



THE NATIONAL TRUST  
*for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty*  
SOUTH DEVON COUNTRYSIDE OFFICE  
SALTRAM HOUSE PLYMPTON DEVON PL7 1UH

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*Telephone/Facsimile 01752 346585*

Dr Collinson  
Ringmore Local History Society  
Bell View  
Ringmore  
Nr Modbury  
DEVON

19 December 2000

Our reference: 191DF/Ringmore/CP0001

Dear Dr Collinson

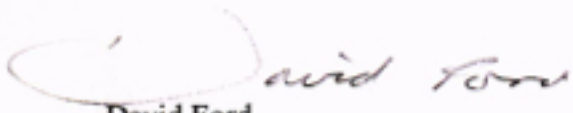
**RE: NODDON MILL, RINGMORE**

Please find attached a copy letter which has been sent to Ringmore Parish Council. I would very much value any comments which the local History Society may have on these proposals.

It would also be helpful if I could have any information on the history of the Mill which might help in this project.

I will look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

  
David Ford  
Property Manager, South Devon Countryside



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Mrs M Wood  
Ringmore Parish Council  
2 Sunnybank  
Coastguard Cottages  
Challaborough  
KINGSBRIDGE  
TQ7 4HT

19 December 2000

Our reference: 190DF/Ringmore/CP0001

Dear Mrs Wood

**RE: NODDON MILL, RINGMORE**

The National Trust has been concerned about the deterioration of Noddon Mill for some time and has recently carried out a building survey of the Mill to identify how best to stabilise the ruins.

Prior to any work being undertaken I would be grateful for the Parish Council's views on how they feel this building should be treated in future. I have also copied this letter to the local history society who I hope will offer their views on the proposed work.

The National Trust's primary objectives in carrying out any stabilising works are:

- a) To ensure the long-term preservation of the ruins.
- b) To ensure the structure is safe.
- c) To preserve the character of the ruins whilst reducing deterioration of the main structure.

To achieve this we envisage carrying out the following works:

- a) Remove ivy where it is destabilising the masonry.
- b) Cap the top of the existing walls.
- c) Re-point and repair unstable stone work and make safe.
- d) Replace broken and weak lintels.

The National Trust would employ a contractor who is experienced in the restoration of historic and vernacular buildings to supervise the work.

COUNTRYSIDE MANAGER: DAVID FORD  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR: M D COOK MA FRICS

Registered Charity Number 205846

Website [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

Please could you let me have the Parish Council's views on these proposals and do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely

David Ford  
Property Manager, South Devon Countryside

CC:  
Simon Garner  
Dr D Collinson Ringmore Local History Society

Dear Mr Ford,

Many thanks for your letter and the proposal for preserving Noddon Mill. The suggestions look admirable.

I will see that a copy of the proposal is circulated to members of the committee of the Ringmore Historical Society and will write comments. But could you let me know a date by which you will need our response, please? We haven't a meeting scheduled for a few weeks, so it is simply a question of our deciding how to handle the circulation etc., should you need a rapid response. (My guess is that as long as we reply around the time of the next Parish Council meeting we shall not be too late.)

We do know a little of the Mill's past, including the well-documented story of a nineteenth century suicide that that took place there, and will let you have what information we can muster.

Thankyou very much for writing to us about this. We are deeply interested, and I believe we shall all be pleased at the prospect of maintaining Noddon.

Yours sincerely,

Di Collinson

I should mention that the Chair of the RHS is Mrs Ardene Bennett, and our Secretary is Mr James Parkin. I'm a committee member. I phoned Ardene about your letter and she has asked me to proceed as outlined above.

Dear D,

We have no records of Rodden Mill, probably because it is in Bigbury rather than Ringmore parish. Perhaps we should advise the National Trust to contact Bigbury Parish Council & Historical Society.

We do have an old photograph of the Mill house, while it was still occupied & George will try to copy this for the National Trust. (We think that the remaining ruins are of the miller's house, rather than the mill itself).

I believe that Rev. Hingston Randolph made a rather obscure reference to Rodden Mill in one of his writings, saying that it was not known to have worked after 1889.

(This is rather strange because he was living in Ringmore at the time, with his land adjoining that of the mill & he must have known exactly when & why it ceased working.)

I think we should accept the National Trust's proposals with pleasure, but urge them not to be too drastic with the ivy clearance. Beary Pomeroy Castle never recovered its romantic atmosphere after the ivy was removed.

It would be very interesting if the National Trust's archaeologists would try to establish the position of the old mill buildings; the mill pond & the leat.  
Ardena.

## Comments on the National Trust Proposal.

2/10/01 Very interested that the N.T. are proposing to skabalise the ruins, and agree with both Di and Aiden's comments.

M.G.P.  
7/10/01 Good stuff! — and wouldn't it be nice if the water-way could be restored also! M.G.P.

8/11/01 Excellent proposal. I would be very interested to know more about the mill's history. Barry

9/11/01 Most interesting — like Barry, I would like to know the history of the mill. W.P.

10/11/01 Very good proposal, of which I thoroughly approve. — Hope it all works out well. DiCollinson

10/11/01 Perhaps we should keep an eye on this since we are so much nearer than Bexing. Thoroughly approve all of above and particularly Mike's suggestion  
Dennis

10/11/01 The deterioration of the building needs to be arrested. It is to be hoped that the NT plans meet with everyone's approval.

1. We should do nothing unless Bexing HS is aware. He would not take it kindly if the notes were reversed. He should also copy Ringmore PC  
L.S.P.

Hill Cottage  
Ringmore  
Kingsbridge  
Devon  
TQ7 4HW

11 January 2001

Ref. 191DF/ Ringmore/CPool

Dear Mr Ford

Noddon Mill

Thank you for sending via Dr Di Collinson a copy of your letter to Ringmore Parish Council about Noddon Mill

Our Society is keenly interested in Noddon Mill which is situated very near to Ringmore village, although just outside our Parish boundary. Possibly because it is not actually within our Parish we have no records concerning the Mill apart from a reference to the fact that it had already ceased working in 1889 I am copying this letter to Bigbury Historical Society who may be able to find some information in their records

Ringmore Historical Society has been concerned about the deterioration of the ruins of the old mill house and we welcome your proposals for preserving them in a sensitive way. We have an old photograph of the mill-house, dating from when it was still occupied, and we could copy this for you if it would be helpful

We wonder whether it would be possible for the National Trust's archeologists to try to establish the position of the old mill wheel and of the mill pond and leat. It would be excellent if the old water-way could be restored.

Yours sincerely

Copies to:-

Mrs M Wood - Ringmore Parish Clerk  
Mr J. Parkin - Secretary Ringmore Historical Society  
Bigbury Historical Society

# NODDON MILL.

1843



Owner. Brockington.  
Occupier. James Taylor.

Plot No.

- 504 House and Mills.
- 377 Meadow.
- 503 Garden.
- 502 Mill Field.
- 506 Waste.
- 501 Long Brake.
- 507 Waste.
- 508 Willows.
- 505 Orchard.

$\Delta$	$\frac{R}{4}$	$\frac{P}{4}$
4	1	4

Scale.

