

# **The Four Mills of Lyncombe and Widcombe, Bath**

**1086 to 1950**

*Abstract*

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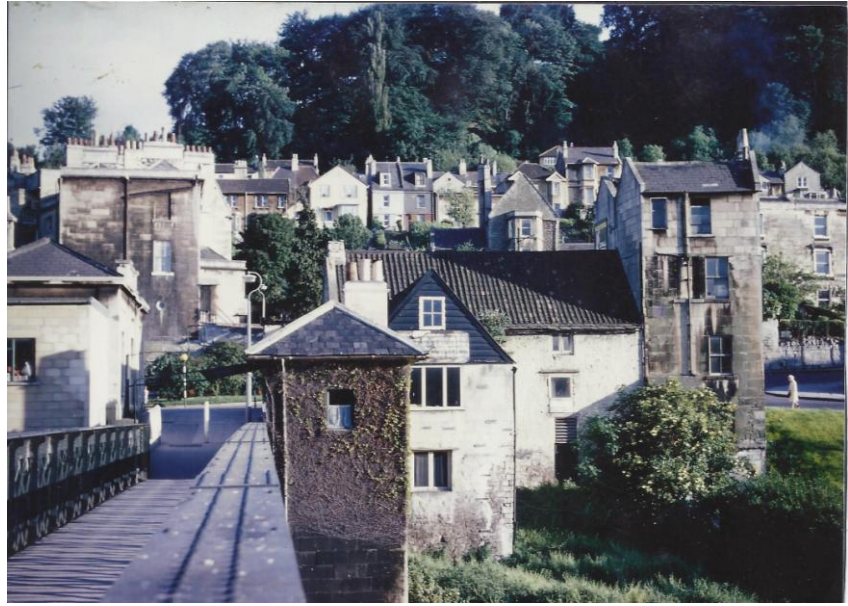
At first sight there appears to be very little evidence of flour milling ever having taken place in the Lyncombe and Widcombe valleys. On closer inspection of records, topography and existing structures, however, there is evidence of four different mills having operated in the parish at various times between the 'Great Survey' of 1086 and the 1950s.

Although the northern boundary of the parish is delineated by the River Avon, the power of the river has never been exploited at this location. The 'Great Survey' did however identify two small mills drawing their power from the Lyncombe Brook and a small stream originating in the ancient Prior's Park.

The mills are first recorded on maps of the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century and their development can be traced through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The topography of the Lyncombe and Widcombe valleys was exploited to make the most of the small, but constant, flows of the two small streams, the upper mill being relocated in the later 18<sup>th</sup> Century to achieve this.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> Century saw the building of a steam-powered flour mill on the banks of the River Avon, which was a much larger concern than its water-powered predecessors. But water-power was not forgotten and as late as the 1920s advanced water-turbines were being introduced to take advantage of the available flow, albeit backed-up by a gas engine.

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Four Lyncombe and Widcombe Mills