

# EAST RIDING MUSEUMS



Photo: Richard Young

The history of  
**Skidby Mill**



There have been windmills in Skidby since 1316. The first record of a mill on the present site appeared in 1764. This was a wooden post mill with two pairs of millstones.

The post mill was sold in 1821 to make way for a new tower mill, but there is some doubt about the person employed to build it. Although it is generally stated it was built by Robert Garton, a Beverley Millwright, a date stone below the balcony level suggests that Norman & Smithson of Hull were in fact the builders.

After three changes of tenancy Skidby Mill was acquired by Joseph Thompson in 1854 and remained in the family for the next 108 years.

In 1878 the mill was converted to the production of animal feed. This meant new buildings had to be built around the mill to house the machines, so the tower was raised in order that the sails would clear the buildings. This section can be seen as a pronounced 'waist' about two thirds of the way up the tower.



By the end of the 19th century the Thompsons also owned a steam roller mill in Hull and a watermill at Welton and were a close rival to Joseph Rank.

In 1954 the use of wind power was discontinued and the machinery adapted to run on electricity. The tower was converted to a grain silo supplying the various animal feed machines.

Despite the devotion of the Thompsons to the family business, Skidby Mill had to be sold to Allied Mills in 1962. Newer animal feed machines were brought in from the Thompsons' mill in Hull, and these can still be seen on the flour bagging floor.

The mill ceased to operate commercially in 1966 and was sold to Beverley Rural District Council (later Beverley Borough Council) for a nominal £1. In 1974 the mill was restored to full working order using wind power.

**Plan your visit to Skidby Mill at**  
**[eastridingmuseums.co.uk/skidbymill](http://eastridingmuseums.co.uk/skidbymill)**

