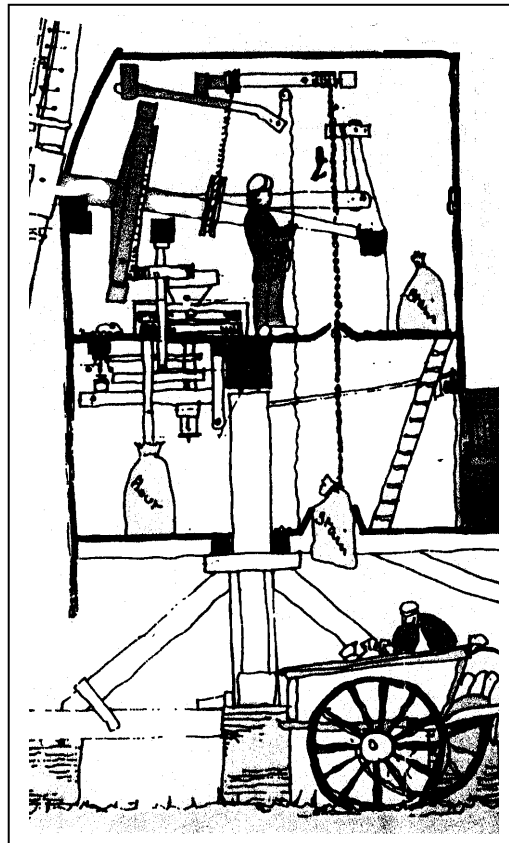




An old photograph of a post mill



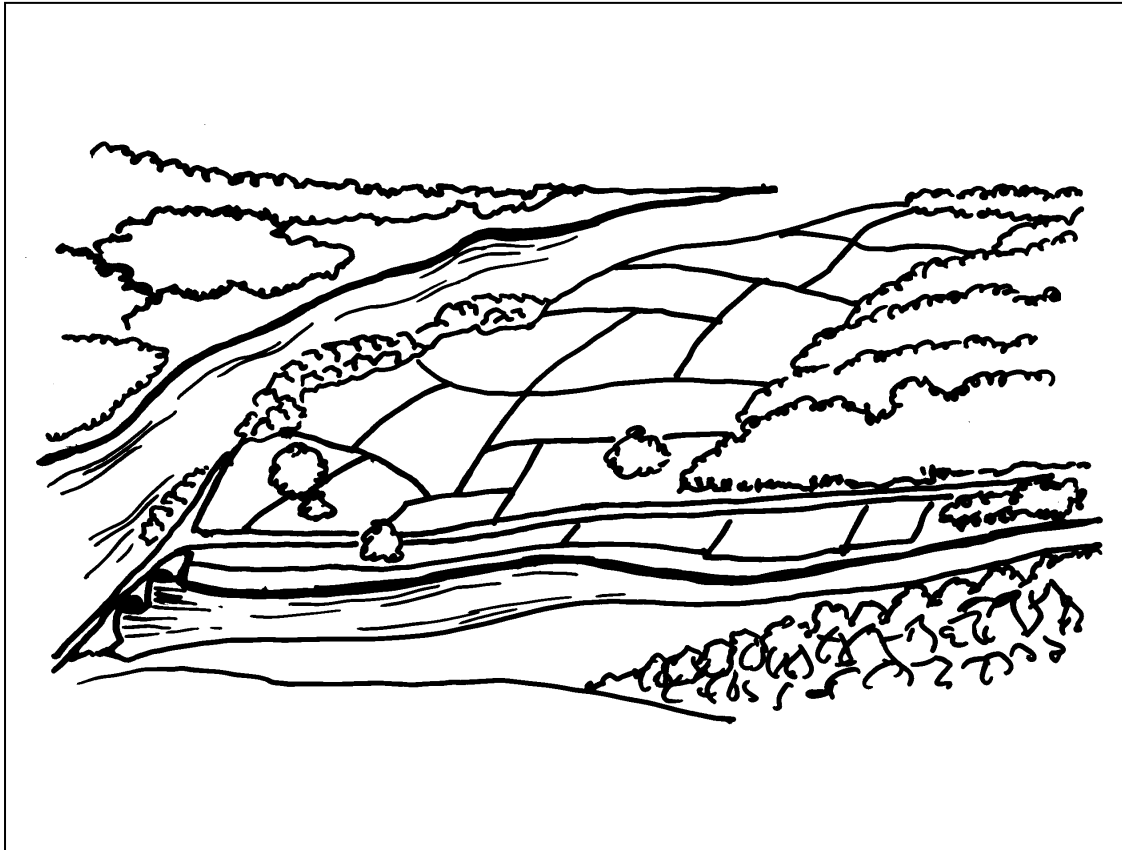
Inside a post mill

Working in pairs take either the photograph or the line drawing. Look at it carefully.

1. What is the name of the mill?
2. Do you know where it is?
3. What does the windmill need to work?
4. How many people do you think worked at the windmill?
5. What jobs do you think people did at the windmill?
6. What other questions would you like to ask.

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This sketch shows the area where you have decided to build your windmill. The only remaining question is where in this area will be best for the windmill. Using the factors below decide on the best site.



Some factors that you might want to consider when deciding on the site for your windmill. You may wish to add some of your own.

Close to a supply of water

Near a fuel supply

In a sheltered spot so the wind is not too strong

Close to a road to transport the flour and grain

On a flat piece of ground

At the top of hill

Close to farm land

Near a quarry for the millstones

The first recorded windmills were built in Iran in thirteenth century. They looked very different to the windmills we see today. By the end of the 1100s there are records of about 50 mills in England, the earliest was mentioned in 1137.

The first mills in this country were post mills. The buck was the main part of the windmill that contained the stones and all the machinery. The buck sat on a post so that it could be turned into the wind. This design can be most clearly seen at Chillenden Mill.

Moving the mill so that it was facing the wind was a difficult job. Add to this the need to furl and unfurl the sails, depending on the strength of the wind, meant that the miller was not just supervising the grinding of the grain but also the moving of the buck.

By the thirteenth century a new type of mill was developed with a cap that turned whilst the machinery and the main part of the mill remained still. This is called a smock mill. Where the mill was made of brick or stone it was known as a tower mill.

In the eighteenth century several inventions helped make windmills more efficient. The fantail, invented by Edward Lee, helped the cap turn automatically with the wind. The ability to open and close shutters in the sails also helped stop damage in high winds.

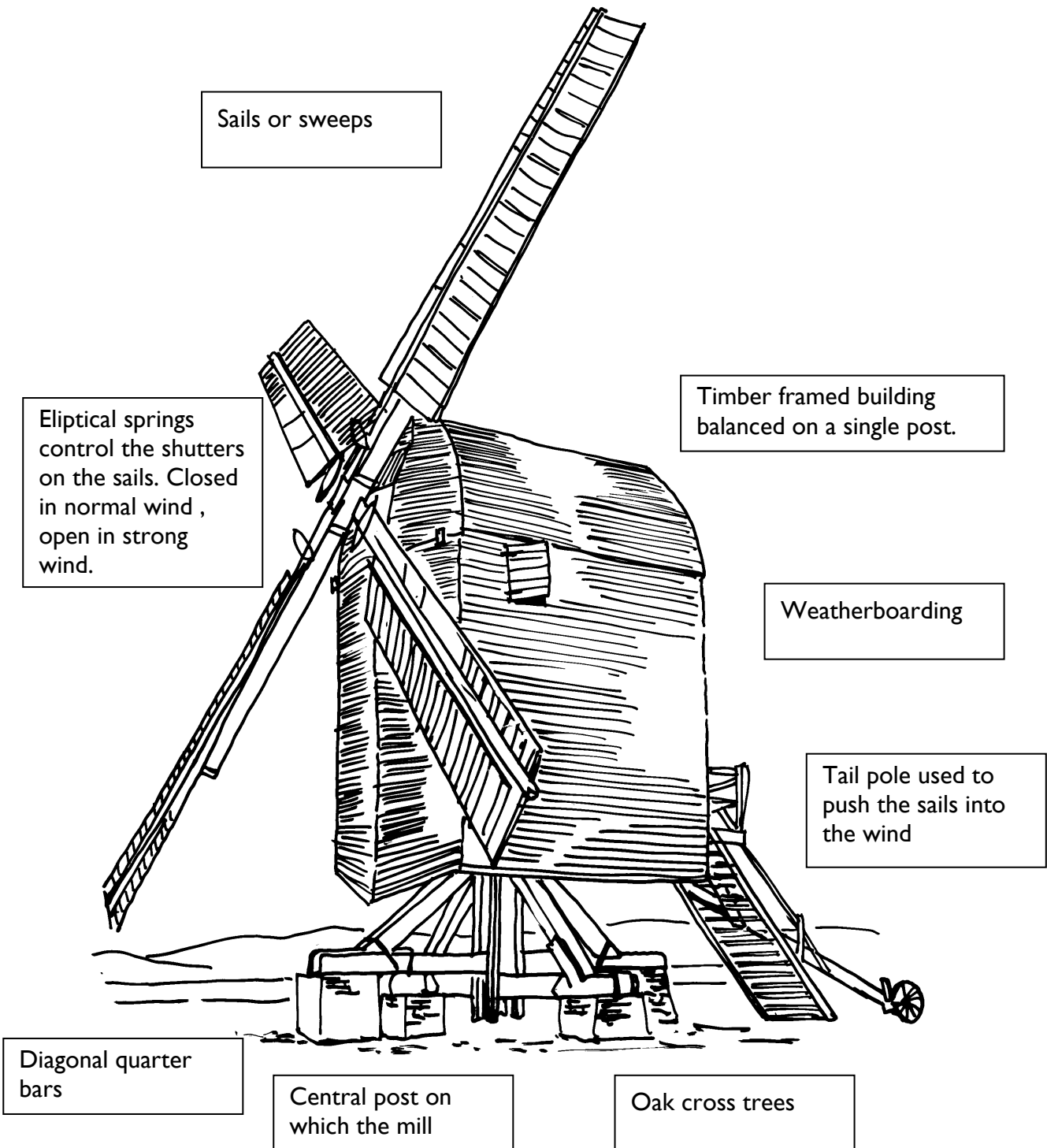
Inside the windmills the shafts and gearing were always made of wood, until the middle of the eighteenth century, when the first cast iron machinery was produced. A multitude of other inventions helped make the mills more efficient, including, governors to regulate the speed of the millstones, damsels to agitate the chutes and hoists to lift the heavy bags. Many of these small significant inventions can be seen in the Kent windmills.

Windmills produced flour and meal by grinding cereal grains. The early mills produced flour for bread but by the middle of the nineteenth century the windmills were not as efficient as the larger steam driven mills. Many of the mills turned from producing flour to animal feed.

# What to look for... a post mill



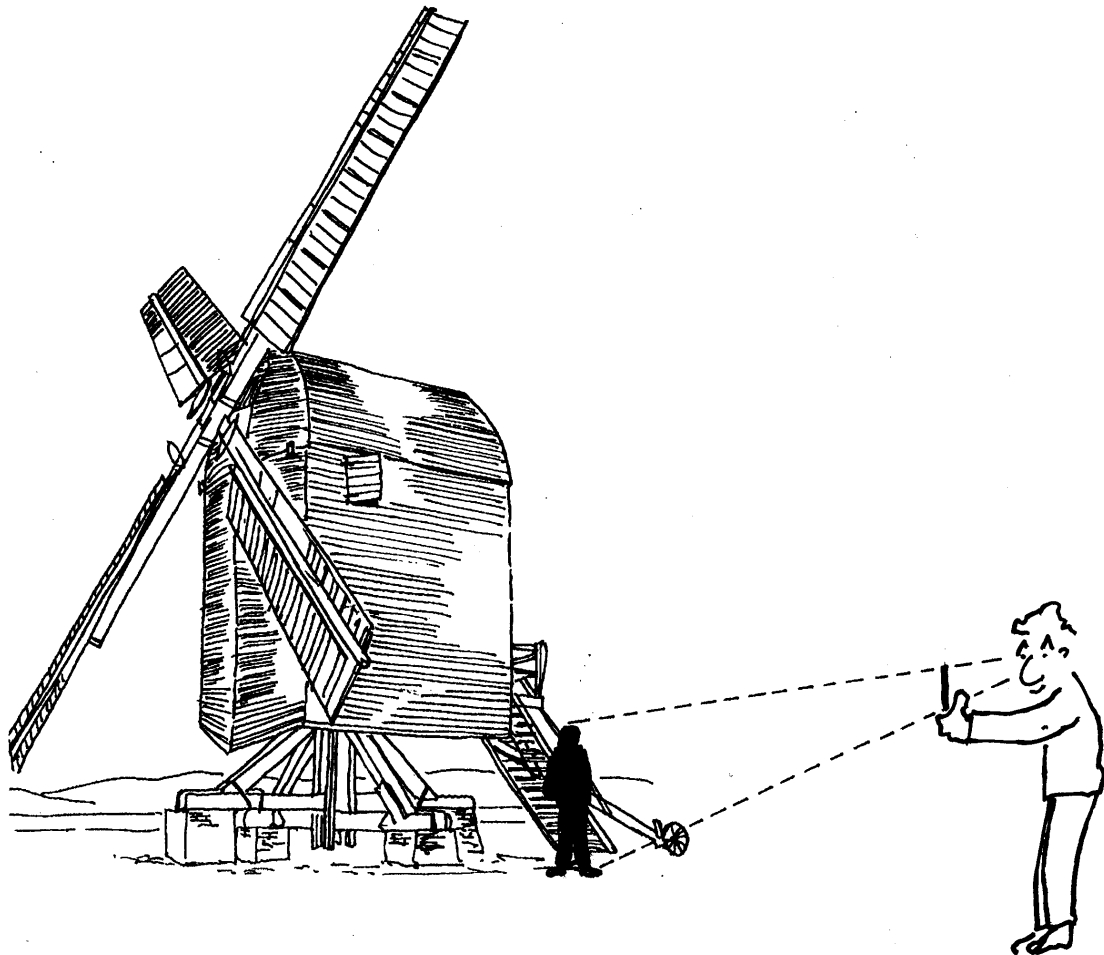
What to look for...  
the outside of a post mill.



Have you ever wondered how to work out how high a building is without taking a tape measure to the top!

You can estimate, fairly accurately the height of a very tall building by using this simple technique.

Find a friend who knows how tall they are. Get them to stand at the base of the build whose height you want to estimate. Stand well back from the windmill and work out how many times the height of that person fits into the height of the windmill. You then multiply the height by that number. That calculation will give you a rough estimate of the height of the building. You could try this at school before you visit the windmill.



It is important not to forget that many people worked at the mill you are visiting.

The mills were built and run by people and many individuals spent much of their lives at work in the building. Who were they, how successful were they and what was it like for them working on this site?

If at all possible try to put a name and a face to those who worked at the windmill in the past.

Have you met someone who can work the windmill and can you find any photographs of people who worked at the mill?

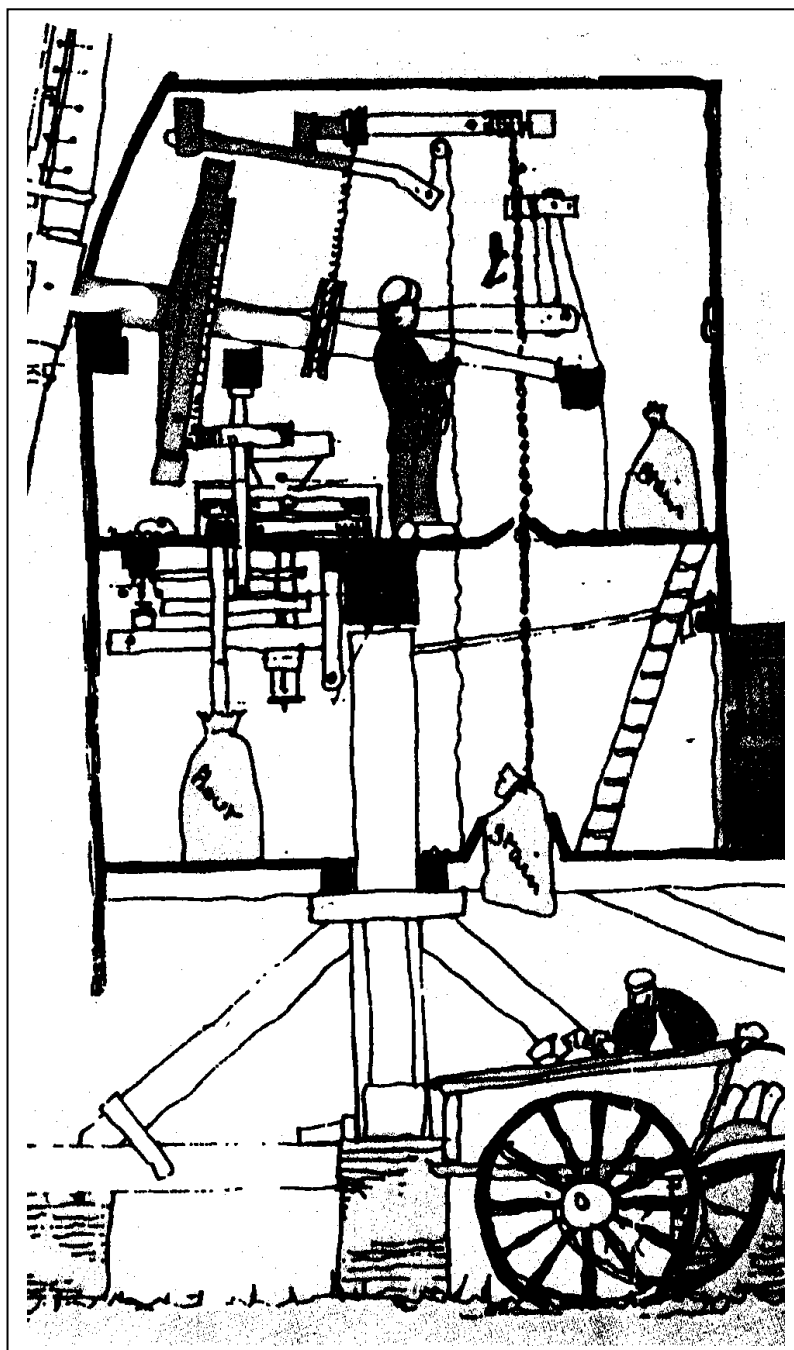
Are there any other clues that help you find out about the people who worked at the windmill?

Here are some questions you might like to investigate

- Who worked on this site?
- How many people worked here?
- How long did people work here?
- What were working conditions like?
- Where did people work in the mill and what did they do?
- How comfortable was it working in the mill?
- What sort of working day did they have?
- How much did the miller earn and was it a profitable business?
- How safe was it working in the mill?
- What were the most dangerous jobs?
- Did millers enjoy their work?
- What jobs need to be done at the windmill today?

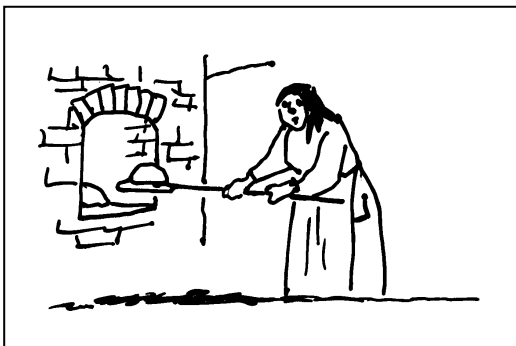
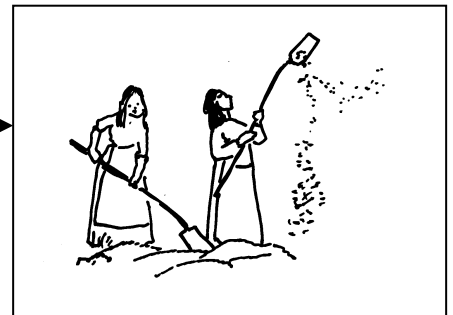
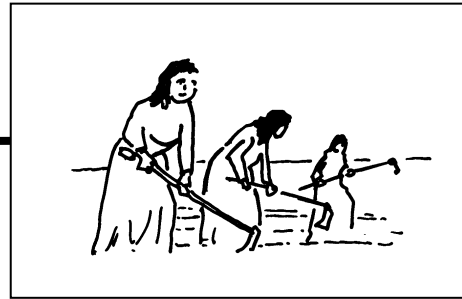
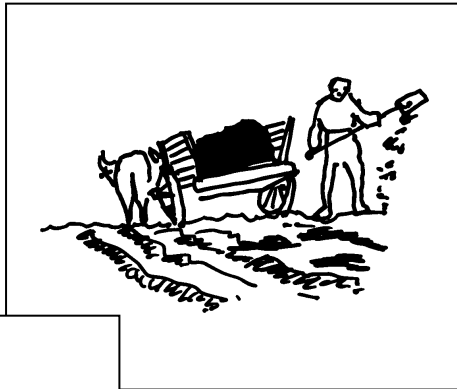
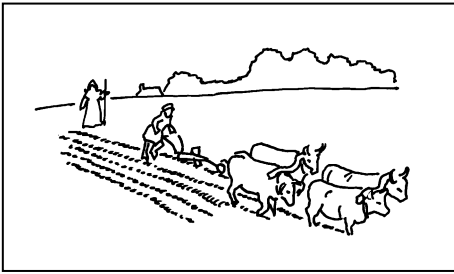
Peter Cobby, an artist, has drawn a picture of what it was like inside Chillenden Mill. Talk with your partner or group about the things you can see in the drawing.

- Do you know how the windmill worked?
- If you were working in a windmill do you know what jobs you would do?
- What do you think it was like working in a windmill?

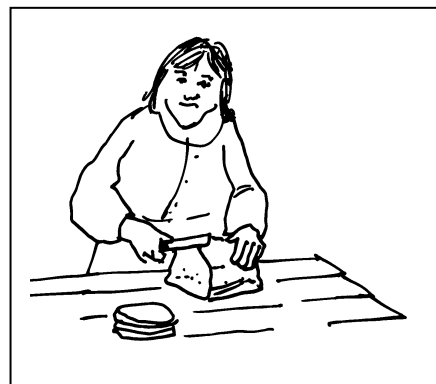


# How did they make a loaf of bread?

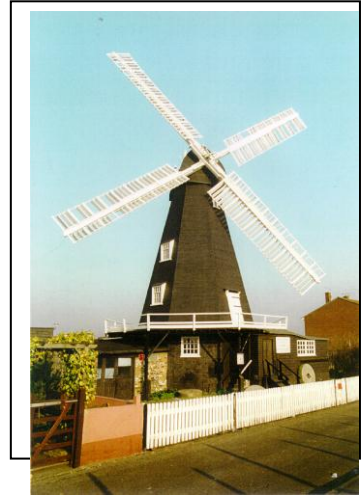
Can you label all the processes in these pictures?



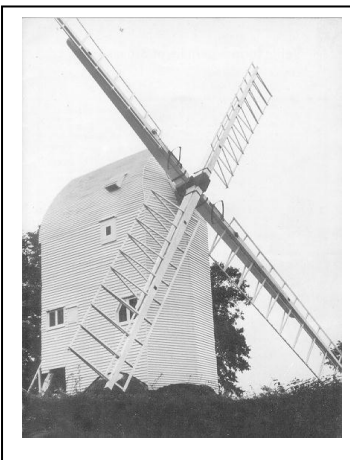
How easy was it making your daily bread in 1750?







Post Mill



Tower Mill



Smock Mill

Post Mill

Smock Mill

Smock Mill

Smock Mill

Smock Mill

Smock Mill