

A High Street in Lyme Regis

Church Street, as a whole or in parts, has been given several names in the past. These include East Street, St Michael's Street, Friday Street and the Butter Market. We can now add High Street to the list.



Looking down the southern end of Church Street (Butter Market) in late 1800s

Whilst studying an English summary ⁽¹⁾ of a collection of deeds in Latin, associated with the Church Street area of Lyme Regis, the team discovered references to a 'High Street' in 1553, 1587 and 1606.

Wanklyn's observations ⁽²⁾ that High Street was an earlier name for West Street, known today as Broad Street, would seem to be at odds with the team's findings.

Further research revealed an indenture ⁽³⁾ describing a conveyance of a property in the Butter Market in 1711, which included '**... All that messuage tenement and dwelling houses situate lying and being in Lyme Regis aforesaid on the East side of a street there commonly called the Butter Market but formerly called the High Street ...**'

⁽¹⁾ House in High Street, 1553; house in Church Street, 1553. (Hucker family), DC/LR/J/6, Dorset Heritage Centre

⁽²⁾ Court Books, Glossary & Notes 1560-74, Cyril Wanklyn, Lyme Regis Museum

⁽³⁾ Conveyance between Benjamin Stone and Jonas Whetcombe, 1711, D1265/1/7/1, Dorset Heritage Centre