

WATERMILLS

Watermills were most likely introduced into Britain by the Romans. When the survey was made for the Domesday Book (1088?) it was found that there already existed about 5,600 mills.

TYPES of WATERWHEELS. Horizontal wheel (Norse) extremely rare; may exist in Hebrides.

Undershot wheels, these are wheels with flat paddles and rely on the force of the water passing through a narrow channel to propel them round.

Breast-shot wheels; these are wheels fitted with a bucket like paddle, the water enters about midway, these wheels operate by gravity, bucket emptying when near the bottom.

Overshot-wheel; these are wheels when the water is brought over the top of wheel in a launder and discharged into the buckets. Often fitted in hilly country.

Back-shot wheels; These are similar to breast-shot wheels but water enters rather higher up.