

Hanover Mill

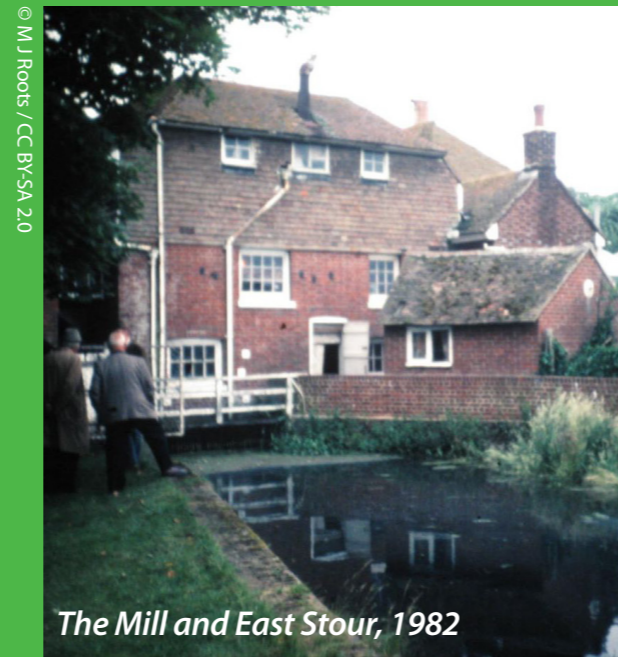
on the East Stour

Before the advent of steam engines and electricity, water was a vital source of power for many purposes. Most rivers in East Kent carried significantly more water than they do now. Here at Hanover Mill, the East Stour drove a mill that was used to make flour and animal feeds.

There has been a mill here since at least the 18th century, but the building you see now is the result of the original mill being greatly extended in 1879.

For much of the 20th century, Hanover Mill was associated with one name – Hancock. Marcus Hancock became the tenant miller here in 1909. His son, Phillip, on returning from WWI, went into partnership with him and was the miller here until he retired in 1972. The mill was still running in the 1980s, by which time it is thought to have been Kent's last commercially active flour mill driven by water. Milling finally stopped later that decade but the machinery is still intact.

The building is now owned and used for residential and commercial purposes by grain and seed merchants T Denne & Sons Ltd, who themselves started as a milling company in Canterbury, in 1879.

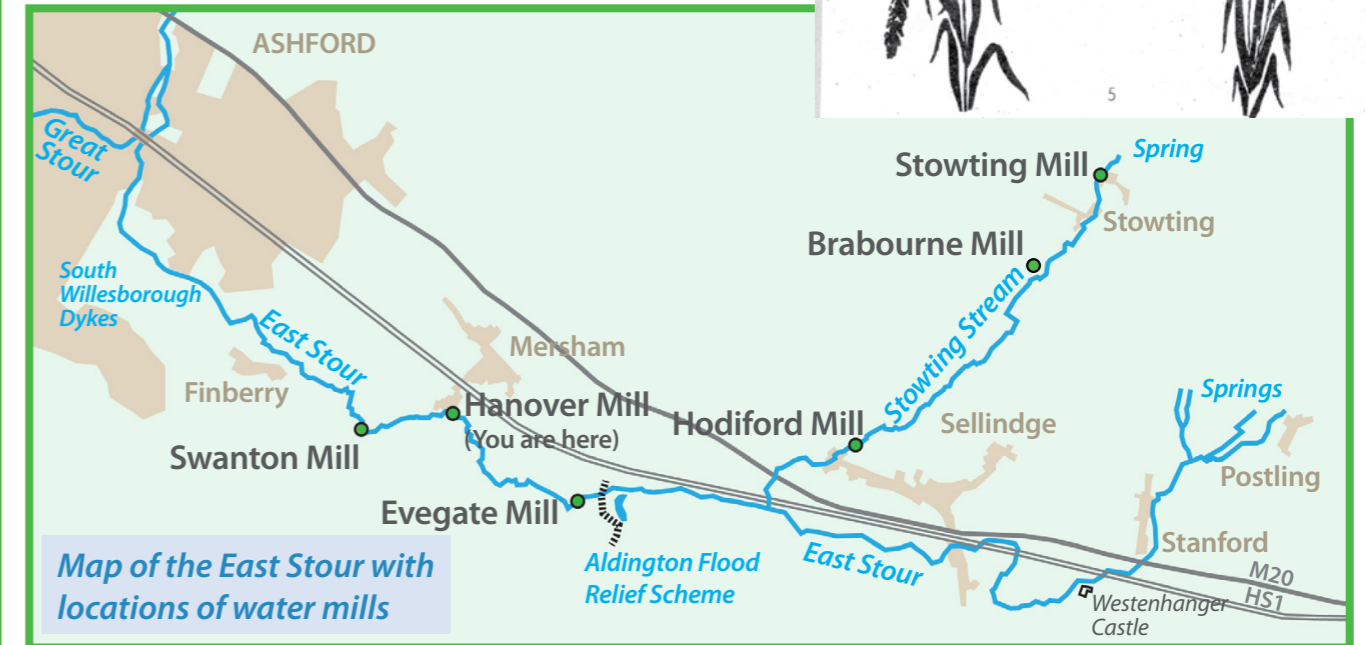


The Mill and East Stour, 1982

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Hanover Mill staff photo, 1942. Phillip Hancock is 2nd from the right, lower row.



Map of the East Stour with locations of water mills

RIGHT: This old postcard, date unknown, shows the Mill and East Stour. Note the chimney for the steam engine used to drive the mill at times of low flow.



Hanover Mill, Mersham

The journey of the East Stour

The East Stour starts as small springs near Postling. It flows west, through Stanford, Sellindge and the grounds of Westenhangar Castle.

Near Aldington a major flood relief scheme, constructed in the 1990s, protects the community of Ashford. The East Stour is impacted by the expansion of Ashford and by the M20 and HS1 railway, which it flows alongside.

As it enters urban Ashford, the river forms an integral part of the South Willesborough Dykes and other areas in the Ashford Green Corridor, which are protected and managed for their wildlife value. The East Stour ends its journey at its confluence with the Great Stour, at Queen Mother's Park in the centre of Ashford.

We would like to thank T Denne & Sons for permission to install this panel.
Find more information and download a leaflet about the Stour Catchment from our website www.kentishstour.org.uk

To report pollution: Environment Agency hotline - 0800 807060

