

# 3 WATERFALL PARK

## PART OF THE CAPTAIN COOK SERIES

The River Leven winds its way through Great Ayton. In the past there were three water-powered mills in the village, the earliest being Ayton Mill. Ayton Mill was the manorial corn mill, dating from Norman times, which was situated on Mill Terrace, near the bottom of Marwood Drive.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Ayton Mill and Grange Mill were both powered by water flowing along the mill race from above the weir here in Waterfall Park. The sluice gate is still visible. The unusual arrangement of two mills sharing the same race was because there was only one suitable point to dam this section of the river. The mill race crossed Easby Lane and ran along the side of Race Terrace. The tail race from Ayton Mill passed under the 'Guinea Pig Inn' and the Stokesley Road and on to Grange Mill.

Floods have caused damage and loss of life on several occasions. The most devastating flood was in 1840 when fish ponds at Kildale burst their banks and a two-metre high wave of water tore through the village. This flood swept away the dam, which was rebuilt in its present form by the local benefactor Thomas Richardson. In 1937 a local boy survived falling into flood waters but two adults, one being his father, drowned in the attempted rescue.

The Schoolroom Museum in Great Ayton is housed in a building once used as a charity school, which was founded in 1704. It was here, between 1736 and 1740, that Captain James Cook received his early education. The Museum contains interactive displays on Cook's early life as well as his later achievements. There are also exhibits concerning the history of Great Ayton, the village in which he grew up.



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Crossing the River Leven by footbridge from the high street the interpretation board identifies the waterfall and sluice gate to control the water into the mill race feeding the mills downstream. The site also houses a Victorian urinal (de commissioned). There is a car park nearby in the high street.

## CAPTAIN COOK'S PANEL LOCATIONS

