



## **Stage Six – Market Place to High Street via Scale Lane**

*Takes approximately 35 minutes*

From Stage 5 you will have crossed Castle Street and are standing on the right hand pavement of Market Place. On this corner is the **New Magistrates Court** which sits on the former site of the Augustinian Monastery. The friars wore black robes, hence Blackfriargate which we saw at the end of Stage 5. Skeletons excavated from the monastery's cemetery displayed an unusually high incidence of arthritis, possibly caused by the swampy conditions of this area in the Middle Ages.

Markets were held in Market Place from the late 13th Century until the 1950s, continuing in Trinity Square until the 1980s (See: **Hull's Market Place** in our 'Want to know more?' section). Records show that a man sold his wife at market in 1806 and delivered her to the purchaser, Mr Houseman, in a halter. This was not a particularly uncommon event in Yorkshire, where divorce proceedings were beyond the reach of most people. Sometimes the wife was happy to be sold, as a cheaper way to marry another lover.



From this corner you will see the magnificent **gold statue of William III**, William of Orange, dressed as a Roman Emperor. Known locally as **King Billy**, it was erected in 1734 and refurbished in 1989. In front of King Billy there is another public toilet built in 1902, with art nouveau tiles and transparent cisterns. Unfortunately it is closed at present.

Behind the statue is the **King William Hotel**. The building is known to have existed since 1799 but it didn't become a hotel until 1834. Further along you will see a gold coloured telephone box. This is a tribute to Luke Campbell, Hull's gold medallist boxer from the 2012 Olympics. The telephone box is in front of the old Labour Exchange, soon to be converted into flats.

From here you get an excellent view of the east end of **Hull Minster**. The earliest surviving parts of the church are from around 1320. The brickwork you can see was made from locally produced brick and it is one of the earliest surviving examples of a brick building in Britain today. Hull and Beverley are thought to be the first towns to mass-produce bricks since the end of the Roman era – there is little stone in the flood plains of East Yorkshire but an abundance of good quality clay!

#2 Continue until you reach Liberty Lane. Opposite it is the **Old Blue Bell Pub**, which has a very narrow frontage that takes you into a tenfoot (a local name for an alleyway). It leads to a Victorian pub which has changed very little over the years. In fact, once inside you feel it still could be the 1880s. Across the street, to your left you will see **Ye Olde Corn Exchange**, originally a coffee house dating back to the late 1600's. The current building is the former Gaiety Picture House, built in 1912. On the same side is one of the entrances to Trinity Market, the successor to the original medieval market.

Continue down Market Place. Across the street you will see the elaborately decorated **Hepworths Arcade** entrance. We will have a closer look at it stage 8 of our walk. On our side you will pass the fascinating frontage of the **Old Customs House**. But for now, cross Liberty Lane, watching out for cars, and walk to the next junction with Scale Lane.

Turn right down Scale Lane, staying on the right. As you go take time to look up at the buildings, particularly those on your left. One building has a particularly interesting drain pipe.

#3 One of the pubs down here is **The William Hawkes**, built 1820. It was at one time the home and workshop of a local gunsmith. On the other side on your right is **The Manchester Arms**, a Jacobean revival style pub built in 1898 and named after the first ship to enter Queens Dock on its opening in 1778.

A little further on is **No.5 Scale Lane**, also known as The Old House. This is Hull's oldest surviving house, dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Opposite is **Burnett Avenue**, built in 1880. It is obviously not an avenue now, but was originally built as an L-shaped alleyway giving open access to the properties inside the block. Note the heavy wear on the front step. We will see the other entrance to this alley when we walk down High Street later on.

Cross High Street (traffic comes from the right) to Scale Lane Staith. A staith is a landing place. The merchants who lived in High Street had their warehouses behind their homes. The small lanes, also bearing the name staiths, ran between the warehouses down to the river where goods were loaded and unloaded. Staith is spelled with or without a final 'e'.

Walk in a little way in and stand to observe the buildings on your left. This is the side elevation of 44 and 46 High Street, known as the **Danish Buildings**. It is made up of a purpose built office block completed in 1858 facing High Street. Close behind it is a merchant's house, built earlier in the 1770's, and the office block added later. Behind the house is what would have been the merchant's warehouse facing the river.

As you walk up the gentle slope, observe the bronze strips in the ground, with the parts of sailing ships etched into them. This is a very pleasant place to rest or picnic on a warm day. As you face the river you can see **Myton Bridge** to the right with the A63 going over it, the **Flood Barrier** and **The Deep**. To the left is the board walk leading to the **Museum Quarter** and in the distance, the tall cream-coloured building which is **Shotwell Tower**.

In front of you is a **swing footbridge** over the River Hull. It was built for the 2017 City of Culture celebrations, and is unique in that it is the only bridge in the country you can ride on whilst it is opening. There is an information board close by, and you can find out operating times from the Information Centre under City Hall.

As you return to High Street observe the attractive sight of Scale Lane running into Silver Street. From Scale Lane Staith turn right into High Street. From here you will see **The Black Boy** pub. It is Hull's oldest pub and was first licensed in 1729. It was one of the favourite haunts of the poet, Philip Larkin. Just past The Black Boy is 151 High Street, which is the other end of Burnett Avenue which we saw going down Scale Lane.



Across the road, on the right side is **Bond 31 Staithe**, a warehouse block built in 1828. Looking through the gates you will see the warehouses on each side that run down to the river. Part way down there is a device that would have been used for moving heavy loads.

A little bit further down High Street, still on the right, you will come to another pair of gates; these provide access to another staith leading to Crowle House, dated to 1664. The building itself is not accessible but the frontage is really worth a look, and again, if the gates are unlocked it's OK to walk down.

Walk up High Street and you will come to the entrance of the Museum Quarter. This is where Stage Seven begins.