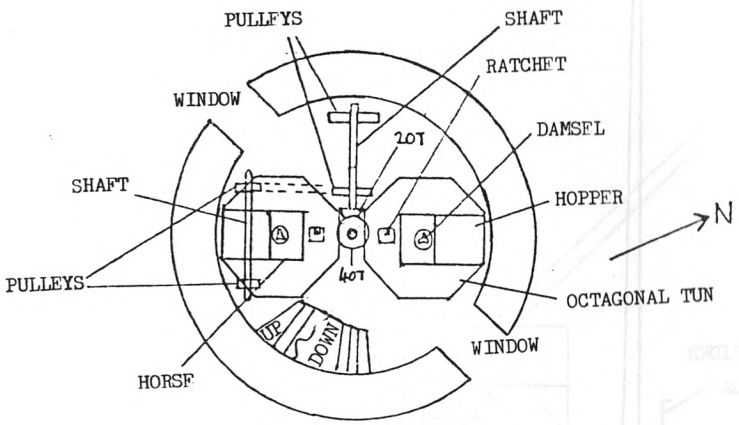
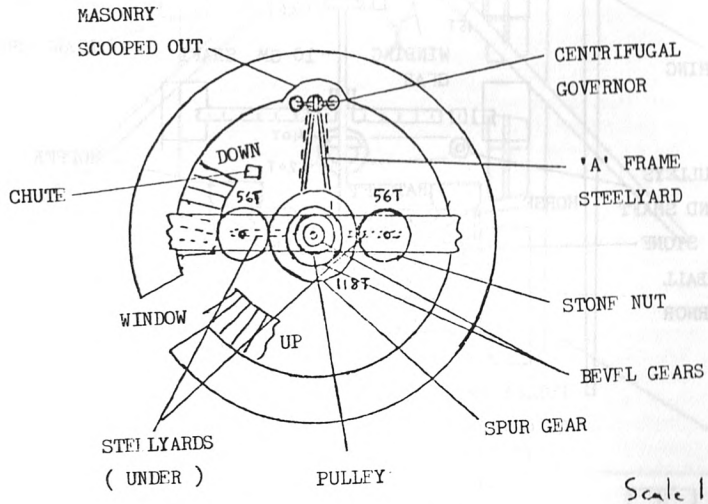


2 ND FLOOR (STONE FLOOR)



1 ST FLOOR (MEAL FLOOR)

Scale 1:50

1m

MOULIN DE BILLION

R.M. Blake

WATERMILLS AND WATER-POWERED WORKS ON THE RIVER STOUR, WORCESTERSHIRE AND STAFFORDSHIRE

PART 3. STOURBRIDGE, LYE AND CRADLEY

by GORDON TUCKER

This part of the series of articles continues the study of water-powered sites on the River Stour and its minor tributaries through the urban areas known as Stourbridge, Lye and Cradley, a distance of about five miles. The two previous parts studied the river from its confluence with the R. Severn at Stourport up to the boundary of the parish of Kinver with that of the modern area of Stourbridge, and in that length identified 25 water-powered sites. In the present short section of the river, which, being now above the confluence of the large and powerful Smestow Brook, is really quite a small stream, and joined by only very tiny brooks, no fewer than 15 water-powered sites have been identified with reasonable confidence and four others which have had to be considered doubtful. The fall of the river over this section is about 100ft (30m), so that the density of waterwheels was remarkable by any standard.

The southern bank of the river, in this section, lay in Worcestershire, and the northern bank in Staffordshire. Up to late in the nineteenth century, the whole of the area covered by Stourbridge and Lye (and also Amblecote which was in Staffordshire) lay in the parish of Old Swinford: Cradley had its own parish. It is unfortunate that, as far as can be ascertained from the Worcestershire Record Office, no Tithe Map exists for Old Swinford; if there had been one, it might have enabled some of our doubtful cases to be resolved. It is also understood that there is no Enclosure Map either. Other early maps which have been used are Taylor's of 1772 covering the county of Worcestershire on a scale of one inch to a mile; one of 1775 in the British Museum (now British Library) Map Room, ref.PS/5772.5100(23); and one by James Sherriff of 1812 being a 'Plan of the Mines of Lord Dudley and others etc.etc.' of which there is a photocopy in the Brierley Hill Library. (I am much indebted to Mr. H.W.Gwilliam for copies of the last two maps.)

As emphasised in previous parts, this series of articles is concerned with identifying and locating the various sites where water power has been used, ascertaining the purpose for which they have been used, and reporting the present condition of, and physical remains on each site. It is not part of the purpose to give a general account of the development of industry in the area. Much has been published on this general aspect in the area covered in this part, but what has been lacking is any attempt to locate the sites where the industrial developments took place. Some of these more general accounts are listed below:

William Scott, 'Stourbridge and its Vicinity', Stourbridge, 1832.
H.E.Palfrey, 'Early Stourbridge industries', Trans.Newcomen Soc.,8, 1927-8, pp. 99-106.
Rhys Jenkins, 'Stourbridge and Dudley', ibid, pp.113-116.
E.W.Hulme, 'Statistical history of the iron trade of England and Wales, 1717-1750', Trans.Newcomen Soc., 9, 1928, pp.12-35.
R.L.Downes, 'The Stour partnership, 1726-36', Econ.Hist.Rev., 2nd. series, 3, 1950, pp.90-96.
M.W.Flinn, 'Men of Iron:The Crowleys in the early iron industry', Edinburgh, 1962.
B.L.C.Johnson, 'The Foley Partnerships...', Econ.Hist.Rev., 2nd. series, 4, 1951-2, pp.322-40.
R.G.Schafer, 'Records of Philip Foley's Stour Valley Iron Works 1668-74', Worcs.

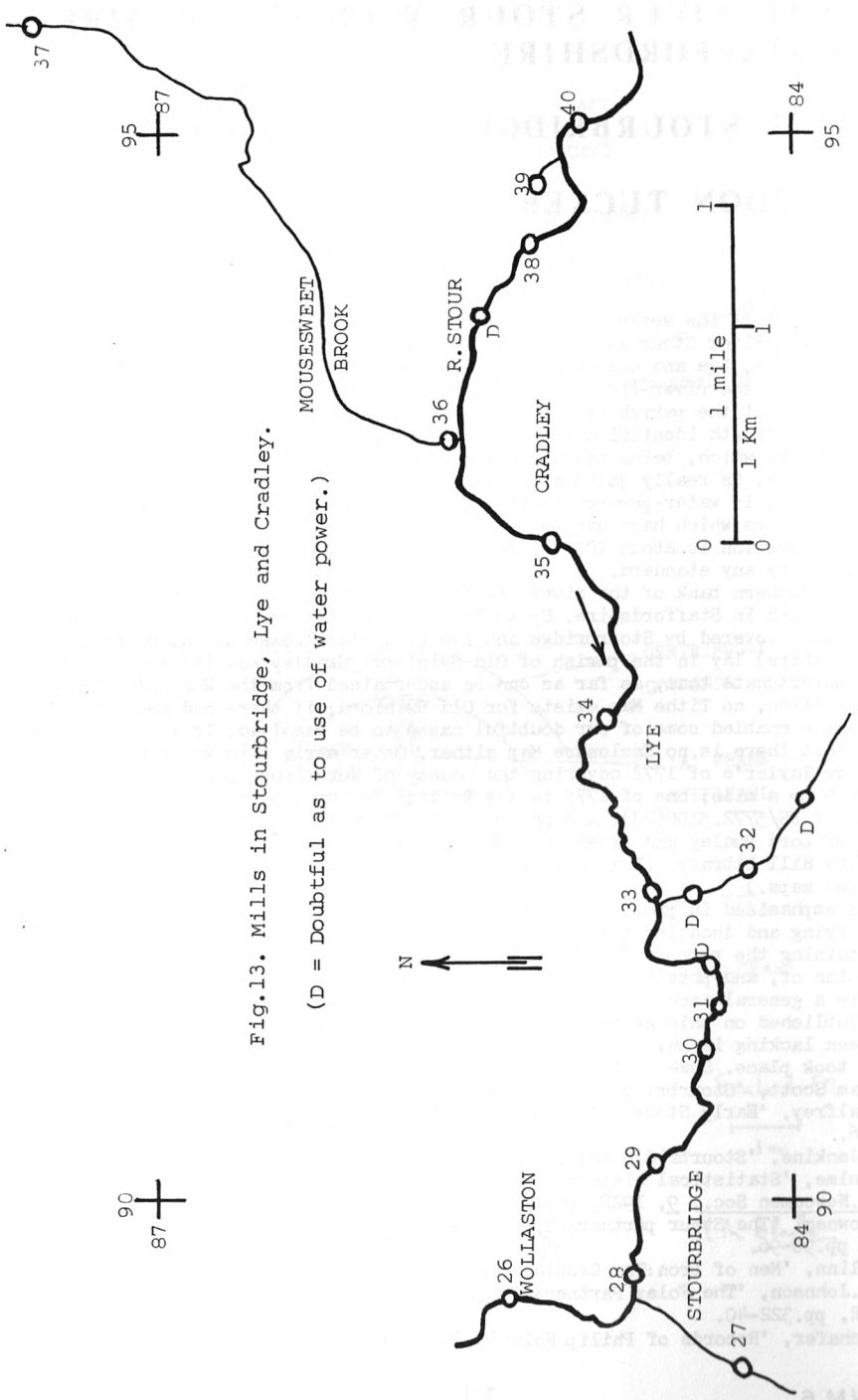


Fig.13. Mills in Stourbridge, Lye and Cradley.

(D = Doubtful as to use of water power.)

Historical Soc., 1978.
R.Page, 'Richard and Edward Knight:ironmasters....', Trans.Woolhope Club, 43, Part 1, 1979, pp.7-17.
An interesting account of a different nature is given in:
'History, Topography and Directory of Worcestershire', published by Edward Cassey & Co., printed by W.Bailey, Preston, 1860.
A good short account of the industries of the area in the 1940s is given by:
L.T.C.Rolt, 'Worcestershire', Robert Hale, London, 1949, Chapter 14.
Finally, a most useful account of the industries and entrepeneurs of this upper section of the Stour Valley, related as far as possible to specific works, is given in a typescript by Mr.H.W.Gwilliam which has now been deposited in the Worcester Record Office, but which Mr. Gwilliam very generously made available to me while this article was in preparation.

The Victoria County History of Worcestershire and the V.C.H. of Staffordshire have been used for information on medieval mill matters. It seems that there were not very many mills in this area in medieval times:-
1086 (Domesday Survey): a mill in Old Swinford.
1193 (and again in 1535 and 1599): a mill in Cradley.
1317 (and again in 1338): a mill at Bedcote.
1518: a mill in Amblecote.
1592 (and again in 1628): a mill in Wollaston.
Later references to early mills are included in the main gazetteer.

The principal industries of the area in the 17th to 19th centuries were iron-making, iron-refining, iron-tool making, wire-drawing, chain-making, nail-making, coal-mining, fireclay mining,and glass-making. The first four required water power in the days before steam power; the others did not. However, it is not quite clear why the grinding of clay in mills did not apparently use water power.

Of course, the people had to be fed, and there were several corn-mills.

The mill-sites which are discussed in the gazetteer are shown in Fig.13 and are listed here, together with a note of the parishes to which I believe them to have belonged (a) in earlier centuries up to at least the mid-19th century, (b) during most of the 20th century up to 1974; the latter are the civil parishes or urban districts, and not necessarily the same as the ecclesiastical parishes. D indicates a site where the use of water power is doubtful. The order continues the system used in earlier parts, namely, numbering up the main stream, digressing up each tributary before continuing up the main stream.

26. Wollaston Mill; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Wollaston (Worcs.)
27. Gig Mill; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Stourbridge (Worcs.)
28. Bradley's Iron Works; (a) Old Swinford (township of Amblecote), (b) Amblecote (Staffs.)
29. Cloth/Leather Mill; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Stourbridge (Worcs.)
30. Bedcote Lower Mill; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Stourbridge (Worcs.)
31. Bedcote Mill; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Stourbridge (Worcs.)
D Clatterbatch Forge; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Stourbridge (Worcs.)
D Stamber Mill; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Lye (Worcs.)
D Shepherd's Brook Iron Works; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Lye or Wollescote (Worcs.)
32. Shepherd's Brook Corn Mill; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Lye (Worcs.)
33. Bagley's Mill; (a) Old Swinford (township of Amblecote), (b) Amblecote, (Staffs)
34. Lye Forge; (a) Old Swinford, (b) Lye (Worcs.)
35. Cradley Mill; (a) Kingswinford, (b) Quarry Bank (Staffs.)
36. Cradley Furnace/Forge; (a) probably Cradley, (b) do.(Worcs.)
37. Withymere Mill; (a) probably Dudley, (b)do. (Worcs.)
D Forge/mill; (a) Cradley, (b) do. (Worcs.)
38. Lodge Forge; (a) Cradley, (b) do. (Worcs.)
39. Corngreaves Iron Works; (a) Rowley Regis, (b)do. (Staffs.)
40. Hedges Mill; (a) Cradley, (b) do. (Worcs.)

Gazetteer

26. Wollaston Slitting Mill SO 895854

Taylor showed a mill symbol here on his map of 1772, and it might just possibly have been a slitting mill then. It also appeared on maps of 1775 and 1812 without any particular description. However, it was advertised for sale in Berrow's Worcester Journal on 12 June 1809 as Wollaston Slitting Mill; Mr. Hill was in possession and there were three tenements for workmen. It was still a slitting mill in William Scott's list of 1832. It had become a spade and shovel works under Samuel Hodgson by 1842 (1) and under Alexander Norris in 1872. (2) On the 1st-edition 25-in O.S. map of c.1880, it was 'Wollaston Mill (Spade and Shovel)'. Part of this map, with relevant features emphasised and with annotations, is reproduced in Fig.14. The river Stour evidently fed the works directly; the overflow channels are clearly shown, but the tail race has to be inferred. By the time of the 1920 edition of the 25-inch O.S. map, the works had become 'Wollaston Mills (Edge tools &c)' -- note the plural -- and had steam power indicated; the water channels still remained but it seems unlikely that water power was still used.

Today there is no sign at all of the former existence of the mill. The site is completely obliterated by the factory of Messrs. BSR and even the river itself has disappeared into a long culvert under the works.

27. Gig Mill SO 891838

The location of this mill is suggested by the fact that the small area of Stourbridge around this grid reference is known at the present day as Gigmill and there is a public house of this name there. Gigmill House was named at this point on the 2nd-edition 25-inch O.S. map of c.1900, but no mill has been marked there for at least 100 years. The best positive evidence for the existence of a mill here is the 1st-edition one-inch O.S. map of c.1830, which marks 'Gig Mill', together with a large pond extending some 400 yards below the Heath Pool (of about three acres, centred on SO 897834) which appears on later maps, and with what seems to be a leat from the pond to 'Gig Mill'.

The mill must have relied very greatly on the large pond, for the brook, tributary to the R. Stour, is very small indeed. However, there is no doubt that it was water-powered. It was marked on Taylor's map of 1772 as 'Mill'. It was advertised for sale in 1782 as 'a well-established water-driven plating forge for the manufacture of Spades, Shovels and Hoes'. (3) In 1823, Joseph and Thomas Parks were Spade, Shovel and Edge-tool Makers at 'Gig-mill-forge'. (4)

What appears to be the same mill was again for sale in 1835, but it now had a steam engine. But the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880 shows no mill at the point discussed above, although it shows a 'Spade & Shovel Works' a quarter of a mile further down the brook, at SO 892843. The questions which arise, which cannot at present be answered, are whether the mill of 1835, with its steam engine, was this one further down the brook, as well as steam power. By the time of the 25-inch O.S. map of 1919 there were several spade and shovel works in this lower area, and there is no indication on that map that any of them could have been water-powered.

28. Bradley's Iron Works SO 896848

Fig. 15 shows an evidently water-powered works here as indicated on the 1st-edition 25-inch O.S. map of c.1880; it lies about 400 yards below the High Street Bridge on the Amblecote side of the river. By this date this water-powered works was surrounded by the much larger steam-powered works of the Bradley and Foster organisation, and it is hard to determine whether it was still in use. Certainly by the time of the 25-inch O.S. map of 1920, although the weir was still shown, the leat and tail-race (i.e. the watercourses on the north side) had disappeared. Today it is hard to detect any sign of the former use of water power here.

The earlier history of this site is not readily separated from that of the next site upstream. The combined history from 1518 is given in some detail in V.C.H. Staffs., Vol.XX, pp.55 and 60, but is there entirely attributed to the

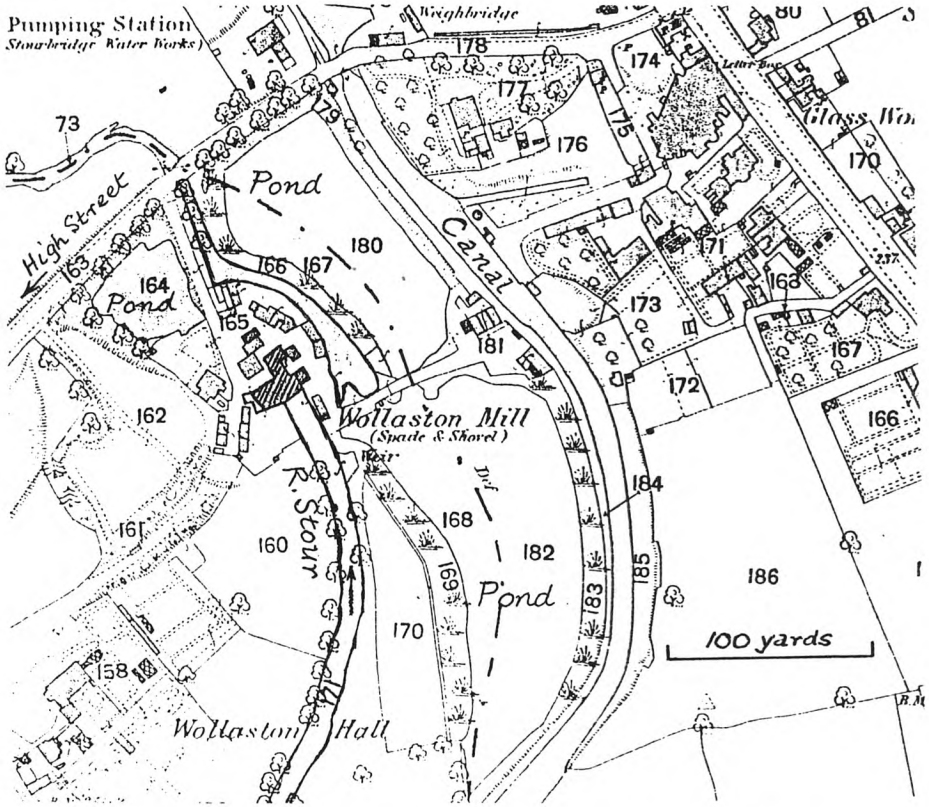


Fig.14. Wollaston Mill, as shown on 1st-edition 25-inch O.S.map of c.1880.

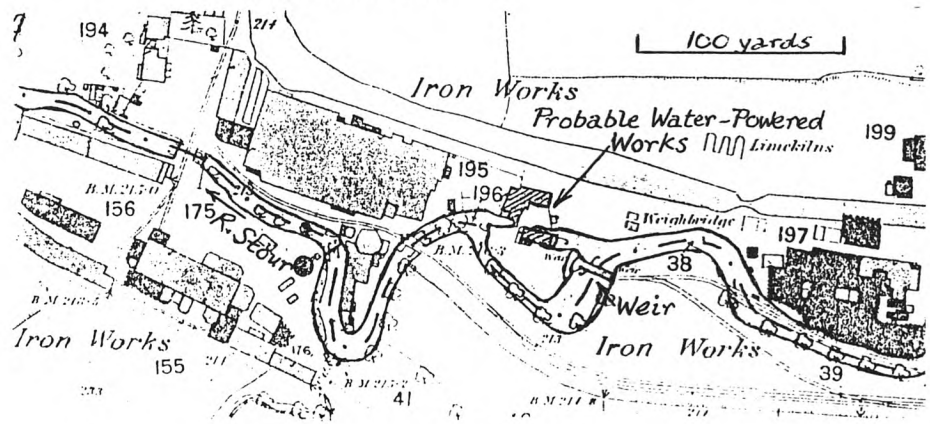


Fig.15. Mill No.28. The river channels here suggest a water-powered works, probably the original iron works, later embedded in the large complex of the Bradley Iron Works at Stourbridge. From the 1st-edition 25-inch O.S.map of c.1880.

upper site, which is stated to be in Amblecote although actually it was on the south side of the river and not in Amblecote. The present site, which was (and is) in Amblecote, is completely ignored. The earliest map evidence, which is not very clear, is dated 1688. (5) It is likely that most of the early history is really attributable to the present site, and encompasses a manorial mill (i.e. a corn mill), a 'forge, battering mill or slitting mill' known as the Town Mills, and a fulling mill, not necessarily in succession to one another, for corn grinding apparently continued until 1793. Iron working may have been almost continuous, and the Royal Forge, mentioned in 1784, may have been here. It was certainly considered to have been here by Scott in 1832. (6)

29. Cloth/Leather Mill SO 902847

A map of Stourbridge of 1781 (7) marks Mill Lane very distinctly, and indicates unambiguously a 'Cloth Mill' at the end of it. There would probably have been a cloth mill here for a long time before 1781; a map of c.1750 (8) shows a leat and weir very clearly, and, indeed, an announcement in the London Gazette for 9-12 September 1710 probably refers to it. In this there were to be let a large Dye House and Workhouses by the river side in Stourbridge, to be leased a Fulling Mill, and to be sold the appropriate equipment.

By 1832, according to Scott, (9) there was the 'Stourbridge Leather Fulling Mill' here, so evidently the works had gone over to leather. On the 1st-edition large-scale O.S. maps of c.1880 it was 'Leather & Parchment Works' here, and so it remained on the 2nd-edition 25-inch O.S. map of c.1900, the relevant part of which, with a few annotations by the author, is reproduced in Fig.16. The continued existence of the mill race suggests that water was taken from the river for the processes of the works, even if water power might not have been still utilised. Part of the old watercourses remain at the present day, although the area has been completely redeveloped, and otherwise only the name Mill Street gives any sign of the former use of the site.

30. Bedcote Lower Mill SO 907844

As this mill stood beside the R.Stour, between the river and the main road, it is supposed that in earlier times it was water-powered. However, the first positive reference found is 'Bedcote Mill' on the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880, followed by 'Bedcote Mill (Skin Rug)' on the 2nd-edition 25-inch O.S. map of c.1900; neither of these maps gives any positive evidence of the use of water power. Simmons reported that the site was covered by a boiler-makers' works when he visited it in 1945.

31. Bedcote Mill SO 909844

This was marked as 'Corn Mill' on the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880. It is known from directories (via the Simmons Papers) that James Aldred was using this for corn milling from 1828 to at least 1842; that Edwin Blundell was there in 1851, and J.Webb in the late 1860's. There is no positive evidence that it was a water-powered mill, but it seems highly likely both from the dates and from the position beside the R.Stour.

This mill was not shown on the 2nd-edition 25-inch O.S. map of c.1900. Today there is no sign of it.

Clatterbatch Forge SO 911844

There are references to Clatterbach (it is variously spelt '-bach', '-batch', '-back') as an iron forge as early as 1673, (10) when it was held by John Finch, and 1687, (11) when it was bought by a partnership of Ambrose Crowley, John Wheeler and William Winchurst. At that date it could only have been powered by water, but its exact location is not known. There was still a Clatterbatch Forge in 1835, for the London Gazette of 30 January of that year lists a fiat in bankruptcy against George Foster of Clatterbatch Forge, Spade, Shovel and Edge Tool Manufacturer. A Spade & Shovel Works is shown at the location indicated by the grid reference above, on the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880, but without any indication of water power; the works is not shown on the 2nd-edition 25-inch O.S. map of c.1900.

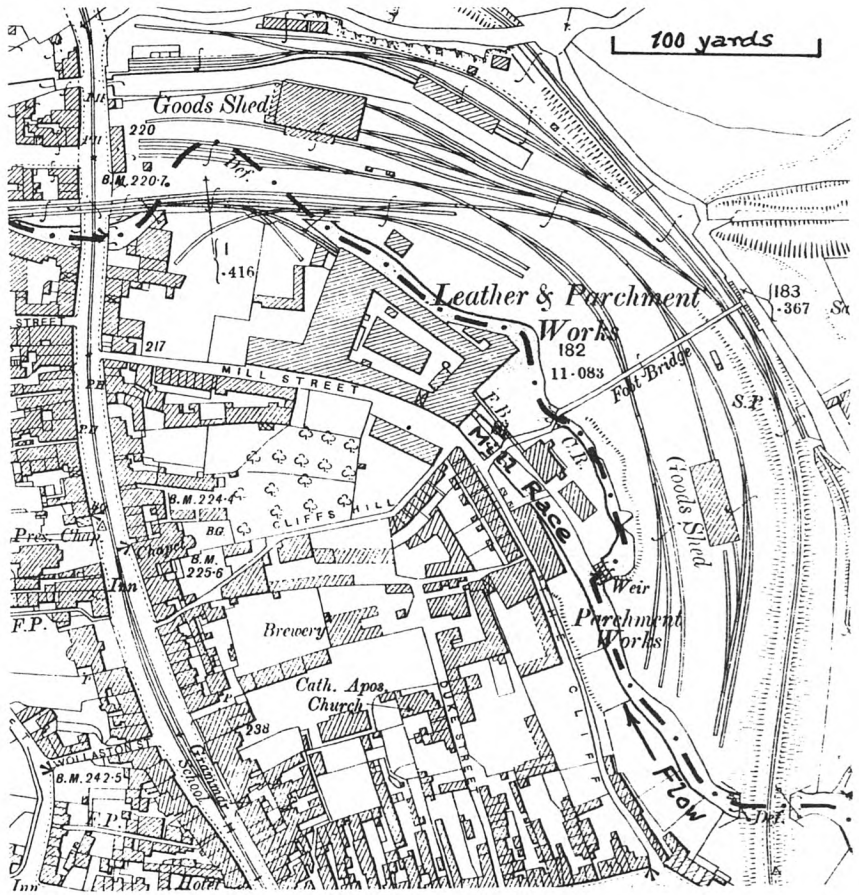


Fig.16. Mill No.29. The Leather & Parchment Works at Stourbridge, formerly a Cloth Mill, as shown on the 2nd-edition 25-inch O.S.map of c.1900.

Simmons throws a further complication into the matter by quoting a reference to Thomas Starkie, corn miller at Clatterback Mill in 1851. It is tempting to think this has merely been confused with the nearby Bedcote Mill, but this cannot be the case, since we have already a reference to Edwin Blundell there in the same year.

While there can be no doubt that Clatterbatch Forge existed, the matter of its exact location must for the present remain in the 'Doubtful' category.

Stamber Mill c.SO 914845

The name is a very old one, and now refers to an area rather than a site. But it must once have referred to a mill, presumably a water mill, and it might well have been on the Shepherd's Brook as indicated by the grid reference above. This site is supported by the clear indication in a map of 1812. (12) Joseph Fellows was listed as corn-miller at Stamber Mill in Pigot's Directory, 1828 and 1830. There was a 'Spade and Shovel Works' here on the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880. There was a Forge and Blade Mill at Stamber Mill in 1814, and a Blade Mill from 1825 to 1835, (13) but the exact sites are not known.

Shepherd's Brook Iron Works c.SO 919840

This site, on the headwaters of the Shepherd's Brook, is very unlikely to have been one using water power, as the supply would have been so small. On the 1st-edition one-inch O.S. map of c.1830, there appear only to have been some coal mines here; on the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880 there is the Shepherd's Brook Iron Works, covering quite a large area. This works would certainly have been steam-powered.

32. Shepherd's Brook Corn Mill SO 915842

The existence of a corn mill at this point is quite unambiguous on the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880, and it is shown quite clearly as having a large mill-pond fed by a leat from the Shepherd's Brook.

33. Bagley's Mill or Lye Mill SO 914847

Dudley Bagley was the miller at Lye Mill in 1785, and was still there in 1813 according to the London Gazette of 20 November that year. Although John Davey was miller there by 1820 according to Lewis's Directory, and the 1st-edition one-inch O.S. map of c.1830 shows 'Lye Mill' and Lye Mill was again named in a directory entry of 1876 (Miss M.Warr, miller), yet Bagley's name was given to the mill on the 2nd-edition 25-inch O.S. map of c.1900, which showed 'Bagley's Mill (Corn, Disused)'. The road leading to and beyond the mill was by 1900 known as Bagley Street, leading into Bagley Road, and still is so named. So Bagley's name is well perpetuated.

The site has a much longer history, however, given (with references) in the V.C.H. Staffs., Vol.XX, p.55. There was a blade mill here in the early 17th century, and a fulling mill by 1688 (14) which certainly continued until at least 1719. Then there was a corn mill, worked by the Richards family until 1785, when Bagley took the lease. It is stated to have had three water wheels, although the water supply was inadequate to work all three regularly. In the early 19th century a blade mill was operated as well as the corn mill, and in 1832 Scott listed the site as the 'Ambleco**at** Corn and Iron Work'. (15) It is, of course, possible that the blade mill had operated all through the 17th and 18th centuries, although there appears to be no proof of this. A map of c.1750 (16) shows a large mill and elongated mill-pond at this site, but does not give it a name.

There is some conflict between the outline of the 19th-century history given in the first paragraph above and that given in the V.C.H. The latter states that Bagley operated the corn and blade mills until 1822, when a firm of clay merchants, Littlewood, King & Co., took the lease, followed by Joseph and William King, coal and clay masters, who remodelled the interior in 1831, and were still there in 1844. It then had only one water wheel. In the middle of the century it was not in use, but was worked in the early 1870s by the Silvester family. It finally went out of use in 1875 when the South Staffordshire Mines Drainage Commissioners took the lease in order to be able to reduce the water level in the river.

This mill is particularly interesting as being the only one in the Stourbridge-Cradley stretch of the Stour to have survived to the middle of the present century. Simmons visited it in 1945 and recorded a detailed description of it and its machinery. It is worth giving some of this description. It was then only a corn mill.

'For 50 or 60 years at least Bagley's Mill has been in ruins... It is a 3-

floor brick building evidently of some age... The wheel is enclosed at the west end: it is an all-iron high breast 14ft. diameter by 12ft. wide, with six ribbed arms aside tapering from 8in. to 7in., and is on an 18in. cruciform-pattern shaft. The naves are 2ft. 6in. across. The pit wheel in two sections is the same diameter as the wheel, with a 6in. face geared to a 3ft. wheel on a 7½in. square horizontal shaft which carries two 6ft. all-iron spur wheels geared to 18in. wood and iron nuts on 2½in. square spindles on wooden bridge-trees and uprights. The bridge-trees are lifted by screws and slots. This gear occupies a central position against the north wall, and of the two pairs of stones the west pair are still in situ, peaks of 4ft. 6in. diameter.

'An unusual feature here, one of only two examples in Worcestershire, is the addition of an upright shaft and crown wheel gear worked off the same pit wheel. A 3ft. iron wheel with 4½in. face is geared to the top of the pit wheel, and is mounted on a short 4in. square shaft which carries a 2ft. 6in. bevel engaging with a 2ft. wallower on the upright shaft. This wallower is 2ft. 6in. above the brass and is flush with the stone floor. The upright shaft is 10in. round below the wallower, 11in. octagonal above and square at the wallower and crown wheel, with its brass on a 7½in. timber. The crown wheel is a 5ft. 6in. wooden clasp-arm with teeth on top. This drives on the south side a 15in. cart-wheel-hub type of wooden nut on a 7in. octagonal wooden shaft to a 4ft. 6in. by 9in. wooden clasp-arm pulley for belt-driving a small bolter suspended from the ceiling at the west end, the nut being lifted in and out of gear by slot and wooden lever. Bolted on to the top of the crown wheel is a toothed solid wooden ring 3ft. diameter which drives a narrow wooden nut, also 15in. diameter, and an 8in. octagonal wood shaft against the east wall for an inclined dresser in the south-east corner.

'The watercourse to the iron pentrough has long since been filled in, and of the floors of the mill only the joists remain.'

Since Simmons' survey the mill has disappeared completely.

34. Lye Forge SO 923848

There may have been a forge here as early as 1699, for a map of that date (17) shows 'Downing's Forge' in this vicinity. There was another reference to a forge at Lye in 1724, (18) and a Lye Forge was founded by Joseph Fookes in 1791. A probably-different Lye Forge was in the hands of J.Forrest & Co. in 1811. (19) Fookes's Lye Forge has a continuous history, in the same family, up to the present day; (20) but the earlier water-powered forge was gradually abandoned during the 19th century as the steam-powered works expanded on a higher site out of the way of floods.

At the present day the site and water-power arrangements of the old forge, i.e. Fookes's, can still be traced. The former Forge Pond is detectable as a swampy patch, and it can be seen where the river course was diverted to provide a leat. Nothing is known of the other sites.

35. Cradley Mill SO 931852

The positive location of this site comes from the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880, which shows 'Cradley Mill (Blacking)' on the Staffordshire side of the river (Quarry Bank parish now), and with a tail-race channel coloured blue making it definite that the mill had at some time been water-powered even if not at the date of the map.

Earlier evidence from maps is of a Slitting Mill here in 1775, (21) and of a Mill with a very large Mill Pool in the river in 1812. (22) The former existence of the very large mill pool is vouched for by the clear indication of embankments in the 25-inch O.S. maps of 1919.

It is possible that the mill on this site might have been Daniel Winwood's 'Blade Mill or Boring Mill' which was advertised for sale 'with a good pool of water' in c.1771. (23) That it later became a slitting mill is supported by the inclusion of 'Cradley Slitting Mill' in Scott's list of 1832, between Cradley Forges and Lye Forge. (24)

All remains of the mill itself had gone by the time of Simmon's visit in 1945, but the mill is commemorated in the name of the road - 'Cradley Mill'.

36. Cradley Furnace/Forge SO 935857

This site has acquired some fame as being the supposed location of Dud Dudley's experiments in the smelting of iron ore with pit coal in about 1620. (25) There is little doubt that Dudley had a furnace at Cradley. However, documentary evidence that this was the actual site is slight. It depends mainly on the reported recollections of a Mr. Swindell in 1907, when he was 90. (26) He stated that he pulled down in or about the 1830s what remained of 'Dud Dudley's Blast Furnace' at Cradley. It was square inside and outside, about 8 feet square inside above the boshes. It was built of stone entirely: no firebrick lining. An enquiry in 1907 showed that the claimed site was also that of the old Cradley Forge (undoubtedly at or near the location given above), which had by then also been demolished.

There is ample evidence of the existence of both a forge and slitting mill at Cradley in the 17th century, and the records of Philip Foley's Stour Valley iron works in 1668-1674 (27) contain many references to both. The exact locations are uncertain, but it is likely that the forge was driven by the water of the Mouseweet Brook - as was the later one - while the slitting mill was possibly a little further up the river at SO 942855 where the present Mill Street is.

Taylor's crude map of 1772 confirms that there was a 'Cradley Furnace' somewhere in this vicinity, but by 1820 the Birmingham Gazette of 11 December was advertising the lease of a 'newly-erected forge and mill, with two water wheels, situate at Cradley ...' Evidently the old works had been replaced. The 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880 shows a mill-pond on the Mouseweet Brook just on the north side of the R. Stour, and the words 'Cradley Forge', but what looks like a tail-race on the south side of the Stour, suggesting that the water from the mill-pond may have been brought across the river to a forge on the south side. By 1919, the 25-inch O.S. map shows another, later, Cradley Forge obliterating the mill-pond site, and nothing remaining on the south bank of the Stour. The later forge is now commemorated by the name 'Forge Lane'.

37. Withymere Mill SO 954877

This mill is marked on most of the early maps, e.g. Taylor, 1772, the 1st-edition one-inch O.S. map of c.1830, and a map of 1862. (28) It was on the headwaters of the Mouseweet Brook, and it is surprising that it could have got enough water. By c.1880 it appears from the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map that the mill had been completely obliterated by colliery works.

Possible additional forge/mill at Cradley SO 942855

The only evidence for a site here is the name 'Mill Street' running on the south side of the R. Stour, as shown on the 25-inch O.S. map of 1919 and on present-day street maps. The 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880 shows 'Anchor Works' here but no indication of a weir or leat. While it is possible that this was the site of the early Cradley slitting mill (see above, No. 36), it must at present be classified as a doubtful site of a water-powered works.

38. Lodge Forge SO 944853

Early maps leave some ambiguity in respect of this site. Taylor, 1772, shows 'Coles Mill' about here. A map of 1775 (29) shows 'Troyal'. The 1st-edition one-inch O.S. map of c.1830 shows 'Lodge Forge', and a large-scale map of the same period (30) shows 'Lodge Pool' feeding an obviously water-powered works. The name 'Lodge Forge' is shown consistently thereafter on maps of 1862, (31) on the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880, and on the 25-inch O.S. map of 1919, still with the large pool. The 1919 map actually marks 'Lodge Forge (Anchor &c.)'.

39. Corngreaves Iron Works SO 947854

This site was shown as 'Corngreaves' on a map of 1775, as 'Corngreaves Forge' on the 1st-edition one-inch O.S. map of c.1830, and as 'Corngreaves Iron Works' on a map of 1862. (32) Even on the 1862 map the works were quite definitely water-powered, although lying on a small tributary of the R. Stour. By the time of the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880, the works appear to have developed greatly and no longer look likely to use the limited water power available at this site.

40. Hedges Mill SO 950851

Taylor showed this mill by this name on his map of 1772, and it appeared similarly on the 1st-edition one-inch O.S. map of c.1830. It was called 'Hedger's Mill' on a map of 1862, (33) and 'Rag Mill' on the 1st-edition 6-inch O.S. map of c.1880. On the 1862 map it was shown as water-powered by the R. Stour; the later map was not clear on this point. On the 25-inch O.S. map of 1919 it was a 'Blacking Mill' and fairly definitely not water-powered.

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