

## Two Rivers Paper:

### A Rural Enterprise Exmoor business case study



Two Rivers Paper is located along The Old Mineral Line, Roadwater, however, are soon to be moving to East Quay in Watchet

They hand-make beautiful rag papers, sketch books and journals for artists and designers at an ancient watermill deep in the #Exmoor countryside.

As well as watercolour, Two Rivers papers are suitable for other media including pastels, oils, printmaking, photographic processes, model making and paper cutting to name a few.

As well as supplying many local artists, Two Rivers provides a worldwide mail order service and are proud winners of the 'Made in Britain' 2020 Award and Heritage Craft 'Maker of the Year' 2019 Award

Having worked in the paper-making industry all his life, Jim bought the name of the then Manchester-based Two Rivers Paper in 1986. Two Rivers has been run and located at Pitt Mill, since 1988. It's one of a handful of commercial hand-mills still operating in Europe. There is a small team of five working at the mill, including a newly qualified apprentice and a trainee papermaker.

# Benefits and challenges of working on Exmoor

## Benefits

Two Rivers Paper believe their business benefits from being based on Exmoor:

- We do take advantage of the ancient mill building and beautiful surroundings in marketing our products and branding.

## Challenges

Some of the challenges they have faced running a business on Exmoor are things such as:

- Our current premises are remote and not ideal for either access or efficient workflow.
- Internet and mobile signal can be problematic.
- Deliveries and collections of raw materials and supplies can be a problem as SATNAVs take no account of road widths.

# Aspirations and advice

## Aspirations

“The new East Quay harbourside location is a tourist hot spot and offers opportunities for direct selling and running practical workshops are much greater. This will guarantee a future base for hand papermaking.

We have invested heavily in training a young team and envisage moving into the manufacture of lighter weight papers for a different market whilst increasing our core business of fine art paper for artists.”

## Advice

“Our one piece of advice for other people doing business on Exmoor is to get to know something of your (potential) neighbours, local people and other businesses, let them know early what you are planning.”

