

A Windmill in Danehill?

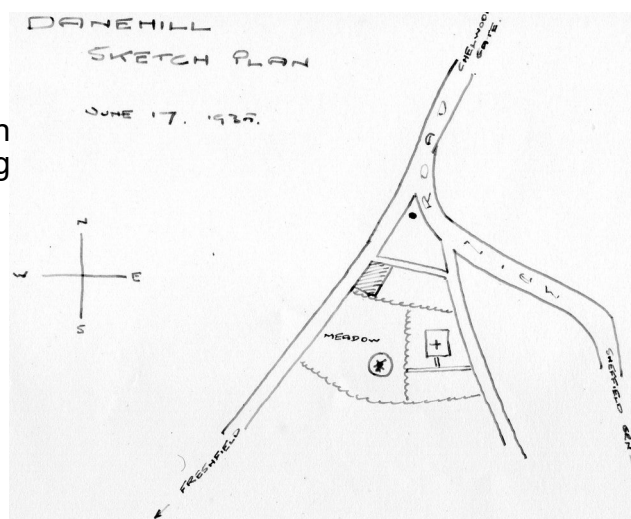
If you take a look at the 1841 Tithe map of Fletching, where All Saints now stands there is just a field called Windmill Field. This was an apt name at the time as there was a windmill in the field. The windmill was in existence by 1820. According to the Sussex Mills Group the mill was secondhand having begun life at Rottingdean. It was dismantled and re-erected in Danehill, but exactly where it stood is unclear. The Sussex Mills Group have a sketch plan, dated June 17 1935 which was drawn by H E S Simmons who was an authority on English mills at the time. His collection of records is now held by the Science Museum, South Kensington. The sketch plan places the mill in what is now the garden of a house to the west of All Saints (see aerial view). We don't know what evidence Mr Simmons had for this garden as the site.

Hylda Rawlings has researched the windmill and written an interesting article giving greater detail and explaining why there is no windmill today. See below.



Above, Danehill on the 1841 Tithe Map.

Below, Sketch plan and aerial view of the site



Danehill Windmill

Hylda Rawlings

From a Sale Catalogue. 28th of August 1821 (Mrs. B. Estate Papers. Copy at E.S.R.O., extracted by Mrs. Rawlings, page 25) Hardy's In Chancery. Jenner and another versus Hills and others: Particulars and Conditions of Sale. In Chancery. Between Robert Jenner and Thomas Hills, Plaintiffs and Ann Hills and Others, Defendants. Freehold Estates, late the property of Mr. John Hills deceased in the County of Sussex, called by the names of BRAYBROOKS and INHAMS which will be offered for sale pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery made on the

Hearing of the above Cause before George Verall with the approbation of Francis Cross Esq. one of Masters of the said Court at the White Hart Inn in Lewes on Tuesday, 28th of August 1821, 4 - 5 in the afternoon in Two Lots. Lot 1 (description of Braybrooks, Horsted Keynes:- Freshfield Lane area) Lot 2. A Messuage or Tenement, Garden, Barn and several pieces of parcels of Arable, Meadow and Woodland containing about 46 acres in Horsted Keynes and called by the name of Inholmes. This Estate is situate at Danehill about 38 miles from London, 12 from Lewes, 18 from Brighton and 2 miles from the River Ouse, and adjoins the Turnpike Road leading from Lewes through Chailey to London: is subject to a Years Quit Rent of 4d, to two Heriots on Death and to the Relief of a Years Quit-Rent upon Death or Alienation. About one acre of Lot 2 upon which a Windmill and other Buildings have been erected is let off upon Lease for 14 years commencing from Michaelmas 1820 under the yearly rent of 10 pounds and upon Condition that at the expiration of the said Term, the Proprietor of the Estate shall be at liberty to purchase the Mill and other Buildings thereupon by Appraisement, or permit the Tenant to take down the same and carry away the Materials thereof for his own use. In Chancery (copy) Jenner v Hills. Report as to Contract for Sale into Execution dated the 14th of August 1822. Absolutely Confirmed by Order dated the 23rd of December 1822. The Rev. Mr. Bayntun declared the best purchaser (of both Lots) at £3,000. 11th of June 1860. (Mrs. Hardy's deeds, as above page ??) Charles Bayntun of Brighton Esq. conveys the above mentioned property to Francis John Davies of Danehurst, Lt. General. The Schedule for the above property includes:- No. on Tithe map, description, cultivation, quantity 199. Windmill Field meadow la-2r-38p.

The Fire At Danehill Windmill

(Brighton Ref. Library) The Brighton Herald December the 4th 1830 (Saturday) 'At about midnight on Saturday last the village of Danehill was aroused by the cry of "Fire". The mill of Mr. Magennis was burnt to the ground in under an hour, but it was believed that the fire was purely accidental'.

And that was the end of Danehill Windmill. It was never re-built. If the fire had not happened, what difference (if any) would it have made to the Danehill landscape of today?