

The Windmills and Watermills of Wirral: A Historical Survey by Rowan Patel. Pbk 263 pages – 220 illustrations. Countywise Ltd 2016. ISBN 9781910352106. £19.95 + £3.50 P&P.

This book is the most extensive history of Wirral's windmills and watermills ever produced. Little has been written on the topic as a whole for over a century, and this is the only book of its kind. It records around seventy mills, which stood on Wirral between the Domesday survey and the demise of traditional milling. Mills powered by wind and water were a crucial component of Wirral's rural economy. They existed remarkably unchanged for many centuries, and some ceased to work only in the 20th century. There are individual sections covering forty three mills - many of them ancient sites, which have rarely, if ever, been written of before. References to mills are examined at each place, and efforts have been made to trace the history of milling at each location, from the first known records, until each mill fell into disuse. Where possible, the site of every mill has been identified on the present day landscape. Features which remain have been described in detail, both remaining buildings, and lesser archaeological features.

The paperback book measures 21 cm by 24.5 cm and comes to 263 pages, with indices and appendices. There are 220 maps, photographs and diagrams, and most of these illustrations are printed in full colour. Available directly from the author Rowan Patel (rowangp@yahoo.co.uk) for £19.95 + £3.50 P&P.