

The H.E.S. Simmons Archive

The Simmons Papers at the Science Museum Library, London

The late Herbert Edward Sydney Simmons (1901-73) collected a vast amount of information relating to windmills and watermills, and on his death his widow donated his papers to the Science Museum Library. They form an invaluable resource for anyone working on the history of mills. He had done much historical research among journals, newspapers and official publications, and, particularly in the Midlands, East Anglia, and Sussex, had visited hundreds of mills himself, observing their use, enquiring into their traditions, and making measurements and records of their machinery. All this information was typed out and filed in some 240 fat folders. He also marked the location of mills on maps of various scales; on one-inch maps both wind and watermills were marked, on half-inch maps only windmills; only for Sussex and its borders were six-inch maps used. He was also a photographer, and over 2000 photographs are in the collection. (The negatives are filed in the National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in England, Fortress House, Savile Row, London, from which body prints may be ordered). These photographs have a very uneven coverage of the country; the greatest concentration is for East Anglia and the South East of England.

Among all this collection there appears to be only one completed script giving a connected account of a group of mills - namely the article on the watermills of the Belne Brook in North Worcestershire which the Midlands Mills Group recently published in its journal Wind and Water Mills No. 1 1980

As far as the Midlands area is concerned, there is much recorded data in the collection, thus:

Worcestershire: 63 windmills, mostly not actually located.
About 420 watermills, filed in 5 large volumes

Warwickshire: Probably about 150 windmill sites, collected into 2 volumes
Probably about 400 watermills in 3 large volumes

Staffordshire: 101 windmill sites
About 450 watermills in 4 volumes

However in spite of so much written information there are comparatively few photographs of mills in these counties with none at all for Staffordshire, here is a complete list:

<u>Watermills</u>	Worcs.	Tatton Mill
	Warks	Alveston (in Hill Wootton)
		Blakedown (in Hill Wootton)
		Charlecote (Sept. 1943, general view)
		Grandborough
		Shipston-on-Stour
		Stratford on Avon
		Tanworth
<u>Windmills</u>	Worcs.	Inkberrow Green (1938, 2 in 1944)
		Weatheroak Hill (1944)
	Warks.	
		Baxterley (1934)
		Berkswell (1945)
		Burton Dassett (7 in 1932)
		Catchems Corner (1934)
		Chesterton (6 in 1932, 3 in 1938, 1 in 1944)
		Coleshill
		Compton Winyates
		Cosley Moor (1945)
		Danzey Green (6 in 1938)
		Exhall (1944)
		Henbury (1932, 38)
		Kenilworth (1944)
		Leamington
		Norton Lindsey (1934, 3 in 1938)
		Rowington (1943)
		Shrewley (Post)(1934)(Tower)(1934)
		Southam (1932, 35, 38)
		Thurlaston (1935, 39)
		Tuttle Hill (1934)

D.G.T.