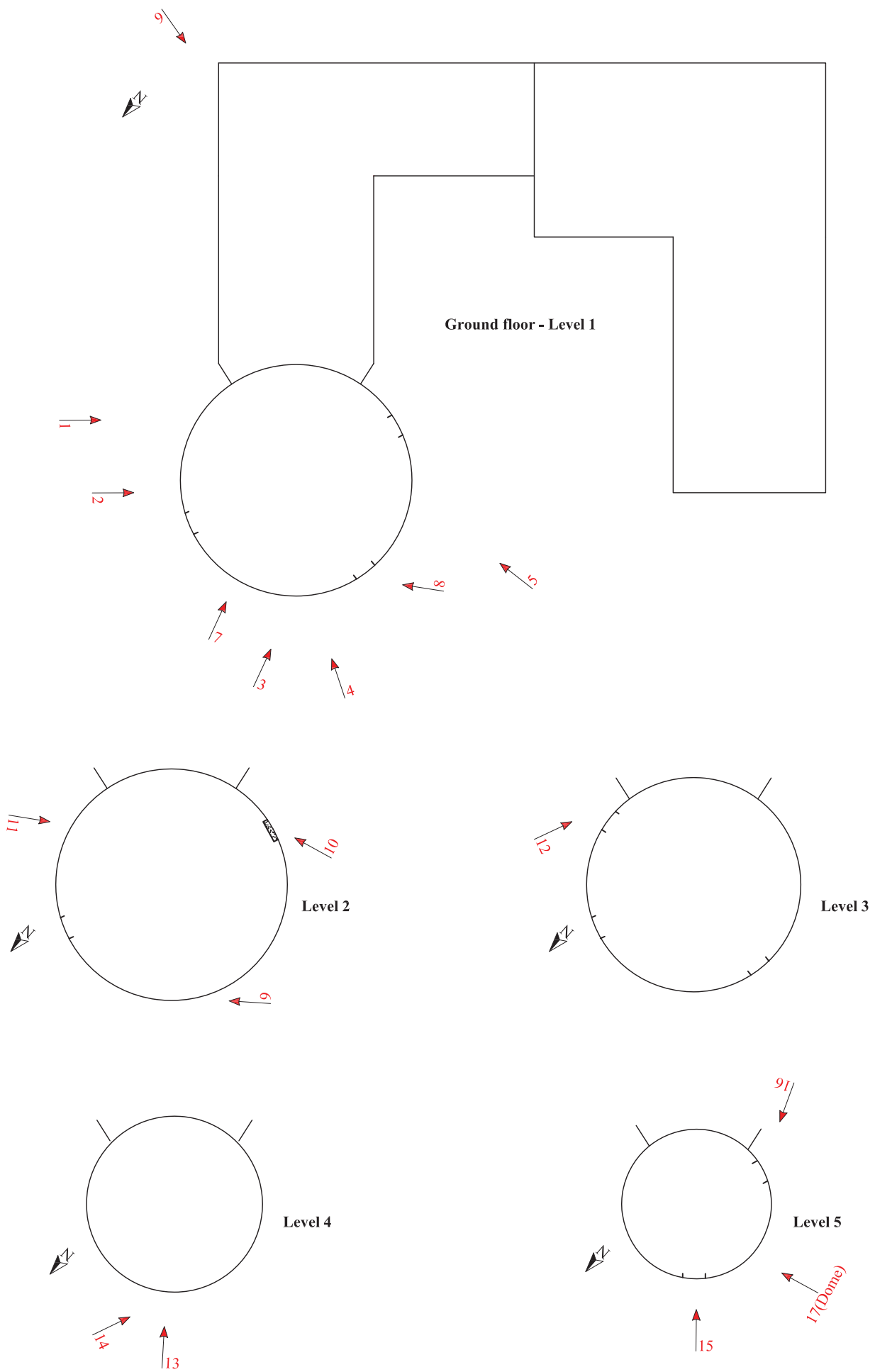




Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





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**Fig. 2 Photographic location plan**

Not to scale