

Welcome To The Oare Windmill

The Oare Mill is a Grade II listed house converted from a Tower Mill which was used as a corn mill.

It is believed to have been built in the late eighteenth, early nineteenth century, constructed from red brick and a hooded cap of tarred weatherboarding.

Oare Mill has five storeys. It formerly had four single patent tails carried on a cast-iron windshaft and a Kentish style cap. The cap was the largest on any mill in Kent.

The mill was working up until June 1919.

Photographs show that the cap was still on the mill in 1952, however the roof was gone by 1963, in that same year, the derelict mill was converted into a house, retaining some machinery. A new domed polygonal roof was fitted to replace the original cap.



A postcard from 1910 by local photography Herbert Crosoer who hand coloured for glass lantern shows, kindly provided by John Robertson.

Fascinating Facts

The cap on the Oare Windmill was the largest on any mill in Kent measuring 17 feet (5.8m) and 15 feet (4.27m) in plan and 9 feet 9 inches (2.97m) high.

It drove four pairs of millstones overdrift.

The wallower remains, mounted at the top of the Upright Shaft which is wooden and 18 inches (460mm) square.



What Is A Tower Mill?

A tower mill is a type of vertical windmill consisting of a brick or stone tower, on which sits a wooden 'cap' or roof, which can rotate to bring the sails into the wind.

The rotating cap on a firm masonry base gave tower mills great advantages over earlier post mills, as they could stand much higher, bear larger sails and provide a greater reach into the wind.

The tower mill was an important source of power for Europe for nearly 600 years, from 1300 to 1900, contributing to 25% of the industrial power as it replace original animal muscle, converting the energy from the wind into mechanical energy for grinding grain, pumping water and draining lowland areas.

Can You Spot The Difference?



1927



Now



AN ANCIENT DERELICT WINDMILL OVERLOOKING A QUIET COUNTRY FOOTPATH AT OARE, FAVERSHAM. PHOTO: BARBER, FAVERSHAM.

FAVERSHAM LAKES

Sectional View of a Windmill

1. Dust Floor

Prevents dust and dirt from falling on the mill floors below, it is also the powerhouse of the mill.

2. Bin Floor

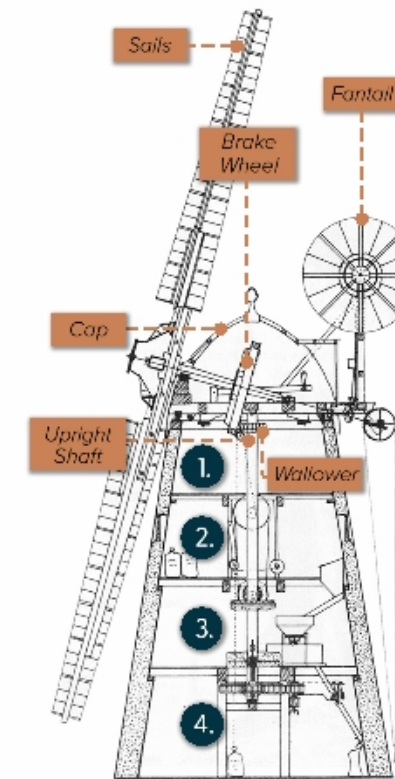
Where sacks of grain were stored in bins (containers) before milling.

3. Stone Floor

Where wheat was ground with millstones.

4. Spout Floor

Meal (the name of grindings of any grain) would travel down a spout to this floor to be collected into a sack.



Sectional View Of Windmill Source: <https://theinethamwindmill.org.uk>

Know Your Windmills

Sails

The 'blades' on the windmill.

Sweeps

The sails of a windmill are known as "sweeps" and are carried on the end of a cast iron windshaft.

Fantails

A small windmill mounted at right angles to the sails, at the rear of the windmill which turns the cap automatically to bring it into the wind.

Cap

Located at the very top of the windmill made of wood. Rotates so the sails can point into the wind and contains the brake.

Millstones

Each of two circular stones used for grinding grain.

Overdrift

Millstones driven from above are known as overdrift stones.

Great Spur Wheel

Drives the stone nuts. Millstones driven by the Great Spur Wheel can be either Overdrift or Underdrift.

Wallower

A small gear at the base of an upright shaft in a windmill, it is driven by the Pit Wheel.

Upright Shaft

The Upright Shaft is the main driven shaft found in Tower Mills, it carries the Wallower at its top end and a Great Spur Wheel at the bottom end.

Underdrift

The Underdrift are the Millstones that are driven from beneath.

Tail

A Tail is referred to as a Tail Fin which is used to automatically direct the leading edge of the windmill to face the wind.