



Historical Introduction

At different times throughout history, Newport and Carisbrooke have both been the capital of the Isle of Wight. This has been largely due to the proximity of both towns to the navigable River Medina and the requirements of trade and of protecting the Island from invasion.

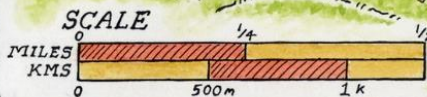


The Lukely Brook, which rises from springs in the Bowcombe Valley was an important source of fresh drinking water for the town and was also harnessed as a source of energy for the seven mills once located along the brook. The unusual name of the brook is extremely ancient and means 'stream of the shining way'.

Introduction to the Mill Trail

The Mill Trail celebrates the industrial heritage of the rivers of Newport and Carisbrooke and can be enjoyed as either an eight-mile town and country walk or a shorter four-mile circular town route. There were once 14 mills located along the River Medina and Lukely Brook, plus several breweries, a tannery and crockers and dyers; all industries requiring

The Mill Trail Heritage Walk



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large quantities of water for their work. Many of these buildings are still standing and can be seen along this route.

If you decide to walk the longer town and country route, we recommend that you are well prepared with suitable footwear and relevant supplies.

The trail starts at the junction of Whitcombe Road and Froglands Lane. There is a public car park and it is also served by Carisbrooke Priory bus stop. Walk down the lane, towards the bottom you enter an area known as Frosthills where a spring, not yet visible, issues from under the right of the lane.

1. Clatterford Paper Mill



At Clatterford the main stream is joined by a tributary rising towards the bottom of Froglands Lane. A paper mill was built upon the banks in 1710. It was owned by an Isaac Tipps, who is thought to have produced a coarse wrapping paper. The discovery of 18th Century Newport documents carrying a watermark with the initials "IT" may prove that Tipps also produced a rare commodity of writing paper which was only available to certain social classes and for the recording of commerce and essential borough and council meetings. The mill did not succeed; it was abandoned and unfortunately nothing now remains apart from the two man-made ponds for soaking timber which are just visible behind the hedge as you near the ford.

At the bottom follow the lane around to the right, among the trees further on the right are the soaking ponds mentioned above.

A little further on you will hear the new stream cascading down on the right-hand side, this is the approximate site of the Paper Mill. Carry on heading over the ford, up the rise and turn right into Millers Lane

2. Carisbrooke Mill

It is possible that a mill has stood here since Roman times as a Roman millstone was discovered here in the 1930s. The mill race is also thought to be the longest in the South

of England at 250 metres. Carisbrooke Mill is now a private residence. It once stood within nine acres of pasture and waterways and was a working flour mill until 1939. When the mill was bought in 1983 the oldest parts had completely collapsed and Regency House, home of a previous prosperous miller, had been demolished some years before. Millbank Cottage (on Castle Street), and some store buildings related to the mill have been restored and are still standing.



As you walk along Millers Lane, the mill pond and the mill head race is to your left and the mill itself is behind the houses as you reach the end of the lane. Turn left at the end of the lane and take the walkway beside the ford. The mill tail race exits at the end of the ford to the left. A short stroll, now in Castle Street takes you up to Carisbrooke High St. with the church opposite. Turn right and down to use the pedestrian crossing to gain the pavement on the left. Continue down the High Street. You can glimpse Priory Mill Pond from the car park of the Eight Bells Public House.

3. Priory Mill

Located at the foot of Carisbrooke High Street. It was purchased by the Newport and Carisbrooke Water Company in 1848 and used to pump clean water to the town. Mill Cottage still stands, now called Waterworks Cottage. The large mill pond is still in situ to the rear of the mill.

Having neared the end of the High Street, Priory Mill, now the waterworks, can be seen across the road next to the ford. The spillway goes under the road at this point with its tail race alongside the road on the opposite side.

The Sanders Family — Farmers and Water Carriers

At the small roundabout, a little further on, the stream goes under the road to the left into the property of the Sanders family. They were farmers, watercress growers and suppliers of water to the citizens of Newport. Water at the time was transported to the town by cart, as the river water was polluted downstream of Carisbrooke.

4. Tannery

A tannery stood on the site of the present Ceramic Substrates, just downstream from the watercress beds. This area is now known as Tannery Place. The animal hides were washed in the stream to rid them of the last vestiges of flesh, a notoriously odious undertaking which would certainly have polluted the downstream river enough to make it unsuitable for drinking.



Continue on towards Newport. At the mini roundabout turn left into Wellington Road. In 50 metres turn right along a public footpath parallel to Lukely Brook. Near the end, by railings, glimpses of the former West Mill are obtained over the fence on the right.

5. West Mill

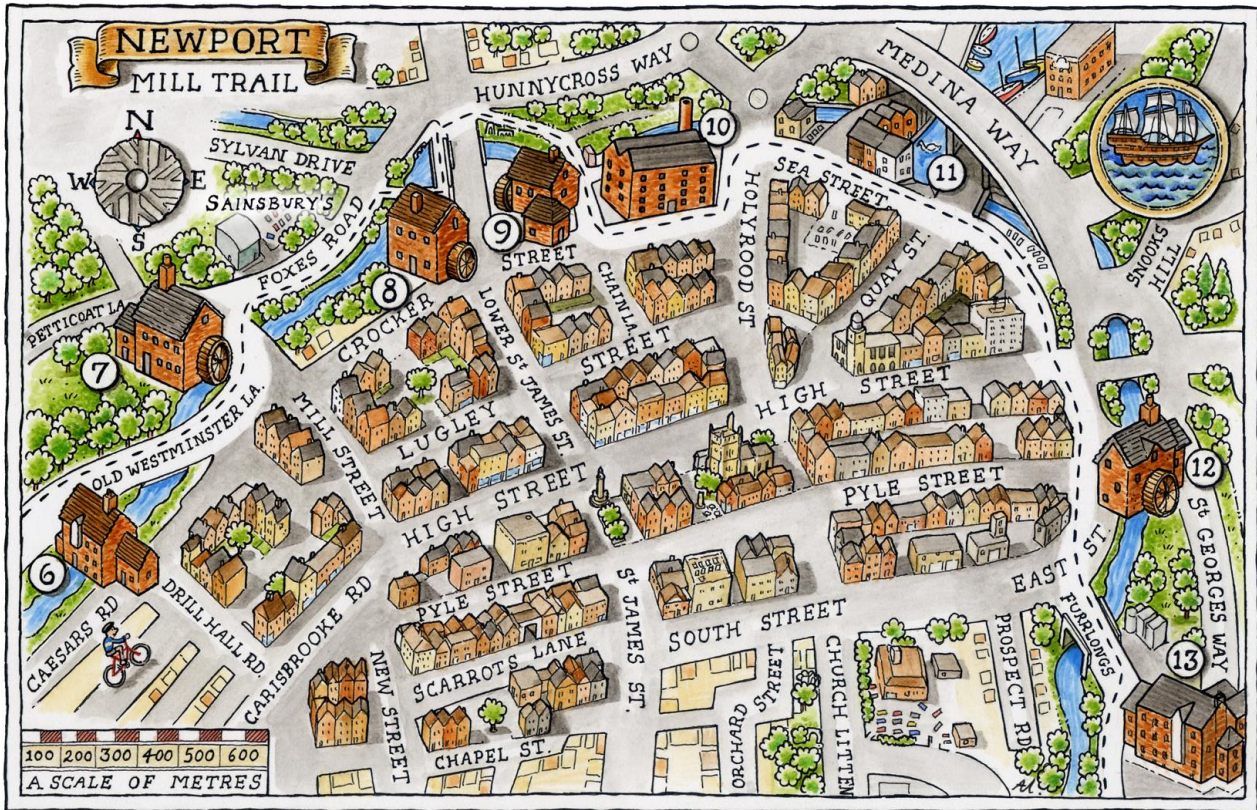


Located just off the Carisbrooke Road. The mill pond transected the bottom of Wellington Road and was infilled to create the new road. The Mill Cottage still stands on Carisbrooke Road, The mill itself ceased working in the 1950s. It has been converted into flats.

Westminster Mill Pond

At the end of Wilver Road the stream can be seen by the bridge at this point where it once entered Westminster Mill Pond, a beautiful lake at the bottom of the gardens on Caesar Road. The stream ran through the mill pond at this point. It is now a modern housing development.

Continue along Wilver Road. Ahead you will see a group of large trees, keep them on your right. The stream ran through the mill pond from this point. Continue through the housing development. Once through the narrow walkway, Westminster Mill is immediately on your right.



6. Westminster Mill

Westminster Mill was a fulling mill which processed cloth made from local wool. The building was originally built in 1773 and still survives at Westminster Place, converted into private residences.



At the end of Old Westminster Lane turn left along Mill Street and the site of Home Mill is on the left when crossing Lukely Brook.

7. Home Mill

Located on what is now a residential complex at the junction of Foxes Lane and Mill Street, originally a corn mill. The Mill was purchased in 1935 and demolished to make way for a dairy. The Lukely Brook ran in culverts under the building. It was known as the

Creameries for many years and was, until recently a working dairy. The Lukely Brook was deculverted when the residential complex was built.

Turn right along Foxes Road, past Sainsbury's store to reach Towngate Pond and Mill. As you approach the pond look down to the right by the footbridge, to the right of what would have been Towngate Mill, now housing. Walk through the pond area.

8. Towngate Mill

This was originally a Medieval mill site, although the most modern mill was built in 1836. The mill ceased working in 1939 and was demolished in 1998 due to its unsafe condition when Sainsbury's developed the area. It stood at the bottom of St. James Street adjacent to the pond.



Towngate Pond

Although a large pond, it was much larger than now and stood adjacent to Towngate Mill, it was not in fact its mill pond. Towngate Mill received its power from a mill dam further upstream. This pond was used as a public facility for a town with a limited water supply for watering beasts on their way to market and for tightening iron rimmed cartwheels that had become loose. There was a slope at either end of the pond for easy access. The pond is also part of the mill pond for St. Cross Mill.

Cross the road at the traffic lights and follow the brook on a tarmac path. The depiction of arches in two monuments records the railway viaduct which crossed this area. The path leads to St. Cross Mill.

9. St. Cross Mill

Located in the oldest part of Newport and the last mill to be found on the Lukely Brook. The mill's last working use was as a store for Fisk and Fisher, suppliers of animal feed and it ceased to be used in 1939. The Mill is still standing today and its probable that this site is the oldest milling site on the Isle of Wight.

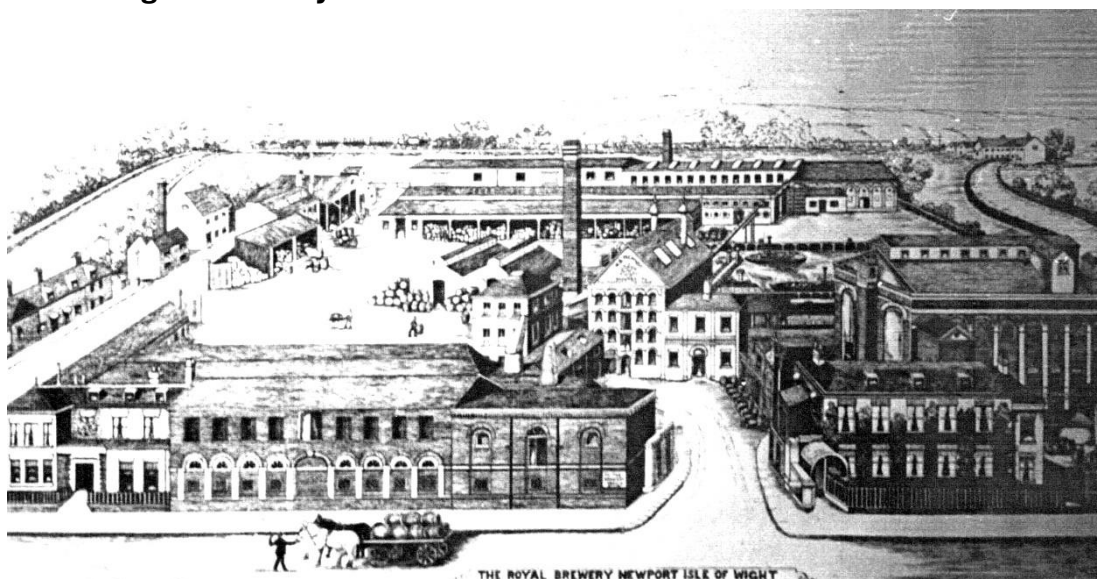


Snake around the alley at the corner of the mill and exit into Crocker Street. Turn left.

Crocker Street

Originally called North Street, the name change was brought about by a local bye-law banishing the crockers, those makers of earthenware utensils, from the town owing to the risk of fire. They were moved to this location as it was on the periphery of town and in close proximity to a plentiful water supply. The street also housed other local industries that required a good water supply for their trade, in particular, dyers, tanners and brewers.

10. Mew Langton Brewery



As you proceed along Crocker Street the brewery complex would have been on your left, part of it still stands and has been converted into flats. The decorative iron work at the windows can still be seen. Records show that in 1643, there were at least three brewers on Crocker Street and five areas of land were shown to be in the possession of the 'Mewes' family. In the late 18th century, Benjamin Mew started to purchase local public houses and beer shops and by 1814 he had a brewers premises on Crocker Street. The business prospered and in 1850, William Baron Mew was granted a Royal Charter to supply Queen Victoria at Osborne House. In the 1870s, Walter Langton put capital into the business and the company became known as Mew Langton and Co.

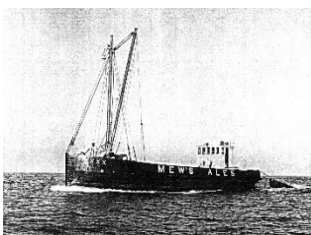
Part of the Brewery complex still stands on Crocker Street and has been converted into flats. The decorative iron work at the windows can still be seen.

At the end of Crocker Street turn left and then right into Sea Street where you will see Quay Arts Centre up ahead on your left. An excellent place to stop for a break.

The brewery used the Lukely Brook to transport their barrels. Lock gates were placed across the mouth of the stream just at the point where it joined the navigable section of the Medina. This enabled flat-bottomed barges to operate from within the brewery to the Medina where ships were loaded with beer for the mainland. The lock gateposts can still be seen by the footbridge at the Quay Arts Centre.

11. Quay Arts

The Quay Arts buildings all used to belong to the Mew Langton Brewery and rails to run the barrels around to the ships can still be seen on the terrace at the Quay.



The motor vessel "Wight" was built by Groves and Guttridge in 1920 to trade to the mainland. The brewery ceased production in 1969 and the site was sold to Medina Borough Council in 1979.

The next bit can be a bit confusing but continue across the junction to walk along the car park access road with parking on your left and County Hall on your right. At the end cross the road at the traffic/pedestrian lights and continue forward parallel to the roundabout with the cycle track and traffic to your left. Cross the next road (Pyle Street).

12. Ford Mill

As you crossed Pyle Street, Ford Mill would have been to your left. It was demolished in 1962 and has been totally eclipsed by the road system. Pyle is an old word meaning ford or crossing.

After crossing Pyle Street cross the main road where the cycle lane crosses. With great care! Proceed on the opposite side of the road to the mini roundabout at proceed over the bridge that crossed the Medina. Having crossed the bridge continue with the river on your right to the next turning right, to Matalan. Pan Mill is the mass of buildings now to your left.

13. Pan Mill

Located opposite the cinema complex. The mill was owned for a long time by Leigh Thomas & Co. and was working until relatively recently, producing cattle feed. The mill buildings are still standing today as offices. Some old machinery can still be seen on the side of the building. Pan Mill pond was on what is now Matalan car park which you will see to your left as you now proceed past Matalan



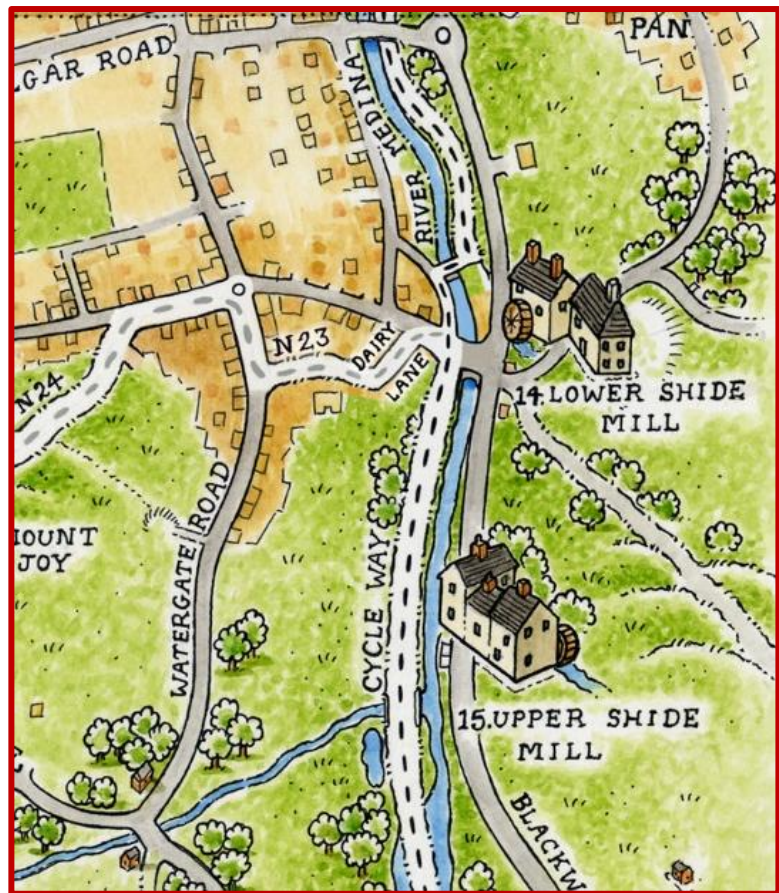
Keep to the path on your right and head under the road bridge, you will now be in a surprisingly green area called Pan Mill Meadows. Follow the path until you come to a footbridge on your right.

14. Lower Shide Mill

Pause at the footbridge and note that a few yards to your left would have been Shide Lower Mill, demolished to make space for St. George's Way.

Continue over the bridge and turn left. You will come across a seating area and information board in a few minutes and then Shide Road.

At this point you can leave the longer trail and return to the car park. To do this turn right along the pavement and almost immediately cross into Dairy Lane (footpath fingerpost). Follow the path alongside the schools and exit into Watergate Road. Turn right down to the mini roundabout and left along Whitepit Lane. Near the end of the chicanes turn left up a track Mount Joy (footpath fingerpost) and follow N24 as it curves up and eventually along Mount Joy cemetery wall. Take path N 26 left at the junction and then right along Nursery Lane to reach the car park and bus stop on Whitcombe Road.

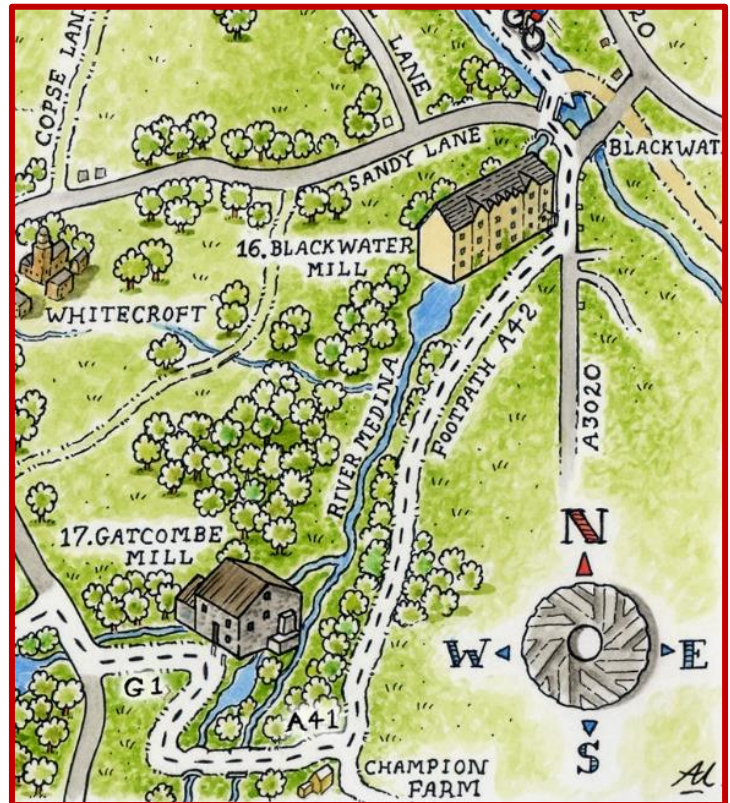


To continue on the longer country route, carefully cross into the cycle track opposite and follow this along the former railway line. A short way along, on the opposite side of the river is Upper Shide Mill.

15. Upper Shide Mill

Located just south of Shide and this still stands as a private residence on the main road out of Newport towards Sandown. A stone incorporated in the garden wall is inscribed EGS 1762, which may denote the date of the mill building. The mill can be glimpsed through the trees to your left as you proceed toward Blackwater on the cycle track. The mill's tail race issues into the river on the left.

Continue along the track to Blackwater. At the end of the cycle track take the footbridge to the right and turn left on Sandy Lane. At the junction with the main road ahead cross the road to the pavement and then walk to the right past the garage and old chapel. Look now for a bus shelter on the other side of the road and cross to it. Behind the shelter find a field gate and the path starts between the fence and the tall trees. Footpath A42 is signposted to Gatcombe and runs along a narrow stretch between fields on your left and Blackwater Mill Pond on your right. You will be walking through farmland at this point so please be aware of the Countryside Code.



16. Blackwater Mill

Along the path behind the hedge is Blackwater Mill. The buildings still stand and exist as a private nursing home. As you walk along the public footpath, glimpses of the large mill pond can be seen.

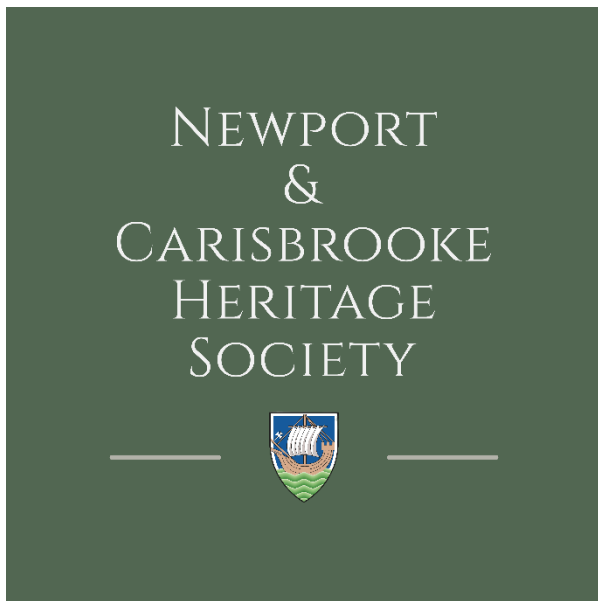
Follow the footpath up and over the rise, it then takes you to the right through a wooded area and then right again toward Gatcombe Mill. You come first to a house to the left and as you bear left past the house the mill can be seen down to the right.



17. Gatcombe Mill

The mill remain with much of the machinery still in situ. The mill ceased working in the 1960s. It is now undergoing some restoration but not as a working mill

You now follow the drive up to the main Chillerton road. Turn right along the road, (no footway so beware) after about 60 yds turn left to Gatcombe Church. Continue on the road, past a right turn and then shortly look for an access track footpath on the right. Follow the path past the foxhound kennels, this is the G6 FP to the Shepherds Trail. Keep going straight ahead on the trail, this will eventually lead you down the sunken track of Dark Lane to the junction of Frogland's Lane and Whitcombe Road where the Mill Trail started.



Newport & Carisbrooke
Community Council

