



Accessibility Guide

The Town Mill, Lyme Regis

This guide provides an overview of the Town Mill Trust's guidelines regarding access to the historic mill buildings and its grounds; including our commitment to equal opportunities in employment.

Introduction

The Town Mill is located in Mill Lane, Lyme Regis. The working watermill is staffed by volunteers, and dependent on their availability, aims to be open daily in peak season, 11am to 4pm, for miller-

guided tours. The mill building houses a working stone-ground flour watermill over three floors: the first and second floors are currently accessible only by stairs. There is disabled access via a viewing gallery to the ground floor.

Admission is free although donations to our charitable trust are encouraged.

The ancient mill buildings are let to artisan tenants who welcome visitors to their creative studios. Refreshments are available at the café, brewery and bakery/deli. There are also two art galleries, a courtyard and a garden.

Information regarding how to get to The Town Mill including links to local transport is located in the 'Visitors Information/ How To Find Us' section of our website and a map can be found on the back cover of our 'What's On' brochure which is available onsite, or by post/email on request.

1. Statement of general principles

The Town Mill Trust is committed to achieving the widest possible access to both the working watermill and the beautiful grounds it stands in. The Mill aims to be as accessible as possible to everyone regardless of education, income, residence, or personal circumstances.

We welcome visitors with disabilities. Our aim is to make access to the mill as easy as possible for as many people as possible and to allow everyone to enjoy their visit in as many ways as we can feasibly provide.

The mill and its grounds and buildings are owned by the Town Mill Trust and as an organisation and equal opportunities employer, the Trust aims to comply with the provisions of the Equalities Act 2010 and with the amendments made since.

2. Access to The Town Mill

Travelling to The Town Mill

By train: Our nearest station is Axminster, which is 15 minutes away by bus or taxi.

By Bus: First Bus, route 31, runs between Axminster and Dorchester. The X53 Jurassic Coast bus runs between Axminster and Weymouth. 9A runs between Exeter and Lyme Regis. X52 runs between Exeter and Bridport.

By road: The Town Mill is in the centre of Lyme Regis, DT7 3PU

There is no public parking at the mill, so the site is best approached on foot. However, the mill is close to several car parks:

From the town council owned **Woodmead Car Park** in Hill Road (DT7 3PG), walk down the hill to the bridge over the River Lym and turn right onto the path between the river and the millstream. This riverside walk, also known as the Lynch Path (see

photos), leads you straight to us. There is one step from the road to the path, and a slope (pictured) at the end of the path, which brings you to ground level with the mill complex.

The Lynch Path



From Lyme Regis Town Centre

To get to The Town Mill from the top of Broad Street, stroll down Sherborne Lane. At the bottom, turn right over the river, then right again onto the Riverside Walk/Lynch Path. Or walk down Broad Street, turn left at Drake's Way and walk across Broad Street Car Park to our footbridge.

There are blue badge spaces (pictured) at West Dorset District Council-owned

Cobb Gate Car Park (DT7 3QD) and Broad Street Car Park (DT7 3QR):

From the bottom of Broad Street, go left, up through the Broad Street car park. This leads directly to The Town Mill via steps and a footbridge (pictured). The footbridge is wooden with two handrails, and is reached by a mixture of metal and wood/gravel steps with one handrail.

Broad Street Car Park to Mill via footbridge



Cobb Gate Car Park to Mill via Coombe Street/Mill Lane

Cross Broad Street and follow round to the traffic lights. Turn left into Coombe Street (one-way street) and continue for about 250 yards. Not all of Coombe Street features a pavement. Then take the first left, Mill Lane, and you'll see The Town Mill straight ahead.



There are approx. 3 parking spaces on Coombe Street, on the corner of Mill Lane, where you can park free for 2 hours.



Physical access

The Town Mill seeks to provide visitors with equal access to the buildings, making alternative provision where necessary, within the constraints of a Grade II Listed Building. It ensures that current and future building projects provide appropriate physical access for all visitors. Expert advice is sought wherever necessary.

Access to our buildings

The Town Mill Trust wants to make all visitors welcome.

Signage - large signs have been erected at the start of all three possible routes to the Mill: in the car park at Broad Street, at

the start of the Lynch Path and at the top of Mill Lane.



The Courtyard - The area central to all mill buildings is a mediaeval cobbled courtyard. It is uneven in places but is wheelchair accessible (photo). The area is regularly maintained to remove leaves and other obstacles to ensure easy access.



Entrance to Working Watermill

Entry to watermill tours and to Kate's Kitchen Bakery & Deli is over a low step and down two anti-slip taped steps:



The Meal Floor

From inside the mill, the ground floor (Meal Floor) is accessed through 3 single doorways and a low step.



A wheelchair accessible viewing platform into The Meal Floor can also be accessed from the courtyard:



The Hydroelectric Turbine

The turbine is situated up two stone steps from ground floor level:



The Stone Floor

The first floor (Stone Floor) is accessed by XX steps and a single doorway:



This floor can also be accessed on request, via only 4 steps, using the double fire escape doors on the Lynch Path:



The Sack Floor

The second floor, (Sack Floor) is accessed by XX steps and a single doorway featuring one anti-slip taped step:



All areas are well lit with spotlights and ceiling lights. Seating is available on all floors of the mill. A touch screen monitor in The Miller's Kitchen on the ground floor shows a film of the miller in action over all three floors, for those who would prefer not to, or are unable to, enter the working watermill to witness the tour in person.

Dogs are welcome everywhere on site, but only assistance dogs are permitted inside the working watermill. Water bowls are available onsite and dog treats on request.

Accessible toilets

There is an accessible toilet inside The Malthouse Gallery, adjacent to the main mill building (pictured). There is a further accessible toilet by The Courtyard Café which is currently being renovated. The site's main toilets are also by The Courtyard Café.



Internet Access

There is free WIFI available at The Town Mill with a passcode, which can be provided by café or brewery staff or Mill volunteers.

The Courtyard Café

The café is located on the ground level and there is sufficient space for wheelchair access, however assistance is available on request. The refreshment areas inside and outside (in the courtyard and garden) have moveable chairs and tables to allow wheelchairs to manoeuvre. A range of different dietary requirements, including vegan, vegetarian, dairy free and gluten free, are catered for.



Lyme Regis Brewery

The brewery is on the ground floor, and the interior retail area is accessed by two semi-circular brick steps. The interior seating area is accessed via two wooden

steps. The outside seating area is in the cobbled courtyard (pictured on page 5):



Town Mill Pottery

The pottery is accessed from the courtyard, at ground floor level, up one concrete step and through a wide doorway with a handrail:



Ad Lucem Jewellery

The silversmith and jeweller is situated in the Miller's Parlour at the front of the main mill building. There are steps down into the studio and two single doorways, one with a handrail:



Sew La Di Da Vintage

The sewing sanctuary is on the first floor of the Stable Block, above the pottery. It is accessed via XX wooden steps:



The Malthouse Gallery

The Malthouse has level access across a flat bridge, and an accessible toilet:



The Courtyard Gallery

The Courtyard Gallery is accessed from the cobbled courtyard, through wide double doors. There is a low threshold/step to enter the gallery:



The Millers Garden

There is level access from the cobbled courtyard to the Miller's Garden through a wide double gate, and wheelchair accessible pathways around the raised flowerbeds. There is outdoor seating for café customers, and an additional bench at the bottom of the garden.



Learning about the Mill

Accessibility is not just about making a space physically accessible. As well as eliminating material obstacles for visitors, the Town Mill strives to be relevant, engaging and accessible to marginalised groups through exhibitions and activities, considering their needs.

The Town Mill encourages and enables the widest possible audience to engage with the miller-guided tour. It seeks ways to improve and extend access to information and research. The Mill continues to consult people with access needs, specialists and other attractions, on the best and most practical ways of improving intellectual access.

Website: The Town Mill's website www.townmill.org.uk meets W3c/WAI international standards. It is regularly updated and is fully responsive for mobiles and tablets as well as PCs. It has been made as user-friendly as possible

and we are currently developing a button on the home page to enable users with visual impairments to switch to a high contrast version. Accessibility at the Mill complex is detailed in our Access Statement under the 'Visit us' pages and is available in standard and large print.

We can reserve time for groups who require a quieter environment to visit the watermill. Please contact us to discuss.

Safety in the buildings

The Town Mill takes account of the needs of visitors with disabilities in all safety procedures. It is the policy of the Town Mill to enable all occupants of the building to be evacuated at the same time in an emergency.

The Town Mill also provides all staff trained in first-aid and fire safety with training in the evacuation of people with disabilities and other emergency

procedures. The fire alarm is checked weekly.

Information and signage

The Town Mill strives to provide information in forms that are accessible to all visitors and to cater for most needs. We provide information about our miller-guided tours and our hydro-electric turbine in Braille, and large or giant print formatted versions are available on advance request. Signage is designed and situated to be as legible as possible. We have recently introduced a portable audio loop for hearing impaired visitors, available inside the watermill, for use during miller-guided tours.

The Town Mill undertakes to review regularly its methods of communication and to adopt best practice in this area.

3. Employment and training

The Town Mill Trust aims to ensure that its employment practices do not discriminate against people with disabilities and maintains a system for monitoring and reviewing procedures.

Disability awareness training for staff and volunteers is conducted and maintained. The staff and volunteers are offered First Aid training and all have attended diversity, equality and discrimination training. Appropriate staff and volunteers are DBS checked.

The Trustees meet regularly to discuss improvements to the Town Mill's provision and to agree upon recommendations for further action. In 2018, we hope to offer our staff and volunteers dementia training to become Dementia Friends, and achieve our Autism Friendly Award. In the meantime, it is our intention to make reasonable adjustments for our visitors with autism or dementia and we welcome

discussion prior to the visit as to how we can offer the best possible visitor experience.

A copy of this statement is available to all members of the public on request. We welcome any feedback or suggestions regarding your visit or this Accessibility Guide to improve our visitor experience. Please address your suggestions to:

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