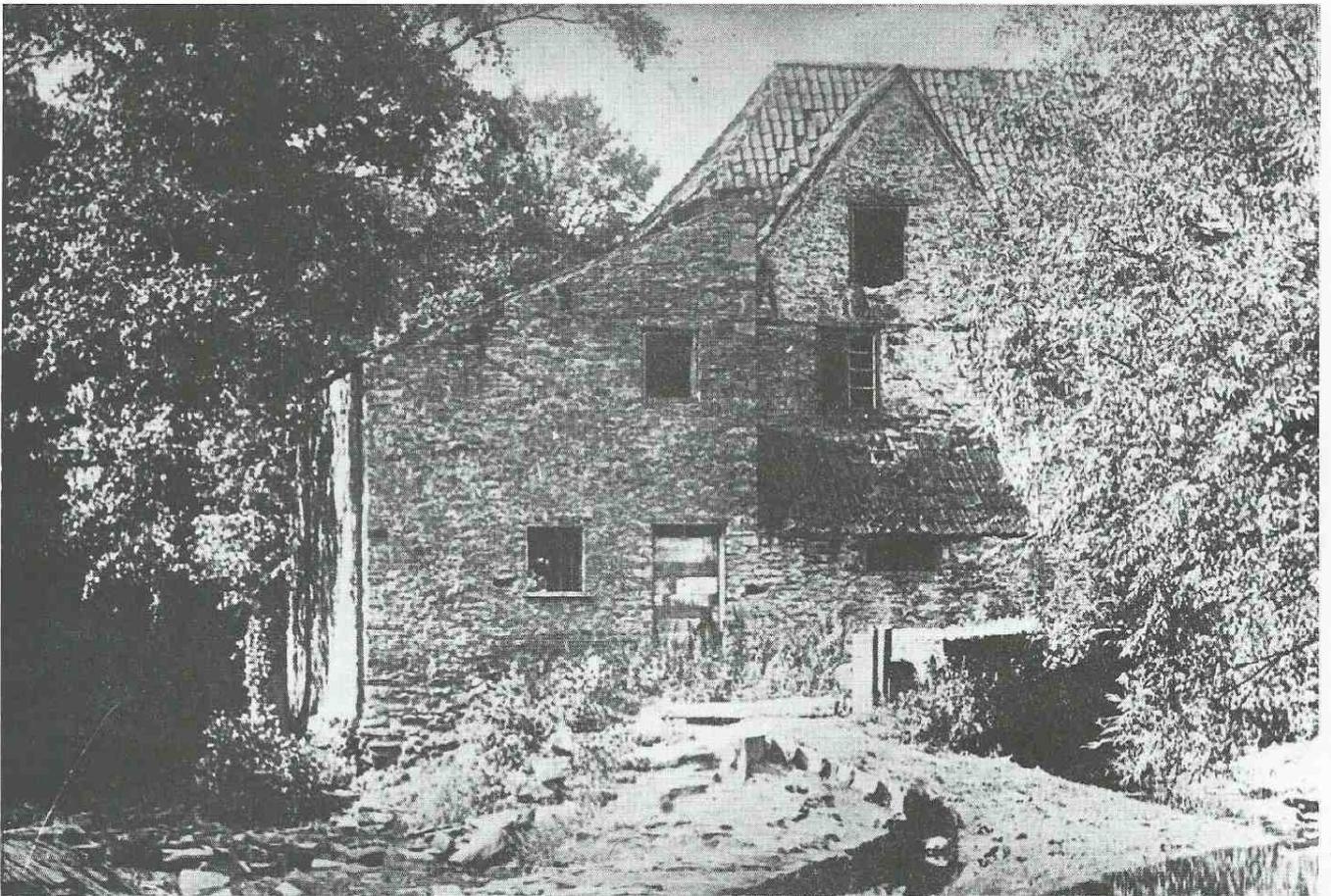


Snuffly Jack's, c1900 copied by John Cornwell



The mills of the Bristol Frome

Owen Ward

Introduction

The Bristol Frome has a relatively low-lying catchment area drained by the main river and by a number of tributaries, including the Ladden Brook and the Bradley Brook. In addition a number of springs run into the river, especially in its lower reaches where it drops more rapidly. The spring which is usually acknowledged as the source of the river is in the grounds of Dodington; the river ends in the centre of Bristol underneath the statue of Neptune.

The amount of water in the Frome fluctuates hugely and rapidly - records made at Frenchay in December 1965 and published by the Bristol Avon River Authority showed that the flow went from 200 cubic feet a second to over 2,000 and back again in the course of a week. Such wild variations nowadays are accentuated by the installation of artificial drainage in built-up areas which discharges a rapid accumulation of water into the river; a hundred years ago more of the rain would have soaked into the soil and found its way gradually into the river, resulting in a more even flow, although there would always have been dearths and floods.

In the first phase of development all the mills on the river were grist mills, (for the grinding of corn). The earliest documentary evidence of industrial diversification on the Frome is of a brass wire-drawing mill at Stapleton in 1629, but at present there is no clue as to where exactly this mill was. It was in any case illegal, and may have been short-lived (Day, p.22). Other metal-working mills, mainly for iron-working, were set up soon after 1700, based partly on imports through Bristol, and snuff mills were established about 1750, almost certainly dependent on imported tobacco. But although the water-mills flourished for a time as port-based industries it was the expansion of facilities provided by the port which eventually helped to oust the outlying ones, even those more efficient sites with auxiliary steam power. Foreign wheat was brought in to feed a rapidly increasing population, and it required larger and heavier milling capacity than millstones could provide, so that steam-driven roller mills were built at the dockside. By the 1870s most of the water grist mills were closed, the iron firms had collapsed, and the demand for snuff was so much reduced that small units in steam-driven factories could cope with it (Alford, p.21); by the end of the nineteenth century nearly all the riverside sites were idle, and the industrial buildings deserted.

1. **Baldwin's Cross Mill** (ST 588 729). This mill was built on the Frome where it ran out into the Avon near the foot of St Nicholas's Steps, just below Bristol Bridge. This stretch of the river, canalised as the town ditch, used to follow approximately the line of the present Baldwin Street, but in, or soon after, 1247, it was dammed, and the Frome diverted into a newly-dug bed across the marsh, more or less along its present line (Evans 1247). This would seem to fix the date of the mill's demise, but when it was built is still

Editorial Note: *The author wrote a short account under the same title in BIAS Journal 2, 1969. He returns to the theme here with a more detailed survey derived from several years of research in the Frome valley.*

a mystery. A charter of 1189 'permitted the townspeople to grind their corn where they pleased other than the Lord's mill' (Nicholls & Taylor I, p.79), which Nicholls and Taylor took as evidence that the Lord's mill, Castle Mill, was standing at that time. But it is almost as firm evidence that an alternative mill existed as well, and that would seem to be Baldwin's Cross. There are no surviving traces of the mill, and no technical details at all exist.

2. **Bridewell Mill/St James's Mill** (ST 588 734). There is no firm evidence yet that these two mills are one and the same, but references to them interlock and there is not really space for two mills in this area. The site apparently stood at (Nicholls III) the southern end of the present Haymarket on the new course of the Frome dug in 1247, and so may have replaced Baldwin's Cross mill at that time as the town mill. In 1753 it was the only Corporation-owned mill, and one of the few which reverted to grinding corn at the time when townspeople were deploring the conversion of many mills on the Frome to snuff-grinding, so much so that the supply of flour to make bread was reputedly threatened (Latimer, Eighteenth Century pp 302-3). It appears that the millers, Messrs Meare, were dispossessed at the time, and waited twenty years for £200, probably in compensation. At the end of the eighteenth century several plans were prepared for the improvement of Bristol Docks, one of which, Joseph Nicholl's of 1787, proposed the replacement of Bridewell Mill by other, more powerful mills at Black Rock on the Avon, since a form of Floating Harbour would virtually eliminate the flow of the Frome below Castle Mill. Although this plan was not adopted, Jessop's definitive scheme for the Floating Harbour did spell the end of St James's Mill, and after a dispute with the Corporation the Docks Company in 1802 paid the Corporation as owners the sum of £992 compensation (Latimer, Eighteenth Century note p.16). There are no discernible remains of this mill.

3. **Castle Mill/Newgate Mill** (ST 594 731). Seyer's ground plan of the castle indicates the position of the mill (Seyer, p.76). The charter of 1189 which may refer to this mill has already been quoted (see under Baldwin's Cross Mill), but the first specific reference appears in a fourteenth century town rental reprinted in *The Little Red Book of Bristol*, where an entry reads, 'jd. ob. pro trabe inxta molendinum castri'. The rental dates from about 1350. The mill is next referred to in 1445 by its name of Newgate Mill (Evans, 1445), by Evans, who goes on to tell us that in 1751 the Castle Mill was rebuilt. Presumably this was done by, or for, Walter Churchman, who had developed an 'engine for making chocolate' in 1731. He died in 1761 and the British Journal advertised the sale of the Castle Mills of Bristol, and chocolate mills. These were bought by Joseph Fry, who thus became sole proprietor of the famous 'water engine' installed by Mr Churchman (Latimer, Eighteenth Century p.177). In 1824 the Corporation purchased the interest of William Player in the Castle Mill, and the building 'which then represented the most ancient industrial institution in the

City' was soon afterwards removed (Latimer, Nineteenth Century p.110). Some traces of the mill, or perhaps only its weir, were reported to exist in 1965 (BEP, 23 December 65, p.6). The northern end of Fairfax House now stands above this site.

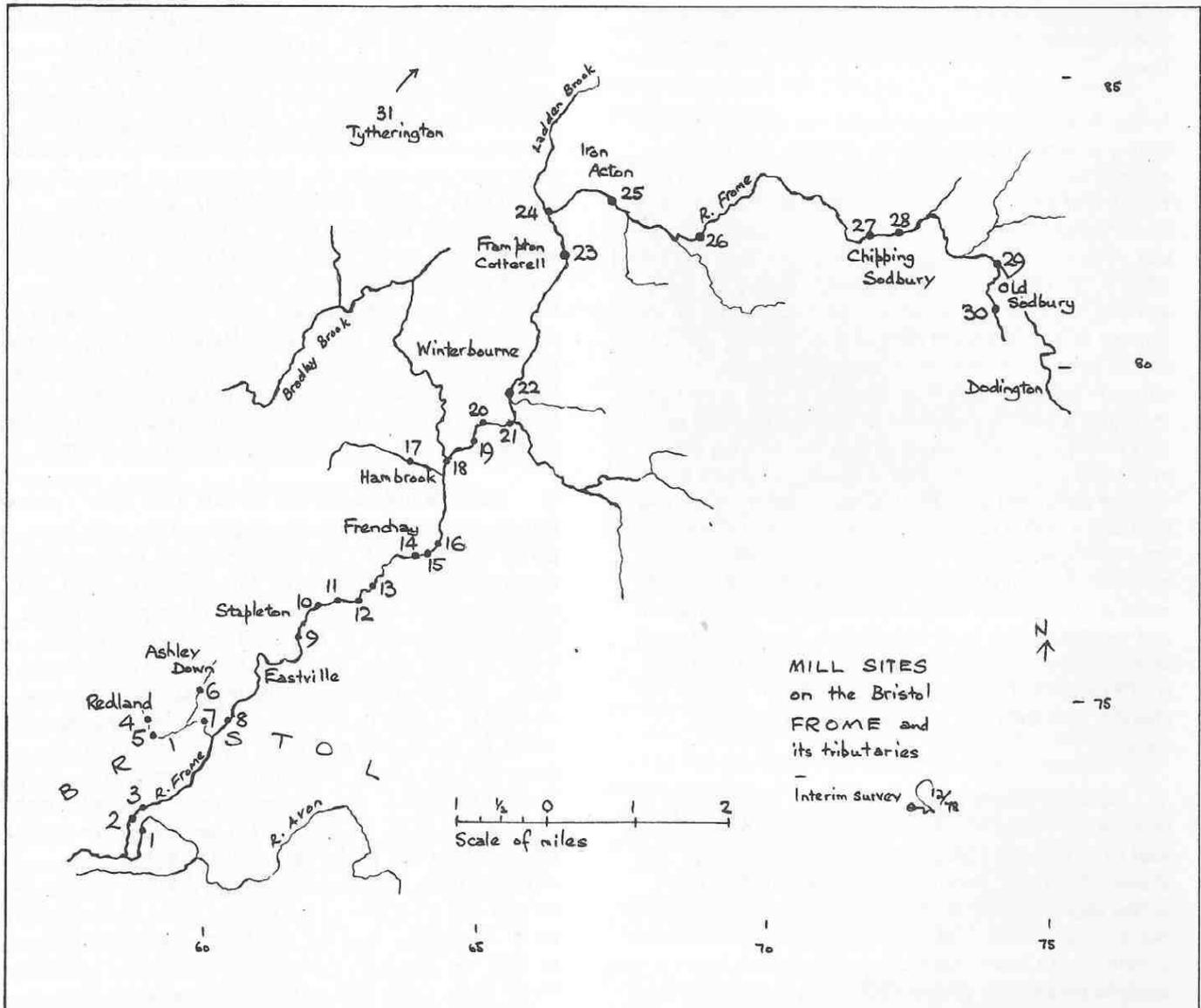
Two streams join the Frome on its right (western) bank just north of the city's central area. The first is Cutler's Brook, which runs now alongside allotments until it is culverted shortly before crossing the Gloucester Road at the railway arches by Cotham Brow; the other is the Ashley Brook which rises between the gasholders and the railway at Horfield, and meets the Frome not far below Mina Road Park. Each of the streams had two mills on them.

4. **Cutler's Mill** (ST 588 748). Except that it lay above the site of Terrett's Mill nothing at all is known at present about Cutler's Mill. The name is suggestive, but surprising; there are no published records of Cutlers in Bristol throughout its history. This mill, it can be surmised from deeds held by the Merchant Venturers, closed before 1727.

5. **Terrett's Mills** (ST 591 746). In the year 1727 a 'water mill . . . formerly erected and set up by one Thomas Terrett' stood 'with a brook or watercourse that ran from

(a place called) Cutler's Mills on the west side'. The phraseology suggests both that Terrett's Mills were relatively recent, and that Cutler's Mill was by then merely a place-name. Almost twenty years later the mill was bought by Thomas Vowles, a local baker, who rebuilt it. The snuff mill was let to Messrs Maxwell and Co, at £40, but as a result of the advertisement which describes these premises in 1755 the mill was bought by an ironmonger, Jonathan Coram, of Bristol, and snuff milling ceased within a few years, certainly by 1764. I suspect that snuff miller Maxwell moved across to Shuffy Jacks with a new partner, James McBraire. Terrett's Mills were a bad buy for ironmonger Coram; within eight years of purchase he went bankrupt, and Thomas Rennison bought it to add to his thread-making establishment, coffee house and swimming baths. But the snuff-mill lay idle for want of a tenant, being advertised in 1764, 1766 and again in 1774. After this Rennison seems to have either lost interest in it or, more likely, got rid of the machinery and incorporated both the pond and the building in his flourishing entertainment complex. The actual mill site very probably had railway sidings built on it around 1874 when Clifton extension railway was opened.

6. **Pickering's Mill** (Ashleyvale Mill, Glass Mill) (ST 600 752). It was situated on Ashley Brook, the mill



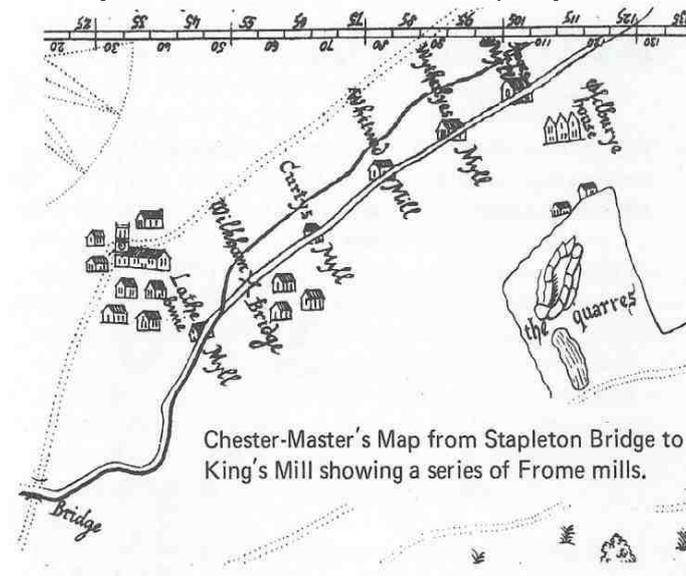
new lease of life came to the mill when Josiah Bell, of imposing memory and appearance, entered the mill, and ran it with apparent ease and competence until the early years of this century. The revival may have been partly due to a steam engine; the fly-wheel, with its added weight like a tyre, is still in situ and the boiler lies nearby, but the engine has probably gone. The date of installation of the surviving wheel is impossible to establish; the early nineteenth century is a possibility, but its homespun appearance derives partly from its being much patched. Maybe Frenchay Iron Company, further up the valley from c.1714 to 1870, had a hand in the construction of the wheel, and it could be similar to the ones which they used to have on their premises. Also still on the spot are two millstones of the quartz conglomerate kind so commonly found in the area, and one small grindstone. The water-wheel was used for many purposes besides driving the millstones; local hearsay suggests that after the mill closed the wheel was harnessed to drive a stone-saw, which would be an eminently practical way of carrying out a very long and tedious job, for the neighbouring quarry.

12. Snuffy Jack's, Parker's Mill (ST 629 765). Unless this was the mill called Clerk's Mill in 1498 (BGAS XLVII, p.28), the first reference to this site is on the Chester Masters map of 1610, where it is called Wytherlyes Mill; so far no record of Mr Wytherly has turned up. Isaac Taylor shows a mill on the site in 1777, with no label attached. Messrs Maxwell and McBraire, tobacconists, (Maxwell left Terrett's Mills (qv) before 1764) certainly ran the mill at some time before 1790, and another firm of tobacconists, Wilson and Thomas, paid rent for the mill in that year. In 1792 it was leased (by W S Winstone) to Messrs Lilly and Wills for a period of 21 years, although H O Wills actually bought it outright in 1805, only 13 years later. They ground snuff there until 1843, when they sold it to W S Lawrence, and the mill was used as a flock mill, rented firstly by Thomas Saint, then in 1863 by Thomas Lusty, finally going out of use about 1877. This is undoubtedly the most photographed and painted mill on the Frome; Reece Winstone includes a photo of about 1850 in his collection, and another dozen pictures of one kind and another have so far been located. The most recent is the sign outside the Snuff Mill Inn in Frenchay, but it is based on a painting of about 1885.

13. Kings' Mill (ST 631 767). The mill belonged to Oldbury Court from the late eighteenth century at least, but the actual occupiers were tobacconists and snuff merchants, who took out a 42 year lease in 1771. The firm had several partners, including John Thomas, tobacconist, but the chief partner seems to have been Francis Collins, who had been a seedsman. There is no knowing, at present, how long the mill remained in use; a sale advertisement in 1833 referred to it as a Snuff Mill, but the tithing survey of 1839 showed Elizabeth Jones as owner and occupier of both Oldbury Court and the mill, so it looks as though she had been unable to let it to a miller. The building was used as a rubbish tip probably by people living in the cottages above, from the early years of this century, and has since been robbed of its stone and partly wrecked. One mill-stone similar to the quartz conglomerate stones found at Snuff Mill and elsewhere in Avon, lies beside the river just downstream from the mill.

14. Frenchay Mill (ST 638 773). This is one of the few sites on the Frome which has been studied hitherto and a

short account of its history is given by C H B Elliott in his *Winterbourne*; he owned the mill at the time when he wrote the book in 1936. It is also the best illustrated building; four pictures exist, taken from three of the four points of the compass, and there is one photo of the weir which includes a corner of the mill. The pictures date from about 1866 to about 1936. Elliott tells us that in 1733 the Lord of Manor (presumably the Manor of Frenchay) leased the mill to Pearce Miles, and it remained in that family until about 1788 when William Rickards, a baker of Hambrook, inherited it from his wife's family. At the time of the tithe survey (which was published in 1844) it was stated to be owned by Ann Richard, but in 1859 a contemporary bill



of sale still refers to it as Rickards Mill. Henry Pearce, to whom it was conveyed in 1851, was already in occupation in 1844. The last millers were evidently the Ham family, until the mill ceased working about 1905. It appears that this was always a grist mill, until it was occupied as a private house; by 1950 it was becoming ruinous, and was completely cleared about 1958 when a sewer was put through. The 'composition' millstone which marks the spot is said to be a builder's counterfeit in concrete.

15. Frenchay Flock Mill (ST 642 773). C H B Elliott (Elliott, *Winterbourne*, p.63) records the history of this mill from its establishment in 1761 right up to 1936. His account is based mostly on information from Francis Hobbs, a member of the family who came onto the scene in the early years of the nineteenth century. Between 1782 and 1808 Messrs Browne and Gibbons occupied the Lower Works, but although Elliott tells us that the land belonged to the Harford family, he does not say who ran the mill between 1761 and 1782. Kenneth Hudson suggests (Hudson, p.108) that the firm was called Easton's Iron Works, and their products were small castings and bars for smiths' work. In 1810 this mill became the Lower Works of the Frenchay Iron Company, but some time after 1880 the premises were converted into a flock mill almost certainly without using water power. The process utilised old mattress fillings, rags, and perhaps imported kapok and local wool, which were torn apart and used as fillings for upholstered furniture. The business continued until about 1963, since when a variety of light industrial concerns has occupied the building, which still stands.

16. Cleeve Mill (ST 645 778). It seems fair to suppose that a mill which in 1720 was said to be 'generally called and well known by the name of the Iron Mill' has been an iron mill for some few years, perhaps since 1714 when the first Browne, William Browne senior, was granted his lease. Nothing much more is known about the mill, apart from its amalgamation in the Frenchay Iron Company around 1810, until references (Elliott, p.63) to a Chancery suit. Samuel Sidney Hobbs, a son of Samuel Croome Hobbs, and evidently the principal defendant, carried on business in the Upper Works until around 1885. He had to sell them to defray the legal costs, a result which Maurice Hobbs described ruefully as 'very similar to that of the famous action *Jarndyce v Jarndyce*'. The site then enjoyed an Indian Summer as a tea garden with boating on the millpond. The building still stands, although it has been modified since it was photographed for picture postcards which were sold, presumably in the tea gardens, around the turn of the century. At some time an engine house and a large chimney had been built onto the river end of the mill, but the chimney was taken down again about 1960.

17. Pipers' Mill, Hambrook (ST 640 790). Pipers' Mill Cottage is at the cross roads of Stoke Lane and the Old Gloucester Road. It is believed that a stream formerly ran alongside the Old Gloucester Road into the present brook rising near Harry Stoke; it is also believed that the existing cottages were a hat factory, with a long room over the living rooms.

18. Hambrook Mill (ST 645 789). On the right bank of the Frome, just below its confluence with Bradley Brook, this mill is in an advanced state of dilapidation but the house is being rebuilt. The mill was in use early this century, and George Watkins, who visited it in 1945, was able to describe the machinery as it stood, and took photographs of the installation. The water-wheel, of which little except the rim now survives, was similar in type to the one at Snuff Mills; about 14 feet in diameter and 3 feet wide, with shallow buckets, operating on a low breast-shot wheel, and having 32 buckets, but the rims were cast in one piece, with wooden teeth. The wrought iron spur wheel measured 5 feet 6 inches and the 15 inch stone nuts were evidently of iron, but, as usual in water mills of any age, the wooden crown wheel and most of the wooden pulleys driving the cleaners and other machinery had survived, including belt pulleys made with flanges nailed to the central block in halves. This was supposedly always a grist mill: there was a mill in Hambrook, certain to be this one, in 1653 when Alderman Hugh Browne described it in his will as 'my mill at Hambrook called Jockham's Mill'; the next reference to it is in 1808 when it was known as Albrights, but had been known as Jakes's Mill (Elliott, p.67). The title map shows the occupier to have been William Lawes in about 1840.

19. Moorend (ST 648 790). This was a very attractive installation; it was tiny, so that the undershot waterwheel came up to the eaves of the single-storey building beside it, no more than a stone-built hut. Its only use was a file mill; it is probable that the mill only ground the blank bars of iron into shape. The bars may have come from the Frenchay Iron Company, further downstream, and were probably 'cut' after grinding at the nearby smithy. The mill was on an island in the middle of the stream, and may have lasted from some time in the eighteenth century to the last quarter

of the nineteenth, which is when the Frenchay Iron Company was at work. The smithy associated with it was between the road and the river on the left bank, and was pulled down around 1972. The tiny photograph in Jones's book on Mangotsfield shows the weir topped by a plank bridge with a single handrail, and two or three figures stand at the mill end of it, partly concealed in the shrubbery. The weir has about 5 feet fall of water; the wheel looks about 7 feet 6 inches high and 4 feet wide with flat floats, completely unenclosed, and immersed not more than a foot or so deep. The mill itself is hardly visible behind both wheel and vegetation. There is nothing left of the mill now, but the weir footings can just be discerned, and the grindstones have been used as foundations for walls built in the river, and as decorative features on garden walls and gateposts.

20. Winterbourne (ST 650 794). This site is sometimes confused with Tipper's Mill, the next upstream. Sometimes it is called England's Mill (the most recent owner was a Mr England) and sometimes Jones's Mill (the millers in the nineteenth century were Jones's). It is also referred to by the usually reliable Elliott, as Jones's Snuff Mill (1827) but his has been refuted. Edward Jones of Frenchay said that the mill was always used by the family as a corn mill, certainly not a snuff mill. It was sold to Mr England who continued it as a corn mill until the turn of the century. Then it became a cider-press, still worked by water-power, and was operated as a custom-mill, farmers bringing their fruit and taking back the wooden casks of cider and perry. So far as he could remember the mill had ceased working by the time of the General Strike. There is a photograph of the mill in the possession of the England family which shows a four-storey building; the timber wheel is about 6 feet broad, and perhaps 15 feet in diameter, with breast-shot buckets built in three sections across the width. There are steps up to the door which leads into the mill at the level above the top of the water-wheel; the tail race then ran under the access road. The main range of the stone building, with its tiled roof, goes off the picture in both directions, while the offset miller's house, three storeys high, is at right angles to it. The photograph dates from about 1895. The detail can be checked on the ground, where extensive remains have been partially buried by tipping and levelling, and largely overgrown.

21. Tipper's Mill (ST 656 794). There is only one clear reference to this site, on an estate map of 1792. The name does occur twice in other places; on Taylor's Map of 1777, where it is apparently mis-applied to Winterbourne Mill, and in a bill of sale of a 'wood adjoining the mill called Tipper's Mill' and quoted by A E Jones. This latter reference does not clarify its position, but the estate map is quite clear on this site, and refers to Winterbourne Mill as Blanch's. The site was apparently in a bend of the river, on the right bank, about 200 yards below Damson's Bridge. There is nothing visible above ground in the rough grass, and only an imaginative archaeologist could see a weir in the river, but a proper investigation of the bank is needed, and possibly a trial excavation. Maybe this was a short-lived mill, built to overcome the temporary shortage of grinding facilities when other mills lower down the river turned to snuff or iron working in the eighteenth century.

22. Huckford Mill (ST 657 800). This mill is marked on a map of 1828, but although the site is not difficult to find there is so far no other reference to the mill unless it is one of the crosses on Isaac Taylor's rather imprecise map.

The site lies significantly on the right-of-way from Winterbourne Down to Ivory Hill, Westerleigh, where there is a modern footbridge below the railway viaduct. The adjacent cottages were occupied until about twenty years ago, and are used for stabling riding ponies; the cottages could possibly be dated. There is a good flow of water over two short series of rapids where there could well have been a weir. The right bank is shored up with some rough stone walling, and there is a scatter of stones suitable for building on the left bank, but no structural remains.

23. Frampton Cotterell (ST 667 821). Considering that this was one of the major sites in the river, present knowledge about it is somewhat sparse. The river Catchment Board in their 1950 summary said that it must have been an important mill with a very large head race, as the masonry weir was about 170 feet long and 10 feet high, and the available head of water they reckoned at about 15 feet. This could have been one of the Domesday sites in the manor of Frampton Cotterell, but a lot of careful enquiry would be needed to establish this for certain. It is one of the mills in the area which has been known as Cow Mills; it appears on the 1828 OS map, labelled simply 'Mill', and is described as a disused corn mill on the 6" map published around 1921. As a result of work on the river the mill itself has almost certainly disappeared, although there is a large building, now divided into three houses, which is in the right situation for a miller's house.

24. Cogmill (ST 665 829). A large mill stood, three storeys high, where the B4058 now swings round in a wide bend; it has been cleared from its vulnerable position where it obstructed both the road and the Ladden Brook which used to drive it. In 1777 Taylor called it 'Cock Mill', the map of 1828 has 'Cogg Mill', and in the 1921 edition it was still labelled 'Cogmill' so may have been still in use. So far there is nothing to suggest that it was anything but a grist mill.

25. Algar's Manor Mill (ST 676 831). The mill building is just below Algar's Manor, on a narrow by-road in the hamlet of Acton Ilgar. There is a leat of some quarter of a mile long providing a head of about 12 feet to 15 feet of water. There is some documentary evidence of Domesday and Saxon occupation of the site, but the earliest definite reference known at present is in a perambulation of 1745, where it is called Chilwood Mill. The wood alongside is still called Chillwood, and was recently presented to the village by the owner. It is understood that the last miller, William Sheppard, ceased grinding at the mill in 1892, and his grandsons still live in the area. William Sheppard, senior, was the occupier at the time of the Tithe Survey, about 1840. The old machinery was taken out in about 1920, and in its place was installed a turbine, which was operating in 1935, and driving some pumps raising river water for the gardens. None of these was used once mains supplies reached the manor and the mill. Inside the building were discovered some large bread ovens, a typical resource of the miller in a rural area where the acreage of arable land was falling; in the eighteenth and nineteenth century he survived in business by adding a bakehouse to his premises, thence a

bread round, and perhaps a carrier's business. However, there are three stones, or pieces of stones, still used as decorative features outside the premises - one is a French Burrstone, one is quartz conglomerate, but the third is either a grindstone or, possibly, a cider stone. It is at present used as a doorstep.

26. Nibley Mill (ST 692 824). Nibley Mill lies just off the A432, on Nibley Lane, (from Nibley to Iron Acton) where it crosses the Frome. Perambulations tell us that the mill a was there in 1695, owned by George Webb, and it seems to have been worked through to the twentieth century, but by 1950 water power was being used for hoisting purposes only. The building is still intact, although most of the machinery has been taken out. The overshot wheel, about 16 feet in diameter and 4 feet wide, is of iron, and still in the site where it was installed about 1770-1780. According to local memory, when it was put in the angle of the wheel was changed so that the tail water, instead of discharging straight back into the river, was apparently directed into a stone culvert, then through a stone-lined leat back into the river over a quarter of a mile away. This re-alignment suggests that the new wheel was larger than its predecessors, or that they had not been overshot, or both; the head race is also stone-lined and was perhaps built at the same time. A number of disused stones are kept near the building, most of them French Burrs. Some are Derbyshire Peak stones, and one stone, smaller than the rest, is probably part of an animal-powered mill. This is undoubtedly an interesting site, with a great deal of history attached to it. At one time it had a steam engine installed to supplement the water-wheel.

27. Nicholl's Mill (ST 722 823). Once known as Cow Mills, these premises stand alongside the A432 at the western end of Chipping Sodbury. The long mill pond is virtually dry now, but its position is obvious. The mill is marked on the 1828 OS 1" Map, and on the 1921 6 inch Map where it has the name Cow Mill. Apparently the mill survived up to the second world war, and in 1946 it was re-opened, using water-power and electricity to make cattle-cake, with locally produced cereals, English sugar beet and imported proteins. At that time it employed twelve people. The Bristol Avon Catchment Board in its final report (1950) said the wheel still worked for the grist mill, and new vanes had recently been fitted to the overshot wheel. By 1964, however, hydraulic power had been abandoned, and electric power only was used.

28. Trotman's Mill (ST 725 823). This site, just north of the main street in the centre of Chipping Sodbury, as clearly-marked on the 1921 Ordnance Survey Map; the long leat left the main river just east of the B4060 from Chipping Sodbury to Wickwar. All that survived of it in 1950 was converted into dwellings sometime after 1905, when the mill was still at work; the weir was demolished, it appears, at the same time, and the leat was made into a garden. The mill was stated to have been a fulling-mill, processing local wool, and utilising a local supply of fullers' earth, and the water from the river, still relatively clean at this point. There may possibly have been some connection with Edward Trotman who was at Spring Mill, just above Chalford on the Stroud Frome between 1830 and 1840 (Tann p.194).

29. Frome Farm Mill (ST 745 818). The evidence for this mill depends partly on the suitability of the site, and on the information of Mrs Bush (of Old Sodbury Mill) that a mill building here was razed to make room for road widening in the early sixties. There are other likely sites in the area, notably where a tributary rising on Kingrove Common crosses the B4040, but there is no other information about such possibilities at present. There is now no Sign of a mill at Frome Farm.

30. Old Sodbury Mill (ST 751 808). Now known simply as The Old Mill, this building stands in Mill Lane where it crosses the Frome. It has been adapted as a modern residence and extended. The stream now follows the leat to within a few feet of the wheel site, and then drops down through the former overflow channel; the height of the wheel could have been some 15 feet. The 1828 OS map of Gloucestershire shows Old Sodbury Mill, and it reputedly figures in Domesday Book, and also reputedly ground snuff. The mill probably served Old Sodbury; there is no reference to it in the papers of nearby Dodington. No technical details are available.

31. Tytherington Mill (Ladden Brook) (ST 673 880). This undoubtedly stood in the fields behind what is now Mill Farm. The OS 6 inch map of about 1921 has a farm called 'Mill Farm', and so does the current 2½ inch map. The situation is clear from the long leat, ending in a small pond. At this point the Brook is little more than a roadside ditch, but seems to come from an extensive underground system, so the flow is rapid. There have been no remains visible in living memory, but large stones have been ploughed up in the field by the stream. The local belief is that this was a cloth mill.

Notes

This article is an extension of a summary in the BIAS Journal Vol 2 of 1969, and in many ways corrects it; some of the information gleaned then was erroneous, and so, naturally, were the conclusions which were drawn. Happily, the early report was labelled 'tentative'; this is in its turn no more than interim.

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Tithe maps and surveys. The survey of Stapleton was made in 1839; the maps of this Parish were dated 1841, and those adjoining 1842 or 1844.

Acknowledgements. Most of the sites are private property and access is always by prior permission; I am grateful to the occupiers for allowing me to visit them, and for their ungrudging help. Some sites have been more closely studied by others who have passed their information on to me - Mrs Sharrock and a group of her students from St Matthias College, and Jane Chesterman amongst others. Help and guidance has also been offered by Dr R A Buchanan, and by the staff of Bristol Museum and of the Record Office. Several of the reports of the Bristol Avon Catchment Board, or later, the River Authority, and their staff, have been very helpful, and so have members of BIAS and of Stapleton Conservation Society.