

## Time Line for Harbertonford Woollen Mill

In 1395 we have one of the earliest references to the mill in a Buckfast Abbey lease of a corn mill and fulling mills in Englebourne Abbot (Harberton).

In 1652 three grist mills and one fulling mill at Mill Towne, Harbertonford were mentioned in an indenture for the marriage settlement between the families of Wotton (from Englebourne) and Cabell (from Brooke, Buckfastleigh).

The Wotton family had bought the Manor of Englebourne in 1546 when Buckfast Abbey was sold after the dissolution of the monasteries, and they held it until about 1785.

The construction of the main building that to become known as the Harbertonford Factory took place sometime around 1800 (there is an unsubstantiated rumour that it was built in 1789, but there is no documentary evidence for this).

In the period from 1782 to 1789 the Mill Towe Land Tax Assessments (LTAs) were paid by Estcourt Cresswell, who owned the Englebourne estate at the time .... but for the period from 1804 to 1823 the LTAs for Mill Towne were paid by Thomas Windeatt of Bridgetown who was variously described as a 'Wool Spinner', a 'Wool Manufacturer', and a 'Wool Manufacturer, Dealer and Chapman'.

In 1816 the mill was advertised for sale as a Woollen Mill called Harbertonford Factory, and was described as having been 'built within a very few years'

In 1822 the mill was again being advertised for sale, this time by the assignees of Thomas Windeatt, a Bankrupt. The factory was described as being some 72 feet long and 30 feet wide and 7 storeys high, driven by a powerful stream of water, and used for spinning woollen yarn.

It would appear that the mill had been purchased by William Bentall and Co., who were responsible for paying the land tax assessment for Mill Towne from 1824. In 1842 the mill was advertised for sale or to let, as Harbertonford Serge and Blanket Manufactory, Fulling Mills etc, by order of the assignees of the Estate and Effects of Ayshford Wyse, William Searle Bentall and Robert Farwell, Bankrupts.

Circa 1845 to 1855 there was a period of use of the mill as a Starch Manufactory, leased by Joseph Gentile, and was operated under the name of The Harberton Company.

In 1855 the mill was advertised to let as Harbertonford Mills, occupied by the Harberton Company, portions of which have been used as a Woollen Manufactory and Fulling Mill, but more recently a Starch Manufactory There is also a Flour and Grist Mill and another portion used as a Saw and Turning Mill.

In 1862 the mill was advertised to let as Harbertonford Mills...Flour and Grist Mills called the Factory Mills.

Later in the 1860s the mill was purchased by John Churchward of Buckfastleigh, and by 1870 was under the ownership of John Churchward, Serge Manufacturer, and it remained in Churchward's hands they closed down production in 1956.

In 1919 there was a major fire at the Mill.

In 1957 The mill buildings were sold to John Soper, and were partially used as an Agricultural Engineering Works

In 1959 the mill chimney was demolished.

In 1960 parts of the buildings were sold to Glanville's and used for processing cereal seeds to supply animal feed and fertilisers.

The Mill was then bought by Unilever - closing in 1987/88.

Parts of the Mill were then converted into housing

In 2014 the remainder of the site was sold for redevelopment to housing.