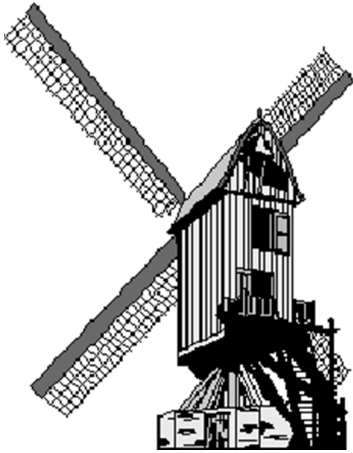


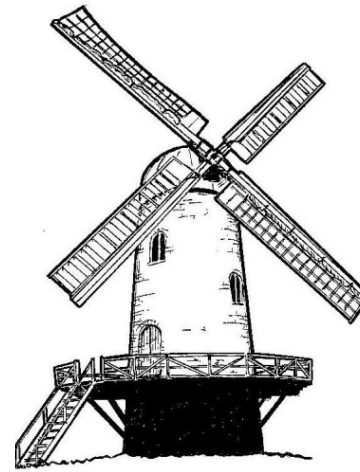
Different types of Windmill



The earliest mills in Britain were called **Post Mills**. A tall post stuck up from the ground and the whole mill body was supported on this post. The body had to be turned round on this post to face the wind. There are still a few working post mills left in this country.

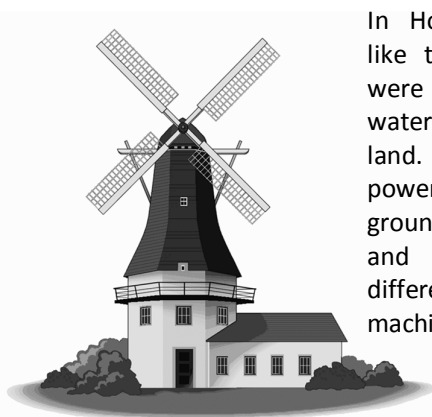


The next type of mill to be built was the **Smock Mill**. This had a fixed wooden body. The cap and sails on the top were the only bit that turned to face the wind. Smock mills were often bigger than post mills and could hold more bits of machinery.

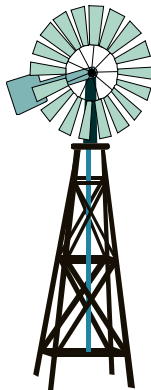


Wilton Windmill is a **Tower Mill** built as a round brick tower, and again the cap and sails can turn round. These mills could be taller and could hold even more machinery. Wilton Windmill has a fantail at the back which turns the mill to face the wind automatically.

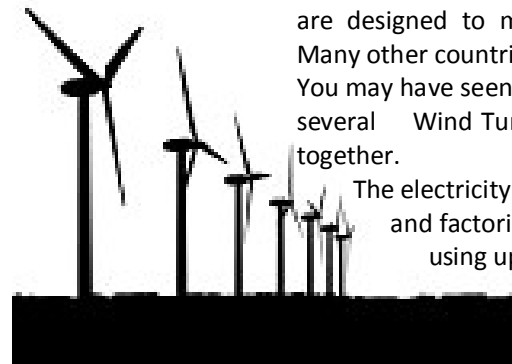
It is believed that the Crusaders first saw windmills in the 11th century and soon after brought the idea back to this country. The very early ones were small and could not be turned to face the wind. Slowly over the centuries, people invented better ways to make and build windmills. They improved them so that they worked faster and could grind more grain. They also built them out of stronger materials such as brick which would last longer. When it was built, Wilton Windmill was very modern with lots of clever design details which make it easy to work. It is still possible for just one person to run the mill and grind grain. It has two different pairs of sails. Two of the sails are Common Sails which are like slightly twisted ladders and can be covered with canvas. The other pair of sails is Patent Sails and these have rows of shutters which work rather like venetian blinds. You can only adjust the Common Sails when the sails have stopped. You climb up and move them by hand. The Patent Sail shutters can be adjusted when the sails are turning. This is very useful so when the wind gets stronger you can open the shutters to prevent the sails rotating too fast.



In Holland, windmills like this Polder Mill were built to pump water and drain the land. Other mills powered sawmills, ground up chemicals and worked other different types of machinery.



More modern windmills like this can still be seen on farms where they are used to pump water from wells below the ground. The water can be used for animals to drink or to irrigate the crops with water.



The latest windmills to be built in Britain are designed to make electric power. Many other countries are building them. You may have seen Wind Farms with several Wind Turbines (Windmills) all together.

The electricity is used in homes and factories. It saves us using up all our coal and oil to make our electricity.