

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1991

THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1991

To: C. J. O'Sullivan and J. L. O'Sullivan, Longways House, 61, Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys. Leicester, LE8 6UF

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 10th October 2002, the PLANNING COMMITTEE of the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED

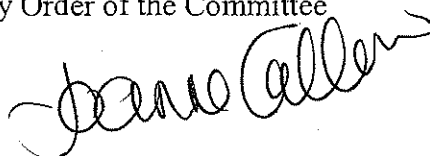
The Golden Meadow Mill, also known as Meadow Mill, or Paradise Meadow Mill, Alexandra Road, Castletown to include the Mill Building, Threshing House, Kiln Room, Mill Pond, Mill Race and Sluices all as shown delineated and edged red on the plan hereto attached,

in the PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of its special architectural and historic interest.

THE EFFECT OF THIS REGISTRATION IS IMMEDIATE and prohibits the alteration or demolition of the structure or appearance of any part of the building except in compliance with an obligation imposed by or under any statutory provision or with the prior written consent of the Planning Committee.

Dated this 18th day of October 2002

By Order of the Committee



J Callow
Secretary, Planning Committee.

1st Floor, Murray House,
Mount Havelock,
Douglas,
IM1 2SF.

NOTE :

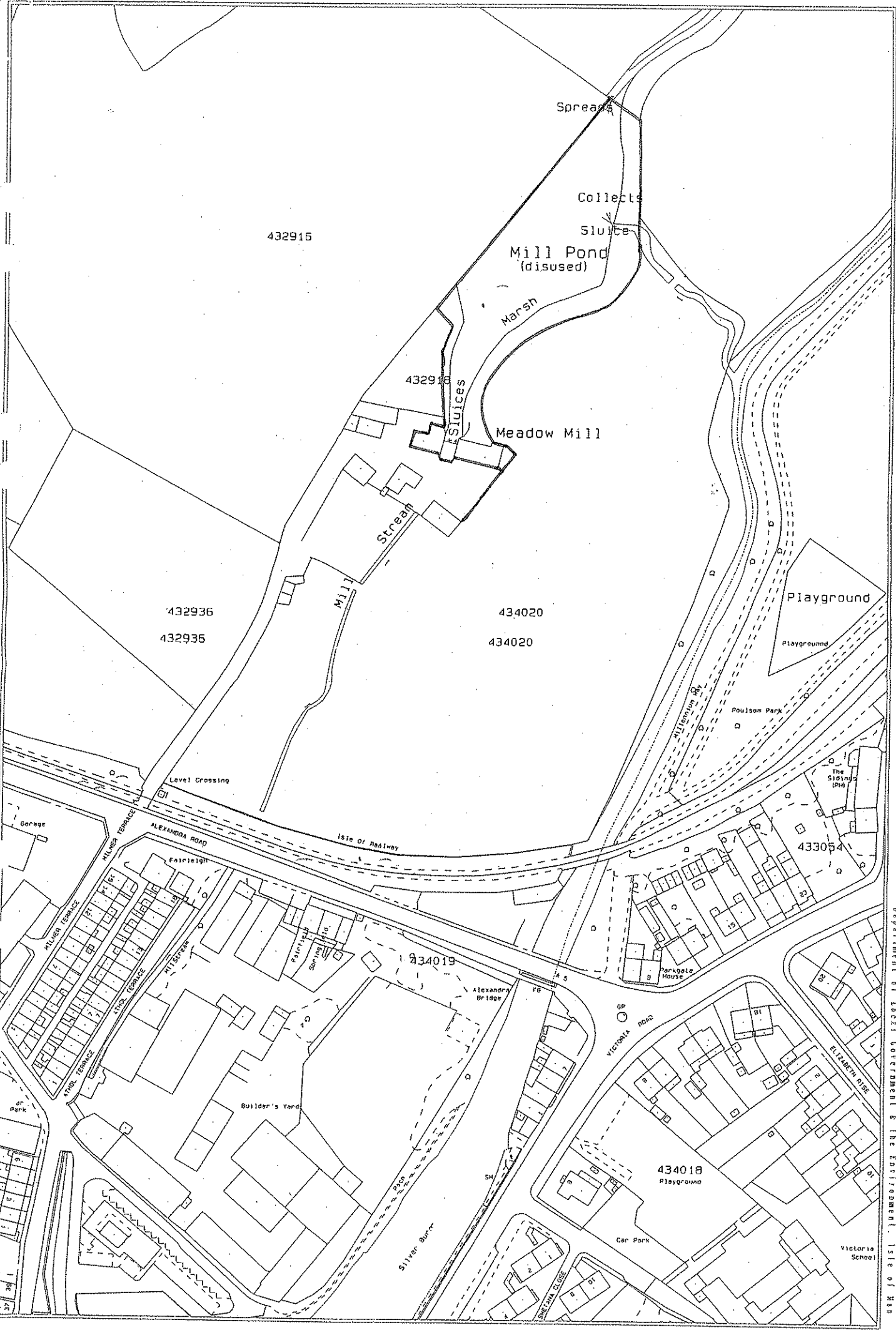
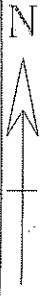
Rights to request de-registration of the building are provided under the Registered Building Regulations and in summary are that:

Applications in writing for the de-registration of the building may be made by the owners or occupier of, any other person having an interest in the building, within a period of 28 days of service of this notice. Such application should be sent to the Secretary, Planning Committee, 1st Floor, Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas, IM1 2SF.

In the event that de-registration is not requested by any party within the 28 day period described above, then de-registration may not be requested within a period of 3 years.

c.c.:-

- Mr J Brown, Clerk to the Castletown Commissioners, Civic Centre, Farrant's Way, Castletown;
- Director of Manx Museum and National Trust, Kingswood Grove, Douglas;
- Advisory Council for Planning and the Environment, 52, Alberta Drive, Onchan.



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Department of Local Government & the Environment, Isle of Man

THE GOLDEN MEADOW MILL ALEXANDRA ROAD, CASTLETOWN

The Golden Meadow Mill is an imposing limestone building located on arable land just outside Castletown. It was one of the first Lord's Mills, it was previously the mill for the town and the earliest town mill on the island. It was first recorded in the Manorial Roll of 1511-1515, in which it was referred to as 'two grain mills near the Castle'; the tenant at the time was William Hubart. The Mill is reported to have had a direct relationship with the Castle, as it is reported that the mill leat (the downstream section of the mill race) runs into the Castle, and the Castle is visible on a direct line from the two wheels. *"Probably the earliest Lord's Mill stood here, though there are slight traces of a tide mill in the basement of Castle Rushen – the place usually known as Bishop Wilson's prison. The owners of the Castletown mills were usually progressive and added other water-powered manufactures to corn milling. These certainly included flax scutching and fulling and are reputed to have included snuff and power grinding."* (Bawden T.A., Garrad L.S., Qualtrough J.K. and Scatchard J.W., 1972, p.153).

The mill stands some way from the Silverburn and it was served by a leat and a millpond. The source of the Silverburn is the slopes of South Barrule and it reaches the sea at Castletown harbour. *"It is one of the most important and probably the first used sources of water power in Man."* (Bawden T.A., Garrad L.S., Qualtrough J.K. and Scatchard J.W., 1972, p.185). Numerous mills were located along the banks of the Silverburn, including the Meadow, Creg, Abbey and the Grenaby Mills. The river was also known to have been used for churning butter, grinding bark, powder, earch colours, polishing agents and snuff, fulling, scotching, carding and cotton spinning, paper making and spade production (Bawden T.A., Garrad L.S., Qualtrough J.K. and Scatchard J.W., 1972, p.153).

There has been a mill on this site from at least as early as 1511 when it was recorded in the Manorial Roll as 'two grains mills near the Castle'. However it has been difficult to establish a date of the buildings. D. Corlett's report on the mill in 1981 referred to an article in the Manx Advertiser dated February 29th 1816 which suggested that the buildings had only recently been built. *'Those most eligibly and newly erected Corn and Thrashing Mills at Castletown to be let for a term of years, as may be agreed upon, and may be entered upon at May or November next. Conveniently situated for carrying on the whole-sale business and commanding the custom of a very extensive neighbourhood.....Apply at the Proprietor, Mr Thomas Moore, Great Meadow.'*

The mill building was included on the first Ordnance Survey map of the area, dating back to 1870 and the site was also featured on the Wood's Atlas of 1867 when Thomas Moore was the owner. The mill is a significant structure built of local limestone, standing four storeys tall. Situated in the middle of arable land it is visible from all vantage points around Castletown. Also featured on the 1870 series Ordnance Survey map are the drying kiln in the extension attached to the mill, and the adjacent threshing mill which has now

been converted into a residence. The mill at Castletown was unusual because it had two water wheels side by side, one each for the mill and threshing mill.

An important feature of the mill is the drying kiln located in the small extension to the right hand side of the main building. Within this two-storey extension there is a kiln located on the ground floor with a drying floor above.

The Golden Meadow Mill and the surrounding holiday accommodation are currently owned by Mr. Cornelius J. O'Sullivan, of Leicestershire, England. In his absence the properties are in the charge of Mr and Mrs Humphries who live on the site. Mr. Humphries stated that the current owner bought the properties around 16 years ago, however this is confusing as it does not match the dates recorded on the deeds. The deeds recall a sale in 1982 from Thomas Masson Moore to Longway Investments Ltd for £40,000, following this the property was sold in 1997 to Cornelius James O'Sullivan, Denise Carol O'Sullivan and Jaclyn Lorraine O'Sullivan for £293,852. During our visit on Wednesday 28th August 2002, Mr Humphries was able to highlight many of the changes which have taken place over the last 16 years.

The following reference is taken from Golden Meadow Mill, 1981 by D. Corlett. *'Until April of this year, the Mill has been in constant use. In the 1950's because of the deterioration of the wheel, automatic machinery was installed. The present tenants, Mr Cubbon and his family, were asked to vacate the mill in May of this year, it will not be used as a mill again, as all the machinery has been sold.'*

The mill site is now used as the location of holiday homes. The corn mill itself has been extensively restored although a building of similar size, formerly part of the rope works, had to be demolished. This building is pictured in Golden Meadow Mill, by Mrs D. Corlett (1981); a copy of it is included with this report.

Before the current owner bought the site, all of the machinery and workings inside the threshing mill had been removed and the building was in a bad condition. The machinery inside the mill was still in place and the new owners found a reference in one of the buildings from the Moore family (who used to own the mill), ordering that no machinery should be removed from the mill. However Mr Humphries believes that all of the records of the mill were lost long ago in a fire.

The mill roof was replaced 5 or 6 years ago. Also, 5 years ago the millpond was allowed to drain as it was flooding the adjacent fields. In spite of this the millrace and the sluice still exist and these are important features of the site.

Inside the mill there are prepared timbers with details which have been used on the ceilings, indicating that this is a high status building. This characteristic is consistent throughout the building so it could be an original feature. A practical explanation for plaining down the timbers would be to prevent sacks and other materials from getting caught on the roof.

SOURCES

Books and Articles

Bawden T.A., Garrad L.S., Qualtrough J.K. and Scatchard J.W., 1972, *Industrial Archaeology of the Isle of Man.*

Corlett D., 1981, *Golden Meadow Mill.* Manx National Heritage

***Industrial Archaeology of the Isle of Man,* 1993, Manx National Heritage.**

Maps and Plans

1867 Wood's Atlas. Manx National Heritage

1870 Ordnance Survey Map, Scale 1:2500 (25" = 1 mile). Manx National Heritage

1965 Plan and Section of Meadow Mill, Castletown. Drawn by Major J. Kenneth, based on measurements by D.H. Jones. Manx National Heritage

Other Sources

Current photographs and site visits.







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