

## **Warwick Bridge Corn Mill Progress April 2019**

The month has seen good progress with the external drainage around the site.

A trench alongside the store/wash house to the west of the barn revealed wall foundations extending westwards of the present building and the associated work within the store produced a piece of clay kiln tile. The thick perforated tiles were the forerunners of the Victorian cast iron plates used in the present kiln on site.



**Wall foundation extending westwards from the south wall of the wash house**



**Piece of clay kiln tile showing the tapering holes in the underside which allowed the heat to percolate through the tiles to dry the grain**

Lifting a cover stone revealed a stone built drain crossing the trench.



**Clearing silt from a stone built drain crossing the floor of the trench**



A short trench on the north side of the tail race culvert replaced an earlier plan to link with the drainage of the north side of the mill.



**Work in progress on a short run of drainage from the kiln roof to the tail race**

The old line of rainwater drainage below the steps on the east side of the kiln was reinstated with a new channel stone carved to turn the water into the drain passing through the barn wall and draining into the wheel pit.



**Resetting the drainage channel stones alongside the east side of the barn. A newly carved stone will turn the water into the old drain below the barn wall and into the wheel pit**



**Reinstating the steps up to the loading dock**



Before backfilling took place an earlier trial trench on the north side of the kiln was cleaned up and photographed.



**Stone foundation parallel with the north wall of the kiln overlain by the brick foundation and concrete slab floor of a ground floor lean-to**

A trench was excavated across the yard to the east of the barn for foul drainage from the mill extension. This proved remarkably clean, being excavated mainly through natural deposits and weathered bedrock. At the northern end the concrete ramp behind the head race wall was cut away to accommodate a chamber and showed that the stone trough seen in the earlier trial trench survived on the east side of the concrete.



**Drain crossing the yard to the east of the barn**



**Removing the concrete ramp cut through the stone trough below the parapet wall of the eastern loading dock (right)**



Padstones were installed to support the new steel floor and stair in the space to the east of the kiln.



**Slots in the south wall of the kiln for new padstones to support the new floor**

A further small trench within the south end of the barn for a new water supply showed the foundation of the earlier range on a slightly offset alignment from the present building and breaking through this produced another piece of clay kiln tile built into the wall.



**Earlier wall foundation on a different alignment from the present east wall of the barn**



**Tile kiln fragment from the wall construction**



A build up of debris and silt in the head race upstream from the trash screen was cleared with the help of volunteers.



**Local volunteers working with Karen to clear the head race**



**An artificial house martin nest installed on the east wall of the barn to encourage nesting**

