

1100  
1200  
1300  
1400

1086 – Domesday mills recorded for Shalford, Chilworth, Shere, Albury, Gomshall, Paddington, Abinger and Wotton

1233 – Netley mill sold to Netley Abbey

1333 – Corn and fulling mill listed under same roof at Shere

1380 – ‘Pelterers’ listed in document, attesting to their presence in Shere parish



**Shalford Mill** - A corn mill has existed at West Shalford since at least the time of Domesday, and later came to be known as Pratts Mill. In the early 17th century Shalford Mill itself was built, only becoming disused in 1914.

**East Shalford Mill** - There are no remains today of the corn mill which is likely from the time of Domesday at East Shalford. However, it may have been part of the moated site now occupying the area of Manor Farm today.

**Chilworth Lower Works** - The Lower Works were the gunpowder mills set-up in 1626 by the East India Company on the site of a former Domesday corn, fulling and wire mill (the latter which was built in 1603). After the Middle Works were established, the Lower Works were converted to paper mills in 1704, known as Chilworth Little and Great (the latter which was replaced by Unwin's, until a fire closed it in 1895).

**Chilworth Middle Works** - Development began on the Middle Works site of the Gunpowder Works after the First Dutch War in the 1650s. This would become the main production area, with technology ever-changing (steam power was introduced in 1865 and smokeless explosives in 1882). In 1920 the works were closed, with various buildings used as residences (known as 'tin town').

**Chilworth Upper Works** - The Upper Works are the six 17th century gunpowder incorporating mills which cluster around Postford and Waterloo Ponds, though they fell into disuse and were derelict by at least 1728. In 1915, the Admiralty cordite factory was briefly established on the site.

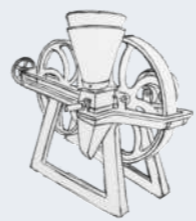
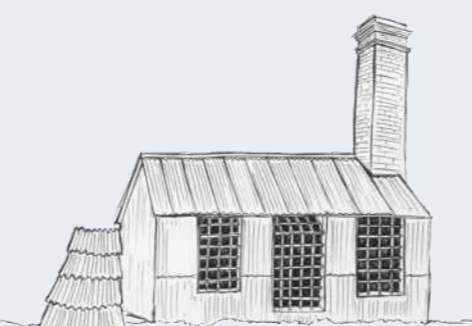
**Postford House Mill** - Following the conversion of the Postford mills for banknote paper production, a new mill was erected at Postford House by the 1830s. After the closure of the Upper Mill at Waterloo Pond, Postford House was the new 'upper' site, though with the decline in banknote issue, the mill was sold in 1865.

**Postford Lower Mill** - In 1809 a paper mill was built at Postford on the site of the former gunpowder mills, and was used for the production of machine-made paper. Though the paper mill closed in 1876, it was briefly a flock mill, and was Bottings ('New Albury') corn mill from 1909 until 1991.

**Postford Upper Mill** - In 1809 a paper mill was built at the Upper Postford site (Waterloo or Pens Pond), replacing a gunpowder mill. The mill was used for the production of banknote paper, but business troubles led to much of its machinery being transferred to the Lower Mill by 1832, leaving the site derelict.

**Albury Mill** - Albury corn mill is likely of medieval origins and served Weston manor. After being burned down in 1830, it was rebuilt in brick and was known as Bottings Mill, until the Bottings moved to the Lower Postford site in 1910. Its water turbines powered Albury Park for a time, until it was converted to offices and private residences.

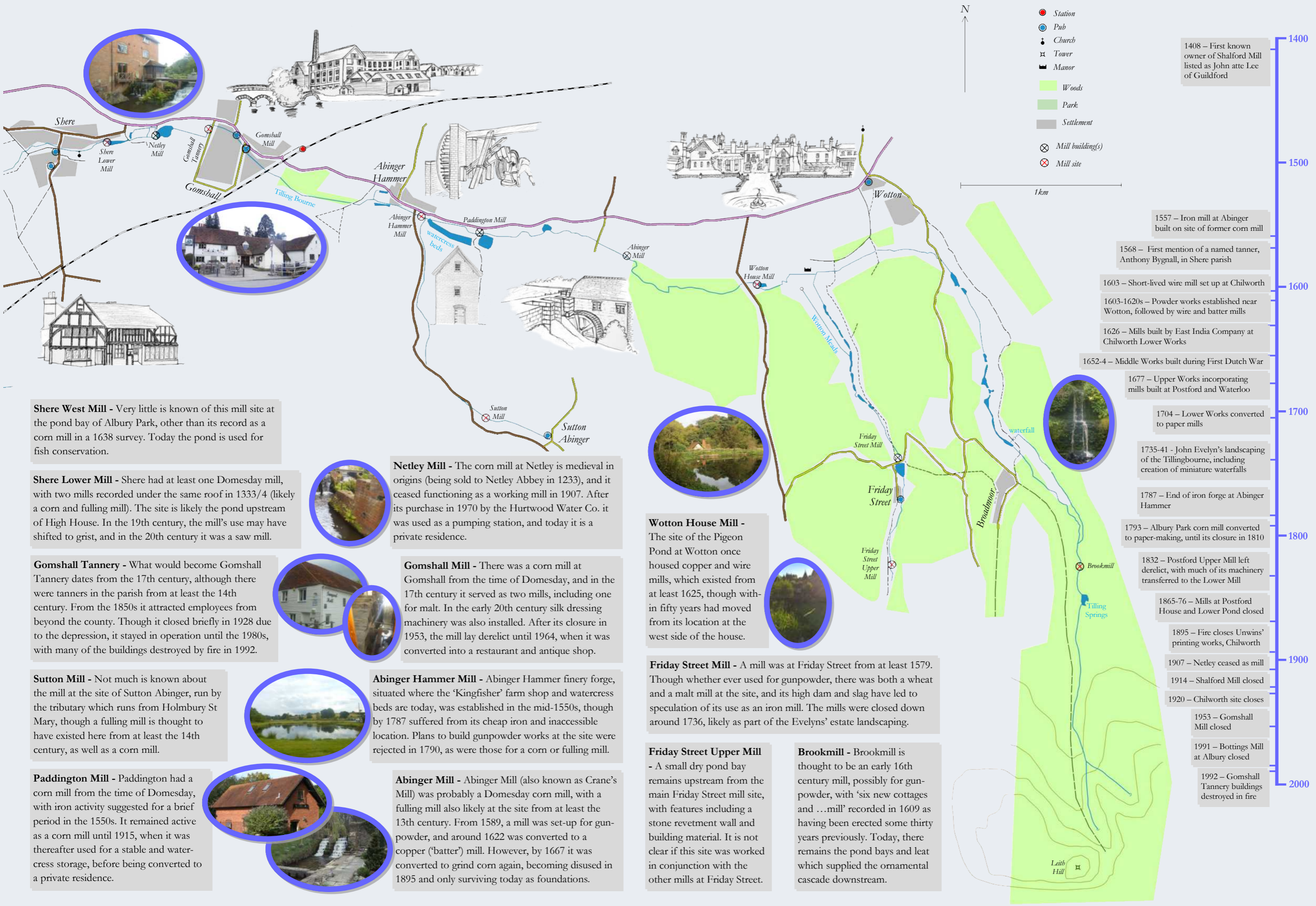
**Albury Park Mill** - A corn mill existed at the Albury Park site from at least 1727, before it was converted to a paper mill in 1793. It was only worked until 1809 when it was replaced by the Postford mills, and it had a brief later use as a laundry.



# TILLINGBOURNE TRAILS

## Mills of the Tillingbourne Valley

*"I do not remember to have seen such Variety of Mills and Works upon so narrow a Brook, and in so little a Compass; there being Mills for Corn, Cloth, Brass, Iron, Powder etc."* – John Evelyn, 1676



**Legend**

- Station
- Pub
- ⊙ Church
- ⊙ Tower
- Manor
- Woods
- Park
- Settlement
- ⊗ Mill building(s)
- ⊗ Mill site

1 km

- 1408 – First known owner of Shalford Mill listed as John atte Lee of Guildford
- 1557 – Iron mill at Abinger built on site of former corn mill
- 1568 – First mention of a named tanner, Anthony Bygnall, in Shere parish
- 1603 – Short-lived wire mill set up at Chilworth
- 1603-1620s – Powder works established near Wotton, followed by wire and batter mills
- 1626 – Mills built by East India Company at Chilworth Lower Works
- 1652-4 – Middle Works built during First Dutch War
- 1677 – Upper Works incorporating mills built at Postford and Waterloo
- 1704 – Lower Works converted to paper mills
- 1735-41 – John Evelyn's landscaping of the Tillingbourne, including creation of miniature waterfalls
- 1787 – End of iron forge at Abinger Hammer
- 1793 – Albury Park corn mill converted to paper-making, until its closure in 1810
- 1832 – Postford Upper Mill left derelict, with much of its machinery transferred to the Lower Mill
- 1865-76 – Mills at Postford House and Lower Pond closed
- 1895 – Fire closes Unwins' printing works, Chilworth
- 1907 – Netley ceased as mill
- 1914 – Shalford Mill closed
- 1920 – Chilworth site closes
- 1953 – Gomshall Mill closed
- 1991 – Bottings Mill at Albury closed
- 1992 – Gomshall Tannery buildings destroyed in fire

**Shere West Mill** - Very little is known of this mill site at the pond bay of Albury Park, other than its record as a corn mill in a 1638 survey. Today the pond is used for fish conservation.

**Shere Lower Mill** - Shere had at least one Domesday mill, with two mills recorded under the same roof in 1333/4 (likely a corn and fulling mill). The site is likely the pond upstream of High House. In the 19th century, the mill's use may have shifted to grist, and in the 20th century it was a saw mill.

**Gomshall Tannery** - What would become Gomshall Tannery dates from the 17th century, although there were tanners in the parish from at least the 14th century. From the 1850s it attracted employees from beyond the county. Though it closed briefly in 1928 due to the depression, it stayed in operation until the 1980s, with many of the buildings destroyed by fire in 1992.

**Sutton Mill** - Not much is known about the mill at the site of Sutton Abinger, run by the tributary which runs from Holmbury St Mary, though a fulling mill is thought to have existed here from at least the 14th century, as well as a corn mill.

**Paddington Mill** - Paddington had a corn mill from the time of Domesday, with iron activity suggested for a brief period in the 1550s. It remained active as a corn mill until 1915, when it was thereafter used for a stable and watercress storage, before being converted to a private residence.

**Netley Mill** - The corn mill at Netley is medieval in origins (being sold to Netley Abbey in 1233), and it ceased functioning as a working mill in 1907. After its purchase in 1970 by the Hurtwood Water Co. it was used as a pumping station, and today it is a private residence.

**Gomshall Mill** - There was a corn mill at Gomshall from the time of Domesday, and in the 17th century it served as two mills, including one for malt. In the early 20th century silk dressing machinery was also installed. After its closure in 1953, the mill lay derelict until 1964, when it was converted into a restaurant and antique shop.

**Abinger Hammer Mill** - Abinger Hammer finery forge, situated where the 'Kingfisher' farm shop and watercress beds are today, was established in the mid-1550s, though by 1787 suffered from its cheap iron and inaccessible location. Plans to build gunpowder works at the site were rejected in 1790, as were those for a corn or fulling mill.

**Abinger Mill** - Abinger Mill (also known as Crane's Mill) was probably a Domesday corn mill, with a fulling mill also likely at the site from at least the 13th century. From 1589, a mill was set-up for gunpowder, and around 1622 was converted to a copper ('batter') mill. However, by 1667 it was converted to grind corn again, becoming disused in 1895 and only surviving today as foundations.

**Wotton House Mill** - The site of the Pigeon Pond at Wotton once housed copper and wire mills, which existed from at least 1625, though within fifty years had moved from its location at the west side of the house.

**Friday Street Mill** - A mill was at Friday Street from at least 1579. Though whether ever used for gunpowder, there was both a wheat and a malt mill at the site, and its high dam and slag have led to speculation of its use as an iron mill. The mills were closed down around 1736, likely as part of the Evelyns' estate landscaping.

**Friday Street Upper Mill** - A small dry pond bay remains upstream from the main Friday Street mill site, with features including a stone revetment wall and building material. It is not clear if this site was worked in conjunction with the other mills at Friday Street.

**Brookmill** - Brookmill is thought to be an early 16th century mill, possibly for gunpowder, with 'six new cottages and ...mill' recorded in 1609 as having been erected some thirty years previously. Today, there remains the pond bays and leat which supplied the ornamental cascade downstream.