

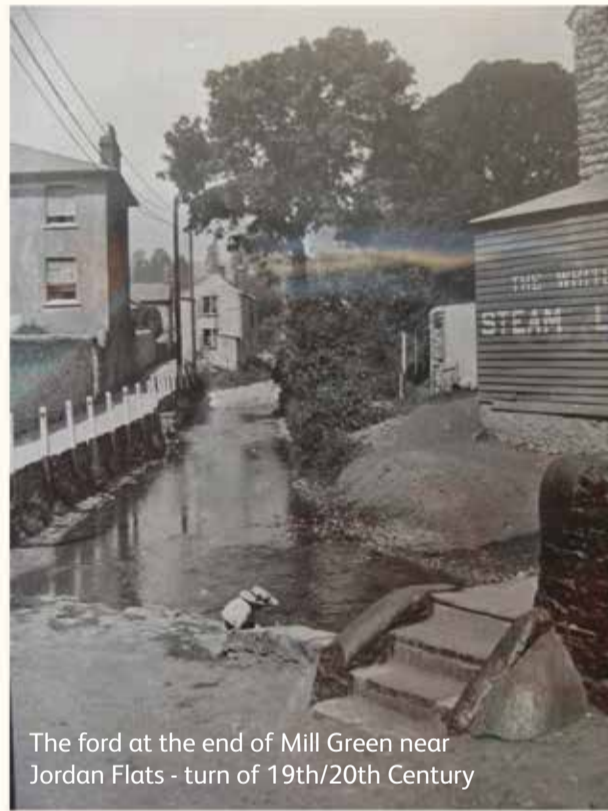
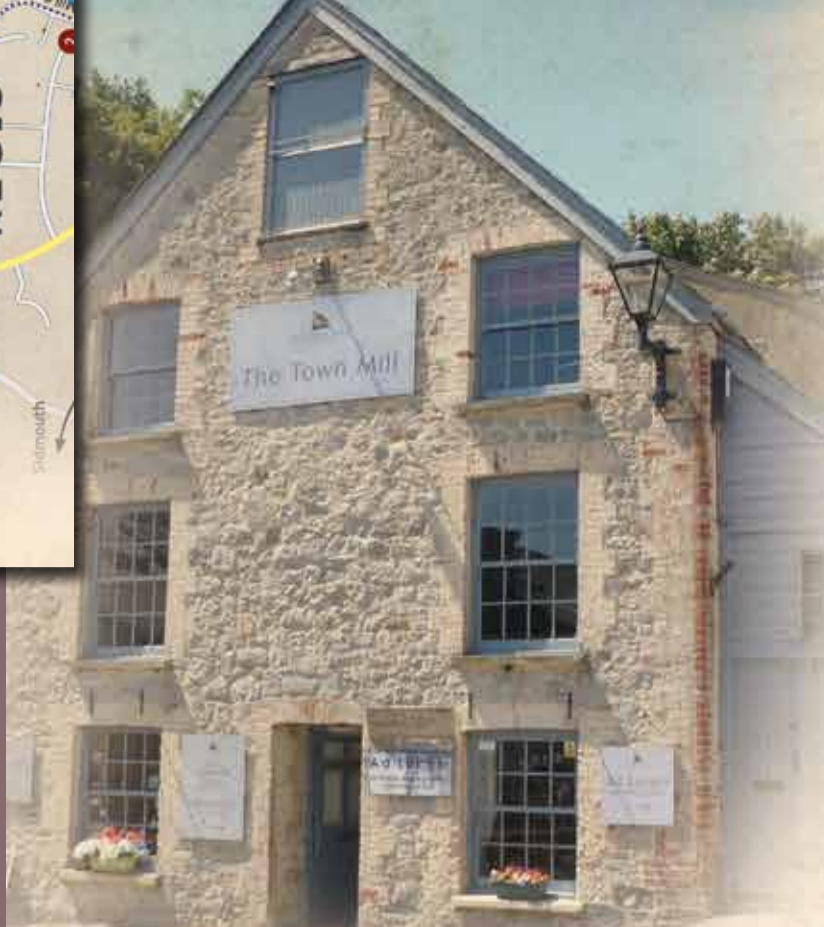
The River Lim Path from Lyme Regis to Uplyme

Discover the history, old mills and wildlife of the River Lim Valley by walking along the beautiful and restored footpath from Lyme Regis to the village of Uplyme, 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 Uplyme is only 1.5 miles / 2.4km!

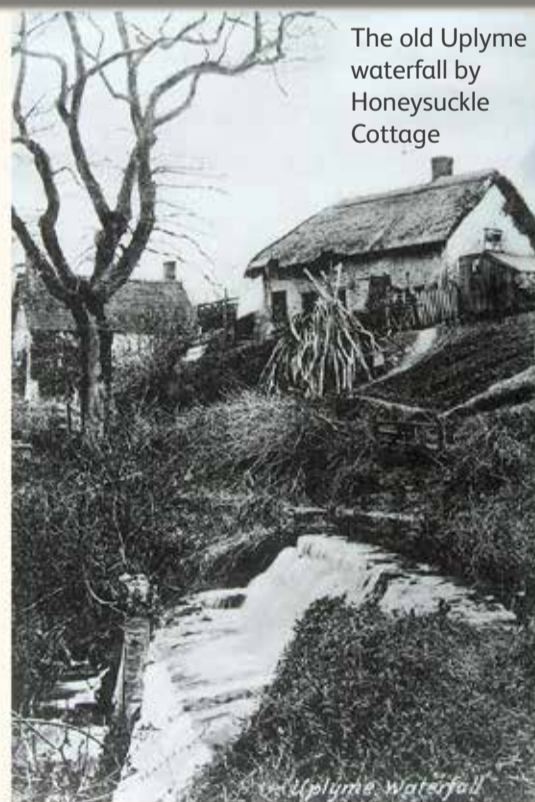
Mills and makers

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 mill



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



The old Uplyme waterfall by Honeysuckle Cottage

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.

Did you know..?

Section 1 (See map overleaf)

A leat is an open watercourse conducting water to a mill, to drive the wheel machinery.

Section 2

A sett is a paving block. The ford on the River Lim at Jordan Flats is thought to be the longest in England. Other sloping access points can be seen at the northern end, close to the footbridge that crosses the river.

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.



Dipper

Section 4

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.

Stone roundhouse for drying fleeces



The River Lim Path from Lyme Regis to Uplyme

Enjoy a 1.5 mile / 2.4km walk along The River Lim Path from Lyme Regis to Uplyme. 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 the Lyme Regis Philpot Museum, cross the road and walk up Coombe Street. Turn left opposite Lyme Fish Bar into Mill Lane and down to the River Lim and Town Mill. Alternatively, start in Broad Street from the lane next to the Royal Lion hotel to reach Town Mill.

Take the narrow path to the right hand side of Town Mill, passing the eight kilowatt hydroelectric generator. Note the mill leat on the left hand side. Continue to The Lynch (take care of children and dogs as there is a steep drop to the River Lim). At Gosling Bridge look to the right and notice the remains of the drying stove, or roundhouse. This was built around 1800 to dry fleeces around a central iron stove.

2

Follow the footpath sign, bear right up Mill Green and continue along the road until you reach the river again at the ford. 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 Jordan Flats. Pass the small seating area, cross the bridge and continue along Jericho, the tarmac path on the opposite side of the river, as far as the Woodmead Road bridge and the weir.

Cross Woodmead Road and continue along Windsor Terrace as far as Colway Mill, now Higher Mill Flats.

3

Continue along Windsor Terrace to Horn Bridge, past the remains and line of the leat to Colway Mill on the right.* On the opposite side of Colway Lane is an Edwardian house that stands on the site of the former Horn Tavern Mill, a mill that went out of use in the 1820s. Follow the public footpath sign directly ahead along the tarmac lane.**

*(Alternative route back into town: turn left at Horn Bridge and walk up Roman Road a short way, then take the footpath immediately left up through Slopes Farm to the main road back to Lyme.)

** (For another alternative route back into town: partway along this lane take the footpath to the left across the fields to Haye Lane, then left to Roman Road and then right to reach the main road).

4

Take the left-hand fork, signposted towards Uplyme. Cross two footbridges near Middle Mill Farm. Cross Bumpy Field on the lower, flat section, heading for the gate. Keep dogs under control and make sure both gates are firmly closed as cattle graze here. (At the far gate, a footpath to the left up the steep hill leads to Haye Lane and the Black Dog Tea Rooms). Staying on the main path, cross the river Lim and follow the footpath to the left up the steps, past the thatched Old Mill, with its wheel. This route is part of an ancient pack horse trail, now a bridleway, from the county boundary as far as Springhead Road, Uplyme.

Notice the remains of the leat to Old Mill at the bottom of the steep bank and the remains of the mill's weir in the riverbed at the far end of this section, near the steps up to Mill Lane.

5

Climb the steps and pass Honeysuckle Cottage. The house called Millstream on the left-hand side below the path is a former weaver's cottage. Continue along the path. The property on the left-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. Continue past Brooke Cottage as far as Springhead Road and cross the road, passing between the stone gate posts. (Take care as traffic travels at speed down the hill).

6

Follow the path into the wooded area known as The Glen. After about 100m / 110yds, the wall of Uplyme's former Rectory can be seen on the left. Follow the pathway as far as Church Street. Cross the road and continue along the path around the edge of Hackers Mead that ends at the Talbot Inn's car park. Take the path to the right, cross the B3165 onto the pavement to reach Uplyme Village Hall and to continue on the East Devon Way. Uplyme Church can be seen on the higher ground to the right and the village shop is nearby. Buses back to Lyme Regis can be caught from the bus stop near the Talbot Inn car park.