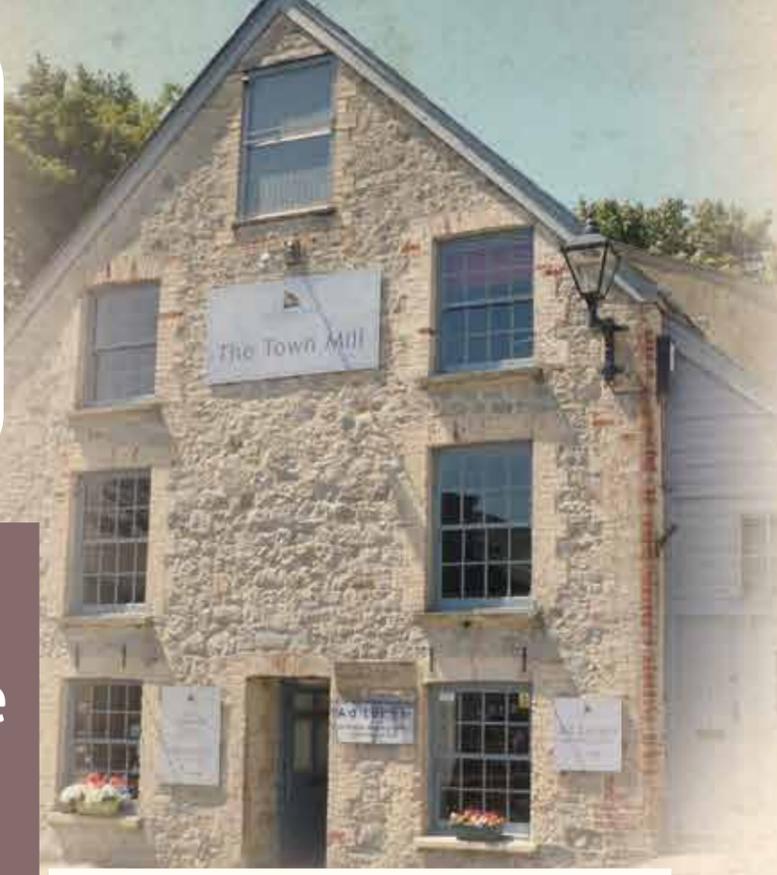




# The Town Mill, Lyme Regis



There has been a mill in this location since 1340. After a range of uses it fell into disrepair but was restored by the Town Mill Trust and reopened in 2001 by the novelist John Fowles. There is now a range of activities here including milling of corn, pottery, brewing, art galleries, a cafe, the production of hydroelectricity and other retail.

## The River Lim Path from Uplyme to Lyme Regis

Discover the history, old mills and wildlife of the River Lim Valley by walking along the beautiful and restored footpath from the village of Uplyme to Lyme Regis, which is easy to follow in both directions, with opportunities for shorter circular routes also available. The path also forms part of both the East Devon Way which leads to Exmouth and the Wessex Ridgeway, which leads as far as Marlborough in Wiltshire. Both of these are recognised as long distance paths, but the walk to Lyme Reigs is only 1.5 miles / 2.4km!

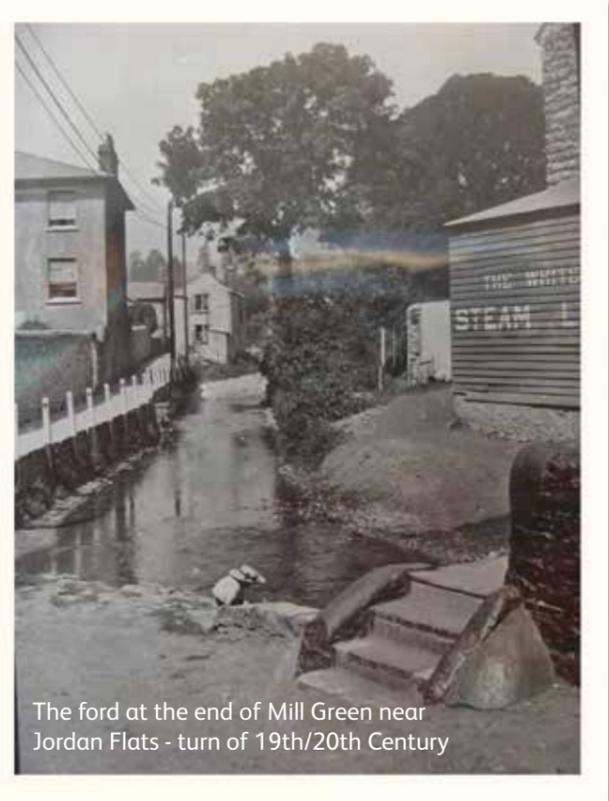
## Did you know..?

**Section 2** (See map overleaf)  
A leat is an open watercourse conducting water to a mill, to drive the wheel machinery.

**Section 3**  
The river Lim near the old mill represents the boundary between Dorset and Devon. It is thought to be one of the oldest county boundaries in England, still in its original position.

**Section 5**  
The ford on the River Lim at Jordan Flats is thought to be the longest in England.

The Lim is home to a number of birds. The sections of the trail closest to the river are good places to spot a dipper: a short-tailed, black, brown and white bird. If you're really lucky, you might even see a kingfisher or an otter.



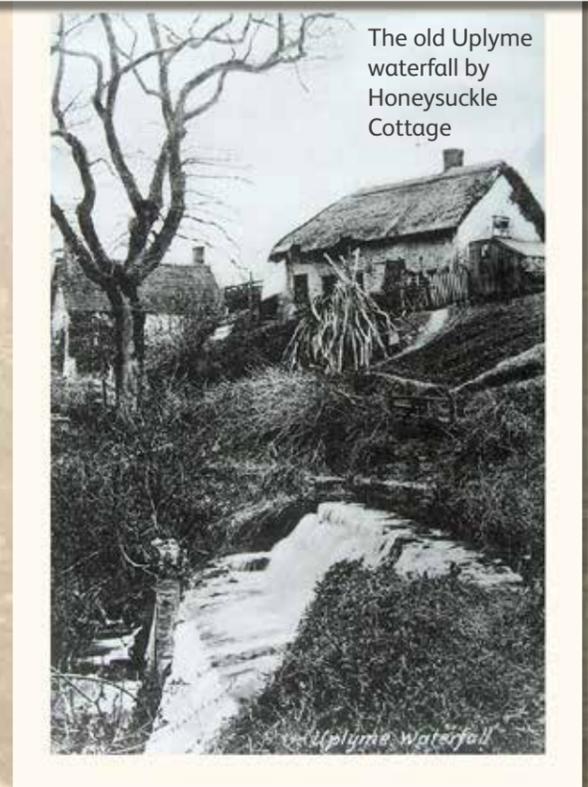
The ford at the end of Mill Green near Jordan Flats - turn of 19th/20th Century



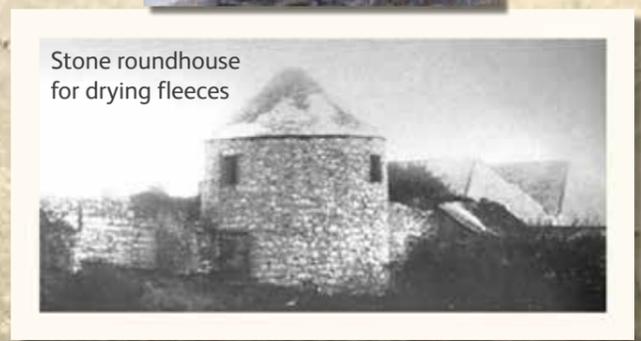
Dipper

## Mills and makers

There were seven mills in the Lim Valley in the 18th century and one cloth drying stove. The main products and uses at that time were woollen cloth, silk thread, linseed oil, oil cake, twine, rope, nets, flour, leather and even hydroelectricity and electric lightbulb filaments! The textile mills were early examples of the factory system and there are still substantial buildings in good condition at four of the mills: three are used as houses or flats and the fourth is the Town Mill. The others have subsequently all but disappeared.



The old Uplyme waterfall by Honeysuckle Cottage



Stone roundhouse for drying fleeces



The old mill



# The River Lim Path from Uplyme to Lyme Regis

Enjoy a 1.5 mile / 2.4km walk along The River Lim Path from Uplyme to Lyme Regis. See the historical remnants of the mills that were at the centre of the 18th and 19th century wool and cloth industry in the Lim Valley.

Please note that it is not possible or permitted to cycle on the whole length of the River Lim Path.



1

From Uplyme Village Hall turn right at the entrance of the car park and follow the footpath to the Talbot Inn car park. Leave the car park and follow the path along the edge of the paddock known as Hackers Mead until you reach Church Street. (Alternatively, if accessing the path from elsewhere in Uplyme, such as Gore Lane, look out for the footpath sign on the wall of the Talbot Inn, cross the main road, B3165, and enter the steeply sloping part of Church Street.)

2

At the metal gates marked 'Cranbrook' enter the wooded area known as The Glen. Follow the path until you reach Springhead Road. (Take care here - traffic can travel at speed down the hill). Cross the road, enter Mill Lane and follow the short tarmac section of the path, keeping to the right. The house called Millstream on the right, below the path, was a weaver's cottage. The property on the right-hand side known as Pitt White is built on the site of the former waterside cloth factory, destroyed by fire in 1866. It produced top quality cloth for coats similar to that used in duffle coats today. At the thatched Honeysuckle Cottage bear right down the steps. The remains of the weir that served The Old Mill further downstream can be seen in the riverbed and the leat follows the path but at a lower level, near the river.

3

Follow the path down through a narrow section of this former packhorse trail until you reach the thatched Old Mill. Then, after further steps, cross the bridge over the River Lim\* into Bumpy Field.\*\* (Cattle graze here so please keep dogs under control and make sure both gates are firmly closed). Walk across the flat section until you reach another gate, leave the field and follow the path down, crossing two bridges over the River Lim. The path enters a wooded area near Middle Mill Farm.

\* (You can join the Wessex Ridgeway here by taking the path to the left near the bridge.)  
 \*\* (Return to Uplyme here by following the sign, up the steep hill to Haye Lane).

4

Continue along the path with the River Lim on the right until you reach a tarmac section, then Horn Bridge.\* The Edwardian house at the junction with Roman Road stands on the site of the former Horn Tavern Mill that went out of use in the 1820s.\*\* Cross the road and continue on the tarmac path with the River Lim on your right (note that cars use this path). The flats on the left were once Colway Mill, originally used for oil cake, a cloth fulling mill, twine, rope and sailcloth.

\* (Along this section, a footpath to the right leads to Haye Lane through the fields of Haye Farm. At Haye Lane, you can go left to Roman Road or right to reach the main B3165 road.)

\*\* (For another route into town turn right at the bridge, walk along Roman Road a little then take the footpath immediately left up through Slopes Farm to the main B3165 road.)

5

Cross Woodmead Road and continue down the road known as Jericho (look out for traffic in this section). Cross the small footbridge, noting the sloping accesses into the river: a ford. Continue past a small park on the left until you reach Mill Green. Note the large stone setts that slope down to the river. Take a rest in the nearby small seating area, overlooking the river.

The mill here was New Factory, now known as Jordan Flats. Follow the road around, past the former weavers' cottages until you reach the junction with Hill Road and Gosling Bridge. Look up to the left here to see the remains of the roundhouse, built around 1800 to dry fleeces around a central iron stove.

6

Cross the road\* and follow the ramp with the River Lim on the right and the mill leat on the left until you arrive at the Town Mill. To reach the town centre walk through Town Mill Square, up the steps, through the car park then take the right path that leads to Broad Street. Alternatively, to reach the seafront and Lyme Regis Museum from here turn left at the bridge and follow Coombe Street, bearing right, to the traffic lights and the road junction.



LYME BAY