



Bruce Barnden (1925 – 2009)

Mill Near Midhurst, 1961

Oil on board. Worthing Museum and Art Gallery permanent collection

Dimensions 70.8 x 121.2cm

This work has been chosen to support 'Our Place' – Annual Schools Exhibition 2015 - celebrating the built heritage of the South Downs.

Towner Gallery in partnership with South Downs National Park Authority, Worthing Museum and Art Gallery and the Flora Twort Gallery Petersfield

About the artist

Bruce Barnden lived, worked and taught in Sussex. He was the Head of Chichester School of Art and an Art Lecturer at Chichester College. He was a romantic interpreter of the Sussex landscape and exhibited frequently with the Society of Sussex Painters. He loved to paint landscapes and seascapes and often depicted moonlit scenes as in this painting of the mill at Midhurst.

About the print

A more accurate title for this painting would be 'Terwick Mill near Rogate' which depicts the water mill used for corn and provender milling and was located next to the River Rother between Petersfield and Midhurst. This mill was originally two mills joined together, one was built in 1746 and the other was built 100 years earlier. It closed as a working mill in 1966, having also existed, in part, as a museum of antique machinery.

This particular location has always been popular with artists and photographers. The site is even mentioned in the Domesday book.



Understand & Evaluate

How does the artist create the moonlit atmosphere in the painting?

Look at the various ways that snow is depicted in the scene, what other colours does Barnden use to illustrate snow?

How does the artist create depth and distance in the picture?

How would the painting be different if it was a summer scene? What colour palette would the artist have used?

Look at the reflection of the building in the pond. How has the artist create the effect of water?

Explore and create

Try painting a landscape scene using only two or three different colours but experiment with tone and shade as Barnden does.

Practise drawing a reflection. You will need to assemble a still life including objects as well as water to create a reflection. What techniques can you use to depict the reflection?

Recreate the building in the picture as a 3D version or as a collage. Use cardboard boxes and other recycled objects.

Make a snow flick book by

1. Draw and paint a scene of your choice
2. Take a photograph
3. Add a little sprinkle of snow with a material of your choice
4. Take another photograph
5. Repeat steps 3 & 4 until your picture is covered in snow
6. Print the pictures off and create a flick book
7. You may want to make an animation as well

Further links to the National Park

Use the South Downs National Park Learning Zone to explore <http://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/>.

[Learning outside the Classroom](#) including links for health and safety and practical support in planning your work away from the classroom.

[About the National Park](#) The South Downs National Park is the newest of the National Parks established in 2009. All National Parks are special places that are recognised for their stunning landscapes, amazing wildlife and rich heritage, as well as providing fantastic opportunities for enjoying and learning about what makes them special.

[Geology and landscape](#) Rogate is situated between Petersfield and Midhurst in the West Sussex part of the National Park. It is located in the Rother Valley landscape character area. Framed by the dramatic chalk escarpment, the Rother Valley has a wide range of landscapes, from open chalk grassland and woodland hangers to heathland and wet meadows around the River Rother. Find out more about the different landscape types across the South Downs by looking at the [Sense of Place](#) toolkit that includes fantastic maps and information about each distinctive area.

[Farming and Land management](#) Over 85% of the South Downs National Park is agricultural. Farming, and in particular, traditional mixed farming, has created the distinctive landscape that makes the South Downs such an iconic place. Agricultural land use in the Rother Valley causes significant soil erosion. This impacts on both river water quality and the ecology of the river. There are projects underway across the Rother to address this issue.

[Habitats and wildlife](#) There are 7 main rivers that drain the National Park, including the River Rother, which at 56.3km within the Park is the second longest and the only river to drain west to east. These rivers and their numerous tributary streams support a rich and diverse array of habitats and species including invertebrates, riverine bird species and also populations of mammals such as water shrew, otters and [water voles](#).

[Culture and heritage](#) The mill at Terwick is a II* listed building. The north mill is a 16th century timber-framed building, whilst the south mill (now converted into a house) is made from coursed stone rubble. The landscape of the South Downs has long provided building materials for local settlements, including Worthing. For more information about the building materials used across the National Park see the presentation on [Buildings in the South Downs Landscape](#).

[Access and recreation](#) The South Downs National Park is a very accessible landscape with over 3,000 km of rights of way including the South Downs Way, a 160 km National Trail stretching from Winchester to Eastbourne, see: <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/south-downs-way> for more details.

[Economy and industry](#) The water-mill at Terwick harnessed the power of the River Rother to grind corn to make flour since as long ago as 1635. A second mill was built in 1746 and the two mills joined together. They continued working until the mill closed in 1966. Nowadays the industry of the South Downs is dominated by farming and tourist related businesses. There are also a wide range of other businesses, for example new technology and science, which support local employment. You can find out more about these different types of industry in the [State of the National Park Report](#).