

COED TREWERNAU MILL: THE HISTORY AND PEOPLE

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Introduction

Coed Trewernau Mill, in the old county of Radnorshire, is located in the parish of Llanddewi-Ystradenni, near Abbeycwmhir (see Figure 1). It lies adjacent to the Clywedog Brook.

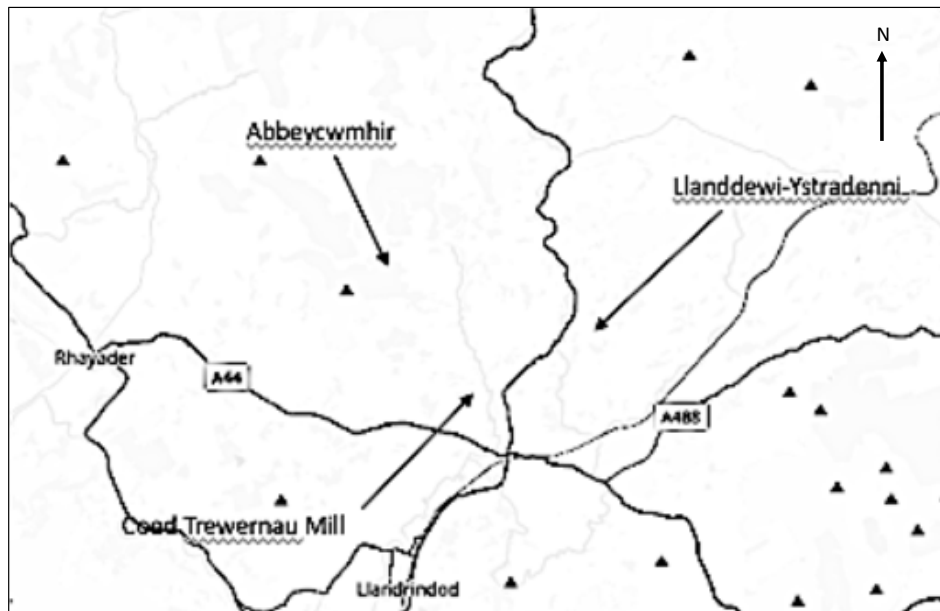


Figure 1 Location of Coed Trewernau Mill

My family bought Coed Trewernau (corn) Mill in 2002. It was in a semi-derelict state, and over the years we have renovated the mill building and attached cottage. Plates 1 and 2 show the mill and cottage a few years before we bought it. Over the last 16 years I have conducted some research into the history of

our mill within the local area and the people who lived here. These investigations are described in this paper.

The mill has been described by both Prof Gordon Tucker and Geoff W. Ridyard in previous *Melins*. Gordon Tucker in *Melin 5* and Geoff Ridyard in *Melin 11* and *Melin 19*. To help the understanding of Coed Trewernau Mill, I have reproduced the material given by Tucker and Ridyard in an appendix to this paper.

Alan Stoyel kindly gave his advice during the work on the mill building and more recently has examined the machinery in more detail (and presented this work as a paper in *Melin 34*); in 2010 we hosted a Welsh Mills Society Mill Owners meeting; and we benefitted from a visit by the Mucky Mills Gang in August 2018 who unearthed parts of our water wheel (most of which had apparently been sold for scrap in around 1940).



PLATE 1 Coed Trewernau Mill c.1995 (source: Keith Morris)



PLATE 2 North elevation of the mill c.1995 (source: Keith Morris)

The last few decades at Coed Trewernau Mill

My family bought Coed Trewernau Mill from Keith Morris. Keith's uncle Ralph Morris, who had lived at the mill and owned the accompanying farm, built a bungalow a small distance from the mill in around 1986, under a grant scheme which resulted in the mill being classified as uninhabitable. Ralph moved to live in the bungalow and Keith Morris subsequently took over the bungalow and farm when Ralph died in 1992.

The corn mill, mill cottage and a small area of land around it was sold to us from the original land holding and we gained planning permission to convert the mill cottage to a habitable

dwelling. A separate stone building has remained part of the farm. It is on the site of the building that Ridyard considers to have been a fulling mill but appears to have been partially rebuilt as no evidence of a mill remains.

At the time of our purchase (2002) the mill cottage had no internal water or sanitation and holes in the roof of the cottage had resulted in considerable of water damage, so it was necessary to re-roof and re-build the inside of the cottage, and install a sewage treatment plant.

In November 2004 CADW listed the mill and renovated cottage as Grade II.

In 2008 we gained permission to re-roof the mill itself, conduct major repairs to the internal flooring/doors/windows and re-locate the stairs away from the hurst frame. This work benefitted from a Powys County Council grant.

Since that time, we have re-built the retaining wall to the mill pond, which had slumped against the mill building, and constructed some domestic buildings in our garden.

In the rest of this paper I describe my findings from various aspects of research. My aim is to compliment the descriptions and details given by Tucker and Ridyard. I have structured my findings under the following headings:

- Information deduced from historical maps
- Owners of Coed Trewernau
- C19th/C20th residents and their families

I would like to acknowledge the help of Julian Lovell (Abbeycwmhir Heritage Trust) in the understanding and interpretation of some of the historical records.

This research is not complete, but progress so far is described here in order to coincide with a visit by Welsh Mills Society members in October 2018.

Information deduced from historical maps

The earliest map that I have used, that is relevant to our mill, is John Ogilby's 1676 map of the road between London and Aberistwith (Aberystwyth), commissioned by Charles II, which passed reasonably close to Coed Trewernau. Ogilby drew a linear route 'strip map' and mentions a number of locations that are recognisable near our mill. Moore-Colyer in *Roads & Trackways of Wales* (2007) picks out the likely route and considers that it crossed the Clywedog Brook a few hundred metres downstream of our mill. At this time Moore-Colyer considers that wheeled vehicles would have been rare and the route largely used by ox-wagons, pack-horses and mules making local journeys, but it is also thought to have been the drover's road from Rhyader to Penybont before the current (turnpike) road was built. This route was referred to by the early turnpike surveyors as 'The Great Road' and was an important historical route with possibly medieval origins.

I have found references to 'a quitclaim by James ap Howell of Coed Trewerny' in 1623 and to a 'messuage and house thereunto built and parcels of land, wood, and pasture called Koed Tre Warney, with meadow grounds between the wood

called Koedkay trewerny on one side and --- on the other' in a mortgage of 1635, and to 3 tenements and a fulling mill at Keod Trewernin in 1659 - so it is highly likely that there was a dwelling on our site before and at the time Ogilby mapped his route. The fortunes of Coed Trewernau Mill may have been influenced by the close proximity of this important route.

The next map that I have identified was produced in 1817. This is given in Figure 2. This map shows a south-east to north-west trending track a little to the south of Coed Trewernau Mill, which is similar to the route of 'The Great Road' identified by Moore-Colver. It also seems to show that access to our mill would have been from Brynlycoed to the south, (along a track which still exists today) or from a track to the north-east. This is not the current road layout – which has a road that passes Brynlycoed and Coed Trewernau and follows Clywedog Brook to Abbeycwmhir. This new road is shown on the Tithe map of 1839 (Figure 3). Ridyard refers to a new road described by Thomas Wilson of the Abbeycwmhir Estate and I understand from Lovell *pers comm* that this new road was funded by the Abbeycwmhir and Penybont Estates in around 1830. The pre-1830 road network might go some way to explain why the mill is part of Llanddewi-Ystradenni parish, with Llanddewi-Ystradenni to the east, rather than having strong links to Abbeycwmhir to the north-west. It may also explain why our mill and cottage face the brook with a 1st floor access door on the brook side, its 'back' to the lane to Abbeycwmhir with only a steep track down from the lane – difficult for horse and cart.



Figure 2 Map dated 1817 (source: unknown)



Figure 3 Tithe map 1839

The 1839 Tithe map also shows a leat and a ‘tadpole’ shaped mill pond to the north of what is assumed to have been the fulling mill.



Figure 4 Map 1866 (source: unknown)

It is difficult to identify individual buildings on the 1817 map, but the Tithe map shows 3 buildings, which are assumed to be the fulling mill to the north, the corn mill in the centre and

another building to the south. This compares with an 1866 map (Figure 4) and the OS map of 1891 (Figure 5). The 1866 map seems rather schematic and shows a total of 4 buildings. The 1891 map is clearer and shows two clear differences compared to the 1839 map – the mill/cottage has an extension (which we know to have been a dairy) and there is a small building to the north of the mill which we know to be a pigsty. We can also see that the ‘tadpole’ shaped pond upstream of the fulling mill is no longer there – suggesting that the fulling mill was no longer used by 1887, when the map was surveyed.



Figure 5 OS Map 1891 (surveyed 1887). Reproduced by permission of Powys Archive

I also have maps of 1903 and 1906, the latter when our property was put up for sale by Lord Glanusk Estate (Figures 6 and 7).

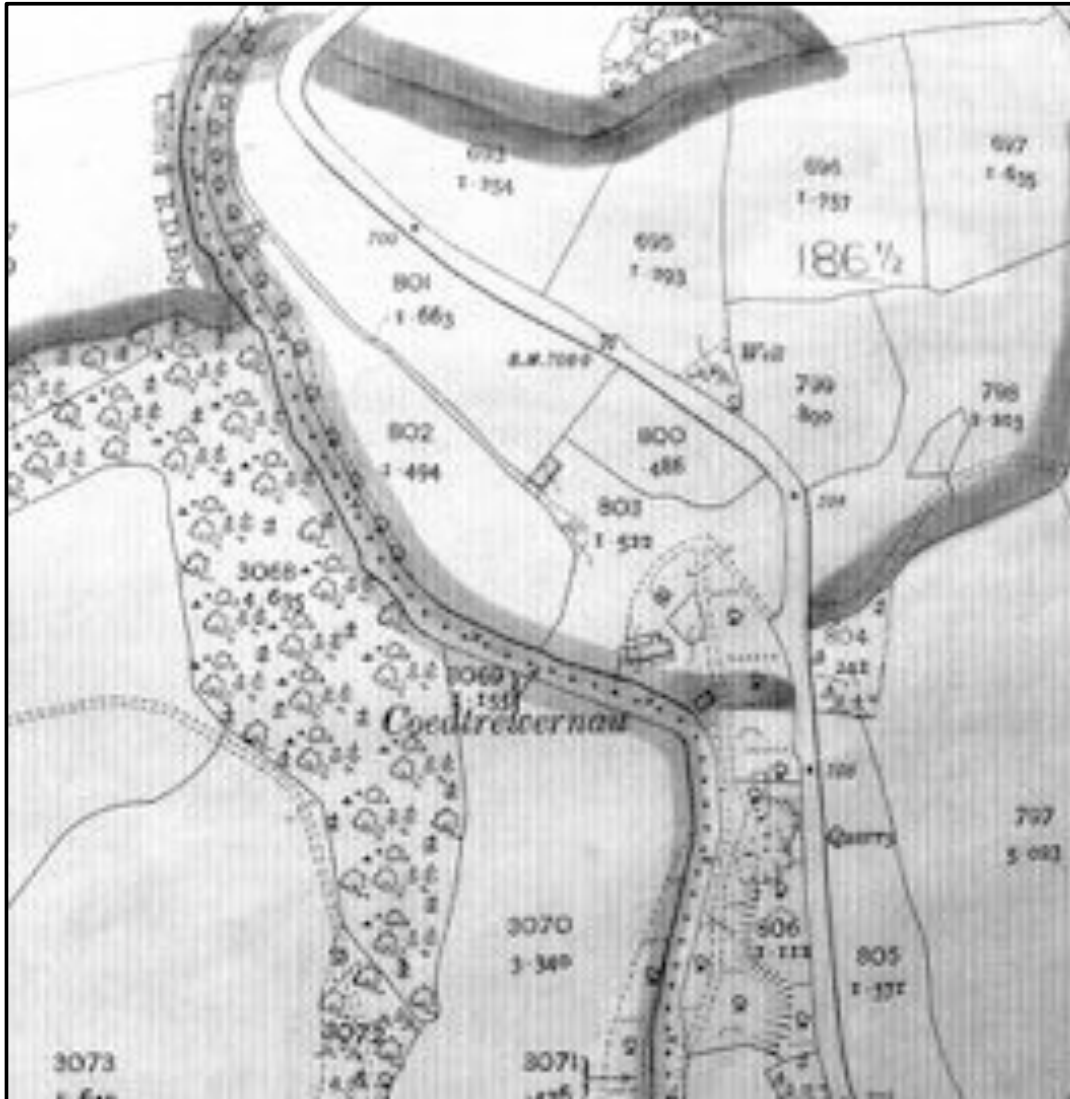


Figure 6 OS 2nd Edition 1903 (surveyed 1887 revised 1902).
Reproduced by permission of Powys Archive

In some ways the 1903 map appears to have been surveyed after the 1906 sale map, as the 1906 map gives more information on a small millpond that existed behind our mill

waterwheel (the raised bank still exists). Whichever map is more up to date, Ridyard lists clear evidence to suggest that the corn mill was no longer working by the beginning of C20th.

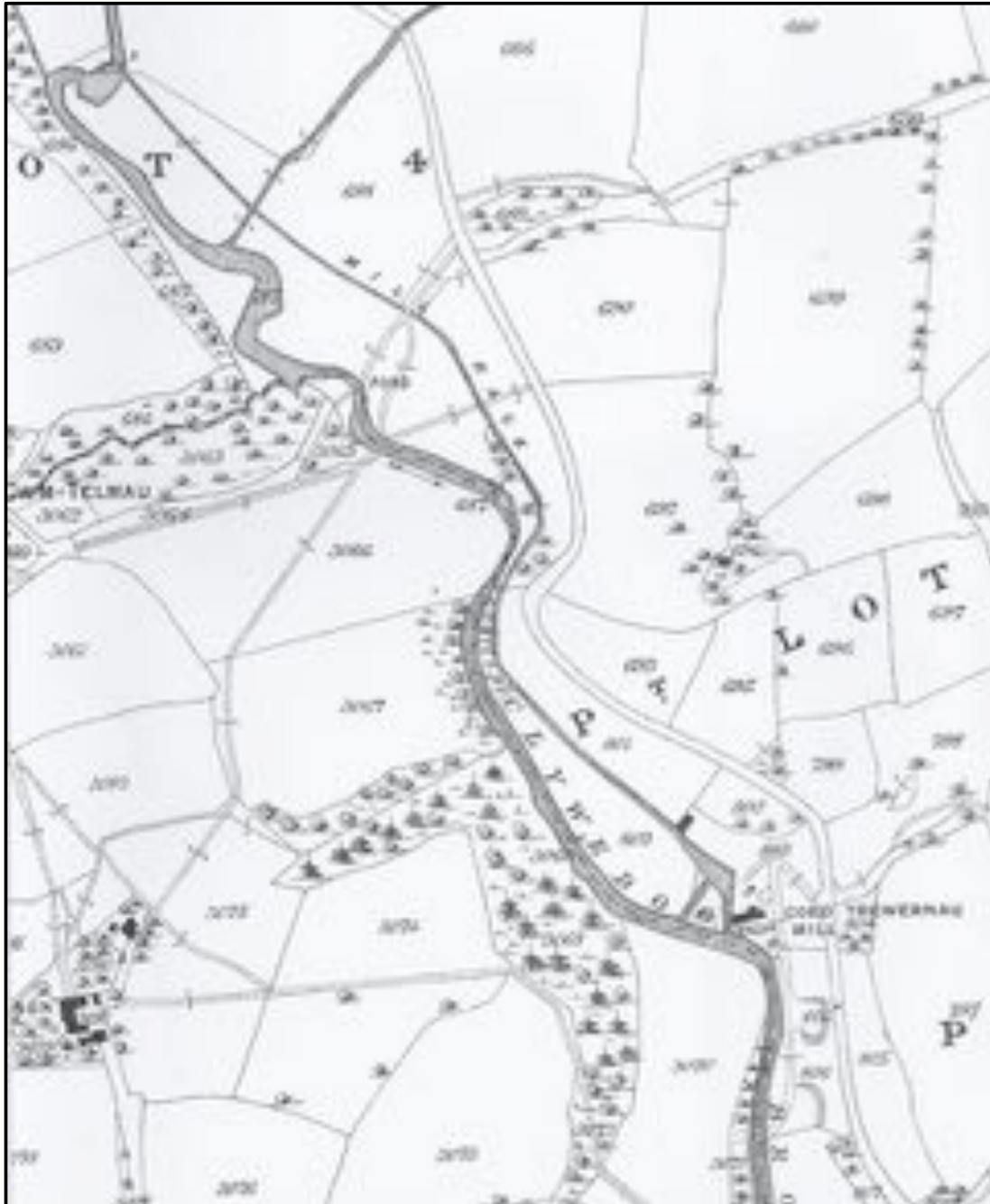


Figure 7 Map of 1906 from Glanusk sale documents. Reproduced by permission of Powys Archive

The 1839, 1891, 1903 and 1906 maps show a building to the south-east of the cottage adjacent to the possible old entrance to the mill. This building continues to be shown on revised versions of this map up to 1953. There is no current evidence to explain the purpose of this building. The building may have been a kiln, although we have not found any direct evidence to suggest that there was a kiln at the site (eg kiln tiles). There are the foundations of a small building close to the brook but I consider that these are not in the location of the building shown on the maps.

In the sale details of 1906, Coed Trewernau Mill is described as ‘A small freehold occupation containing about 32 acres, 1 rood, 26 perches... a dwelling house... and buildings comprising Stone and Iron-roofed Stable for two horses, Cow House for Four Head, Calf Pen, Barn, Two Pig Cotes and Store House and The Mill (now disused).’ In this description the building in question could perhaps be the building described as a Store House.

A further mystery that I had hoped historical maps would help with, is that our mill cottage is clearly of a later date than the mill. Although adjoining now, the stone work does not interlock, the cottage has a higher floor level and roof elevation, and the architectural style of the two buildings is different (Plate 3). The 1839 map does not show evidence of the dairy at the back of the cottage, whereas 1887 mapping does. The current cottage also has the remains of two bread ovens (one at each chimney). The larger and later functioning bread oven sits within a stone and brick chimney that encroaches into the mill. All these details suggest that the

cottage was re-built and the dairy added between 1839 and 1887. Figure 8, taken from Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales records, shows the building layout after this re-build, although it does not show the chimney breast in the easterly sidewall, the small bricked-up bread oven adjacent to it, or the large bread oven next to the range. This is the floor layout as we found it in 2002.

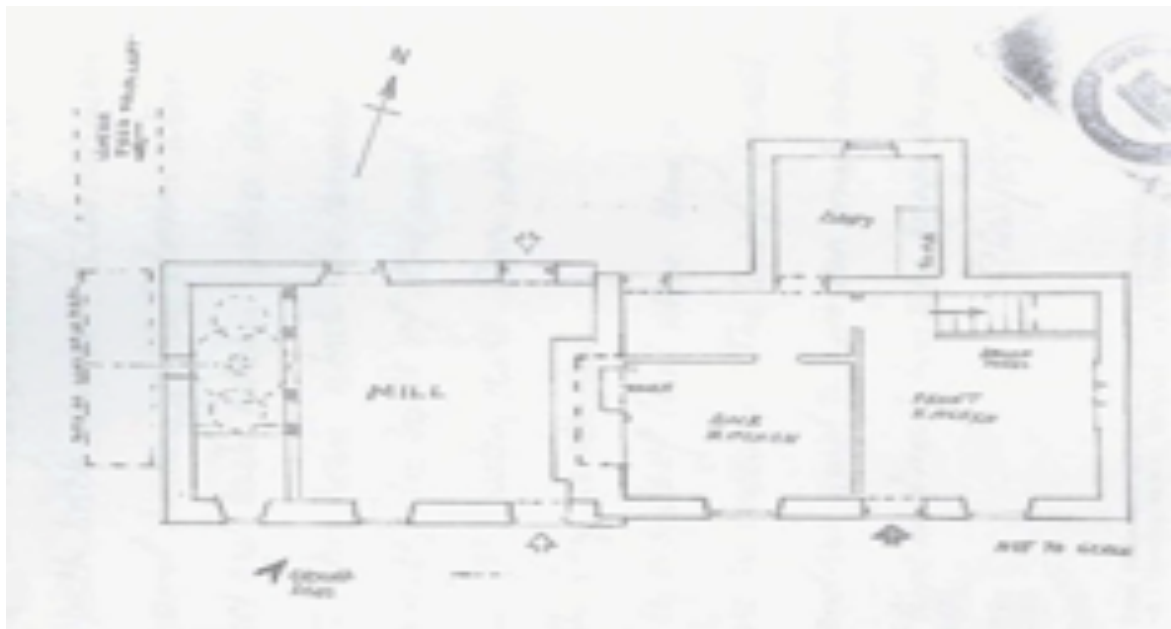


Figure 8 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) record of cottage and mill floor layout. These records show a floor layout as we found it in 2002.



PLATE 3 The re-built cottage abutting the mill

I also observe from these maps is that the 1891, 1903 and 1906 maps show a quarry in the wood immediately to the south of the mill. From a study of the geological map of the area I think it is likely that the very hard sandstone used to build the mill and cottage came from this quarry. British Geological Survey identify a Silurian conglomerate and sandstone (the Henfryn Formation) as a geological horizon that runs through the

quarry that may be a suitable building stone. We have also discovered that there is evidence of a small quarry within our own garden, and it may be that this was used to supplement the original building stone. Any of the building in mid C19th might have required the opening of an additional small quarry.

These maps show the location of the leat (mill race). Ridyard describes the course of this leat. Evidence of the take-off weir existed in 2002, marked by the remains of a row of wooden stakes the stream (Plate 4), but looking today these stakes have not survived. There is however still some evidence of the leat itself (Plate 5).



PLATE 4 Remains of take-off weir c.1995 (source: Keith Morris)



PLATE 5 Remains of leat c.1995 (source: Keith Morris)

Owners of Coed Trewernau

It is evident from the historical records that Coed Trewernau has origins at least back to C17th and I refer earlier in this paper to a reference as early as 1623. In Table 1 I have listed the owners and their tenants where I have been able to find them. In particular I have been looking for the first references to mills at Coed Trewernau.

Table 1 Owners and their tenants

| Date | Landlord | Information source | Tenant |
|-------------|--|--|---|
| 1623 | James ap Howell | Quitclaim ref Hanmer family papers | |
| 1635 | Francis Phillips | Land purchase of a number of properties between Francis Phillips and Charles Lloid ref Hanmer family papers – inc reference to water corn and fulling mill | John Price (fuller) Rees ap Owen (miller) James Powell |
| 1659 | John Hanmer and Dorothy his wife (<i>daughter and son-in-law to Francis Phillips</i>) | Extension of leases related to 3 tenements and a fullinge mille ref Hanmer family papers | Tenement leases to (1) John ap Humphrey, now David Powell (2) James Jones (3) Maurice Williams Fullinge mille lease to John Price |
| 1669 | Margrett Phillippes (<i>granddaughter to Francis Phillips, who's father Andrew Philipps was High Sheriff of Radnorshire in 1667</i>) | Covenant to keep harmless re tenancy Ref Hanmer family papers | David Powell (or Evan Lloyd?) |

| Date | Landlord | Information source | Tenant |
|--------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| 1770 | Edward Griffiths sells to David Morgan (<i>maybe a descendant of David Morgan of Coedglasson – adjacent farm – and High Sheriff of Radnorshire in 1705?</i>) | Sale of property inc Coed Trewerni Mills | Joseph Thomas? |
| 1795 or 1798 | | Advertisement for the lease (ref Ridyard). Refers to Corn Grist and Fulling mill | Joseph Thomas |
| 1817 | | Ref Ridyard re records of jury service | Richard Hampton |
| 1833 | Harriett Fencott and George Reese sell to William Lea | Assignment of mortgages. Refers to Coedtrewerney Mills | |
| 1839 | Bailey Crawshaw | Tithe and rent book | John Beavan |
| 1906 | Lord Glanusk Estate | Sale particulars | Samuel Brown |
| 1910 | James (Jas) Luther Greenaway of Greenaway Manor Estate (<i>High Sheriff of Radnorshire in 1911, 1916 and 1922</i>) | Rent book | Samuel Brown |

The Hanmer family of Pentrepant, Shropshire owned property in Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire and their deeds and

papers refer to various people with links to Llanddewi-Ystradenny including Coed Trewernau. For example:

Quitclaim by James ap Howell of Coed Trewerny in 1623. (Described as 'gentleman' so perhaps he was the owner of Coed Trewerny rather than the tenant?)

In 1635 Frances Phiippes bought from Charles Lloid various properties including 'Koed Tre Warney', with meadow grounds between the wood called Koedkay trewerny on the one side and --- on the other sideto hold in as ample a manner as ... James ap Howell did. This document also refers to 'one water corn and fulling mill' which is probably also at the same site.

A lease is extended in 1659 related to 3 tenements and a fullinge mille in favour of James Jones, Maurice William, John Price and John ap Humphrey, now David Powell of Coed Trewerin. On 25 December yearly, the tenant was to pay a couple of fat capons (*chickens*) for a covenant for quiet possession.

We learn that Margrett Phillippes (spinster from Llandewey) owned 'Coed Trewernny' in 1669, and the tenant remained David Powell.

The Hanmer papers cover a period in C17th when a number of parcels of land around Llanddewi-Ystradenny including our site belong to the Phillips/Hanmer family from Shropshire. This family's fortunes declined from mid C17th and the estate fell into debt.

I have only been able to piece together fragments of the ownership of Coed Trewernau in C18th and C19th although what seems clear is that the mill changed hands a number of times.

Information on mill ownership since 1939 has been provided by Keith Morris. His grand-parents (John Richard and Maggie Annie Elizabeth Morris) moved to Coed Trewernau Mill in 1939. They had 3 children (William, Ralph and Doris). In 1967 they bought the mill and 30 acres of land from Messrs Campbell & Edwards, who represented the Greenaway Manor Estate, for £1750.

Their son Ralph Morris took over the mill from them in 1972 and was succeeded by his nephew Keith in 1992. Keith believes that the mill purchase in 1967 was the first time in its history that the mill was in direct ownership rather than tenanted.

More information on mill tenants 1817 to the present is given in the next section.

C19th/C20th Residents and their families

Information about mill residents is much more readily available from C19th. Census and other accessible family records tell us quite a bit about the residents of Coed Trewernau Mill between 1817 and present. We know:

Table 2 Occupants of Coed Trewernau Mill from 1817

| Date | Occupants of Coed Trewernau Mill | Occupation |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1817 | Richard Hampton | Fuller |
| 1821 | Margaret Davies baptised John @ Coedrhynerni Mill | |
| 1825 | David and Sarah Lewis baptised Thomas @ Coedrhynerni | Cooper |
| 1837 | James and Ann Bevan baptised William | |
| 1839 | James and Ann Bevan baptised Anne | Dyer |
| 1839 | James Beavan | Tithe map indicates that James Beavan farmed 26 acres |
| 1841 | Census: James Beavan (30) ?Anne (40) Eliza (13) John (10) Thomas (7) William (3) Ann (1) + Elizabeth Cooper (20) ¹ | Miller |
| 1851 | Census: Robert Morgan (49) Ann (49) Elizabeth (13) Jane (9) Mary (7) Price (10) Charles (4) + At Coed y werny factory Thomas Jones (26) Martha (33) Thomas (1) ² | Blacksmith Agricultural labourer |
| 1861 | Census: Edward Brown (41) Mary (40) Richard (11) Charlotte (9) John (7) Mary (5) Samuel (1) | Miller and Farmer of 30 acres |

¹ Edward Brown (20) in 1841 was a farmer's son from Gollon
(Abbeycwmhir)

² In 1851 Edward Brown (31) Mary (31) Edward (4) Richard (1) were at
Vaynor Glare Mill nearby

| Date | Occupants of Coed Trewernau Mill | Occupation |
|-------------|---|--|
| 1871 | Census: Edward Brown (51) Mary Ann (50) Richard (20) Charlotte (19) with daughter Levia (4 months) Mary (15) Samuel (10) + Margaret Jones (5) Mary Jane Price (2) | Miller (Margaret and Mary Jane are referred to as 'nurse children') |
| 1871 | Charlotte Brown (19) from Coedywerney Mill marries Edward Price | Miller's daughter |
| 1881 | Census: Edward Brown (61) Mary Ann <i>wife</i> (60) John (27) ³ Mary Ann <i>daughter</i> (25) Mary Jane Price <i>boarder</i> (12) Levia Price <i>granddaughter</i> (10) Mary Price <i>granddaughter</i> (9) Edward Price <i>grandson</i> (2) | Miller and Farmer of 25? acres (Mary Jane, Levia and Mary Price are scholars) |
| 1891 | Census: Samuel Brown (31) Mary <i>mother</i> (70) Mary <i>sister</i> (36) John <i>brother</i> (37) Leviah Price <i>niece</i> (20) Edward Price (12) | Farmer and miller (John is invalid; Leviah dressmaker; Edward scholar) |
| 1893 | Charlotte Price <i>housekeeper</i> (42) dies of pneumonia Kington | |
| 1901 | Census: Samuel Brown (40) Mary <i>mother</i> (78) Mary <i>sister</i> (42) | Farmer (Mary <i>sister</i> is domestic servant) |
| 1911 | Census: Samuel Brown (51) Mary <i>sister</i> (54) @ Coedawerney Mill | Farmer |
| 1931 | Mary Brown died 1 Dec 74y @ Coedywerney ⁴ | |

³ in 1881 Samuel Brown was working as a farm servant (indoor) in Llandinam

⁴ Samuel and Mary Brown and Charlotte Price's gravestones are to be found at the cemetery at Rock Baptist Chapel

| Date | Occupants of Coed Trewernau Mill | Occupation |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| 1939 | Samuel Brown died 23 Feb 79y @ Llwynndyadd | |
| 1939 | Morris family became tenants at Coed Trewernau | |
| 1992 | Keith Morris became owner of Coed Trewernau | |

From *pers comm* within a ancestry website I have learnt that Levia Price went on to marry a taylor from Abbeycwmhir and have 8 children. The whole family moved away from Abbeycwmhir at around the time of WW1, to Llandrindod Wells, and then to England in search of work. One of Levia's children emigrated to Canada.

Points of interest to me from this search of the residents of the mill and the other information gathered are:

In the period 1820-1860 there were a number of different residents and they don't always describe themselves as millers. This is likely to be the period when the fulling mill fell out of use (ref. Ridyard). Early to mid C19th was a time when land use was moving in favour of arable farming as more land was enclosed (Lovell, *pers comm*). More arable farming could have given a justification for renewed investment in Coed Trewernau cottage and corn mill. From the map evidence, it would appear that the cottage was re-built between 1839 and 1887.

The census for 1851 suggests that Coed y werny was home to two families (at Coed y werny mill and Coed y werny factory). Perhaps the old fulling mill building was referred to as 'factory'

and was being used to live in at that time? There is evidence of lathe and plaster in part of the first floor of the current stone building. If so, it might also have provided accommodation while the mill cottage was being re-built? (Coed y werny factory is not referred to in later censuses.)

Could the re-build of the mill cottage have occurred in 1850's – marking a point where there was reinvestment in Coed Trewernau Mill is make it a more desirable place to live? – and heralding a period of around 40 years (1860-1900) when the head resident describes himself as 'miller' as well as farmer? This re-building date is broadly consistent with the Listed Building description for the mill which estimates that it was built in mid C19th.

Three generations of the Brown family lived at the mill from around 1861 – 1939. The occupancy of the cottage was high, with 8 people in 1881, and the last miller – Samuel Brown (a single man) seems, at the early age of 30 years, to have had responsibility for a large number of members of the Brown family including his mother, sister, invalid brother, niece and nephew – as well as being a miller and farmer. He was head of the household when Coed Trewernau Mill was sold by the Lord Glanusk estate in 1906 (no longer a working mill) to Greenaway Manor Estate. And with his death in 1939, the mill (as a farm) with 30 acres was tenanted to the Morris family, who eventually bought the property off the Greenaway Manor Estate. The Brown family are therefore a very important part of the mill's history and I understand from a resident of Abbeycwmhir that the mill was often referred to as 'Brown's Mill'. I am also struck by the sad tale of Charlotte Price

(*nee* Brown) that falls out of the census records. She was one of Samuel Brown's older sisters – she had a baby out of marriage – but married Edward Price shortly afterwards, who already had a daughter Mary Jane. Charlotte had 2 further children but Edward died at a young age, so Samuel took in all her children and she sought domestic work elsewhere. She died at 42 years old of pneumonia. A hard life.

Conclusions

Coed Trewernau has origins as least as far back as C17th when it was owned by the Hanmer family of Pentrepant, Shropshire. Both a corn mill and fulling mill are probably recorded at that time. The presence of Mills is definitely recorded in 1770. The ownership of Coed Trewernau Mill in C18th and C19th, until it was acquired by Lord Glanusk Estate, is not yet fully clear and deserves more research in case the record of ownership provides information related to changes to the mill and cottage over this period.

Our mill lies a few hundred metres away from 'The Great Road' from London to Aberystwyth, mapped by Ogilby in C17th. This may have influenced the fortunes of Coed Trewernau Mill at that time.

The corn mill/cottage building configuration relates to the pre-1830 rather than current road layout.

The fulling mill probably fell out of use in early/mid C19th.

From at least 1839 the mill has been associated with a farm of 25–30 acres, so milling would have been a part-time activity.

There is circumstantial evidence that points towards the mill cottage being re-built in 1850s.

There was a reasonably large building to the south-east of the mill cottage that no longer exists. Its origins and purpose are not clear.

The Brown family are an important part of the mill history being residents for nearly 80 years and the last millers.

References

Moore-Colyer, Richard. Roads & Trackways of Wales. 2007. Publisher Landmark Publishing Ltd ISBN: 978 1 84306 339 1

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Keith Morris, Alan Stoyel, Julian Lovell and the Mucky Mills Gang (John Peck, John Crompton, Andrew Findon and Tim Haines) for their help in aspects of the research for this paper. I have also drawn on records from previous *Melins* (Tucker and Ridyard), Powys Archives, National Library of Wales, Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and Radnorshire Society Library.

Appendix – Reproduction of material in *Melin 5, 11 and 19* by Tucker and Ridyard

Tucker (Melin 5)

This small two-story mill (about 24 ft by 18 ft internally) still stands, with its attached small cottage, and has almost complete internal machinery, which is remarkable for being almost entirely wood, the only exceptions being the bearings and one or two straps on the pit wheel, and, of course, the stones (Figures 6-10). There were originally two pairs of stones; only two individual stones remain, both monolithic grit stones; one is in-situ as a bedstone. The pit wheel is about 7ft diameter, of clasp arm construction, with its morticed teeth all missing; it has dropped about 6 inches so that it cannot now engage with the solid wood wallower, which is about 2 ft 6 inches diameter and has its teeth still in place. The clasp-arm great spur, of about 4 feet 6 inches diameter, still has most of its teeth. The upright shaft is very short and does not extend into the stone floor, and there was never a water-powered sack hoist. The owner, Mr Ralph Morris, who kindly showed us round, remembers that when he was a boy and the mill was working, the sacks were wound by hand. Unfortunately the stone nuts and spindles are missing, and one must suppose that they were of iron, and probably accompanied the iron water wheel when it was taken for scrap in 1940.

The mill faces south, with the cottage in line to the east, and the wheelpit on the west. The Tithe Map of 1839 shows the mill as Coed-Werney (Coed-y-Werney on the Apportionments), and with a leat three-eighths of a mile long coming from the north and terminating in a sizeable pond at the back (north) of the mill. The embankment for the head-race still remains.



FIG. 6 Good Transverse Mill (U/P). South elevation.

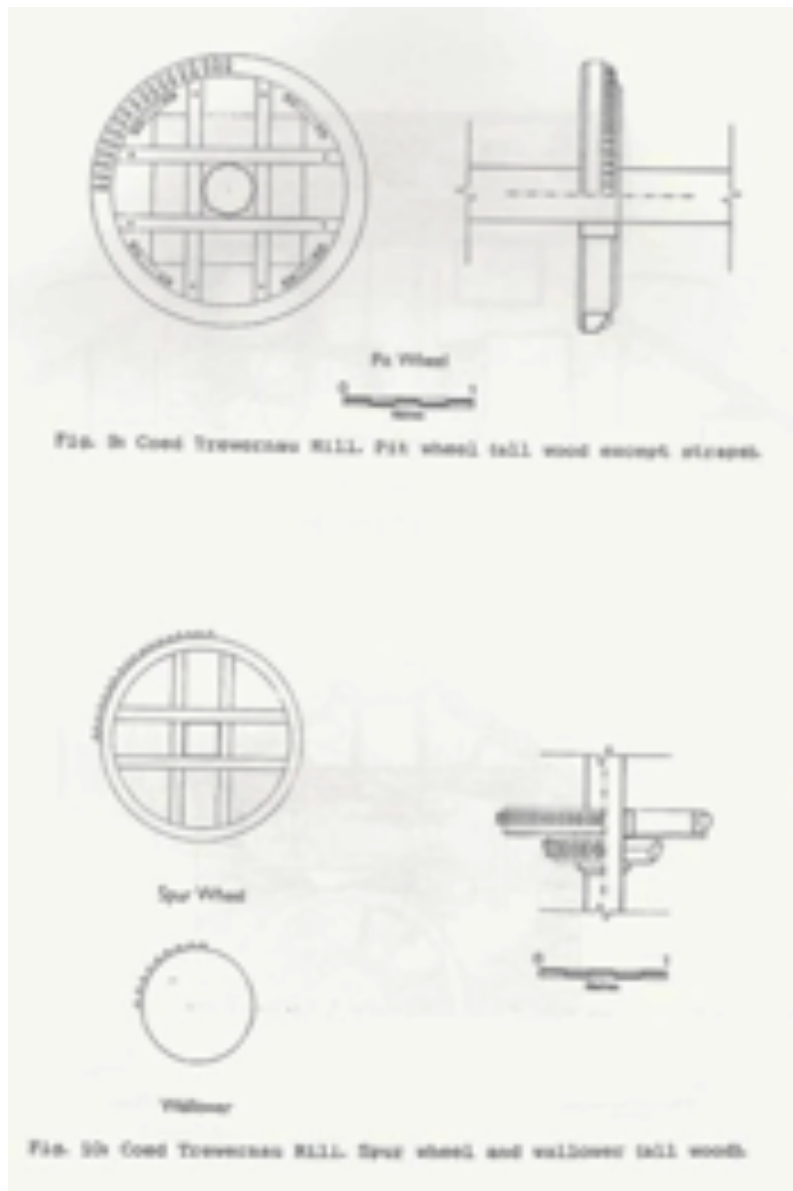


FIG. 7 Good Transverse Mill. North elevation.

Tucker's Figures 6 & 7



Tucker's Figure 8



Tucker's Figures 9 & 10

Ridyard (Melin 11)

Mr Ralph Morris, who owned the mill at the time of Tucker's visit, told him that he remembered the sack hoist being worked by hand when he was a boy and the mill was working. Ralph Morris died in 1992, aged 62, and his nephew, Keith Morris, who now owns the mill refutes the idea that Ralph ever saw the mill working. He may have seen his father

working the sack hoist which was never water powered. My own library research suggests that the mill did not work in Ralph Morris' lifetime. This mill is an important survival in Radnorshire where so many mills have vanished or have been converted into houses. Keith Morris, who runs the farm associated with the mill, intends to make the roof water-tight this year and would like to restore the mill over a period of time. The mill was visited by the Welsh Mills Society on 24th October 1992.

The earliest reference I have found to this mill is dated 'April, 11 Charles I' (1635/6) when a mortgage lease for 500 years has a long list of properties including "...1 [?mill] with all banks, Stanks, weirs, etc., and said water corn mill and fulling mill (James Powell dwells) and closes, viz. Cloyse y Velin (7 acres), Cloyse y Dyntyr (4 acres), y Koed Kay (6 acres – wood), messuage or tenement and 1 house and parcels of wood and pasture Koed Tre Werney (40 acres)".

Some 160 years later the corn mill is still linked with a fulling mill in an advertisement for the lease of the property:

"To be let and may be entered on at Lady day next. All that well-accustomed CORN GRIST MILL together with a FULLING MILL called COED-Y-WYRNY MILLS situated in the parish of Llanddewy in the above county (Radnorshire).

These mills are conveniently situate for carrying on an extensive trade in their various branches and would provide a very desirable object to any person conversant with the business, particularly the Fulling Mill which at a small expense may be improved and enlarged so as to add Carding and other Machinery, for the more easy and advantageous prosecution of the Woollen and Clothing Manufacture.

A good tenant may be accommodated with Ten to Forty Acres of rich Meadow Land, have a fine stream of water running through the same.

The present tenant, Mr Joseph Thomas will show the Premises; and for further particulars enquire of Mr John Fencott, Presteign.

The Tithe Map (1839) and Schedule show that 26 acres [a.] 1 rood [r.] 22 perches [p.] of pasture, arable and meadow land went with the mill and all these fields are still associated with it. From the Census returns we know who the occupants of the mill were from 1841 to 1891:

1841: 'Coideverny'; James Beavan (30) Miller;

1851: 'Coed y werney'; Robert Morgan (49), Blacksmith;

1861: 'Coedawernny Mill'; Edward Brown (41), Miller and farmer of 30 acres. Edward Brown was still there in 1881 assisted by John Brown (27) 'Miller and Farmer's Son';

1891: Samuel Brown (31), Farmer and Miller.

It would appear that only the corn mill was working by 1841 and the entry for 1891 suggests that farming had become more important than milling. The mill does not appear in the Kelly's Directory for 1895 or 1906 so it may have stopped working before 1895.

Close inspection of the large scale maps is very enlightening. The Tithe Map (1839) clearly shows an elongate 'tadpole' shaped plan terminating by a rectangular building which is represented by a cow byre today. The shell of this building, or part of it, roughly 30feet by 20feet was, I think, most likely the fulling mill referred to in the advertisements of 1798. The wall at the south-west end of the building has been rebuilt and there is no trace of a wheel pit. Between this building and the corn mill a further pond appears to be indicated on the Tithe Map and indeed this shows on the OS 1/2500 map, 1st edition (1888), as a triangular shape in plan, while the larger 'tadpole' pond of the Tithe Map has disappeared, presumably because there was no longer a 'pandy' to be served. A further confirmation that a fulling mill was here comes from the name 'Pandy Brook' [Tucker's C/P5] applied

to a stream which on the Tithe Map terminates into the leat from the Clywedog Brook to the mills. Interestingly the OS 1/2500 map of 1888 shows the Pandy Brook flowing directly into the Clywedog Brook while the leat crosses it, presumably in some sort of pentrough (Figure 10).



Ridyard's Figure 10

Today, the dry leat is clear for most of its course across pasture fields but there is no trace of the 'tadpole' pond and only parts of the corn-mill pond bank and the head-race bank remain. At the point where the leat must have been carried with a pentrough over the Pandy Brook the field level is about 3 feet above the bed of the stream. There is no trace of anything to be seen in the banks on either side. Where the leat left the Clywedog Brook one can still see the stumps of 14 [?oak] stakes in three parallel rows in the stream bed – each row about 2 ft apart. They run diagonally across the brook and must have been the basic supports for the weir that supplied the leat; it is surprising they still survive after at least a century.

Ridyard (Melin 19)

In Melin 11 it was shown that not only was there a corn mill at Coed Trewernau but also a textile mill close by used as a fulling mill. Since then two brief references to the fulling mill have been found, one in Layton Cooke's report on the Abbey Cwmhir Estate made in 1822. The manuscript report has a note added in the hand of Thomas Wilson, the owner of the estate, referring to 'a new road of about 2 miles ½ [4 km] all perfectly level and a good width it passes Hampton's Cloth Mill, under Cwm Verdy Wood and enters the estate at Cuckoo's Nest...'. The order of places mentioned confirms that this was the fulling mill at Coed Trewernau.

The other reference is in the Chief Constable's return of persons liable for jury service in 1817 in the Cefnlllys Hundred, where a Richard Hampton of Coed Trewernau has his name included; this explains the contemporary name for the pandy in 1822.