

Warwick Bridge Corn Mill Progress March 2019

The month saw the conclusion of major structural repairs to the floor beams which had been weakened by rot. One beam was replaced completely in Oak and a second was reinforced by a resin repair which avoided the need to disturb one set of French Burr stones.



A new supporting timber and steel shoe being installed above the repaired beam on the Stone Floor

Border Engineering completed the installation of the generator on the upstream side of the Hurst. The lay shaft and pulley wheel which served auxiliary equipment on the Stone Floor above was removed to accommodate a new drive shaft which will take its drive from the original Crown Gear.



The new generator being lifted from its transport cradle



A temporary lifting frame was installed at first floor level and fixings for the generator in place



Starting to dismantle the pulley wheel on the lay shaft

A small test pit investigated the depth of cover available for the proposed drainage run from the mill extension. It showed that the crown of the head race culvert was just below the paving, leaving no room for the pipe run.



The crown of the head race culvert showing just below the paving of the loading dock

The need to resolve drainage for roof water from the barn saw another trial trench opened to the east of the loading dock. This revealed a stone trough at a lower level than the parapet wall.



Stone trough cut through by concrete supporting the race wall and overlain by the parapet wall for the loading dock

The levels did not work so another solution was proposed, to investigate the original drainage arrangement to the wheel pit.



Steps to the loading dock being dismantled to investigate the original drain run below.



The wooden casting pattern for the Pit Gear ready for lowering from the barn roof where it had been stored. WB on the pattern identified the job

The millwrights have been working on the control gate operating mechanism and improving the seating of the valves on the gate.



The millwrights working on the control gate operating mechanism



Millwright Jon cleans up a very dry Bearing on the control gate lever on the Stone Floor



The spillway was cleared of vegetation to allow inspection of the stonework

The external drainage was commenced towards the end of the month. The trenches confirmed a cobbled yard surface on the north side of the mill. The foundations of a small lean-to on the north side of the kiln were investigated to inform the drainage run and the various chamber positions excavated to check the level of the bedrock. The trench to the bank side revealed the footings of a wall alongside the Cairn Beck.



Work in progress on the drainage trenches to north and west of the mill



Land drains of different periods at the NE corner of the mill



Foundation of small lean-to on the north side of the kiln, looking east



Wall foundation alongside the Cairn Beck

Four flagstones in the barn floor were lifted and re-bedded.



Flagstone lifted for re-bedding