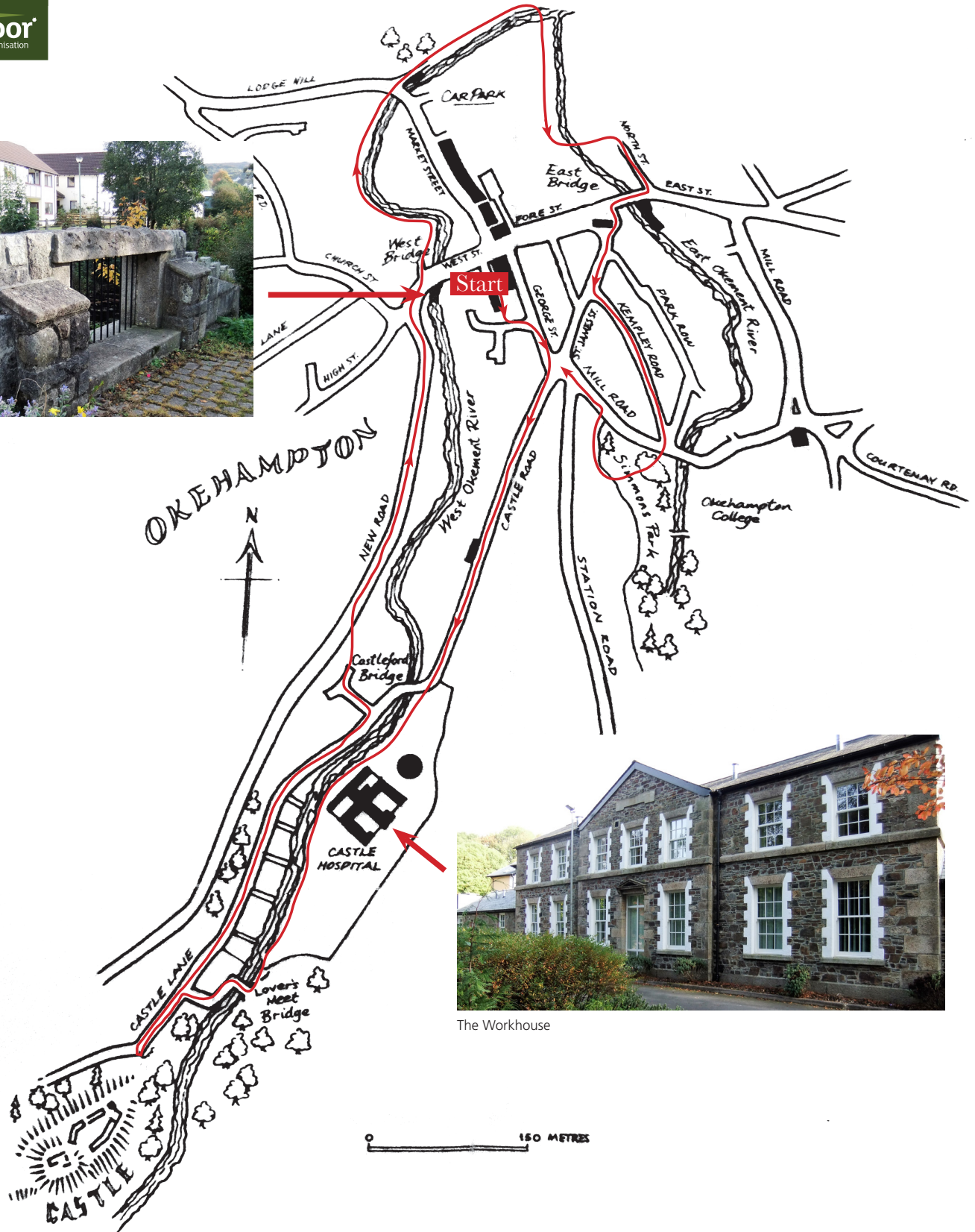




The Old Prison



The Workhouse

# Okehampton Town Trail

Start outside the Museum of Dartmoor Life.

## Okehampton Town Trail

The museum is housed in an old mill building dated 1811. This is a good place to find out more about Okehampton and Dartmoor. As you look at the mill building, turn right and walk beside building and into a car park with a restored water wheel, go out of the car park and turn left, walk to the next road junction, turn right into George Street, with the old police station on the other side of the road. Pass the post office on the right and turn right into Castle Road (signed Okehampton Castle). You will pass the allotments on the right and Brocks Almshouses. These pair of semi-detached almshouse cottages, built in 1847 of Delabole rubble by John Crotch, the Mayor of Okehampton.



Brocks Almshouses

When the road turns right, you go straight on into Castle Ham Lodge. The building in front of you was once the workhouse and later a hospital. On the right you will see a workhouse cell door and information boards about the workhouse. Keeping right beside the river along a public footpath, through the kissing gate and cross the boardwalk and turn right passing another information board and cross the West Ockment River.

This spot is known as Lovers Meet. We turn left and then right through a gate and on to the road, turn right and you soon reach Okehampton Castle. The castle is both one of the oldest and largest castles in Devon and its own visiting ghost.

Retrace your steps along the road pass the gate you had just come through passing the rows of cottages on the right. Just before red postbox on left turn right along the road (the Glen) to car park at the end. Turn left pass houses no 11-19 sign on wall and follow public footpath up hill to New Road. Turn right past the carpet shop which in 1920 was T. Day & Sons Ltd's showroom selling motor cars. The same side of the road you will see the Plymouth Inn and the London Inn. Just before you come to the bridge across the river, on the right is the site of an old prison dating from 1623, you will see some metal railing there today.

Cross the road to the London Inn and walk down the road pass the newsagents and follow the road to end with the car park. Go through the gate and follow path through Chapps Wood, named because there once stood Clapp's Mill on the opposite of the river and it closed in the 1900s. You can see the remains of an old bridge which used to cross the river at this spot.

Go through the gate. Cross the busy main road and head to the lodge building beside the river. This used to be the lodge to Okelands House, a big house which cannot see from here.

Walk down beside the road and the river and cross over the bridge just before large building and left across the grass to a seating area. This is where two rivers meet, the west and east Ockment.

Follow the path beside the river on your right beside a supermarket, into the car park and cross over footbridge into North Road. Turn right pass the building on the right, the Ockment Centre which was once a school, now used as community centre. At far end of the building, turn right through some metal gates (maybe locked out of office hours). This was the old school playground but now a garden open to the public.

Retrace your steps back to North Road and turn right. Carry on to the Library which used to be a Sunday School. At road junction turn right into Fore Street and the main shopping area. Cross East Bridge, which crosses the East Ockment River.

Cross the road via the traffic lights and turn left to Bridge House. This fine building was a pub in 1875 called Bridge House Inn. Around 1900 it belonged to a local builder called Geens. In the 1950s the shop was known as Blatchford, Ass & Company and they made and sold furniture among other things.



Bridge House

Walk upside St James Chapel pass the metal pigs outside the antiques shop. In medieval times pigs were allow to roam the streets clearing up anything that was left behind. St James Chapel was built so that townspeople who could not walk to the Parish Church on the top of the hill outside of town, could go to church in the chapel.

Continue long the road turning left just after the hardware shop which used to be the Co-operative Society and would deliver bread to your house daily. This is Kempley Road, passing the cottages built for the mills workers. At the road junction cross road and go through the metal gates into Simmon Park.



Simmonds Park

Pass the red cottage on left and head to the granite stone into front of you, put up to mark Sydney Simmons who gave the park to the people of Okehampton in 1907. Turn right and go through the main gates and the road back to the post office and then retrace your steps back to the museum.

*Guided town trail for groups can be arranged.*