

Further work at the Mellor Mill Site. November, 2010.



In early November a group of volunteers spent five days attempting to find some trace of the main structure of the mill at its northern end. Initial clearance of a section soon found an area of laid setts and after extending it further west it was found to partly overlay brick walling. The team concentrated on this and found a square brick structure with walls four bricks wide and a central area a little under two meters square.

Facing south. Setts and brick structure with drain.



Following this down it was found to be ½ meter deep (six layers of brick) with a brick floor. A small drain was located in the southeast corner. The lower fifteen centimetres of the fill overlying this floor was primarily composed of coal dust.

North west corner and floor of brick structure

Above this was a quantity of brick rubble and it was noted that many of these bricks were curved, possibly indicating the remains of a barrel roof.

From the eastern face a further wall appeared to extend for a short distance and this was found to be a double wall with a void between them.

Facing south. Brick structure and extending walling





Extending walling excavated



Extending walling excavated



**General view with brick structure backfilled
(Facing east)**



Roofing slates and curved bricks

Examination of the 1898 O.S. map of the area shows "W.M." in the area where we were working. Does this mean we had uncovered the remains of a "weighing machine"? Quite possible. In which case the main mill building is still to be pinpointed.

The mill was originally water powered and it seems that water remained the main source of power throughout its life, but a pair of auxiliary compound steam engines built by Goodfellow of Hyde with an associated boiler was added in about 1855. Steam power was intended for use in the event of the river running low, and the engines and boiler were housed in a purpose built building at the north end of the main mill.



The position of this building has been identified and there are several substantial vertical steel rods and stone grooved blocks remaining in place that would have secured the engines.

**Grooved stone engine base
and steel clamping rods**

There are also the remains of stone walling at the rear now overgrown by a large sycamore tree, and behind that the almost buried entrance to the flue that carried the smoke from the furnace to the chimney, which was situated some distance up the hillside



Wall remains at rear of engine house



Flue to chimney



Cobbled surface of mill yard

On our last day, a small area south of our excavation was cleared and a cobblestone surface revealed. It is likely that this is part of the yard in the front of the main mill building.

Thanks are due to owner Bernard Sewall for permission to excavate and to the volunteers who endured some uncomfortable conditions during the week. One full day was lost due to heavy rain.

Donald Reid. January, 2011.