



Mills, Memories and Megawatts

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The Mills Archive Trust

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An early wind turbine designed by Edward Lancaster Burne, Thatcham, England, 1920s (REXW-ELB-GPN-04)

Hello!

Introduction

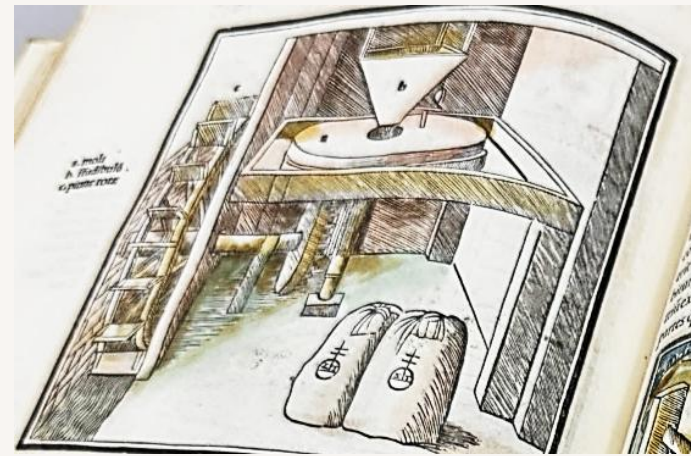
What will be covered:

- Wind and water power: an unbroken thread
- The Mills Archive Trust
- The 'renewable gap'
- A renewable energy history centre



A long tradition of wind and water power

- Windmills and watermills shaped communities for centuries.
- Engines of local economies, not only picturesque.
- 1870s/80s: Harnessing wind and water for electricity began.
- An unbroken thread runs from the medieval mill to the modern turbine.



^ Watermill image in 15th-century publication of Roman engineer Vitruvius' treatise De Architectura (30-20 BCE). Photographed with permission of the Institution of Engineering and Technology Archives.

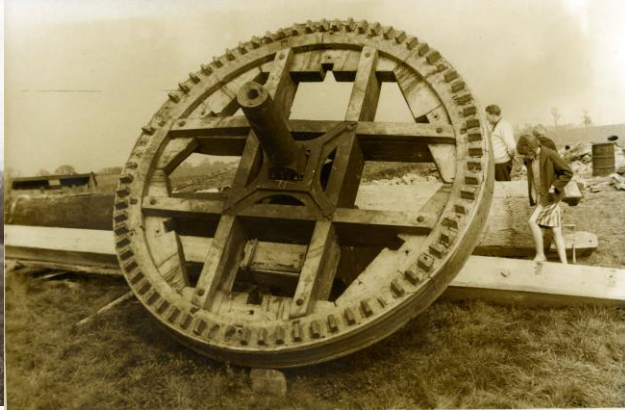


^ Part of a series of marginalia depicting 'The Sinful Hermit' in medieval illuminated manuscript, the Taymouth Hours, 14th century.

Society, technology, environment



*^ The Leach family in front of
Walsoken Mill, ca. 1910
(FHIS-1129227-01)*



*^ Wheel at Moreton, no date
(REXW-ESS-55-015)*



*^ Mapledurham Watermill
during flood, 1983
(MCFC-1121375)*

The Mills Archive Trust

- Founded 2002 · Accredited Archive Service · Registered UK Charity.
- World's only archive and library dedicated to the history of mills, milling and associated power sources.
- Free public access through cataloguing, digitisation and education.
- Collections of local, national and international significance.



Addressing the 'renewable gap'

- Advice for archive owners, provision of a safe home, rescue.
- Support for creation of new archives e.g. community energy groups.
- International scoping and network building e.g. EU/EC funded project.
- Making connections using the collections.



Image copyright
Reading Hydro CBS

Creating context and connections, using the collections

Edward Lancaster Burne materials

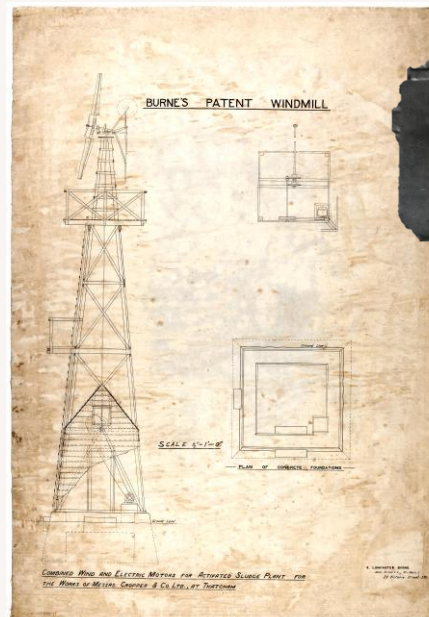


^ E Lancaster Burne's homemade mill for powering an electric light, Blackheath, 1920s (REXW-ELB-GPN-16)



^ Wind turbine prototype, 1920s (REXW-IMG-05-081)

"It was magic!"
Lavender Burne



< Technical drawing showing design (REXW-ELB-DRW-08)

Burne Windmill in Thatcham, 1920s (REXW-ELB-GPN-04) >



Wind energy pioneer and early offshore advocate

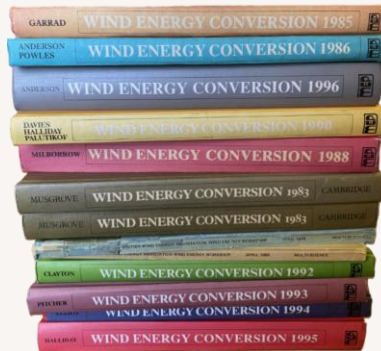
Dr Peter Musgrove CBE
Collection



^ Dr Musgrove, Denmark, 2001
(MUSG-PHO-07-010)



^ Wind turbine blade in workshop, Denmark, 2004
(MUSG-PHO-10-001)



< Documenting failures is
also important (UK, 1980s
MUSG-PHO-01-010)



Some library materials include rare
conference proceedings and industry
magazines from different countries



North Hoyle Wind farm, 2005
(MUSG-PHO-13-015)

Galvanising renewable energy history preservation and research

- A new initiative needed, building on our track record. Mills Archive Trust's focus = wind and water.
- Informed by research, conversations and public interest.
- There is a need, a gap, urgency and opportunity.
- A renewable energy history centre: Active development of the concept, seeking collaboration and funds for development phase.



Marketing leaflet advertising a wind turbine by Australian manufacturer Quirk's, early 1930s (Michael Dufau Collection)

A Renewable Energy History Centre: The vision

A centre that transforms renewable energy archives into a living resource by:

- connecting dispersed heritage assets and expertise
- fuelling research, education and public participation.



*Linoprint by art-psychology student and intern, Sofia
Pantsjoha, 2023*

A Renewable Energy History Centre: Values

Inspiring

The power to make a difference.
Innovation is a collective effort.

Co-creation

Opening archives, we all have
power to make an impact.

Discovery

Bringing the forgotten to light.
Seeing the world and local
surroundings in new ways.

Building bridges

Academia, community and industry.
Connecting disciplines, generations,
communities.



A Renewable Energy History Centre: Functions

Collections

Rescue, preservation, advice, training.

Research

Destination for renewable energy history scholarship and dissemination.

Education

Past linked with present. Multiple ways in for varied interests and age groups.

Sustainability

Long-term institutional home, recognised charity with track record.



THE RENEWABLE ENERGY HISTORY CENTRE

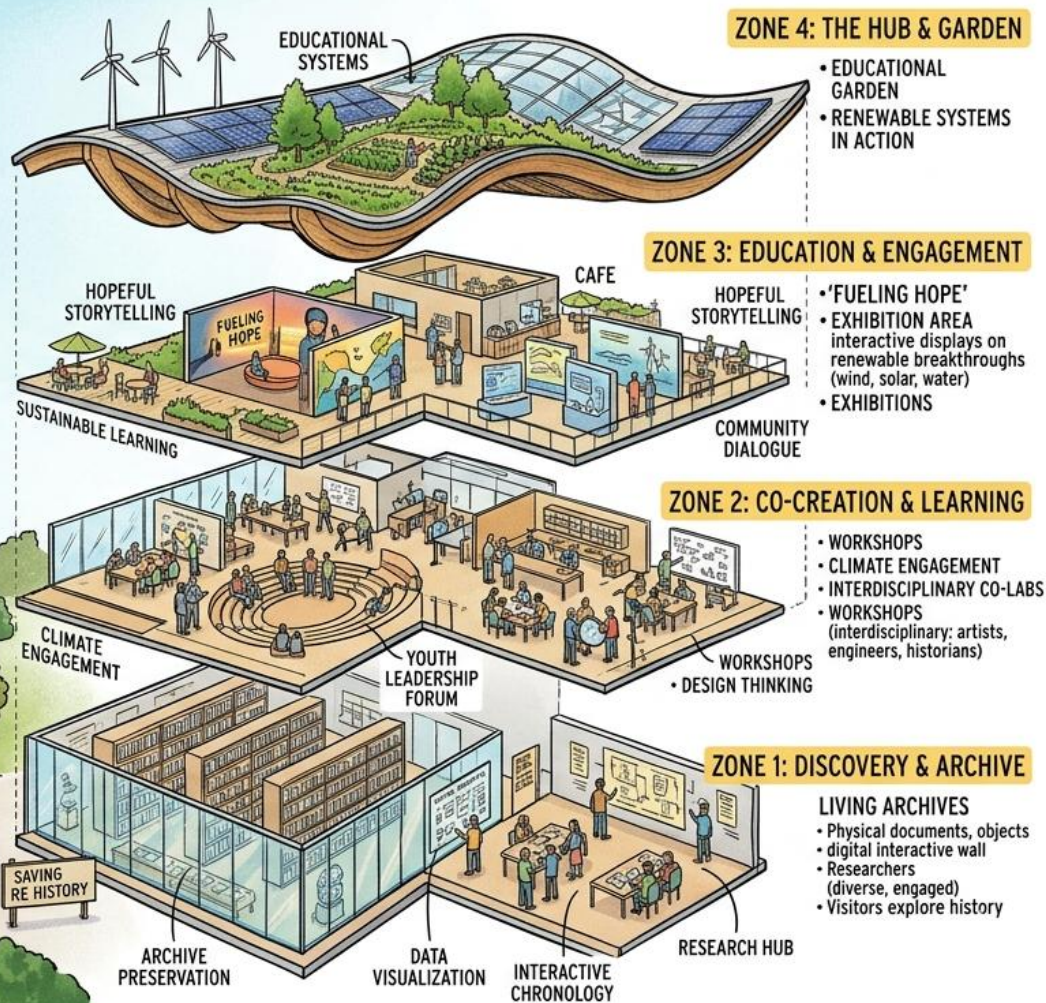
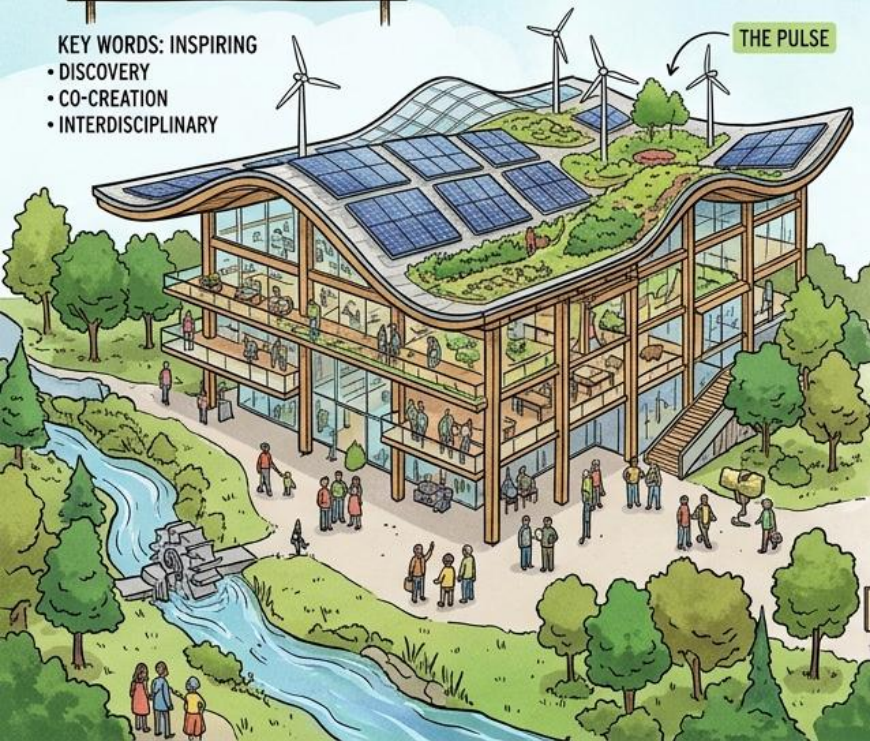
A DYNAMIC HUB DESIGNED TO PUT PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF THE TRANSITION THROUGH HISTORY, ARCHIVES AND ENGAGEMENT

PEOPLE, HISTORY, ACTION

KEY WORDS: INSPIRING

- DISCOVERY
- CO-CREATION
- INTERDISCIPLINARY

THE PULSE



Let's work together

Collaborate

Research collabs, joint projects, expanded network

Save

Consider how you can help preserve wind and water archives

Research

Access our holdings for your own scholarship

Advocate

Help build the case for a Renewable Energy History Centre



CONTACT

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