



## Hotspot Report, The Brampton Mill and its wildlife, TL225704

*Brampton Biodiversity Project*

[Dr J Patrick Doody December 2015, revised January 2021. email [jp.doody@ntlworld.com](mailto:jp.doody@ntlworld.com)]

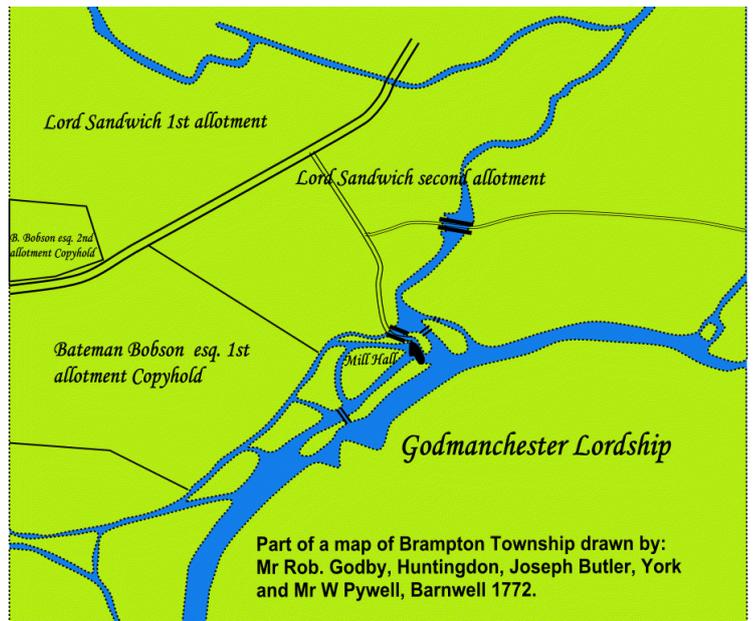
### History

Brampton Mill is one of the very few surviving mills along the River Great Ouse. There has probably been a Mill here for at least 1000 years and Domesday Book (1086) records two mills paying 100shillings rent. These could be one on the site of the present water mill and another near Huntingdon shown on later maps. A map from 1772 calls the present site 'Mill Hall' with no symbol or reference to a water mill. However, the Mill Race was clearly present at the time, and so presumably was the Mill. The location of Mill Hall 1772

In 1871, Robert Pearce (one of two people appointed to undertake a census of Brampton) visited the Mill where Thomas Jones and family resided. Described as a coal merchant, his sons were millers. The Ordnance Survey map (1886) shows the presence of "Brampton Mill (Corn)".

A bill dated 14th January 1899 to a Mr J Rosamond from Thomas Stokes; Brampton Mills for "grinding & dressing wheat" was for 1s.9p. You can see one of the large waterwheels used to grind wheat into flour near the main entrance to the bar.

The building remained in private ownership for many years providing storage for antiques. In the mid-1980s upstairs in the southern part of the building, a teashop was established. Later this and a further part of the building was converted by a local businessman into a pub. The Whitbread pub group extended it further and exchanged it in a deal with Mitchell & Butlers (the current owners). Today it is a popular



destination for food and drink. However, although its setting is important, it is much more than just a restaurant and pub.

*Brampton Mill, 1920 two working mill wheels and in 2014, one simulated*



## Wildlife



In summer as you walk over the bridge you may well see Grey Wagtail flitting between the river and its traditional nesting site near the water wheel. The walls near the wheel also have Hart's Tongue Fern a plant much commoner in the moist west of the country, but relatively uncommon in Cambridgeshire.

### *Grey wagtail with food for its young*

If you are dining on the back (or front) patio look out for the blue flash as a **Kingfisher** flies by. Summer visitors from Africa, **Reed Warblers** can also be seen climbing the

stems of the reed where they make their nests. At dusk in summer months, you may also see bats leaving the roof to forage for insects amongst the trees and along the river.

### *A Kingfisher viewed from the front patio*

On the river, you may also see **Cormorants**. **Heron**s stand statue-like waiting for a frog or fish to come within range. In summer, common terns can be seen flying over the water and diving for fish. **Swallows** swoop to their nests under the bridge and **House Martins** are frequent visitors.



*Cormorant trying to swallow a rather large Pike (it failed, and the Pike got away)*



*A view from the bridge looking along the River Great Ouse towards Godmanchester.*

Dr Pat Doody, email [jp.doody@ntlworld.com](mailto:jp.doody@ntlworld.com)

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