

**YCCCART 2019/Y2**

**Congresbury Mills: Documentary and photographic survey**

**YATTON, CONGRESBURY, CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)**

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*River Yeo & Congresbury mill*

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## **Abstract**

*Research has established that the West mill at Congresbury and Iwood mill can be traced back to at least 1086. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Congresbury mill was surprisingly a slitting mill where iron bars were turned into rods for nail making.*

## **Acknowledgements**

Our thanks to Vince Russett for suggesting this project and editing this report and Congresbury History Group for old photographs.

## **Introduction**

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCART) is one of a number of Community Archaeology teams across northern Somerset, formerly supported by the North Somerset Council Development Management Team. Our objective is to undertake archaeological fieldwork to enable a better understanding and management of the heritage of the area while recording and publishing the activities and locations of the research carried out.

## Site Locations



*Fig 1. The mill sites in Congresbury and Iwood are within the red boxes on the map*

Grid reference

Congresbury West Mill: ST440636

Iwood Mill: ST453630

## Land use and geology

The sites of the mills stand on the estuarine alluvium of the Northmarsh. The solid geology at the site is of the Mercia Mudstones.

The site of Iwood mill is on private property and Congresbury mill is now a housing estate.

## **Historical & archaeological context**

### **Early history**

The first documented use of watermills was in the third century BC (1) and the technology spread quite quickly across the world. Commercial mills were in use in Roman Britain and by the time of the Domesday Book in the late 11th Century there were more than 6,000 watermills in England. (2)

Vince Russett often asks people 'what is the oldest thing in a village?' Most reply 'the church'. However, the answer is usually the mill as Vince always says 'it's possible to live without praying, but to stay alive, you have to eat, and in the medieval period that means bread. Lots of it. And that means (water) mills, since windmills aren't known in England until 1185.'

### **Domesday**

The earliest record we have for the water mills is in the Domesday book of 1086 when two mills in Congresbury are mentioned, paying 17s 6d. (3)

The only places where the river has undergone large engineering to power mills (of a type that is similar to known late Saxon ones elsewhere) is at Iwood and West Mill, Congresbury.

### **Date of the earliest mills**

Vince Russett has postulated the following:

'We know that the bounds of Wrington were in place by 904AD. This implies that bounds of Banwell, which included Churchill (first recorded 1068, but suspected to be earlier) must have existed at that date too, as they march along quite a section of their boundary and fit to the Tithe Map boundaries. Congresbury / Iwood must have had its present boundaries at that date, too, as it marches with Wrington and Banwell. If these boundaries began c900, this explains why the parish boundary never ran any further along the leat, since in 900, it was not there, and the parish boundary between Churchill and Congresbury follows the old river course, until it encounters something (almost certainly a Roman road) and then follows that. So, the leat at Iwood cannot be earlier than (say) 900 AD. We know the mill was there in 1228, so there is our potential date range (c900 - before 1228).

There were two mills in Congresbury in 1086 and there are simply no other realistic candidates than West and Iwood Mills. Their grouping together post-1228 may imply common origins - so when was the appropriate time when a great institution held Congresbury / Iwood? After 1060 until 1227(ish), the crown held the estate. The crown is not renowned for building water mills on remote estates, so we are once again looking at the only time a more local large institution held Congresbury/Iwood: when owned by bishop Dudoc (1033-1060).

Is this the date of the first construction of the water management earthworks at Iwood? And was this the occasion when the Roman road was finally put out of use, and a diversion (that does NOT) carry a parish boundary of any kind) put in for the use of the mill?' (4)

### **13<sup>th</sup> century**

Prior to 1228 Iwood was a part of Congresbury manor. In 1228 Jocelyn, Bishop of Bath granted Iwood to Stephen, his Chamberlain. This grant included 'a mill in Cungresbury called the mill of Ywod with the site and suit thereof' together with four named villeins and their land holdings 13s 4d and suit of court. Jocelyn also gave Stephen the mill at Congresbury. (5)

Somerset's Hundred Rolls of 1275 confirmed the original grants saying that Stephen had paid 8 marks annually for two virgates of land in 'Ywode' and two water mills. (6)

### **14<sup>th</sup> century**

We are fortunate that Iwood accounts exist from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. (7)

These show the ratio of grain volumes between the two mills as follows:

Date	Iwood	Congresbury
1341-2	1	1.71
1342-3	1	1.79
1343-4	1	1.77

The Congresbury mill can be seen to have ground 80% more grain than Iwood and was the more important mill.

Expenses are listed and include:

1341/2: Repairs /rebuilding at Congresbury mill	16 wagon loads of stone for making the walls	7d	
	3 carpenters	3s	
	Roofing	1s 1d	
	300 lath? Nails	3d	
	70 board nails and (?) spikenails made from the lord's old iron	1s 1d	
1344/5: Iwood mill	Iron bought for the spindle of Iwood mill.  1 roofer hired to thatch/roof over Iwood mill and his sawyer.  1 mill stone	1s 1d   6d  6s 8d	<i>The accounts show Iwood's spindle as having been broken five times and Congresbury's twice. This was expensive involving the smith and purchase of costly iron.</i>
1346/7 Congresbury mill	2 mill stones	14s	

Obstructions were also regularly cleared at both mill sites.



## 15<sup>th</sup> century

Congresbury Manor's accounts for 1497/8 lists payment by Nicholas Blewet of £5 6s 4d for the free tenement of Iwood with its two mills. (8)

## 16<sup>th</sup> century

A bond for £10 was taken out in 1500 to ensure payments of the rent of a water mill at Congresbury, by William Squyer and Robert Dingle, (9) and in 1527-9 Congresbury manorial accounts show Blewet payments of £5 6s 4d for Iwood and two mills. (10)

Robert Blewet was ordered in 1562 to mend the bridge at 'Tumling' weir near the West mill. (11)



*Fig 2: The tumbling weir at Congresbury. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

The 1567 survey of Congresbury, among items 'belonging to the manor' records that 'John Blewet Esquyer and hys heires are bounden by theyr evidence whiche was shewed at this Survey to grynde all the Corne of the Lordes of the sayde Manor of Congresbury and theyr heyres allwayes frome tyme to tyme thence at theyer Mill Nowe Called the West Myll ffreely without paying of annything for the tolle thereof in Consideracyon that the sayde Lorde of Congresbury shall fynde then greate tymber allwayes to Repare the same.' The Blewet family were still lords of Iwood at the time. This document establishes that the Congresbury mill was called the West Mill before 1567 and was one of the two mills mentioned in Domesday. (12)



Two millers, John Baber and William Potterie, were amerced (punished by imposing a fine) 3d in the Congresbury court roll of 13 October 1589 and six months later William was amerced 10s, later reduced to 5s, for taking excessive tolls (13)

The 1598 survey of Congresbury includes 'Imprimis of Richard Blewett esq for the Mylles and Lande in Highwood.' (14)

### 17<sup>th</sup> century

During the period 1597 to 1652 Congresbury court rolls show a Blewett was amerced for non-attendance at court and the Blewetts held land in Iwood and the West Mill. (15) In 1647 A rental of the 'Manors of the co-heirs of John Bluet' shows that in their Congresbury (Iwood) Manor the rent of an unnamed mill, probably West Mill was £8 8s. (16)

An indenture of 1683 mentions land 'near the mill of John Allott' and as the Allotts lived in Iwood this was Iwood mill not West Mill. (17)

### 18<sup>th</sup> century

1736-9 maps made as part of a survey of Congresbury Manor show only the Congresbury West Mill being owned by a Mr Dunn (Donne). (18)



Congresbury bridge

*Fig 3: The de Wilstar map of Congresbury, showing the mill (red arrow on left). NB. North is at the bottom of the map.*

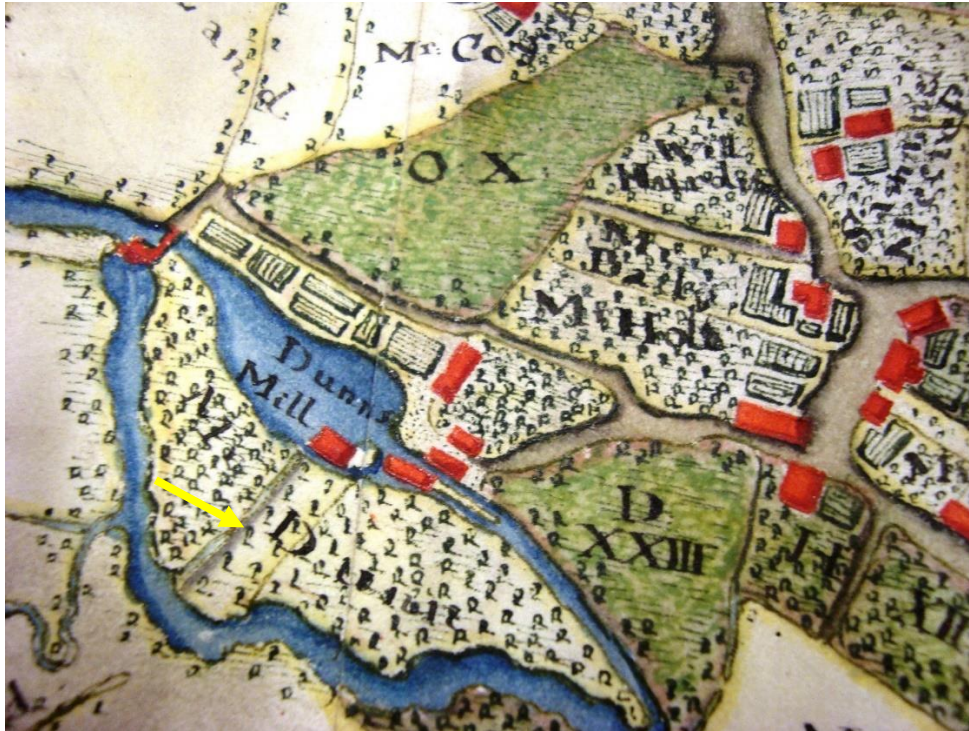


Fig 4: The de Wilstar map of Congresbury, showing the mill dam, mill buildings and road from the river to a building by the dam. NB. North is at the bottom of the map. The yellow arrow indicates a wide road from the river to mill. Was this to store cargo that was unloaded from the river?

## Congresbury mill and the iron industry

The process called *slitting* was introduced into England in the 1590s and turned iron bars or plates into rods for nail making. Remarkably during the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Congresbury mill was a slitting mill. Records show that the miller Mr Dunn (or Donne) imported iron for slitting and received iron for slitting from Graffin Prankard of Bristol. *An extract from an article by Gill Bedingfield on the slitting mill is included in the Appendix.*

In 1767 'Two water grist mills called Congresbury Mills' were sold by the heirs of Mr William Donne to John Hipsley. A deed of 1790 dealing with the same property mentioned only one. Iwood mill, but not West Mill. (19). In 1769 Iwood mill is marked at 'Yewwood' on Donn's 1769 'Map of the country 11 miles around Bristol.' (20)



## 19<sup>th</sup> century

Both Iwood and West mill are shown on Greenwood's map of Somerset 1822. (21)

Iwood mill was probably only used for grinding corn but an advertisement in Felix Farley Journal of 1829 suggested that it could be adapted for use in cloth production.

In the Land Tax returns of 1831 J Naish is shown as owner of West mill and Mr Norman owner of Iwood mill. (22)

1840 Congresbury's tithe map and award of 1840 give owners and occupiers of both mills as follows. (23)



*Fig 5: Tithe map 1839. Iwood. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9*

The Tithe Apportionment for the map in Fig 5 shows:

1893 - Congresbury River/ Yeo Owned by the Commissioner of Sewers

Iwood mill was owned by Trustees of William & Mary Merle and occupied by John Thomas

1608 – Mill

1609 & 1610 – Orchard



*Fig 6: Tithe map 1839. Congresbury. Courtesy of Bristol Record Office BRO 37959/9.*

The Tithe Apportionment for the map in Fig 6 above shows:

1826: Orchard

1826a Mill house and outbuildings

Owned by John Naish and occupied by Joseph Gundry

**1850- 1899.** In the second half of the century censuses and county directories list the occupiers of the mills as follows.

	Congresbury	Iwood
1861 Kelly's Directory	Joseph Gundry miller	Thomas Sheppy corn miller
1872 Morris's Directory	Samuel Ashby Scholl miller & corn merchant	Thomas Sheppy corn miller
1883 Kelly's Directory	Francis Henry Tucker Couch, water miller and corn merchant	Thomas Sheppy & Sons, corn millers & merchants
1889 Kelly's Directory	John Henry Walter, baker, miller (steam & water) corn and flour dealer	Thomas Sheppy & Sons, corn millers (water) & merchants



*Fig 7: The Sheppy's cart*



*Fig 8: The mill at Iwood sometime prior to 1892.*

There are no plans or records to tell us the layout or age of the mill building (18<sup>th</sup> century?) in the photograph at Fig 8 above.

A chimney can be seen on the left. The set-back area on the left must be for accommodation. To the right is the mill with an opening upstairs for hauling sacks of grain to the first floor. Below this opening to the right is an open door from which the bagged flour would exit the mill.

To the right an opening, with a fence in it, presumably gave access to a view over the wheel pit.

In 1892 Iwood mill burnt to the ground



## CONGRESBURY.

**SACRED SERVICE.**—Mr Howard L. Hayman's choir of local amateurs gave a very successful rendering of the cantata, "Ruth," at Congresbury Church on Wednesday night.

**FIRE.**—An outbreak of fire of an alarming character took place in this parish on Tuesday morning, whereby the flour mill belonging to Mr T. H. Sheppy was burnt to the ground. It appears that from three to six on Tuesday morning the mill was in full work, and when the miller retired to rest at the last named hour everything appeared to be in a state of security. At 6.30, however, smoke was seen to issue from the roof of the mill, and on the miller being informed of this he at once proceeded to the mill, and found a quantity of straw on fire, which spread with great rapidity. A messenger was at once sent for the Banwell Volunteer Fire Brigade, but before their arrival the flames had got the mastery, and the building was thoroughly gutted. The miller who resided in the premises adjoining the mill succeeded in saving most of his furniture. The origin of the fire is a mystery. The total damage done to the stock is estimated at nearly £500. The stock was partially insured.

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The Banwell fire engine was some distance away and hauled by two horses. No wonder it didn't make it in time!

*The Western Gazette July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1892*

After the fire the business was open again the following day in the stables and outbuildings of Thomas Sheppy's home, Chestnut House, just off Kent Road, suggesting that the business there was already to some extent established. (24)



Fig 9: The new site of Sheppy's mill early 20<sup>th</sup> c.



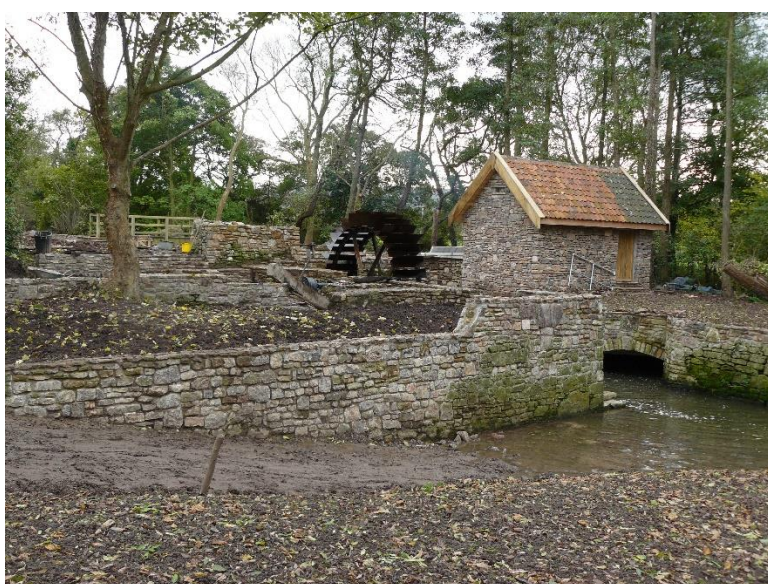


*Fig 10: The rear of Sheppy's mill. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c.*

## **20<sup>th</sup> century**

T. Sheppy & Sons continued to trade in Congresbury, as grain and fodder merchants, until 1966 on the site that is now the Sheppy's Mill housing development. (24)

The site of the old Iwood mill has been restored by the current owners.



*Fig 11: Restored mill site  
October 2008.*



*Fig 12: Above the mill wheel in February 1991 and below restored as at 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008*





*Fig 13. Congresbury mill early 20<sup>th</sup> c.*

### **The Walter brothers**

In the 1920s Congresbury mill was run by three Walter brothers. Hubert, the eldest, was head of the firm and responsible for buying, Stanley was the engineer and 'Wally' Walter was the representative who travelled around the farms with Ernie Standon. (24)



*Fig 14. The Walter brothers 1962.  
Hubert, Wally and Stanley.*

When John Henry Walter was in charge, the mill operated a bakery. Over the years the mill sold hay, barley, maize, malt, salt and bedding for cattle. In addition, stone-ground flour was produced. The main manufactured item, however, as the years went by, became animal foodstuffs, such as cow nuts and poultry food. Mrs Ethel Gill has informed us that old Easter eggs from Frys went into the cow cake. (24)

## Another fire

In May 1928 Congresbury mill suffered the same fate as Sheppys mill and caught fire. The fire, which could be seen at Clevedon, destroyed not only the mill but part of an adjoining house, one half of which was occupied by the Jones family and the other by the Avery family. It was the Averys who lost their home. Again there was no break in trade following the fire and the Sheppys, the other local millers, helped the Walters in their time of need. (24)



*Fig 15: Taken just after the 1928 fire.*

## The new Congresbury mill

The rebuilt mill had a steel structure covered in galvanised iron. Eldred Walker, a Weston Daily Press reporter, visited the new mill, and his report is in the edition for March 16th 1929. He states that first a steam beam engine was installed there by Gregory, the wheelwright of Flax Bourton, and another Gregory later replaced the wooden mill wheel with one of cast iron. In 1916 a gas engine replaced the steam beam engine, and following the fire a river pattern turbine was installed, which was assisted by a crude oil engine of 75 bhp.

Mr Walker describes the new mill and the bay, where all grain was received and



then transported via an elevator to a nest of large storage silos situated on the top floor of the mill. From these silos the grain automatically flowed to various machines, including a grain and seed cleaner and polisher, dust extractor, Barrons 'Dreadnought' and 'Impact' grinders and maize crushing rolls. Alongside these modern machines were the millstones which Ray describes as being about a foot thick and five feet across.



*Fig 16: Inside the new mill and below the new mill. Western Daily Press  
March 16th 1929*

In the 1920s fifty men were employed at the Congresbury mill and its sister mill in Wrington, where Bill and later Jack Sperry were foremen for many years.

Customers were spread over about a twenty-mile radius and deliveries were by the company's own vehicles. In the 1920s horses and lorries worked side by side. Lorry drivers, however, earned the sum of £2 a week, whilst those employed to drive the horse and trolleys received somewhat less.

Just after the First World War, the business acquired some ex-army horses, but they proved too speedy, because they were used to pulling heavy gun carriages. The late John Walter recalls them charging down the road.

In the 20s a first world war Austin lorry, driven by Reg Fisher, was in use. This still contained the clips which had held the rifles in place.

As well as Reg, Frank Fisher, Nebby Hunt and Reg Hunt were lorry drivers.

Before WW2 a Walter driver operated a Clayton steam wagon. One day he met a lorry in Bristol and neither would give way for almost an hour. Frank Burford, in the 20s, was the foreman of the selling side of the business and Edgar Halliday ran the garage. The foreman of the grinding side, with responsibility for the mill stones, was Sidney Gill. Bill Jones and Reg Hunt used to chip out the grooves in the stones, which were imported from Czechoslovakia.

Another employee was Bill Hemmings who ran the firm's model piggery for a while, having succeeded Jim Muggeridge. Before the last war the Danish style piggery had five hundred pigs, but this fell to two hundred after the war.

In 1962 the mill was sold to Grimdale of London, who held it for about two years before selling it to Elliott of Peterborough, who traded as Mendip Mills and manufactured porta-cabins. (24). Later the business became Elliott-Medway Ltd. The site is now (2019) a housing estate.

In 2014, an archaeological watching brief and excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (25), during groundworks associated with the construction of 29 dwellings at the mill site. Seventeen trenches and five boreholes were observed. Their summary stated 'A number of structural remains, including walls and surfaces, were recorded mainly in the south-eastern part of the site. The possible remains of a mill pond shown on the 1736 Map of the Manor of Congresbury were recorded and represent the earliest archaeological asset identified. The structural remains may relate to an early mill complex first recorded in the early 19th century'. We know of course that the records go back much further!





*Fig 17: Above -The housing estate on the site of Congresbury's west mill.  
Below – foundations stones. A memorial to the mill by Mrs Connie Wookey.*



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6	1275 Somerset's Hundred Rolls	<i>Rotuli Hundredorum 1818 Vol II p129</i>

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12	1567 survey of Congresbury	<i>Bristol Record Office 04235</i>
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15	Congresbury Court Rolls 1597 to 1652	<i>Bristol Record Office 33041 BMC/4/37(a)</i>
16	1647 rental of the "Manors of the co-heirs of John Bluet"	<i>Somerset Record Office DD/X/FRC 10</i>
17	1683 indenture	<i>Bristol Record Office 7836(53)</i>
18	De Wilstar Maps 1736-9	<i>Bristol Record Office 33041 Sch/QEH/E/5/1-7</i>

19	1790 deed (Lease & release of 1767)	<i>Courtesy of Courage (Western) Ltd)</i>
20	Donn's 1769 'Map of the country 11 miles around Bristol	<i>National Archives. MAP\DD\SAS C/844/1</i>
21	Greenwoods 1822 Somerset map	<i>Somerset Heritage Centre DD\CM/138</i>
22	Land tax returns 1831	Somerset Record Office Q/REL 4/10
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## Appendix

*(Extract from Congresbury as 'twas published by Congresbury History Group in 2002. ISBN 0-9544048-0-7)}*

In the early eighteenth century Graffin Prankard, one of Bristol's merchants, traded in a variety of commodities, among them iron and steel. A reference to Congresbury in Prankard's iron trading records appears under a William Donne's account dated 27 July 1734:

*"Iron sent to Combsbury [Congresbury]...*

*Barrs - 333 Barrs 112cwt 1 qtr 0 lbs [less] brk [brokerage] 3qtrs 4lbs"*

[281bs = 1 quarter, 4 quarters = 1 hundredweight (cwt), 20cwt = 1 ton, 1 cwt is about 50.8kgs]

Two further entries in Prankard's records of 1736, showing payments against William Donne's account confirm what William Donne was doing:

*"May 18 By slitting 5tons 15cwt 2qtrs rods £6 0 s 9d"*

And on 22 June Prankard sent William Donne

247 barrs of Gothenburg & Swedish Iron nett weight 24cwt 0g 241bs

*"to be slit in rods for my account"*

The process called *slitting* was introduced into England in the 1590s and turned iron bars or plates into rods for nail making. This process increased the production of nails enormously, as they were previously cut from iron by hand using chisel and hammer. Prankard was sending iron to William Donne in Congresbury and a Mr Dunn (or Donne) is clearly shown as owner of Congresbury mill on the maps of Congresbury manor of 1736 and 1739.

Donne regularly bought iron from Prankard from at least 1728 until 1736, the period covered by Prankard's records. Donne's sons, William junior and Joshua also traded with Prankard but to a much more limited extent. The iron came from Russia and Sweden and Donne's most frequent purchases were bars of different sizes and quality with some "narrow flats". In comparison with some of Prankard's other customers, his purchases were not large.

Prankard's records contain two other items directly relating to William Donne's iron processing. In 1735, under payments to Donne's account was:

*"Jan 31 By amt [amount] of nails for export £175 7s 2.75d"*

Unfortunately there is no indication of the number or weight of these nails.

And on 17 November 1736, in the last significant sale to Donne, Prankard sent 352 barrs of "Spread Eagle mark" of Russian iron weighing just over 210 cwts together with about 21cwts of some more expensive iron all of which was: *"Put on board of his own vessel for Congresbury"* (15)

Presumably this was Donne's not Prankard's boat.

From these few entries it is clear that William Donne was both slitting rods and producing nails. Peter King has said that Donne bought insufficient iron from Prankard to keep a slitting

mill going but has found that Donne imported iron on his own account as well. Certainly by 1732 Donne had a significant share in an iron foundry in Bristol. The slitting of iron bars into rods was clearly done at Congresbury, but there is no evidence to show whether nails were also made there.

The iron was carried by boat up the Yeo to Congresbury mill taking it as close to the mill as possible, a necessity with such a heavy cargo. There is supporting evidence for this use of the river on the 1736 and 1739 maps of Congresbury, mentioned previously, which both show a wide roadway leading directly from the river to Dunn's mill (Fig 1).

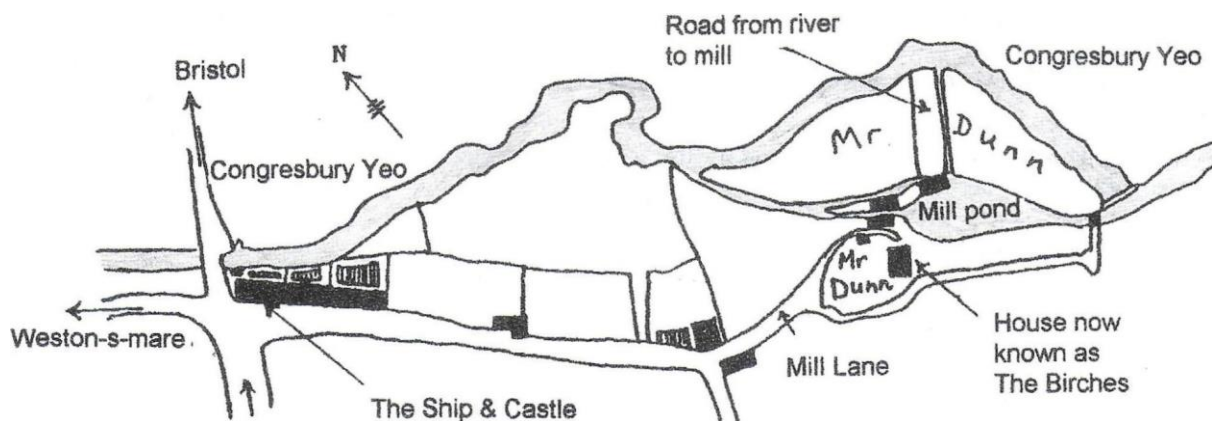
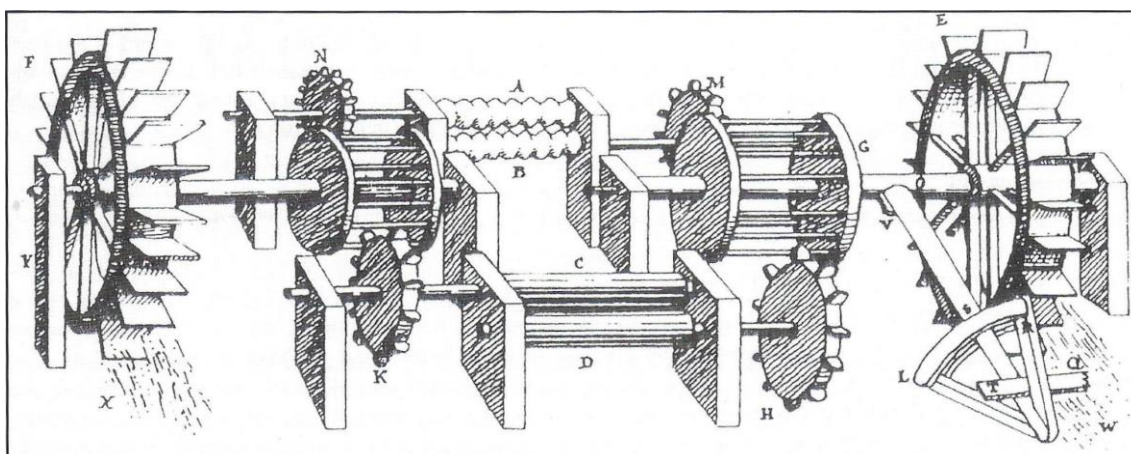


Fig 1. A tracing of part of the 1736 map of Congresbury showing Dunn's Mill  
*Courtesy of Bristol Record Office.*

The two buildings south of the Yeo are Dunn's (or Donne's) mills. There is clearly a wide road leading from the river to the more easterly building of the two. (The 1739 map also includes this area but is slightly different; in particular it is labelled "Dunn's Mill" and the road is narrower.)

### **The process called slitting**

The raw material was pieces of iron, plates or bars of different sizes, which were heated in a furnace. The red hot iron was passed between two smooth cylinders to make a thin plate which was then passed between cylinders with cutters or corrugations which sliced the iron into rods - the end product of a slitting mill. This required two water wheels to turn the two sets of cylinders. See Fig 2.



**Fig 2 Diagram of a slitting mill.**

Taken from William Emerson's "The Principle of Mechanicks" (2nd edn) 1758 and included in H.R. Schubert's "History of the British Iron & Steel Industry from c450BC to AD1775" (1957) from which this is taken courtesy of Routledge & Kegan Paul. The plan of Dunn's mill, Figure 1, shows that this arrangement could have been set up in Congresbury, as one building is shown as having water on either side. The red hot iron was passed through the rollers C & D and then through the corrugated rollers A & B.

Charcoal would probably have been needed to heat the iron for slitting and by this period charcoal supplies were becoming difficult to obtain. Charcoal could not however be transported any great distance without disintegrating. Anecdotal evidence points to the presence of charcoal makers in Kingswood just north of Congresbury village. Although the eastern part of the wood is now a modern plantation the western part still includes many trees that were at one time coppiced. It therefore seems likely that the presence of woodland close to the mill was an added incentive to adapt Congresbury's mill to produce iron rods.

### **Were such mills common?**

Quite simply - no. H.R. Schubert suggests: *"In the early eighteenth century probably no more than 20 slitting mills as a maximum were operating in England.... and in 1785.... only 16."* It seems unlikely that Congresbury's slitting mill was included in those figures. Schubert also mentions a slitting mill made in 1765 as having a wheel of 18ft diameter and 4ft 4ins wide - rather large for the Yeo even allowing for the fact that much of the water is now extracted by Bristol Water Plc.

### **For how long did Donne's slitting mill operate?**

In 1725 Thomas Richardson of Iwood Manor, then owner of both of Congresbury's mills, and William Donne of Bristol were involved in a property transaction, but only a partial transcript exists (20). Neither does the transcript specifically mention a mill, however it seems likely that in 1725 William Donne bought the grist mill and adapted it into a slitting mill. In 1736 Donne also owned the nearby elegant three-storeyed Georgian House, now The Birches, which, possibly, he had had built. Richardson, living in Iwood manor house, is unlikely to have built such a grand house only to sell it a few years later.

William Donne senior had four known children, the eldest, William, was born in 1703 in Bristol. William junior also had four children, among them Hester and Elizabeth born respectively in



1731 and 1732. All were Quakers and for the period 1700-1750 it has been calculated that Quakers owned between 50 and 75 per cent of the English and Welsh iron industry. William junior made his will in 1754 and died in 1766 leaving his property in Congresbury to Hester and Elizabeth. It would appear that his father had died sometime before 1754. In 1767 the two sisters sold the property, including: *"all that messuage or tenement orchard and garden and two water grist mills in Congresbury part and parcel of the said Iwood manor"* (24).

Obviously by 1767 the mill was no longer a slitting mill but the necessary two mill wheels were still there, further supporting the evidence for the slitting mills' existence. (No evidence has been found to show that there were two mill wheels at Congresbury mill at any other date.) Thus the period from 1725 to 1754 is the most likely extent for the operation of Congresbury's slitting mill, with the slim possibility that it continued to function to c1766.

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