

Warwick Bridge Corn Mill – update November 2018

The need to reinforce the timber floor beams supporting the central part of the threshing barn floor saw the basement store emptied, which made a better look at the fabric possible. The space is partly excavated out of the sandstone bedrock which shows in the base of the north and south walls. The space is on a slightly different alignment to the mid nineteenth century barn range and may be a survivor of the earlier range shown on earlier nineteenth century plans. A delivery chute enters the space from the yard to the east. In the NW corner is a stone trough, perhaps used as a manger?



New reinforcing steel beams, on concrete block padstones, provide additional support to the barn floor above. The north wall of the basement store is built off the sloping sandstone bedrock. The spray painted word adds to the range of graffiti encountered in the buildings!



A nicely executed stone trough in the NW corner of the store with a substantial slab above – perhaps acting as a tie across the vulnerable external angle of the earlier range?



The east wall of the store has a curious construction with a brick and stone infill below a change in the stonework – perhaps patching in against the excavated bedrock behind? The blocked opening above is the base of a chute built through the wall for delivering (Coal?) from the yard above



New floor joists, laid above the reinforced beams, will support the new barn floor

Stonework repairs and re-pointing continue apace, with most of the north elevation complete and the team working around to the south side of the mill.



New jambs replacing failed stones at the shutter opening in the south wall of the mill at Garner Floor level. The opening was cut across when the threshing barn was added to the 1839 mill building



Repairs well underway to the complex joinery on the west side of the roof where the barn range changes alignment. A failed valley had allowed rot to develop in this area. A section of new timber, reinforced with steel and resin, has allowed most of the second truss to be retained.

Sharp eyed joiners with an interest in the history of the building spotted further initials in the structural timbers on the Stone Floor.



Initials carved in the eastern upright supporting the bowstring truss on the Stone Floor



An earlier J, the rest of the initials perhaps removed by a later mortice, below on the same timber



A trial cleaning of a further area of the loose limewash from the north wall of the Hurst Floor revealed more initials – this time the right way up!

The basement of the extension (Chaff store/Dust Room) has suffered badly from damp penetration at the NW corner and the timber beam spanning the opening in the North wall has become soft and will require replacement. It appears to be another re-used timber, presumably from earlier buildings on the site. The hatch may have been used to shovel chaff out to the yard on the north side of the mill extension where outbuildings, apparently pig sties, are shown on the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey plan.



The shaped timber, with evidence of previous jointing, has been re-used to form the inner lintel of the hatch opening in the north wall of the chaff store



Angled mortice in the centre of the re-used timber. The outer timber lintel is almost rotted away

The later part of the month saw the return of the millwrights to commence installing the 64 new Corten steel buckets on the wheel.



The millwrights installing new buckets on the south side of the wheel

Turning the wheel brought the maker's casting marks on the southern wheel rim into view.



William Bell of Carlisle, 1845(?)



And right at the top of the mill extension the chimney pot from the office fireplace flue bears the stamp of T&J. Nelson & Co. , another Carlisle firm