

## Deddington Mills.

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In 1086 three mills in Deddington were recorded, (fn. 541) and by c. 1400 there were three corn mills, Clifton, Bobenhull, and West mills; reference at that time to 'fulling mill bridge' suggests that Deddington once possessed at least one more mill. (fn. 542) The latter may have been the mill belonging to Henry de Dive in 1272, but not included among the possessions of his successors; (fn. 543) a possible site may have been the Windsor manor's meadows called Fishwere, where there was not only a weir but probably, since they lay next to the Oxford road, a bridge. (fn. 544)

About 1180 Maud de Chesney gave a third of Clifton mill to Eynsham abbey, and in 1192 Ralph Murdac gave another third. (fn. 545) The remaining share was acquired by Philip Basset from Roger de Sampford in the 13th century and given to Bicester priory c. 1271. The rent of the mill was 40s. at that date, and Bicester priory continued to pay it to Eynsham abbey. In 1483, after payment had lapsed, there was an agreement between the two bodies that whereas the priory had formerly paid 40s. a year for Old Clifton mill, by then called Millstede by Thistleford and presumably disused, it would in future pay 20s. for New Clifton mill. (fn. 546) The mill passed with the Bicester manor to Christ Church, and was usually leased with the college's manor farm, and sublet to the millers. (fn. 547) The Merry family worked the mill for many years in the 18th century and early 19th. (fn. 548) In the 1830s it was described as a corn mill with two wheels working four pairs of stones, and its condition was thereafter regularly reviewed by the college. (fn. 549) Christ Church exchanged the mill for other property with W. C. Cartwright in 1885. (fn. 550) The mill was apparently still usable in the 1950s, and the wheel and other equipment remained in 1980. (fn. 551)

Bobenhull mill may have been the Duchy manor's mill on the river Swere. In 1583 the Duchy mill was leased to Nicholas Trippet, who built a new corn mill on the site of one that had fallen into decay in the mid 16th century. (fn. 552) In 1610 it was known as King mill or Old mill, and it remained in the Trippet family for much of the 17th century. (fn. 553) In 1660 Christopher Doyley of Adderbury asked leave of John Cartwright to convert Old mill into a paper mill. Michael Hutton of Hampton Gay made a similar proposal in 1684, and workmen were then engaged to make the conversion. (fn. 554) Paper was still made there in the early 19th century by the Emberlin family, (fn. 555) but by 1833 Mrs. Emberlin was in financial difficulties and in 1835 the mill's equipment was put up for sale as bankrupt stock. (fn. 556) Though paper makers and the paper mill continued to be recorded until the later 19th century, in 1851 Sophia Emberlin, who lived at the mill, was said to be doing no business; (fn. 557) in 1871 only agricultural labourers seem to have lived on the site in 'Paper Mill Cottages'. (fn. 558) In the 1870s Zachary Stilgoe of the adjoining Adderbury Grounds farm bought the mill and reconverted it into a corn mill. The site was sold to Christ Church in 1907. (fn. 559) The mill has disappeared, but the cottages survive and some paper-making equipment has been preserved. (fn. 560)

West mill was granted to Eynsham abbey by William de Chesney in the mid 12th century, a grant later confirmed by Ralph Murdac and Guy de Dive. (fn. 561) The mill, also called Dotard's mill, was yielding 20s. rent to the abbey c. 1270, and the same name and rent were recorded at the Dissolution. (fn. 562) In the early 15th century, however, it seems to have been held of the king by Walter of Somerton, and in 1533 by William Billing. (fn. 563) In the later 16th century and early 17th it probably belonged to the Welchman family. (fn. 564) In the 19th century, usually known as Deddington mill, it was a corn mill, and for many years the millers were members of the Course family. (fn. 565) In 1926 the mill was sold in working order, (fn. 566) but probably became a private residence soon afterwards. Part of the wheel and other equipment survived in 1980. (fn. 567)

In the 14th century Bicester priory owned a horse mill, (fn. 568) and in 1580 a windmill was mentioned. (fn. 569) This was probably not the windmill built without licence c. 1584 by the Welchman family 'on the queen's style in the common field', (fn. 570) presumably in the Windmill field near Deddington mill recorded in 1808. (fn. 571) Another windmill, however, stood on the south side of the Hempton road until it was pulled down c. 1840. (fn. 572)

¶ A mill at Hempton, presumably on the river Swere, was recorded in 1086, (fn. 573) but has not been traced thereafter. A water mill at Ilbury formed part of the manorial estate there in the 16th century, and was leased to the Lyne family; (fn. 574) the mill may have survived from the deserted medieval settlement, though it was not mentioned expressly in a survey of 1279. (fn. 575) It stood south of the Worton brook (South brook, Tomwell) c. mile west of Ilbury bridge; in 1619 it comprised three buildings, the mill wheel being turned by a stream (now a ditch) running south from Worton brook. (fn. 576) The mill survived in 1721, but by 1777 the field in which it had stood was called Burnt House close; (fn. 577) later it was called Mill ham. (fn. 578) The field contains indications of former buildings.