



## Wind mills

Windmills were an ancient feature of the landscape but by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were no longer competitive against the competition of new large steam mills and many closed or declined at this time.

### Bacton Wood post mill

Bacton Wood post mill was a small mill that stood at Spa Common near North Walsham just to the north of Bacton Wood watermill. The two mills were probably always worked under the same ownership.

- ◆ Built: pre 1797
- ◆ Closed: unknown
- ◆ Demolished: unknown

### Brigate tower mill

The 6 storey tarred red brick mill was built c.1850. The mill had a boat shaped cap. The sails powered three pairs of stones.

- ◆ Built: 1850 – may have replaced Brigate post mill
- ◆ Derelict: 1949
- ◆ Converted to house: 1972



*Brigate mill in 1905*

### Ebridge Mill Hill tower mill

Ebridge tower mill stood on Mill Hill, technically in Witton. The mill was run in conjunction with Ebridge watermill for all its working life. 1870. The mill was four storeys tall and had a stage; it used patent sails set on a cast iron windshaft to drive two pairs of French burr stones.

### Lingate



*Lingate mill - 1970*

Lingate tower mill was a five-storey tarred red brick tower mill, often known as New Mills. It was sited in a farmyard on the Bradfield Road, along with some low tiled barns and a large brick store on the northwest side of the town close to the railway line. The mill used patent sails to drive 2 pairs of stones. A steam mill driving a further 2 pairs of stones was also operated on the mill site.

- ◆ Built: 1856
- ◆ 1883: Auxiliary steam power added
- ◆ Closed: unknown
- ◆ Demolished: 1981

### Norwich Road

For more information visit [www.norfolk Mills.co.uk](http://www.norfolk Mills.co.uk)



*Demolition in 1940*

Norwich Road red brick tower mill stood just to the southwest of the town and the two railway stations. The six storey mill had patent sails and a fantail that powered two pairs of French burr stones, two flour mills and a jumper.

- ◆ Built: pre 1799
- ◆ Renovated: 1857
- ◆ Closed: unknown
- ◆ Demolished: 1940 to make way for H P Smedley canning factory

### Reeves Lane (Bacton Road)

Reeve's Lane tower mill stood on Watch Hill next to the St. Nicholas' Iron works on the north eastern side of the town. A maltings was also run on the site. Reeve's Lane was later renamed Bacton Road.

- ◆ Built: pre 1816
- ◆ Demolished: unknown

### Swafield Road

North Walsham Swafield Road post windmill stood in a field beside the Mundesley Road on the east side of the town. The mill had a roundhouse

- ◆ Built: 1768
- ◆ Closed: c1880
- ◆ Remnant re-erected to carry Swafield village sign: 1977



*Remnants in 1925*

### Yarmouth Road

Yarmouth Road post mill in North Walsham was also known as Youngman's Mill or Field Mill

The mill buck was set on a two storey roundhouse and had a gable end porch and was moved into wind with a tail pole. The four double shuttered sails, each with eight bays of three shutters were struck by rack and pinion

- ◆ Built: pre 1602
- ◆ Rebuilt: unknown
- ◆ Steam power added: 1883
- ◆ Disuse: c1902
- ◆ Demolished: unknown



*Derelict in 1905*



## Water mills

All of the local water mills were fed by the River Ant / North Walsham & Dilham Canal and were served by wherries sailing on the canal.

### Antingham Bone Mills

Unusually Antingham had two watermills. Both were within a half a mile of each other, Antingham Upper and Antingham Lower. Both were bone mills and it appears both were under the same ownership.

The upper and smaller mill was built at the canal end of Antingham Pond. The mill was connected to the main canal by a short waterway allowing a small fleet of boats to be used to transport goods between the two mills until the channel was filled in c.1905. Bones from local butchers and slaughterhouses were crushed along with phosphates from ocean islands that arrived in the form of ships' ballast, which was then transported by rail to North Walsham station or by wherry up the canal. This section of the canal remained navigable until 1893 when Swafield staithe became the terminus.

- ◆ Built: pre 1836
- ◆ 'Upper' converted to house: 1946
- ◆ 'Lower' demolished: 1958



Lower mill 1946

### Bacton Wood Mill

Bacton Wood water mill at Spa Common, was on a Domesday site. The wheel powered three pairs of stones; two pairs were French burr stones and the other was of a composite material for animal grist.

- ◆ Current mill built: 1747
- ◆ Modified: 1825 in anticipation of an increase in trade due to the opening of the North Walsham & Dilham Canal in 1826
- ◆ Closed: 1944
- ◆ Restoration begun: 1984



Bacton Wood Mill in 1971

### Brigate Mill

Brigate watermill was actually at Worstead and some knew it as Worstead Mill. The last version of the mill was three storeys high and originally consisted of weatherboarding set onto the wooden frame that was in turn built into the brick base of the ground floor. The site was quite large and the mill once employed twelve people but at the time of closure in 1969 there was only one employee left. The owners Cubitt & Walker, then moved the milling activities to Ebridge.



A wherry in front of the mill c.1912

### Ebridge Mill

Ebridge Mill was also sometimes known as North Walsham Mill. The mill remained in the ownership of the family within Cubitt & Walker Ltd from 1869 - 1998 when it was sold to Duffields and subsequently closed. During the 1800s Ebridge mill was worked in conjunction with the nearby Ebridge tower mill on Mill Hill

- ◆ Built: pre 1842
- ◆ Closed: 1998
- ◆ Conversion to homes from: 2015



The old bridge with the lock beyond in 1928



Loading sacks outside Ebridge Mill, c1920s