

= Dunster Working Watermill =

Dunster Working Watermill (also known as Castle Mill) is a restored 18th century watermill , situated on the River Avill , close to Gallox Bridge , in the grounds of Dunster Castle in Dunster , Somerset , England . It is a Grade II * listed building .

The mill stands on a site where a mill was first recorded in the Domesday Book , but the present building was constructed around 1780 . It closed in 1962 but was restored in 1979 and is still used to grind flour . The equipment is powered by two overshot wheels . It is owned by the National Trust but operated as a tourist attraction by a private company .

= = History = =

At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 there were two mills in Dunster . One which was called the Lower Mill was on the site of the present mill . In the 17th century there were both malt and oats mills but by 1721 one of these had been converted to a fulling mill . The present mill , which was built around 1780 and replaced the two former mills . In 1940 a bakery was added . The mill ground corn until World War II and then animal feed until it closed in 1962 .

It was restored to working order in 1979 , winning a conservation award in 1982 . The mill is still used to grind wheat flour . A cafe was opened in the buildings which used to be the wagon house and stables . Further restoration work , completed in 2007 , was funded by the Exmoor Sustainable Development Fund .

Although it is owned by the National Trust it is leased to a private company to run as a tourist attraction and an entrance charge applies to all visitors . The site is visited by around 10 @, @ 000 tourists a year and produces 6 ? 8 tonnes of flour each year . The second waterwheel was restored and the collapsed wheel replaced in 2015 .

= = Architecture and machinery = =

The two storey building has a slate roof . To the south east a stone wall contains wrought iron gates in an arched gateway .

The grinding equipment is powered by a pair of overshot wheels , which transfer power to the crown wheel via a series of belts . This then drives the grinding stones and sack lift . There is a doorway on the first floor to allow material to be hoisted up the building .

An adapted winnowing machine is used to sift the flour produced by the millstones .