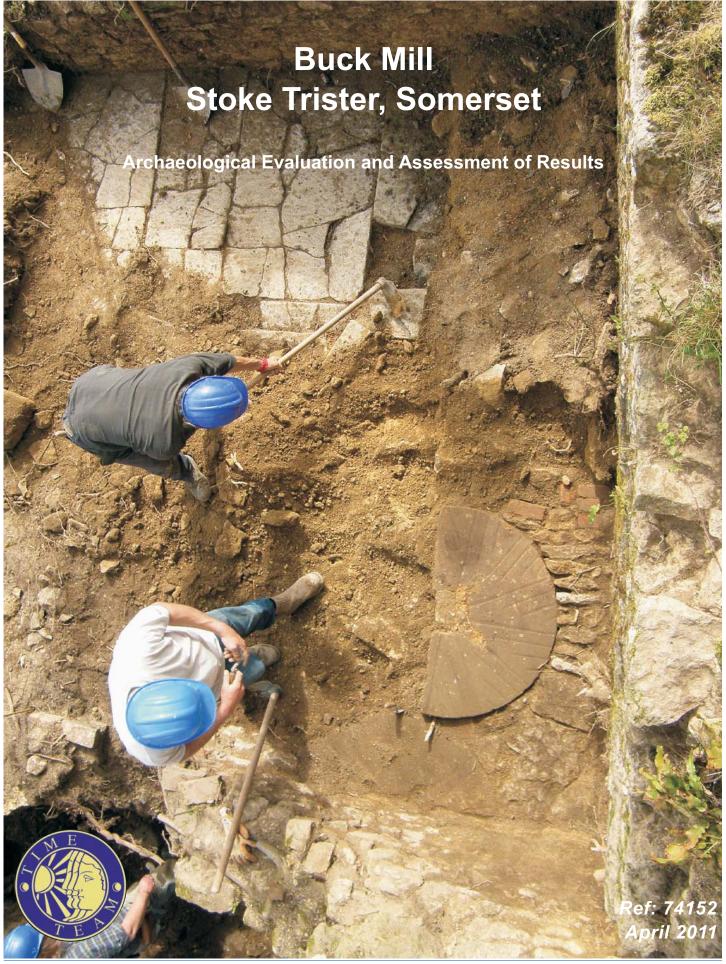
Wessex Archaeology







Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Contents

	Acknowledgements	
1	INTRODUCTION	. 1 .1 .1
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	.3
3	METHODOLOGY 3.1 Geophysical Survey. 3.2 Domesday Book. 3.3 Landscape and Earthwork Survey. 3.4 Evaluation Trenches. 3.5 Copyright.	.4 .4 .4
4	RESULTS 4.1 Introduction 4.2 Geophysical Results 4.3 Magnetic Survey 4.4 Resistance Survey (Figure 5) 4.5 Domesday Book Evidence and Landscape and Earthwork Survey 4.6 Evaluation Trenches 4.7 Trench 1 (Figures 2-4) 4.8 The Mill Building 4.9 The Domestic Area 4.10 The Mill Working Area 4.11 Area 2 - Trenches 2, 3 and 4 (Figures 5 & 6)	.6.6.6.7.8.8.8
5	FINDS 5.1 Introduction 5.2 Pottery 5.3 Ceramic Building Material 5.4 Wall Plaster 5.5 Clay Pipe 5.6 Stone and Flint 5.7 Glass 5.8 Synthetics 5.9 Wood 5.10 Metalwork 5.11 Animal Bone 5.12 Potential and further recommendations 5.13 Discard policy	11 12 13 13 13 14 14 15
6	DISCUSSION	15



		Medieval Post-medieval	
_			
7	REC	OMMENDATIONS	16
8	ARC	HIVE	16
9	REF	ERENCES	17
		Bibliography	
		Historic Environment Records	
		Cartographic Sources	
		Aerial PhotographsOnline resources	
40			
10		SSARY	
APP	ENDI	(1: TRENCH SUMMARIES	22
	re 1 re 2 re 3 re 4		
<u>Tabl</u> Tabl Tabl Tabl	e 1 e 2	Finds totals by material type and by trench Pottery totals by ware type Discard policy for finds	



Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results Summary

In April 2010 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Buck Mill, Stoke Trister, near Wincanton, Somerset (NGR 374590 128228) to investigate the site of a watermill recorded in Domesday Book (1086). The programme of works also investigated the standing remains of a post-medieval mill building and earthworks indicative of water management.

Examination of the Domesday reference, other documentary evidence and watercourse earthworks identified two possible locations for mills pre-dating the postmedieval mill remains. Excavation, however, proved unsuccessful in identifying any structural remains relating to these putative early mills, although this could be due to the insubstantial nature of wooden mill buildings in the early medieval period.

Evaluation trenches located within the area of the putative early mills did, however, identify a water course (leat) apparently unrelated to the post-medieval mill, and a single sherd of medieval pottery.

The evaluation trenches within the standing remains of the post-medieval mill identified particular zones of activity, both domestic and industrial. The probable kitchen and living quarters of the mill were revealed, as was the meal floor, the cog pit and the wheel pit, with remains of the iron water wheel still in situ. Documentary references suggest that this mill was built in the mid-16th century, and the finds evidence supports this date, although most closely datable finds are 17th century or later in date.

The post-medieval mill appears to have been sufficiently successful and profitable to implement new technology when available. The mill had changed from using a wide, breast-shot wheel to a more efficient overshot iron wheel - this was evident from the narrowing of the original wheel pit, the infilling of the original launder opening and the elevation of the launder to create an overshot water feed.

The results of the evaluation do not warrant detailed publication, but a summary will be submitted to the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, for inclusion in the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.



Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Acknowledgements

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Michael Douglas (Series Editor), Jane Hammond (Production Manager), Jim Mower (Development Producer), Ben Knappet (Assistant Producer), Alex Rowson (Researcher), Kerry Ely (Locations Manager) and Ainsley Allen (Production Coordinator) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Jimmy Adcock, Emma Wood and Graeme Attwood (of GSB Prospection) and landscape survey and map regression was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston (Bristol University). The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Steve Thompson, with on-site finds processing was carried out by Simon Flaherty, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Tracey Smith, Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave and Faye Simpson, assisted by James Brigers, Richard Broomhead, Faith Cairns, Nick Corcos, Alan Graham and Matt Law. On site pottery identification was by Paul Blinkhorn with small finds identification by Helen Geake (Cambridge University). Structural elements of the mill were identified by Martin Watts.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with initial historical research by Jim Mower, Ben Knappett and Alex Rowson of Videotext Communications, and documentary research by Teresa Hall. Specialist reports were prepared by GSB Prospection (Geophysics) and Lorraine Mepham (finds), and the illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer.

The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

This report has benefited from discussion on site with Mick Aston, Phil Harding, Martin Watts, Teresa Hall and Stewart Ainsworth.

Finally thanks are extended to Steven and Stephanie Fry, the owners of Buck Mill, for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation and to their neighbour Terry Rawlings for allowing access for geophysical survey.



Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

I loved the brimming wave that swam, Thro' quiet meadows round the mill, The sleepy pool above the dam, The pool beneath it never still, The meal-sacks on the whiten'd floor, The dark round of the dripping wheel, The very air about the door, Made misty with the floating meal.

(Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *The Millers Daughter* 1842)

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's Time Team at the site of Buck Mill, Stoke Trister, Wincanton, Somerset. (hereafter the 'Site') (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located at NGR 374590 128228 at a height of approximately 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), within the parish of Stoke Trister and close to the boundary with the parish of Cucklington. The Site is 800m south-east of the village of Stoke Trister and 1km north-west of the village of Cucklington, and 3.6km east of Wincanton. The underlying geology consists of Oxford Clay Formation (BGS sheet 297)
- 1.2.2 The Site was divided into three areas for investigation. Area 1, at the northern end of the Site, comprises an irregular parcel of land 2.73 hectares in size and centred on NGR 374592.47, 128229.66, which contains the substantial stone remains of Buck Mill. The mill remains are currently covered in well established trees and bushes. Area 2, at the southern end of the Site, covers an area of 3.67 hectares and is centred on NGR 374595.25, 128058.35. There were a series of linear earthworks indicative of water management. Area 3 is a small area of land due west of Area 1 and centred on NGR 374570.07, 128225.95.

1.3 **Historical Background**

1.3.1 The earliest reference to a mill at Stoke Trister is found in the *Domesday* Book and refers to a mill rendering 10d:

> Bretel holds of the count Stoke Trister. 2 Thegns held it TRE and it paid geld for 3 hides. There is land for 5 ploughs. In demesne is 1 plough and 7 slaves; and 3 villans and 8 bordars and 5 cotset with 2 plough. There is a mill rendering 10d, and 15 acres of meadow, [and] woodland 1 league long 1 furlong broad. It was and is worth 60s (Williams 1992).



- Five hundred years later, in the Calendar of Patent Rolls for 1555, the manor 1.3.2 of Stoke Trister is described in more detail, but there is no mention of a watermill (while watermills are mentioned as part of other manorial holdings within the same text). This suggests either that a mill did not exist at this point, or that it was part of the neighbouring Cucklington Manor which is not mentioned in this particular source.
- 1.3.3 Eleven years later (1566), a survey of the Earl of Pembroke's land states:

Freeholders in Cucklington:

John Cross(e) freely holds one property in Cucklington in which he lives, one garden, one paddock of one acre and one other property and garden of 1/2 a verge in which John Criseday lives and one enclosure pastures and one meadow of 20 acres, one property there too with paddock containing one acre and also 18 acres of arable land in the North field of which part is down grass and another 18 acres in the South field and he has an equivalent amount of common land, also the mill called Buckmill and he will appear before court and pay 8a and 8d (SRO PAM 2664).

1.3.4 In 1703 John Benjafield, Miller, was in possession of Buckmill according to his will:

> I John Benjafield the elder of Buckmill in the parish of Stoke Trister in the county of Somerset, Miller being sick in body but of perfect and sound memory thanks unto God do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say first I will that all the debts I truly owe shall be justly paid Item I give devise and bequeath onto my son Samuel Benjafield and his heirs for ever all that meadow ground called park which I lately purchased (SRO DD\X\SLT/1).

1.3.5 In deeds dated to 1776, 1778, and 1789 the mill and surrounding fields are described as the property of Mary Benjafield, daughter of John:

> (1776) Also that water mill and mill house known by the name Buck mill with all and singular ... there unto belonging with the mill, ponds and floods ... to the ... belonging and also one meadow ground to the said mill and mill house adjoining Buck Mill containing by estimation 4 acres lying between the ground called Stoke Park and a brook called Todd Brook, an orchard containing 1 acre bounded on the southeast by the said brook... mentioned called Hiscocks and on the north west by the lane leading to Buck Mill with said Mill and possession of Mary Benjafield lying in the parish of Stoke Trister (SRO DD\X\SLT/1).

1.3.6 On Edward Phelip's 1782 Map of the Manor of Cucklington (SRO DD\PH\158), the mill is shown as a substantial L-shaped structure composed of a main north-west - south-east aligned, two-storey building. The water wheel is located at the south-east end of the main range. At the north-west end of the main range is a north-east - south-west aligned, twostorey building extending to the south from the southern elevation. The map also shows the line of the leat extending to the north and the tail race leading away from the mill to the south.



1.3.7 In 1791, a property sale in neighbouring Bayford describes the working mill:

> Lot 3 – A freehold estate contiguous to the preceding comprising Buckwater Corn Mill which works 2 pairs of stone. And 21 acres of land (SRO DD/SAS/SW6).

- 1.3.8 A year later, in 1792, the mill is depicted on the Stoke Manor Map (SRO STO\PH\WW\1) as an L-shaped structure. However the north-east – southwest aligned range extending to the south from the north-west corner of the main range as depicted on the 1782 map is now gone and replaced by a structure extending to the south from the south-east end. The 1792 estate map is less detailed than the 1782 map, but the layout on the 1792 estate map is repeated on the Cucklington and Stoke Trister Tithe Map of 1838 (SRO D\DRt\M\73).
- 1.3.9 In the census of 1841, the owner of Buckmill is described as William Biggin and in Biggin's will of 1850 he relates that the mill is to be sold and the money shared between his descendants:

I give unto my son William Biggin my share in the Wincanton Water Company, the share ticket for which I have already given him – and it is my will and desire after my disease [sic] that my dwelling house corn mills and premises called Buck Mills and the lands and grounds thereunto belonging containing by estimation twenty acres or there abouts – situate and being in the parishes of Stoke Trister and Cucklington in the county of Somerset shall be sold and disposed of and my testamentary experiences paid there from and the rent and residue of the money arising from the sale thereof I give unto my four sons the said John William George and Robert Biggin share and share alike (SRO DD\SAS/C795/SW/21).

- By the end of the 19th century it is clear the mill had been decommissioned 1.3.10 and the land and houses utilised for farming. The mill building is annotated on the 1886-1887 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map as Buck Mill Farm and comprises the same 'L' shaped structure shown on the 1838 estate map, with the western end possibly shown as a separate rectangular structure. This may just be the result of more accurate mapping. In 1889 the resident was William Bantor, Farmer of Buck Mill (M. Siraut, pers comm.).
- On two aerial photographs dating to 1946 (NMR/RAF/CPE/UK1821) and 1.3.11 1947 (NMR RAF/CPE/UK/1924) the remains of the mill buildings can be clearly seen, as can the line of the leat leading into the mill, although the tail race is less obvious. To the south and east of the mill buildings are the remains of what appears to be a water channel of some kind, and the surrounding fields show extensive ridge and furrow.

Previous Archaeological Work 1.4

1.4.1 No previous archaeological work has taken place at Buck Mill.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2010), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.



- 2.1.2 The project aimed to carry out a limited programme of non-intrusive investigations and intrusive excavation. The results of this work will also form an important resource for the future management of the site.
- 2.1.3 The following general research aims will be addressed:
 - What is the nature and significance of surviving archaeological remains?
 - What are the levels of natural deposits?
 - What is the earliest evidence of medieval occupation of the area?
- 2.1.4 The project design identified specific research aims outlined below:

Research Aim 1

2.1.5 To characterise the nature of sub-surface archaeological remains with the specific aim of refining a chronology for the construction of and defining a plan for the standing stone remains in the Area 1.

Research Aim 2

2.1.6 To characterise the nature of sub-surface archaeological remains with the specific aim of refining a chronology for the construction of and defining a plan for earthwork remains observed in Area 2.

3 **METHODOLOGY**

3.1 **Geophysical Survey**

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out in Areas 2 and 3 using a combination of resistance, magnetic and ground penetrating radar (GPR). The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.2 Domesday Book

3.2.1 The *Domesday Book* entry for the manor of Stoke Trister was reassessed by Teresa Hall and the information gathered combined with the results of the landscape and earthwork survey in an attempt to locate the site of the mill mentioned in 1086.

3.3 Landscape and Earthwork Survey

3.3.1 A landscape survey and analysis of the cartographic evidence was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth, Senior Investigator of the Archaeological Survey and Investigation Team, English Heritage. A summary of the findings has been incorporated in this report.

3.4 **Evaluation Trenches**

3.4.1 Investigation of the extant remains of the mill building in Area 1 was undertaken by the excavation of a number of individual trenches and test pits, which have been grouped and recorded as Trench 1. Three further trenches of varying sizes were excavated in Area 2, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and



address specific research objectives (Figure 1). No trenches were excavated in Area 3.

- 3.4.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.
- 3.4.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.
- 3.4.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system and Trimble Total Station. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was 3.4.5 maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.
- 3.4.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated material.
- 3.4.7 The work was carried out on the 13th-16th April 2010. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.5 Copyright

3.5.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2010), the summary of the landscape and earthwork survey and details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the archive. Detailed descriptions of the excavated sequences and structures can be found in **Appendix 1**.



4.2 Geophysical Results

Introduction and Summary

- 4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over two areas (Areas 2 and 3) totalling 0.366 hectares using a magnetic, resistance and ground penetrating radar (**Figures 1** and **5**).
- 4.2.2 Conditions for survey in the open areas were ideal as the ground was under pasture and the extant earthworks were slight. Area 3 was topographically flat and was under a young crop. It was not possible to collect data around the post-medieval mill (Area 1) due to the upstanding structures and overgrowth. GPR survey was attempted, but the clay-rich soils reduced penetration to 0.5m, and therefore resulting images simply show natural topsoil variation. As such the results are not included within the report.
- 4.2.3 The resistance data show a band of low readings which relates to a potential leat, thought to be associated with the earlier mill recorded in *Domesday*. Both the magnetic and resistance data also indicate a former stream course, though there is no geophysical evidence for any mill structures per se.

4.3 **Magnetic Survey**

Area 2

- 4.3.1 This area was surveyed in an attempt to locate the earlier, *Domesday* mill; however, the results show no indications of anomalies that might be associated with such a structure. This is not surprising given the fact that any structures would probably have been wooden and, unless burnt down, they are unlikely to have a magnetic signature.
- 4.3.2 Anomalies which are typical of a natural origin have been located and these are associated with a former stream, which has been diverted in the past during management of the water courses. Stronger anomalies within the natural responses coincide with a clay-pipe drain.

4.4 **Resistance Survey (Figure 5)**

Area 2

4.4.1 A linear band of low resistance represents the line of a former leat, which is clearly visible in the earthworks, especially to the north of the survey area. High resistance anomalies to the west of the leat represent a gravel bed of the former stream - as identified in the magnetic data.

Conclusions

4.4.2 Both resistance and magnetic techniques located a former stream bed, running adjacent to a possible former leat (which was only visible in the resistance data, and as an earthwork). Unsurprisingly, no evidence was found for any structures related to the *Domesday* mill.



4.5 Domesday Book Evidence and Landscape and Earthwork Survey The Domesday evidence

- 4.5.1 At Domesday, the manor known as Stoke Trister comprised 3 hides (which in all probability was to become the later parish of Stoke Trister), held by Bretel de St Clair from the Count of Mortain. Before 1066 it was jointly held by two thegns who both had 11/2 hides each (Thorn and Thorn 1980, 19:63) It is possible that these two holdings before *Domesday* were Stoke Trister and Bayford respectively, both of which settlements had separate field systems by 1547 (VCHS, 202). Domesday Book records a single mill on the Manor in 1086.
- At this time Bretel de St Clair also held the manor of Cucklington from the 4.5.2 Count of Mortain (Thorn and Thorn 1980, 19:64) which covers the southern two-thirds of present day Cucklington parish, with the northern third a separate manor called Clapton (Thorn and Thorn 1980, 19:68). Cucklington, comprising 7 hides, was held prior to 1066 by two thegns, named Leofing and Swein, each holding 31/2 hides. No mill is recorded for the manor of Cucklington.
- 4.5.3 The parish of Stoke Trister as it exists today was altered in 1886 when a large detached part of the Horsington parish (an area known as Horwood) was added to it. Prior to this a smaller area from the parish of Penselwood (Sunny Hill) was added in 1885 (VCHS, 201).

Interpretation

- 4.5.4 It is impossible to know from *Domesday Book* alone where the Stoke Trister mill was situated, other than somewhere in the Stoke Trister/Bayford holding. However, analysis of the existing earthworks in Area 2, which comprise a series of leats and watercourses, present a possible position for the Domesday mill, and also for a second possible precursor or contemporary mill which was abandoned at *Domesday*.
- 4.5.5 It was evident that the stream separating Stoke Trister from Cucklington had been canalised along a section below Buck Mill (recorded as Leat A) (Figure 1), the original course of the stream running to the east (recorded as Old Stream B). The parish boundary between Stoke Trister and Cucklington follows the course of the canalised stream (A). This canalised section is unconnected with the operations of Buck Mill to the north (the area of canal is downstream) and must therefore belong to some (presumably earlier) water management system. Thus the mill recorded in *Domesday* (Mill 1) possibly lay somewhere along this length of leat.
- 4.5.6 A second stretch of disused leat (recorded as Leat C) was revealed as an earthwork to the east of the original course of the stream (B), and located within the parish of Cucklington. This infilled leat was fed from an entirely different stream to that which fed Buck Mill and the possible Domesday mill to the south. Leat (C) appears to discharge into stream (B) downstream of leat (A). This might therefore suggest that the putative mill (Mill 2) fed by leat (C) pre-dated the mill associated with leat (A), as (A) superseded (B).



As leat (C) lies entirely within Cucklington parish, putative mill (2) was either 4.5.7 disused by the time of the Domesday survey (which mentions no mill in Cucklington), or was built after 1086. In view of the fact that the manors of Stoke Trister and Cucklington were combined between 1066 and 1086, it seems probable that putative mill (2) ceased to function when the two manors were combined, and the fact that there are no later records for a mill in Cucklington may support this interpretation.

4.6 **Evaluation Trenches**

Introduction

- 4.6.1 The Site was further investigated through the excavation of four trenches. Trench 1 was located in Area 1 and comprised several interventions (trenches, test pits and sondages) in and around the upstanding mill remains. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were located in Area 2. No trenches were positioned in Area 3. Any substantial archaeological remains revealed were left in situ.
- 4.6.2 Section 10 (below) presents a short Glossary of technical terms used in this report, associated with the workings of the mill.

4.7 Trench 1 (Figures 2-4)

- 4.7.1 The demolished/collapsed remains of the mill building were sealed beneath a very loose humic leaf litter deposit. Layers of demolition/collapse material were recorded as 104 - 108, 110, 127, 138, 166, 169, 170 - 172, 175, 178, and 180, and were banked up against the upstanding walls and sealed the floors. These deposits were separated for finds retrieval from within the domestic and working areas of the mill building.
- 4.7.2 There were two (possibly three) distinct phases of construction within the working area, which corresponded changes in technology and design of water wheels. It was, however, difficult to identify any distinct phases of construction associated with the domestic area and the main structure of the building itself, except for clearly modern additions. Where clear stratigraphic alterations and additions were visible, these have been noted, but only the working area will be discussed with reference to phases.

4.8 The Mill Building

- 4.8.1 The roughly east-west aligned building was constructed from walls 181, 113, 114, 115 119, 177, 151 and 150. An extension at the north-west corner consisted of walls 182 and 183. At the junction of walls 113 and 114 a buttress 165 had been added, indicating that wall 113 had been free standing, and the area to the north had been open; however, this area was subsequently infilled with deposit 166 which was banked up against the wall. This infilling was potentially contemporaneous with the second phase of mill construction (see below). At the junction of wall 114 and 115 there was a buttress (152).
- 4.8.2 A culvert was traced around the western and southern sides of the mill and recorded as cut 136, with stone lining 155, and capping stones 137. It had partially collapsed in front of the entrance into the domestic area of the mill



where it was recorded as 160, and could be traced in plan towards the tail race leading away from the wheel pit (Group 189) of the mill towards the east.

4.9 The Domestic Area

- 4.9.1 The domestic area was confined to the western end of the mill building (Figure 4, Plate 2) and had internal dividing walls creating individual rooms. The floor was made of machine-cut flagstones of probable blue lias (109).
- 4.9.2 The main doorway into the domestic end lay between walls 150 and 151 over threshold stone 149, and led into a corridor formed by walls 147 and **148**. This corridor led in turn to the possible kitchen of the mill. One room lay on either side of the corridor, bounded by walls 145, 147 and 150 to the west and 146/168, 148, 151 and 116 to the east. These were interpreted as possible reception rooms, though one could gain access through a door in 116 into the meal room of the mill.
- The room at the back of the building, bounded by walls 181, 113, 114, 4.9.3 146/168 and 145, is thought to have been the kitchen. A brick structure 167 against the back wall was interpreted as part of an oven, range or fireplace.

4.10 The Mill Working Area

- 4.10.1 The working area of the mill (Figure 4, Plate 3) was defined by walls 116, 115, 119 and 177 with access through a doorway from the domestic area to the west through wall 116 and a second possible door way through wall 177 to the south, both leading on to a stone flagged floor (112).
- Analysis of the structural elements of the mill indicated that the first phase utilised a breast-shot wheel measuring some 2.3m in width, which was later replaced by a more efficient, narrower, overshot wheel measuring c. 0.90m wide.

Phase 1

- 4.10.3 The two main structures of the mill were the cog/gear pit (Group 188) and the wheel pit (Group 189). The wheel pit housed the water wheel which turned the pit wheel. This was held in the cog/gear pit, and was linked into the wallower to drive the machinery to turn the millstones.
- The cog/gear pit (Group 188) (Figure 3, bottom; Figure 4, Plate 4) was 4.10.4 formed of walls 131, 115, 177 and 117, with 131 and 115 butted by reworked natural layer 126, which was interpreted as the result of trampling during the construction of the pit. This was sealed by rammed stone surface 125. Pottery from 125 was dated as late 17th/early 18th century, while a metal dress fastener from 126 has a probable date range of 16th to 17th century.
- 4.10.5 The wheel pit Group 189 (Figure 3, top) was formed of walls 119, 115, 117 and with 119 also forming the outer wall of the mill building. Wall 117 separated the cog/gear pit from the wheel pit and it was through this wall that the wheel shaft or axle linking the pit wheel to the water wheel would have run.



4.10.6 No traces of how the first phase breast-shot water wheel (probably wooden) was fed were identified – these had perhaps been masked by later structures associated with the feeding of the second phase overshot wheel.

Phase 2

- 4.10.7 The second phase possibly belongs to the 18th century, and began with the narrowing of the wheel pit by the addition of wall 118. The void between 118 and 119 was in filled with 144 and covered with flagged surface 143. At the northern end of the wheel pit, blocking wall 130 was inserted into the site of the original pentrough/launder to block the mouth of the sluice which fed the breast-shot wheel.
- 4.10.8 At this time the northern area behind the mill was infilled and the ground surface raised, with the probable insertion of a large water storage pool, which partly survives to the north of concrete wall **162** (marked as 'Leat' on **Figure 2**). At some later stage, wall **163** was constructed, which led from the water pool to a newly constructed curving buttress (**129**), which would have held the new pentrough/launder to control the flow of water over the overshot wheel. Remains of the launder were identified *in situ* (**190**). This stone slab trough was held in place with large cast iron brackets.
- 4.10.9 At the south end of the wheel pit a new entrance to the tail race was constructed (173) and, as the old water wheel was replaced, wall 117 was repaired (133 and 134) as a new wheel shaft was inserted. Alterations to the cog/gear pit also took place with the construction of supporting structures for a wooden Hurst frame to support the millstones. A sale account of 1791 states that the mill ran two pairs of stones at this time and these would have required a substantial supporting wooden frame.
- 4.10.10 Wall **132** was inserted at the northern end of the cog/gear pit and constructed upon floor surface **125**; this acted as a buttress to take the weight of structure **111** which reused millstones to create a raised platform on which the wooden Hurst frame would have sat. One of the millstones, of Old Red Sandstone conglomerate from the Wye Valley, is a runner stone with a socket by which the stone was held to the spindle; it is possibly of 17th century date (M. Watts pers. comm.).
- 4.10.11 A horizontal beam slot (191) for a timber sill beam was revealed against 111 and on top of 131 to take the base timber for the Hurst frame; this was contemporary with a second beam slot 192 revealed in the southern elevation of the wall 115.
- 4.10.12 Beam slot 192 possibly housed the upper beam which would have held the millstones located on a mezzanine floor with no designated stone floor. Alternatively, it might have held an intermediary, horizontal timber of the Hurst frame, and there may have been a first floor stone floor, but no traces of the first floor joists survive. In support of the second interpretation, the 1782 Map of the Manor of Cucklington shows the mill as a two-storey building.
- 4.10.13 At the eastern end of the building, the addition of walls **128** and **193** (the latter now below an earthwork of collapsed material) created an extension to



the mill. This was not investigated, but it probably corresponds to the north-south aligned building shown on the 1838 Tithe map.

4.11 Area 2 - Trenches 2, 3 and 4 (Figures 5 & 6)

- 4.11.1 Three trenches were positioned in Area 2 to investigate the possible site of the *Domesday* mill and Leat C.
- 4.11.2 Trenches 3 and 4 revealed *c*. 0.25m of overlying topsoil sealing between 0.10m and 0.16m of subsoil. Trench 2 was considerably deeper with 0.41m of topsoil overlying 0.54m of subsoil. One sherd of medieval pottery (12th to early 14th century) was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 3, and provided the only archaeological evidence for medieval activity in this part of the Site.
- 4.11.3 A ditch (204) cut the natural in Trench 2 (Figure 6, Plate 5) and was interpreted as the line of Leat C, and possibly related to the putative early medieval mill on the Site. No archaeological remains were revealed in Trenches 3 and 4 (Figure 6, Plates 6-8).

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from four trenches, mostly from Trench 1. The assemblage is almost entirely of post-medieval date, with a few residual medieval items, and one prehistoric find.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Following quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain their nature, probable date range, and condition. Spot dates have been recorded for datable material (pottery, vessel glass). This information provides the basis for an assessment of the potential of the finds assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the Site, with particular reference to the construction and use of the post-medieval mill complex, and to any surviving medieval predecessor.
- 5.1.3 Given the largely modern date range of the finds, a rigorous discard policy has been applied following quantification and assessment, with the agreement of the recipient museum (see below, **5.13**)

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 With the exception of two medieval sherds, the assemblage is entirely of post-medieval or modern date. The condition ranges from fair to good, with moderate levels of surface and edge abrasion, although a group of pieces from Trench 1 topsoil had a heavy concretion over all surfaces and breaks.
- 5.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified by ware type within each context; totals are given in **Table 2**. Following this quantification, most of the pottery was discarded; items retained comprise the medieval sherds, and sherds of early post-medieval Staffordshire-type slipware.



Medieval

- 5.2.3 The earlier of the two medieval sherds recovered is in a coarse sandy fabric that can be identified as of south-east Wiltshire/East Dorset type; comparable wares were produced at the late 13th/early 14th century kilns at Laverstock, near Salisbury, but were almost certainly also made at other locations in east Dorset. The overall date range for this ware type is from at least the 12th through to the 14th century; this small undiagnostic sherd cannot be dated more closely within that range. It was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 3, and was the only datable artefact from that layer.
- 5.2.4 A second sherd came from reworked natural (159), together with a postmedieval sherd. This is in a fine sandy fabric, and is of later medieval date (14th/15th century).

Post-medieval/modern

- 5.2.5 The rest of the assemblage comprises a range of wares, which fall into three broad categories:
- 5.2.6 Coarse earthenwares: two types are represented here, both supplying utilitarian wares to the Site - pale-firing Verwood-type earthenwares from east Dorset; and redwares, almost certainly representing the products of more than one source. Three possible sources are located at roughly equal distances (15-20km) from the site: Crockerton to the north-east, Wanstrow to the north, and Holnest to the south-west.
- 5.2.7 Early post-medieval finewares: these are limited to eleven sherds of Staffordshire-type slipwares (17th/early 18th century), possibly all from a single cup or mug (layer 124 and stone surface 125); and one very small sherd of white-dipped stoneware with moulded decoration, with a similar date range (redeposited natural 154).
- Later post-medieval factory-produced wares: these include a range of 5.2.8 refined earthenwares (creamware, whiteware, yellow ware), bone china, porcelain and stoneware. Most of these supplied tea wares, other tablewares, and decorative wares, many of them transfer-printed. There are also two decorative (transfer-printed) wall tiles in a refined whiteware. The porcelain comprises a doll's head and leg. The yellow ware and stoneware were used more for utilitarian forms, the former including one kitchen dish and a jug with Mocha decoration, while the stoneware occurred in jar and bottle forms (containers for foodstuffs and other household goods), and was also used for kitchen bowls. The date range for this group of wares is late 18th to 20th century.

5.3 **Ceramic Building Material**

- 5.3.1 This category includes fragments of brick and roof tile. One complete brick was recovered from topsoil in Trench 1, an unfrogged type measuring 230 x 110 x 60mm; the size is consistent with a post-medieval date within the range of 16th to 18th century.
- 5.3.2 Amongst the roof tile, two fragments of medieval tile were identified, both from Trench 1 topsoil. These are not reliable indicators of a medieval building on the Site, as ceramic tiles were frequently re-used.



5.3.3 One land drain was recovered, and one modern decorated wall tile.

5.4 Wall Plaster

5.4.1 Further building material was recovered in the form of small fragments of painted wall plaster. Most of this is monochrome, but occurred in several colours: white, red, blue, green and yellow (some with red smudges), but some was polychrome (blue on white, red and blue on white). This is all of modern date.

5.5 Clay Pipe

5.5.1 Most of the clay pipe comprised plain stems; there is one datable bowl (*c.* 1640-60), from demolition deposit (**127**).

5.6 Stone and Flint

- 5.6.1 All of the stone recovered comprised building materials, including one limestone flooring slab, and four fragments of roofing slate.
- 5.6.2 A single worked flint constitutes the only find of prehistoric date from the Site; this is a broken waste flake, which cannot be dated more closely.

5.7 Glass

- 5.7.1 The glass included fragments of window glass, but largely consisted of vessel glass, including a large number of complete or near complete bottles and jars, many of them embossed with makers' names and products. Most of these came from a deliberate dump of refuse within layer 121, with other groups from Trench 1 topsoil and post-demolition deposit 104. A small selection of the less common varieties amongst the complete bottles has been retained; all other glass was discarded.
- 5.7.2 Proprietary marks illustrate just some of the foodstuffs and other products used on the Site, and include well-known brands of the late 19th and 20th centuries such as Paterson's Camp Coffee (Glasgow), Owbridge's Lung Tonic (Hull), Eiffel Tower Lemonade (from Foster Clark of Maidstone), Yorkshire Relish (from Goodall, Backhouse & Co, Leeds), Chivers' Cambridge Lemonade (Histon, Cambridgeshire), Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, and Daddies Favourite Sauce. There are also unnamed products from Osmond & Son of Grimsby, Lincolnshire, and Holbrooks Ltd (probably Worcester sauce); a medicine bottle labelled with teaspoon quantities, and a blue ribbed (poison) bottle labelled 'Not to be taken'.
- 5.7.3 Other vessels include a tiny complete (?perfume) bottle, an octagonal tumbler, the ubiquitous green wine bottles, an octagonal inkwell, a barrel-shaped mustard jar, and a stopper with the mark of the Aire & Calder Bottle Company of Castleford. There was also half of an ashtray, and several fragments of decorative bowls.

5.8 Synthetics

5.8.1 A plastic comb was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1. It warrants comment as it is an imitation of a well-known Saxon comb form: a triangular-backed composite comb with incised and stamped decoration on the tooth-plates.



5.9 Wood

5.9.1 The single piece of wood came from layer **121**, which contained deliberately dumped refuse. The piece is heavily worn, but appears to represent a plank, and retains a sub-oval deliberately made hole, probably a mortice hole, and one *in situ* nail. This object is of uncertain date and structural function.

5.10 Metalwork

Copper Alloy

- 5.10.1 Three objects amongst the copper alloy can be dated as early post-medieval; all are items of dress or dress accessories.
- 5.10.2 A small decorative object from reworked natural (126) is a dress fastener from a paired hook-and-eye clasp; this would have been the hooked element, although the hook has broken off. It is cast, with elaborate moulded and openwork decoration; two small apertures near the top (opposite the hook), and two more, one on each side, would have been used to sew the fastener to the clothing. Hook fasteners, which are known from the Saxon period, reappeared in the 15th century and were particularly popular in the 16th and 17th centuries (Bailey 2004, 92). Two very similar fasteners to the example from Buck Mill are known from Norfolk (Portable Antiquity Scheme database, refs. NMS-E747C1; NMS-539A87), both dated to the 17th century on the grounds of decorative style.
- 5.10.3 One object, from post-demolition deposit **105**, has been identified as a purse bar; it comprises a horizontal bar with moulded terminals (one is missing), and a swivelling, oval loop; a comparable example is known from a 15th/16th century context in Norwich (Margeson 1993, no. 291). This object would have formed the support for a cloth or leather purse, suspended from the belt; such purses were popular from the 15th century onwards.
- 5.10.4 A shoe buckle from Trench 1 topsoil is of late 17th or early 18th century form; it is rectangular with moulded decoration and a separate spindle. A comparable example is dated to the period *c*. 1690-1720 (Whitehead 1997, no. 652).
- 5.10.5 Other identifiable copper alloy objects comprise two further buckles (not of closely datable form), two possible dress fasteners made from twisted wire; a small, perforated strip fitting or mount; four buttons; a spoon/fork handle; a pot lid; a bundle of wire; two small riveted fittings (to secure narrow pipes or cables); a short section of pipe with a junction fitting. All these are either demonstrably modern, or cannot be dated closely.

Lead

5.10.6 Apart from a model lead soldier from post-demolition deposit **105**, the lead comprises miscellaneous fragments of sheet, with one or two window came fragments, i.e. probably all structural material, or the waste therefrom.

Iron

5.10.7 The ironwork is mainly structural, and includes at least 30 nails. There are also various screws, spikes, rods, and miscellaneous fragments. Other identifiable objects include a hammerhead, a decorative grille, a grate fragment, and part of a decorative fireplace screen.



- 5.10.8 From the mill machinery, two surviving fragments of the iron waterwheel were recovered, as well as a cog or tooth from the waterwheel or sluicegate, and part of the launder or pentrough (cast iron structural brackets), all from topsoil contexts.
- 5.10.9 With the exception of a nail and an unidentified object from Trench 4, all of the ironwork came from Trench 1.

5.11 **Animal Bone**

5.11.1 The small amount of animal bone recovered represents domestic refuse, presumably from on-site consumption. Interestingly, more than half of the bones (27) belong to rabbits, suggesting the trapping of wild species. Other species represented include sheep (3), chicken (1) and pig (1); other bones can only be assigned to 'large mammal', 'medium mammal' or 'small mammal' categories.

5.12 Potential and further recommendations

- 5.12.1 This finds assemblage relates largely to the structure and occupation of the post-medieval mill. Elements of the mill structure (e.g. parts of the water wheel) have been identified, and aid the understanding of the mill workings. Domestic refuse, which includes the more closely datable artefacts, is almost entirely of modern date. While this includes some interesting examples of glass bottles stamped with manufacturers' marks, it has limited archaeological potential. A few artefacts of medieval and early postmedieval date (pottery sherds; metal dress accessories) are of interest.
- No further work on the finds is recommended. Sufficient detail has been 5.12.2 recorded at the assessment stage to provide a full archive record (including digital photographs of selected artefacts).

5.13 **Discard policy**

- 5.13.1 Given the largely modern date range of the finds, a rigorous discard policy has been applied following quantification and assessment, with the agreement of the recipient museum. Table 3 summarises the discard policy adopted for each material types, and gives the quantities retained. Further discard may take place before final archive deposition, in consultation with the museum.
- 5.13.2 Selected elements of the mill structure will be retained, as potentially of interest to future researchers, together with a very few artefacts from the assemblage of domestic refuse. All other finds have been, or will be discarded.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The programme of works at Buck Mill was only partially successful in its stated aims of identifying the earliest evidence of medieval occupation on Site and defining the chronology of the standing remains of the postmedieval mill building.



6.2 Medieval

- 6.2.1 No *in situ* archaeological evidence for a *Domesday* mill was observed on Site though possible locations for such a building were identified through the landscape survey and the re-examination of the *Domesday* reference.
- 6.2.2 The lack of medieval mill remains may be due to the type of mill recorded at *Domesday*. If it was a simple horizontal 'click'-mill, it may not have survived in the archaeological record; such structures were insubstantial.
- 6.2.3 Two sherds of medieval pottery and two fragments of medieval ceramic roof tile do show evidence of medieval activity on the Site but are not particularly informative.

6.3 Post-medieval

- 6.3.1 The Calendar of Patent Rolls for 1555 mentions the manor of Stoke Trister but there is no reference to a watermill, despite watermills being included as part of other manors within the same text. However by 1566 a 'mill called Buckmill' is recorded in Cucklington. It can be assumed, therefore, that the mill in Area 1 was constructed sometime in the middle of the 16th century. The earliest datable finds would support this date (15th/16th century purse bar; 16th/17th century dress fastener).
- 6.3.2 The post-medieval mill was clearly successful enough to change with the times and to upgrade to more efficient and productive methods of milling. This is evident from the change from the original wide breast-shot wheel to the narrow overshot wheel, probably some time in the 18th century, although the date cannot be fixed. Such a change would have been expensive, not only because of the cost of new machinery, a new wheel, and the cost of the extensive construction and associated landscaping, but also through the loss of revenue during the period of remodelling.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1.1 The results of the evaluation do not warrant detailed publication, but a summary will be submitted to the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, for inclusion in the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1.1 The project archive, which includes drawn plans and sections, photographs, written records, artefacts and digital data is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 74152. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with Somerset County Council Museums Service, under the Accession Number TTNCM 39/2010.



9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliography

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- **VCHS 1999**, Victoria County History of the Counties of England: Somerset, Vol 7 (ed. R.W. Dunning)
- **Videotext Communications, 2010**, Proposed Archaeological Evaluation Buck Mill, Somerset, NGR ST 7466 2817, unpublished project design
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9.2 Historic Environment Records

Somerset Records Office (SRO):

- 1566 1st Earl of Pembroke Survey SRO PAM 2664
- 1703 Will of John Benjafield SRO DD\X\SLT/1
- 1776 Deeds of Mary Benjafield SRO DD\X\SLT/1
- 1778 Deeds of Mary Benjafield SRO DD\X\SLT/1
- 1790 Deeds of Mary Benjafield SRO DD/DNL 45
- 1791 Bayford Property Sale SRO DD/SAS/SW6
- 1850 Will of William Biggin DD\SAS/C795/SW/21

9.3 Cartographic Sources

- 1782 Edward Phelips Estate Map of Cucklington (SRO DD\PH/158)
- 1792 Stoke Manor Estate Map (SRO STO/T\PH\WW/1)
- 1838 Tithe Map (SRO D\D/Rt/M/73)

9.4 Aerial Photographs

Aerial photograph dated 4th November 1946 (NMR/RAF/CPE/UK1821) Aerial photograph dated 16th January 1947 (NMR RAF/CPE/UK/1924).



9.5 Online resources

> http://finds.org.uk/database, Portable Antiquities Scheme database:

accessed March 2011



10 GLOSSARY

This section provides a brief glossary for some of the terms associated with watermill technology which are used in this report.

breast-shot wheel: water wheel in which the incoming water hits the wheel halfway up.

cog/gear pit: houses the pit wheel, which is linked to the water wheel by an axle. The pit wheel is linked to the *wallower*.

Hurst frame: an internal framework supporting the gears and millstones.

launder: alternative term for pentrough.

leat: watercourse supplying a mill with running water.

overshot wheel: water wheel in which the incoming water hits the wheel at the top. Overshot wheels are more efficient than breast-shot wheels as they are driven by weight of water.

pentrough: reservoir of water which would have sat at the head of the leat, immediately before the wheel pit. Flow of water from the pentrough (or chute) on to the water wheel would have been controlled by the penstock, or sluice, which can be raised and lowered.

runner stone: millstones work in pairs. The lower stone, or bedstone is staionary, while the upper stone, or runner stone, turns and performs the grinding. The runner stone is held to the spindle by a metal rynd or bracket.

wallower: a small gear at the base of the upright shaft; meshes with the cogs of the pit wheel, and turns the spur wheel, which is mounted on the same shaft. The spur wheel drives the millstones

wheel pit: pit in which the water wheel is mounted.



Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr. 1	Tr. 2	Tr. 3	Tr. 4	Total
Animal Bone	49/186				49/186
Ceramic Building Material	28/9714	2/227	3/15	4/92	37/10,048
Clay Pipe	7/34			2/2	9/36
Copper Alloy	20/620	1/1			21/621
Flint		1/2			1/2
Glass	83/10,493				83/10493
Iron	140/44,236			2/15	142/44,251
Lead	18/442	3/122			21/564
Pottery	244/10,254	3/261	4/54	4/25	255/10,594
Stone	5/2000				5/200
Synthetics	1/44				1/44
Wall Plaster	61/1789				61/1789
Wood	1/1907				1/1907

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Date Range	Ware Type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
MEDIEVAL	SE Wilts/E Dorset coarseware	1	20
	Late medieval sandy ware	1	4
	sub-total medieval	2	24
POST-MEDIEVAL	Bone china	15	211
	Creamware	3	71
	Stoneware	22	1519
	Porcelain	2	17
	Redware	8	448
	Refined redware	6	202
	Refined whiteware	97	2373
	Staffordshire-type slipware	11	39
	Verwood-type earthenware	94	5471
	Yellow ware	10	182
	sub-total post-medieval	268	10,533
	OVERALL TOTAL	270	10,557



Table 3: Discard policy for finds

		Total no.	Total no.	
Material Type	Action	recovered	retained	
Animal Bone	All discarded	49	0	
Ceramic Building Material	All discarded	37	0	
Clay Pipe	Datable bowl retained; plain stems discarded	6	1	
	Datable early post-medieval objects retained (e.g. purse bar, dress			
Copper Alloy	fastener, shoe buckle); remainder discarded	21	7	
Worked Flint	All retained	1	1	
	Some good examples of complete bottles with manufacturers' or			
	other marks, and single piece of early post-medieval window glass			
Glass	retained; remainder discarded	83	7	
	Samples of structural ironwork retained, as well as some identifiable			
Iron	objects (not nails); remainder discarded	142	100	
Lead	Lead soldier retained; remainder discarded	21	1	
	Early post-medieval finewares, and two medieval sherds retained;			
Pottery	remainder discarded	255	12	
Stone	All discarded	2	0	
Synthetics	Retained	1	1	
Wall Plaster	A few representative samples retained; remainder discarded	61	7	
Wood	Retained	1	1	



APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

bgl = below ground level

Area 1				Centred on co- ordinate	374592.48,	
Dimensio	ns: 24m by 2	20m	Max Depth: 2m	Ground Surface	75.85m aOI)
Context	Description	า				Depth bgl
101	Topsoil	limeston western Equivale	loose humic mid-brown e inclusions and mode half of Area 1 in the dont to 102 and 103.	rn roots. Concentra mestic half of the r	ated in the mill building.	0.10m thick
102	Topsoil	limeston meal floo and the	loose humic mid-brown e inclusions and modern or area of the mill which has the Hurst frame which so to 101 and 103.	roots. Concentrated bused the pit wheel,	d above the the wallower	0.15m thick
103	Topsoil	Modern limeston eastern	loose humic mid-brown e inclusions and mode area of the mill buildin nt to 101 and 102.	rn roots. Concentra	ated in the	0.14m thick
104	Layer	inclusion following mill build	rey-brown silty loam was. Post-demolition accupates the partially demolition and the graph of the partially demolition and some states above the sealed by 102 and over the properties.	umulation material, nd robbing of stonew the meal floor and	deposited ork from the	0.20m thick
105	Layer	from th collapse	low silty loam with sandy of cleaning of stonework demolition of the mill built of the meal floor. Sealed	rk for recycling fo ding. Deposit conce	llowing the ntrated over	0.30m thick
106	Layer	Mixed de large lim	eposit of mid-brown silty lo estone blocks. Deliberate f wheel pit (Group 189) fo aled by 103; overlies deca	oam with high humic backfill event within ollowing the abandor	content and the second ment of the	1.10m thick
107	Layer	Mid-yello brown s and den	ow-brown silty loam with ilty loam. Mixed deposit nolition/collapse material, e domestic western end o	common dumps o of post-demolition a sealed by 101 and	f loose mid ccumulation	0.20m thick
108	Layer	wall plas	ight yellow silty clay mor ster and broken CBM. Ma eable stonework and bric flagged floor 109. Equivale	aterial derived from ks for reuse. Sealed	the cleaning	0.10m thick
109	Floor	flags sho steam p Flags la construc	agged surface of possible ow evidence of having be owered saw. Flags rough id on reworked natural b tion of walls 145, 146, 147	en machine cut, pos nly 1m square and le edding layer 158/15 and 148.	ssibly with a 0.03m thick. 9; post-date	0.03m thick
110	Layer	derived t	mid-yellow-brown with g from cleaning off mortar from seals Hurst frame base 1	om reused stonewor		0.09m thick
111	Structure	reused the Wye socket to and the	stone platform formed of proken millstone (Old Reconstruction). Millstone up-endo hold the rynd, the brackerest of gearing mechanism 17th century in date, but	d Sandstone congloded to reveal rynd bet holding runner storm). It is a 4 straight-	merate from nole (carved ne to spindle armed rynd,	0.20m thick



century (M. Watts pers. comm.). 111 constructed upon walls 117, 131 and 132 which forms Group 188: the cog/gear pit. 111 would have held the Hurst frame which supported the gear mechanism, and was associated with slot 191 and 192 which would have held timber beams of the Hurst frame. Stone flagged surface of possible blue lias limestone, forming 112 Surface surface of meal floor. At ground level, housed machinery and gearing to drive millstones; would have been where ground flour was delivered. Flags similar to 109, those in the domestic area of the mill. Surface 112 appears to butt wall 116 which separates the domestic and working areas of the mill. 113 Wall E-W aligned roughly hewn limestone block wall; 9.20m long, 1.15-2.10m 0.48m wide and 1.15-2.10m in height. Six horizontal courses of high rough limestone blocks in light yellow lime mortar. Wall forms the northern wall of the domestic end of the mill building and is bonded to and contemporary with 114 and 181 at its eastern and western ends respectively. Eastern end at junction with 114 is heavily disturbed and slumping to the south. Northern side butted by added buttress 165 at junction with 114, and corner of 113 and 181 butted by the addition of later wall 182. N-S aligned roughly hewn limestone block wall; 3.3m long by 114 Wall 1.63m high 0.70m wide and maximum of 1.63m high. 22 horizontal courses of roughly hewn stones 0.40m by 0.12m in limestone mortar. Not exposed to full height. Wall contemporary with and bonded to walls 113 and 115, and forms eastern elevation of domestic area of the mill; forms a dog leg with 116. At junction with 115, wall 114 is butted by supporting structure 152. Roughly E-W aligned roughly hewn limestone block wall; at least 115 Wall 2.30-2.50m 6.5m long by at least 0.4m wide and ranging in height from 2.30high 2.50m. This wall not fully exposed in plan or elevation due to addition of later structures. Recorded as 20 courses of stonework measuring 0.66m by 0.22m in light yellow limestone mortar, flush jointing. This forms main northern wall of the milling area of the building, including the meal floor, cog/gear pit, and wheel pit. Wall 115 contemporary with wall 114 and potentially with walls 131, 132, 117 and 119 to form the main mill building. Wall butted by supporting buttress 129 and blocking structure 130, following conversion from breast-shot to overshot wheel technology. In south facing elevation is beam slot 192 to receive horizontal timber beam - part of the Hurst frame. 0.70-1.60m 116 Wall N-S aligned roughly hewn limestone block wall; 4.2m long by 0.51m wide and ranging in height from 0.70-1.60m, 20 courses of hiah rough limestone blocks, mid yellow mortar which differs from wall 115. Wall 116 clearly butts 115 and is therefore later. Junction with 115 supported by addition of 152. This addition separates the domestic area from the meal floor. Not fully exposed in plan, but doorway visible in east-facing elevation, with threshold/step of bricks. Wall 116 butted by 112, and may have been added during conversion to overshot water wheel. 117 Wall Roughly N-S aligned limestone block wall; 5m long by 0.80m wide 3m maximum and a maximum of 3m high. Roughly 30 courses in height of mixed high sized blocks. Wall 117 contemporary with 115 and bonded to it, to form eastern wall of cog/gear pit (Group 188) and western wall of the wheel pit (Group 189). At point where wheel shaft passed through wall 177 there were a number of repairs: 133 and 134, probably during the replacing of the wheel shaft when the wheel pit was narrowed. Wall 117 sits on rammed stone surface 125: the base of the cog/gear pit.



440	1 1 1 1 1		440 111
118	Wall	Roughly N-S aligned roughly hewn limestone block wall; 4.6m long by 0.66m wide and 1.40m+ high. Constructed of 9 visible horizontal courses, stones 0.60m x 0.28m x 0.30m in size in a mid yellow limestone mortar. Wall 118 clearly a later wall as it butts wall 115, and was inserted into original wheel pit (formed by 117 and 119) to narrow it. Wall 118 contemporary with blocking wall 130 and supporting buttress 129. Butted by backfill material 144 and sealed by flagged surface 143 creating working platform adjacent to wheel pit.	1.40m high +
119	Wall	Roughly N-S aligned; 1.7m long by 0.56m wide and ranging in height from 0.90-1.40m. Wall 119 contemporary with walls 115, 117 and 131 and would have formed eastern wall of original wheel pit; replaced by addition of 118 to narrow wheel pit. Wall 119 butted by deliberate backfill material 144 with 143 sat upon it.	0.90-1.40m high
120	Layer	Mid-grey-brown silty clay; deliberate backfill deposit which seals the cog/gear pit (Group 188), and overlies 121.	0.25m thick
121	Layer	Dark grey-brown silty sandy deposit; deliberate dump of material comprising predominantly glass and pottery - Victorian bottle and pottery dump. Overlies 124 and sealed by 120.	0.16m thick
122	Layer	Mixed and mottled mid-brown silty clay with common fragments of coal and coke infilling voids between the flags 109 in the domestic area of the mill building. Demolition/abandonment deposition. Same as 123. Sealed by 108.	0.11m thick.
123	Layer	Mixed and mottled mid-brown silty clay with common fragments of coal and coke infilling voids between the flags 109 in the domestic area. Demolition/abandonment deposition. Same as 122. Sealed by 108.	0.13m thick
124	Layer	Mid-yellow-brown sandy silty clay containing rare CBM fragments. Material at the base of the cog/gear pit, which overlies floor of the pit 125. Material appears to be derived from the mortar cleaned off the reused stonework. Sealed by 121.	0.36m thick
125	Surface	Rammed stone surface at the base of cog/gear pit (Group 188), 125 overlies 126. Overlain by walls 132 and 117.	0.10m thick
126	Layer	Redeposited or at least re-worked natural blue-grey clay revealed below surface 125 in cog/gear pit (Group 159).	0.20m +
127	Layer	Mid-brown silty loam with common fragments of yellow limestone mortar. Demolition/collapse deposit which seals the junction of blocking structure 130 and supporting buttress 129 with walls 115, 118 and 119. Deposit contained clay pipe bowl dating 1660-80 with mortar adhering, indicating it had come from fabric of a wall (though unclear which wall).	0.10m thick
128	Wall	Roughly E-W aligned wall; 3.9m long and 1.50m high. Not revealed in plan. Wall 128 butts the junction of walls 115 and 119. Associated with earthwork 193 to form a separate building at the eastern end of the mill. Probably the building shown on the 1838 Tithe map.	1.50m high
129	Buttress	Curving buttress constructed of limestone blocks c.0.60m by 0.30m in size; 1.8m wide and 2.90m high. Much of this structure is obscured by limescale. Wall 129 added to southern elevation of wall 115 between the junctions of walls 117 and 118 with 115. Associated with blocking structure 130 and wall 118. Walls 129, 118 and 130 were constructed to convert the mill from a breast-shot wheel to an overshot wheel – 129 was supporting structure for new launder pentrough 190 for the overshot wheel. The buttress and blocking raised the height at which the water drove the wheel by over 1.50m.	2.30m high
130	Blocking structure	Limestone stone blocking structure formed of unworked stones and roughly squared off blocks; 1.20m long by 0.75m wide and	1.70m high



		T	
		1.70m high. Structure only partially revealed in plan and elevation	
		due to tree cover and limescale coverage. 130 added when wheel	
		pit was narrowed by addition of 118.	
131	Wall	Roughly N-S aligned limestone block wall; 4.4m long by 0.78m	1.38m high
		wide and 1.38m high; constructed of 11 rough courses in mid-	
		yellow-brown sandy lime mortar. Wall 131 bonded to 115 and	
		forms the western side of the cog/gear pit (Group 188). Probably	
		first phase of the mill, though adapted and altered in later periods.	
		Wall appears butted by reworked natural 126 and surface 125.	
132	Wall	E-W aligned wall; 1m long and 1.10m high. Only revealed in	1.10m high
		elevation. Forms northern wall of the cog/gear pit (Group 188).	
		Probably later addition as sits directly upon surface 125 and is	
		overlain by Hurst frame base 111.	
133	Wall repair	Mix of brick and stone repair work to wall 117 at point where the	-
		wheel shaft passes through, from cog/gear pit to wheel pit.	
134	Wall repair	Second stone and brick repair to 117 and possibly associated with	-
		the addition of 132 and 111.	
135	Natural	Trampled natural blue-grey clay geology, equivalent to 142 and	-
		161; revealed at south western corner of mill building. Cut by 136	
		culvert and construction cut for walls 139 and 140.	
136	Cut	Cut of culvert which encompasses the south-western corner of mill	0.65m deep
		building. Aligned E-W but visible turning to north around junction of	
		walls 139 and 140. Culvert 2.1m long by 0.50m wide and 0.65m	
		wide; lined with stone blocks 155 and capped with capping stones	
		137. Infilled with material 156 and 157 following the abandonment	
		of the mill. Culvert diverted water away from mill building; traced	
		across front of southern side of mill towards tail race leading away	
		from wheel pit.	
137	Structure	Large limestone capping stones over stone-lined culvert 136. Sits	-
400	.	directly upon stone lining 155 and sealed by 138.	0.00 (1.1
138	Layer	Mixed and mottled mid-brown silty clay with common small	0.09m thick
		limestone inclusions; post-demolition accumulation, mix of	
		trampled disturbed natural and demolition material. Seals	
120	Mall	demolished walls 139 and 140 and culvert capping 137.	
139	Wall	Roughly E-W aligned limestone block wall only revealed in plan;	-
		0.87m long by 0.80m wide, associated with 140 to south-western	
		corner of mill building. Continuation of wall 150. Constructed within cut 186. Extension to domestic area of mill.	
140	Wall	Roughly N-S aligned limestone block wall only revealed in plan;	
140	vvali	1.20m long by 0.80m wide, associated with 139 to the south-	-
		western corner of the mill building. Continuation of wall 185.	
		Constructed within cut 186. Second phase of building works,	
		extension to domestic area of mill.	
141	layer	Mixed and mottled mid-brown silty clay with common small	_
' ' '	layor	limestone inclusions; post-demolition accumulation, mix of	
		trampled disturbed natural and demolition material. Seals	
		demolished walls 139 and 140. Equivalent to 138.	
142	Natural	Mid-blue-grey natural clay, that has been trampled and reworked	_
		to a degree. Cut by 186, construction cut for walls 139 and 140.	
		Equivalent to 135 and 161.	
143	Surface	Roughly shaped limestone flags creating surface over the	0.07m thick
		backfilled part of the original wheel pit, associated with wall 118	
		which narrowed the pit and infilling 144.	
144	Layer	Mixed and mottled light yellow sandy silt and mid-brown silty clay,	0.40m+ thick
		common small limestone inclusions and mortar dumps. Deliberate	
		infilling deposit between wall 118 and original wheel pit wall 119, to	
		provide base for overlying flags 143.	



145 Wall Roughly E-W aligned roughly hewn limestone block wall in 0.20m high limestone mortar. 0.45m long by 0.55m wide and 0.20m high, with 2 recorded rough horizontal courses. This stub of wall associated with 146 formed entrance into (probable) kitchen area, leading from the central corridor walls 147 and 148 and external entrance threshold 149. Continuation of wall 184. Wall 145 in alignment with wall 115, possibly therefore original southern outside wall of mill, contemporary with walls 113, 114, 115 and 181 (this hypothesis is supported by the addition of buttress 152). 146 Wall Roughly E-W aligned roughly hewn limestone block wall in 0.27m high limestone mortar. 0.72m long by 0.69m wide and 0.27m high, with 2 recorded rough horizontal courses. This stub of wall associated with 145 formed the entrance into (probable) kitchen area. Continuation of wall 168. Wall 146 is in alignment with wall 115, possibly therefore the original southern outside wall of the mill (see also 145). 147 Wall Roughly N-S aligned brick wall; 4.5m long by 0.12m wide and 0.16m high 0.16m high. Wall recorded as 2 courses in stretcher bond in a light yellow limestone mortar and a single brick width wide. Associated with 148 to form corridor leading from doorway into domestic area of mill across threshold 149, to probable kitchen area. Fairly insubstantial wall, therefore possibly held lath and plaster non-load bearing partition wall. 148 Wall Roughly N-S aligned brick wall; 4.3m long by 0.12m wide and 0.16m high 0.16m high, 2 courses in stretcher bond in a light vellow limestone mortar and a single brick width wide, over a stepped header footing. Associated with 147 to form corridor. Fairly insubstantial wall and therefore possibly held lath and plaster non-load bearing partition wall. 149 Single large limestone slab; 1.02m long by 0.56m wide and 0.10m Threshold 0.10m thick thick, located between walls 150 and 151 to form the threshold into stone domestic area of mill. Roughly E-W aligned limestone block wall only revealed in plan; 150 Wall 0.55m long by 0.59m wide. Associated with 151 to form walls either side of entrance into domestic area of mill across threshold stone 149. Continuation of wall 139. Extension to domestic area of mill. 151 Wall Roughly E-W aligned limestone block wall only revealed in plan; 0.66m deep 0.58m long by 0.49m wide. Sondage excavated against 151 footing revealed a foundation 0.66m deep; constructed of 6 courses of roughly hewn limestone blocks in a light yellow limestone mortar. .Associated with 150 to form walls either side of entrance into domestic area. Continuation of wall 177. Extension to domestic area of mill. 152 Roughly rectangular buttress; 1.02m long by 0.38m wide and **Buttress** 1.64m high 1.64m in height; constructed of 7 courses of limestone blocks in light yellow mortar over 5 courses of highly vitrified bricks. Buttress located at the junction of walls 114 and 115 where 115 is butted by 116. Associated with the addition of 116, 139/150 and 151/177. 153 Topsoil Modern loose humic mid-brown silty loam with common small 0.10m thick limestone inclusions and modern roots; overlies wall 163. 154 Mid blue-grey clay, probably redeposited natural located to the Natural north of wheel pit (Group 189), and cut by wall 163, the approach to the launder from the leat. 0.65m high 155 Stone Roughly hewn small limestone blocks to stone lining of culvert 136, lining 7 courses. Overlain by 137. 156 Mixed and mottled mid-brown and mid-yellow silty clay lower fill of 0.35m thick Layer culvert 136. Material accumulated during the lifetime and following



175

176

Layer

Structure

the abandonment of the mill, and so stratigraphically later than 137. Sealed by layer 157. Mid-brown silty clay infilling of culvert 136, overlies 156. 157 0.25m thick Layer Mid-blue-grey clay, reworked and trampled natural clay acting as 158 Natural 0.20m thick bedding layer for floor 109, and revealed in sondage below later material 123. Equivalent to 159: overlies natural clay. 159 Natural Mid-blue-grev clay, reworked and trampled natural clay acting as 0.20m thick bedding layer for floor 109, revealed in sondage below later material 122. Equivalent to 158; overlies natural clay. 160 Cut Cut of culvert. Continuation of 136, the stone lining has collapsed 0.50m+ deep at this point resulting in deposit 172. Mid-blue-grey clay natural revealed in sondage to south of 161 Natural 0.49m thick + entrance threshold 149 into domestic area of mill. Cut by construction cut for wall 151 and culvert cut 160. Equivalent to 135 162 Wall Concrete wall which now forms a dam to the north of wheel pit area, and cuts off leat from mill. This was utilised as sheep dipping area. Wall cuts through 136. 163 Wall Roughly N-S aligned limestone block wall; 3.55m long by 0.67m 0.30m high wide and 0.30m high. 3 courses of squared stone work. Forms eastern wall of leat and approach to launder / pentrough. 164 Cut Eastern slope of leat which leads to launder / pentrough 190. visible as an earthwork. Western side of leat has been heavily affected by later activity. 0.31-0.47m 165 External buttress constructed of roughly hewn blue lias slabs with **Buttress** grey mortar, 4 random courses, 0.76m long by 0.54m wide and high 0.31-0.47m in height. 165 is a simple set-back buttress. 166 Mixed and mottled, mid-grey-brown silty clay with common Layer limestone and blue lias fragments, revealed in small sondage against buttress 165, unclear if deliberate packing demolition/post-demolition accumulation. Brick structure built against south-facing elevation of wall 1130 167 Structure 0.35m high within domestic area of mill. Interpreted as a possible oven or fire place structure. 4 courses of bricks in limestone mortar. 168 Wall Roughly E-W aligned wall constructed of 6 courses of brick over 2 0.43m high courses of limestone. The bricks butt wall 114; possible that lower stone work is continuation of 164, and originally keyed into 114. Relationship of lower stone work of walls 168 and 114 is unclear. 169 Mid-yellow, limestone-rich mortar material around wall 168. Laver Demolition material. 170 Light yellow-brown silty sand, mortar-rich layer, derived from 0.12m thick Layer cleaning off of mortar from stone work to be recycled. Sealed by 101 and overlies 171. 171 Layer Mid-brown silty clay with common small fragments of CBM and 0.20m thick limestone, possible make up layer for robbed surface to south of southern wall of mill building. Sealed by 170 and overlies footing of 151. 172 Mottled mid-grey-brown silty clay mix of collapse and accumulation Layer material within collapsed culvert 160. 173 Roughly E-W entrance archway with overlying wall, leading from Wall/Arch 1.20m high wheel pit to tail race, 1.30m long by 0.54m wide and 1.20m high and 6 courses of limestone blocks. 174 6-horse power mill wheel (M. Watts pers. comm.); by angle of the Iron water wheel buckets it an overshot wheel.

Mixed and mottled mid-brown silty clay, demolition or post-

Partially exposed brick structure, possible pier base but unclear,

demolition accumulation which overlies 143.

0.24m high



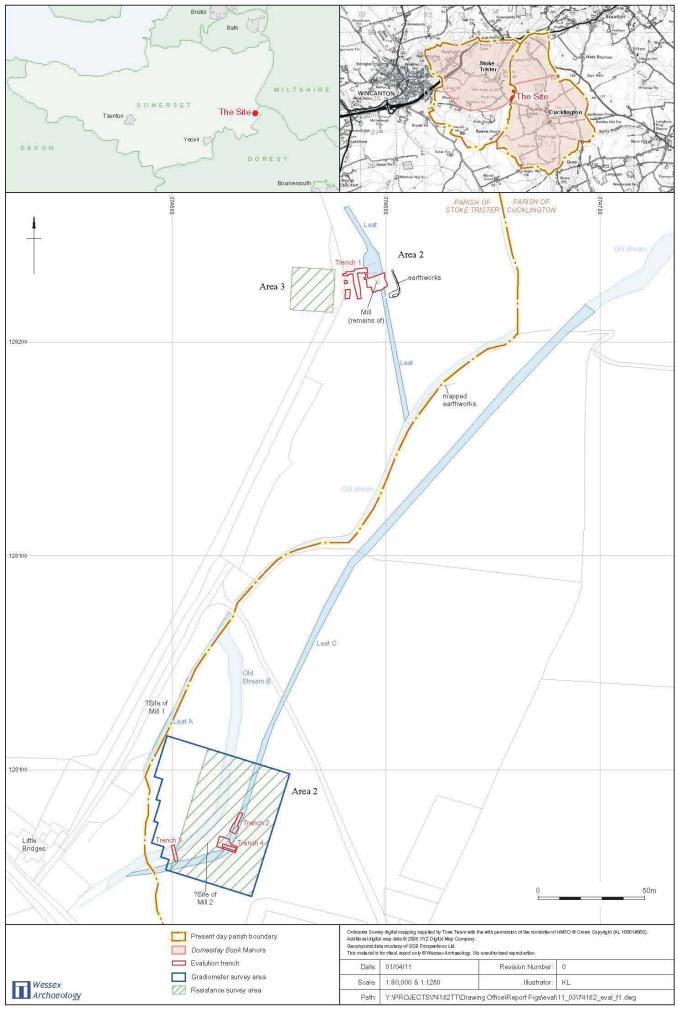
0.56m long by 0.50m wide by 0.24m high, 2 courses of bricks in mid vellow mortar. 177 Wall Roughly E-W aligned wall only revealed in plan; 3.8m long by 0.50m wide. Forms southern wall of meal floor. 178 Mid-brown silty clay with common small fragments of CBM and Layer limestone, possible make-up layer for robbed surface to south of 179 Mixed and mottled brown black silty clay with yellow sandy silt Layer patches, fill of culvert 187 and overlies stone lining 194. Only partially revealed. 180 Similar sort of material to layer 178. Layer Roughly N-S aligned wall; 1.14m long by 0.44m wide and 0.10m+ 181 Wall in height. Only partial revealed; bonded to and thus contemporary with wall 113. Potentially formed original western wall of mill. 182 Wall Roughly E-W aligned limestone block wall only revealed in plan; 1.74m long by 0.48m wide, addition on western end of mill; forms corner with 183, butts junction of 113 and 181. 183 Wall Roughly N-S aligned wall revealed only in plan; 0.71m long by 0.48m wide, addition to western end of mill; forms corner with 182. 184 Wall Roughly E-W aligned limestone block wall only revealed in plan; 1.30m long by 0.48m wide, heavily disturbed, aligned with 145. Associated with 185. Roughly N-S aligned wall revealed only in plan; 0.94m long by 185 Wall 0.48m wide, associated with 184 and aligned with 140. 186 Cut Construction cut for walls 140 and 139, cuts 142. 187 Cut of partially exposed culvert only observed in plan, continuation Cut of 136 and 160. Infilled with 179. 188 Group number for cog/gear pit, comprised of walls 131, 132, 117, Group 177, and 125. Group number for second phase wheel pit, comprised of walls 117, 189 Group 173, 118 and 129. 190 In situ remains of launder or pentrough which stored the water Structure before delivering it to overshot wheel. A number of squared off stone slabs and cast iron structural brackets were recovered, and these would have formed a stone trough, held by the brackets. 191 Beam slot Remains of beam slot formed against 111 and sitting on 131; revealed as the location of horizontal sill beam for the base of the Hurst frame, this was contemporary with the beam slot hole 192 in elevation of wall 115. Associated with 111. 192 Beam slot revealed in south-facing elevation of wall 115 to take Beam slot upper horizontal timber of the Hurst frame. Two possibilities for function of this timber - either (a) upper beam which would have held the millstones located on a mezzanine floor with no designated stone floor, or (b) intermediary horizontal timber and there was a 1st floor stone floor, but no traces of 1st floor joists survive. The 1782 map of the Manor of Cucklington shows the mill as a 2-storey building, therefore it would appear the latter interpretation is correct however this is unproven. 193 Earthworks formed from a collapsed N-S aligned wall and a E-W Earthwork aligned wall. A number of stone faces are visible in the earthwork. Associated with wall 128 and part of the N-S aligned building shown on the 1838 Tithe map. Partially revealed stone lining of culvert 187. Only revealed in plan, 194 Structure and sealed by backfill material 179.



374524.71, 127965.87 Trench 2 Co ordinates 74.30m aOD **Dimensions:** 8.6m by 5.3m Max Depth: 1.64m Ground Surface Context Depth bgl Description 201 Topsoil Mid-brown-black silt with common bioturbation, current topsoil 0-0.41 and turf of area of pasture. 202 Sub soil Dark yellow-brown silty clay subsoil, no inclusions. 0.41-0.95 Dark grey-brown silty clay with manganese throughout. Secondary fill of leat. Upper secondary, naturally derived 203 Fill 0.15m thick deposit, result of water flowing through channel and depositing material over time, low energy deposition. Fill of 205 and overlain by 203. 204 Fill Mid-yellow-brown silty clay lower secondary naturally derived 0.40m thick fill of leat 205, overlain by 203. 205 Cut Cut of possible water course interpreted as an earlier leat 0.55m deep associated with a probable medieval mill. Cuts 206 and filled with 204 and 203. 206 Natural Mid-yellow and mottled blue-grey clay natural geology, cut by 205.

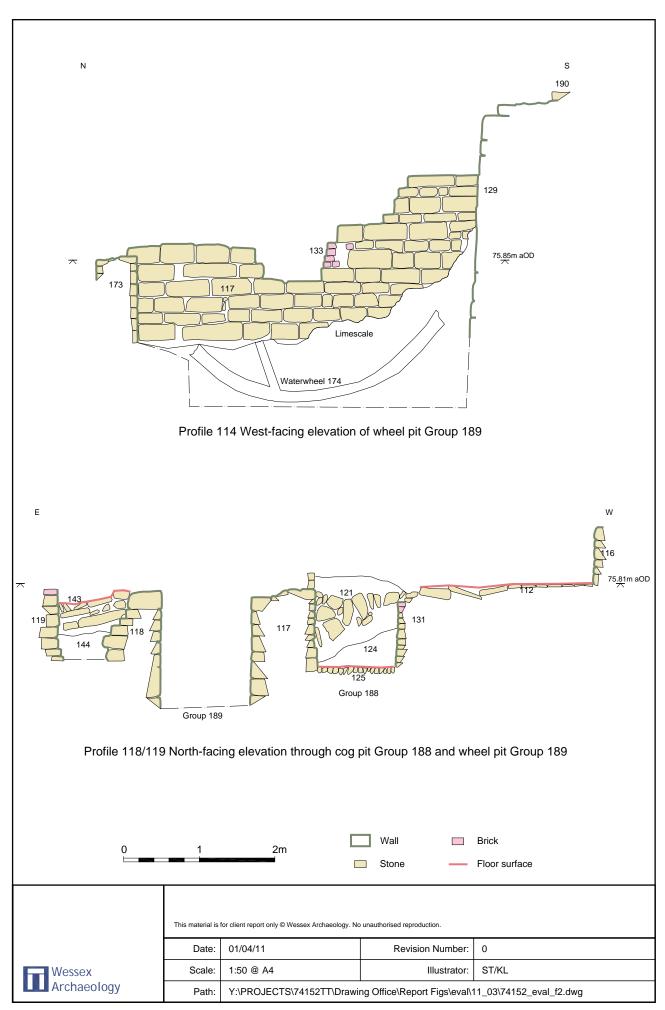
Trench 3			Co ordinates 374501.21, 127961.28		
Dimension	s: 8.6m by 1.6m	Max Depth: 1.15m	Ground	73.33m aOD	
			Surface		
Context Description				Depth bgl	
301	Topsoil	Mid-brown-black silt with no ir of pasture field.	nclusions, current to	psoil and turf	0-0.26m
302	Subsoil	Mid-brown-grey silty clay with rare manganese inclusions.			0.26-0.42m
303	Layer	Mid-orange-grey silty clay with rare manganese inclusions.			0.42-0.70m
304	Natural	Light yellow-grey mottled clay	•		0.70m +

Trench 4			Co ordinates 374530.06, 127973.98		
Dimension	ns: 10m by 3.1m	Max Depth: 0.35	Ground	73.75m aOD	
			Surface		
Context	Description				Depth bgl
401	Topsoil	Mid-brown-black silt with no	Mid-brown-black silt with no inclusions, current topsoil and turf		
		of pasture field.			
402	Subsoil	Dark yellow-brown silty clay.	Dark yellow-brown silty clay.		
403	Layer	Possible alluvial layer, but not the same natural geology as			
		observed in Trenches 2 and 3. No archaeological deposits			
ı		observed and trench was no	excavated deeper.	-	





Trench 1: plan and photograph



Trench 1: profiles through wheel pit (Group 189) and cog pit (Group 188)

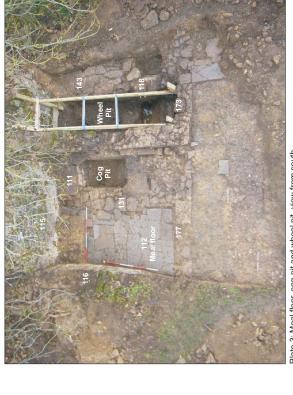


Plate 3: Meal floor, cog pit and wheel pit, view from south

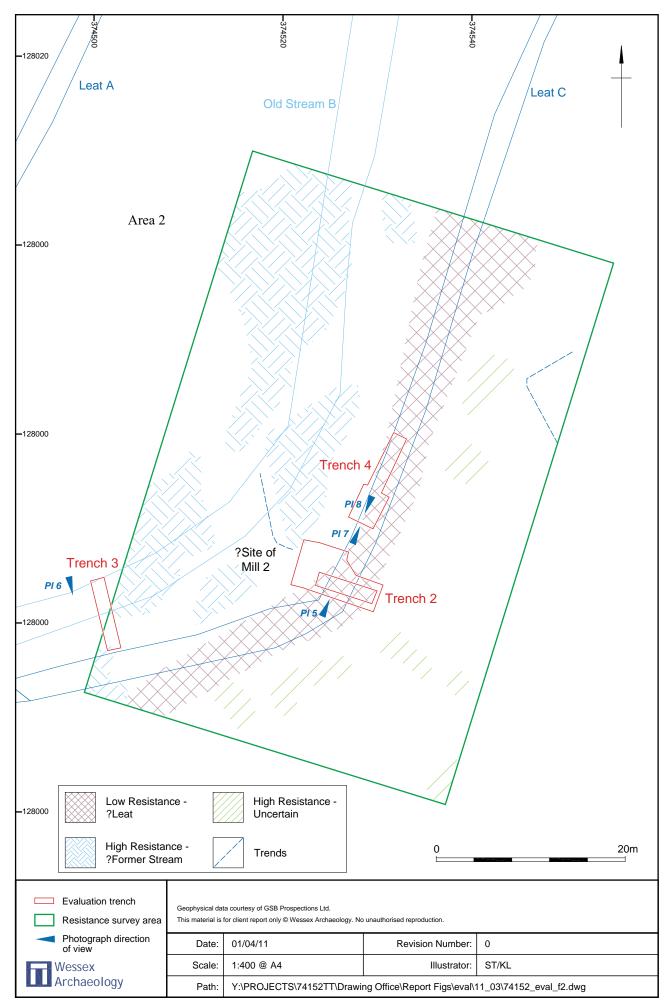


Plate 4: Cog pit group 188, view from south-west



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Trenches 2, 3 and 4: plan and resistance survey interpretation



Plate 5: Trench 2, south-facing section of Leat C

Plate 6: Trench 3, view from south-west

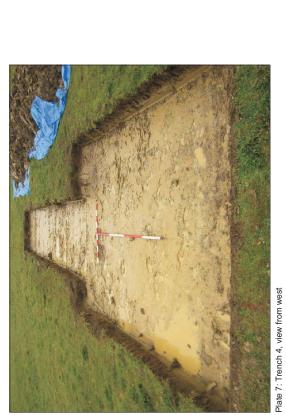




Plate 8: Trench 4, north-facing section

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