

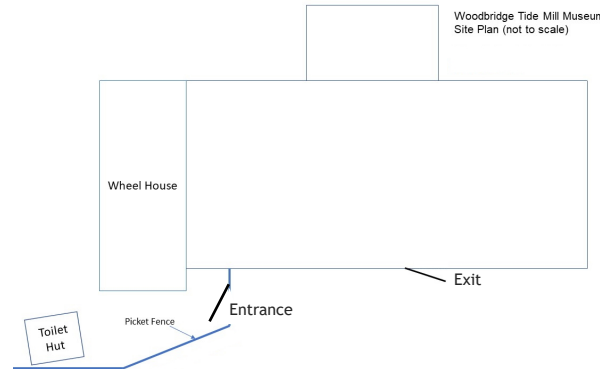
Once back on the **Ground Floor**, please ask the Warden to operate the Tide Pond model for you. This shows very clearly the way that the Mill uses water captured at high tide to provide the power for the milling. Then take a seat and enjoy the short video that tells the history of the Tide Mill, including a fascinating film made in the early 1950's, not long before the mill ceased production.

Please browse our range of locally produced souvenir merchandise, much of it exclusive to the Tide Mill, and perhaps purchase some of our flour. **Please note that we will only be accepting contactless card payments.** We make no additional charge for credit card payments.

Please use the hand sanitizer provided near the exit before you leave the Museum.

Leave by the door under the staircase, and turn left as you exit. Before you is the 18th century quayside where sailing barges would have queued up to load flour from the granary and unload grain for the mill.

Thank you for visiting, we hope that you have enjoyed your time at the Tide Mill. It would really help us if you could leave a favourable rating on TripAdvisor after your visit. It would also help us to continue improving the Museum if you could go to www.xxxx.org and complete the short survey about your visit (we only use anonymous data for our own research and development, we will never sell or share your information).



Thank you for purchasing a ticket to visit Woodbridge Tide Mill Museum. In the wake of Covid-19 we have thought very carefully about re-opening. We have carried out full risk assessments and have put in place procedures and provisions to ensure that your visit is as safe and enjoyable as we can make it. If you are uncomfortable about anything at anytime during your visit, please mention it to the Mill Warden. Please also bear in mind that we are all responsible for our own and each other's well-being. The health and safety of our staff and volunteers is equally important to us. Please respect them during your visit. Thank you.

WOODBIDGE TIDE MILL MUSEUM®



Welcome to one of Suffolk's most iconic and recognisable buildings!

To help you enjoy your visit, and to keep all of our visitors, staff and volunteers safe and healthy, we have produced this short guide.

Please comply with the instructions contained here, and with the guidance of the Mill Warden.

Our new operating arrangements mean that your group has the museum to themselves for 45 minutes.

Please enjoy your visit, and stay safe.



There has been a Tide Mill on this site since at least 1170! The present building was constructed in 1793, and worked until 1957.

The Tide Mill was saved from dereliction when Mrs Jean Gardner purchased the building at auction in 1968. After extensive restoration the Tide Mill Museum was opened to the public in 1973.

Tide Mills use captured tidal water to turn the machinery. When the tide comes in, the channel of the River Deben floods and the water level rises approximately two and a half metres. Your visit begins with a view over **Wyllies Pond**, the Tide Pond that we now use to turn the Mill machinery. At high tide, water flows into the pond through a one-way gate that is hidden in a tunnel in the pond wall. When the tide falls, the one-way gate prevents the water in the pond from flowing out. Once the tide has gone out the miller can open another gate in a second tunnel that runs under your feet from the pond to the wheelhouse. The water, finding its own level, rushes back to the river channel, turning the waterwheel as it goes.

Moving from the graveled area and on to the **Boardwalk**, there are a number of information boards that will give you more details about the Tide Pond. From the Boardwalk you can also look into the **Wheelhouse**, and get your first glimpse of the Tide Mill's mighty machinery.



The waterwheel has 56 'floats' or paddles and the whole thing weighs around 3 tons. It is held on to the 50cm thick square oak shaft only by wooden wedges - ensuring that these are tight is an important maintenance job.

If the weather is good, stay a minute or two on the Boardwalk to enjoy the views across the River Deben. At low tide there will usually be quite a collection of water birds foraging in the exposed mud.

Make your way into the Mill through the door at the end of the Boardwalk. **Once inside the Mill please use the hand sanitizer provided, and respect a social distance between yourself and the Warden/Guide.**

This room was once the Miller's Workshop and would have been crowded with tools, boards and sacking. Moving into the main area of the **Ground Floor**, the machinery pit is on your right.

Power from the waterwheel is transferred along the square shaft to the pit wheel, with its wooden teeth. The pit wheel engages with the cast iron wallower, turning the rotation from horizontal to vertical and carrying power up to the Stone Floor of the Mill and beyond the stones to the Crown Floor. The ground floor is where the Miller controlled much of the milling process - the Warden or a Guide will explain this to you.

Next, make your way up to the Stone Floor by way of the wooden staircase.

Take care on the stairs and please use the handrails, they were cleaned prior to your visit.

The **Stone Floor** is where the real work of the Mill happens. Four sets of French Burr stones once produced around 900kgs of flour per hour!

There are working model and interactive puzzles on this floor. There is also an audio station with push buttons. Please feel free to use them, the Warden ensures that they are sanitized before each visiting group arrives.

As well as the millstones, on this floor, you will see several examples of ways in which quantities of grain and flour were measured and transported around the Mill.

From the centre of the stone enclosure, the vertical drive shaft continues upwards. You can follow it using the staircase in the corner of the Stone Floor.

Please take particular care on these stairs - they are very steep. Again please use the handrails - they'll have been sanitized prior to your arrival.

The **Crown Floor** takes its name from the large wooden gear that sits on top of the vertical shaft. Here, the rotation is turned back to the horizontal. Shafts like the one in the corner to the right of the Crown Wheel would have been used to carry power to other machinery in the mill, such as the sack hoist and the rotating flour sieve that you'll see above your head. **As before, you can safely use the audio station buttons on this floor, as they were cleaned prior to your visit.** There is also information on this floor about the journey that grain makes from the farm to your table as bread. When you are ready, please make your way carefully back down to the Ground Floor.