

Adderley Mill during the 20th Century

2.16 The last recorded miller at Adderley Mill was Percy Thorley in 1911. Late that year the Buller family sold the mill as a freehold property to James Barber, who then in 1918 sold it on to Colin McNeal, a Potters' Merchant from the Potteries. From this point on the building changed use to a bone grinding mill, supplying refined bone for the local potteries. The company name changed but it continued in the same use, providing raw / processed materials for the pottery industry until 1996. Since 1996 it has been in various low-key uses, but not all of the buildings have been occupied. It is now vacant and in poor condition.

3. Description

3.1 The site plan is lettered in figure 14 so that reference can be made to discrete sections and phases. There is also a summary plan of Building A (figure 15), which contains the remains of the original cornmill and which the planning authority were keen to consider; this plan reveals a number of phases.

3.2 The oldest part of the building on the site is likely to be the stone masonry wall forming the principal outer (northern) wall of the water mill, through which the power transmission was taken off an external waterwheel. This comprises six blocky courses of gritstone (photo 19), although there are likely to be many more below ground level within the former wheelpit. The level of the former millpond indicates either a breastshot or overshot wheel. There are no signs of the original wheelpit now, but the location can be established by the plan evidence (figure 15). It is possible that the building contained a wheelhouse to the north, as there is a small bay north of the principal masonry wall, but if so it was not in existence in the early 19th century and the wheelpit was later enclosed in the mid 19th century.

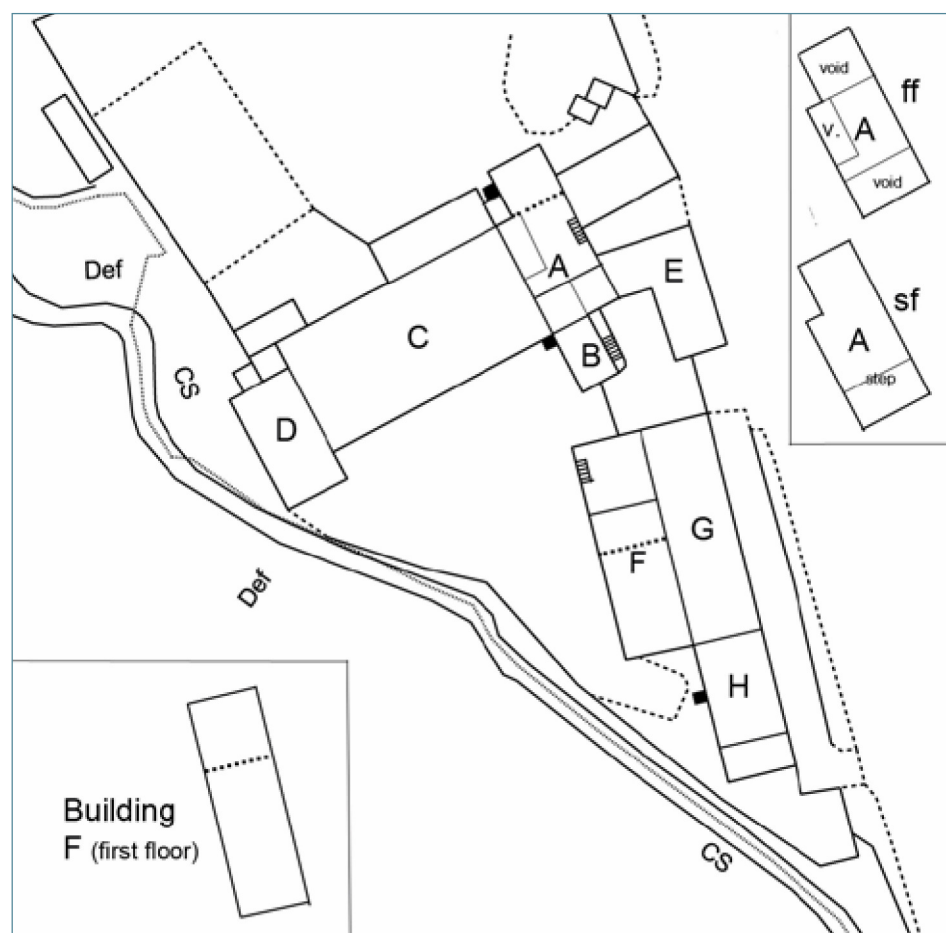


Figure 14:

Lettered plan, with buildings referred to in the description