

## **Harbury, Windmill**

Harbury windmill is of the tower type mill; it is situated in the village and is visible from many positions.

It was erected in the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the tower is constructed of brick and stone. Chesterton Manor house was demolished in 1802 and it is thought that the stone used, originated from there.

The walls of the two lower floors are of stone (probably limestone) and the upper four floors are of dark red brick giving a total of six floors. There is a considerable batter on the walls. The height of the tower is sixty feet and the cap is another ten feet making it the tallest in Warwickshire. It formerly had a cap in the shape of an up turned boat; this has been altered in recent years to a pitched roof type.

It was originally fitted with four common sails of about thirty feet in length; these were reached from a furling gallery, which encircled the tower. The sails ceased operating the mill before the First World War and were removed in the early 20s, but the stocks were not removed until 1934.

From 1912 different forms of engines powered the mill, the first one being a steam engine, followed by an oil engine and from the early 30s by electricity.

At different periods the mill housed two and sometimes three pairs of stones these being of millstone grit or the French burrs. These stones were on the fourth floor.

There have been about eight different millers over a period of one hundred and fifty years. Over these years two were accidentally killed, George Verney in 1890 by being caught up in the internal machinery, and another miller when out on the furling gallery being struck by a sail.

Milling ceased in 1952 and after some years it was used as an engineering workshop. In 1982 a rather larger looking pitched roof type replaced the boat shaped cap. In 1988 the lower floors became part of a home.

Some of this information was obtained from the following publications.

The Warwickshire Museum Publication, Windmills in Warwickshire by W.A. Seaby and A. C. Smith.

Wind and Water Mills, Midland Wind and Water mills Group. Number 10.

Peter Chater 2006

