



## Hull Heritage Walk

Welcome to Hull, Yorkshire's Maritime City. **The walk is also available in audio form – please visit [www.visihull.org.uk](http://www.visihull.org.uk)**

*The Hull Heritage Walk was written and produced by a small group of independent volunteers.*

*We hope you'll enjoy walking through our Old Town and perhaps, take some time out to visit one of the fine museums or perhaps one of the many hostels we pass along the way.*

*Originally the city was named Kings Town upon Hull by Edward I in 1299. It changed over time to Kingston upon Hull which incidentally is still its official title today.*

*We start our walk facing the **City Hall in Queen Victoria Square** (see below) for stage 1 of our walk*

*Mind you if you had been in Queen Victoria Square in the late 1900's what you would have seen was a warren of back streets and narrow alleys, full of rundown businesses and slum housing. It all changed when the Hull Mayor and architect Sir Alfred Gelder devised and implemented his development plan which opened up this area to create Queen Victoria Square and Alfred Gelder Street which we will see later on, on the walk.*

*This area was severely damaged during World War II and many of the wonderful buildings lost.*

*(See Hull and the two World Wars in want to know more)*



The building in front of you is **The City Hall** - It's Edwardian completed in 1909. If you look up you will see just below the magnificent copper dome 2 statues representing the arts and around the front and the side is a frieze depicting the sciences, music and the classics. The hall plays host to both classical and pop concerts, to comedians, to exhibitions and many other activities

To your right, on the corner of Savile Street, the building with the corner turret, was a branch of the **Yorkshire Penny Bank**. It was opened in 1901 as part of the Victoria Square development.

To the banks right is the **Maritime Museum** with two of its magnificent domes in view. Originally this building was the offices of the Hull Dock Company, it opened its doors in 1871 and operated as a working office until the mid 1970's when it was taken over by the Hull City Council and turned into this museum.



To your left, with its 2 dominant Corinthian columns, is the **Ferens Art Gallery** opened in 1927. It is considered to be one of the finest provincial galleries in the country and it was the host to the 2017 Turner Prize Award Ceremony. The gallery includes work by Lorenzetti, Frans Hals, Canaletto, Stanley Spencer and David Hockney with 3 rooms dedicated to touring and temporary exhibitions so is well worth a visit and admission is free

Behind you is our magnificent memorial to **Queen Victoria**. It was designed by the architect J.S. Gibson and the statue itself was sculpted by H.C. Fehr, it was unveiled in 1903 by the then Prince of Wales. Soon to be George V



(See Queen Victoria Square & nearby buildings in our Want to know more section)

*Now please walk to your right around the square passed the entrance to the Maritime Museum, to the right hand corner and turn left. Once you turned left, make your way to the impression of the bow of a ship you will see ahead of you. This **bow of a ship** is an artwork dedicated to those lost at sea. **This is the end of stage 1***



**Queens Gardens**, if you had been here before 1930 you would have been standing on the edge of a vast expanse of water which was Queens Dock. The dock was opened in 1778 and at the time it was the largest dock in the country.

It stretched over 500 metres in front of you down to the River Hull; the width is indicated by the streets on either side of the gardens.

Originally the dock was known, simply as The Dock and then the Old Dock, when Hull's 2<sup>nd</sup> dock was opened in 1809. We'll be seeing it later on in the walk, and then finally it was named Queens Dock in honour of the visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1854

With your back to the museum in front of you will get the first chance to see one of **Hull's famous cream phone boxes**. Hull has no red phone boxes and never have had.



Our telephone system is owned and run by a public quoted company, KCOM but prior to that it was a department of Hull City Council and was never run by GPO.

Now apart from the colour there is one other distinguishing feature about our phone boxes compared to the red ones in the rest of the country. Any thoughts? Well it's that there's a crown cast into the frame above the door and the other 3 sides of the red boxes. The crown was removed from the Hull's boxes because at the time they were bought by Hull Corporation the national telephone system was run by the GPO, a Government Department so boxes were crown property, Hull's boxes were not crown property, therefore no crown.

Please now turn back towards the way you came and you will see, across the square Princes Quay Shopping Centre and nearby a street sign which reads **'Monument Bridge'** This is the start of Stage 2 of our walk.

In front of you to the right you will see the railings of what was Princes dock. This was the third of Hull's town docks which opened in 1829. We will see the second dock, now the Marina later in the walk.

The sign reads **Monument Bridge** and yet if you look around there is no monument and no bridge.

This is a throwback to days when this was an active thriving dock area. Before 1930 where you're now standing was a bridge which allowed the movement of ships between Princes Dock and Queens Dock.

The bridge would be raised 9 or 10 times a day much to the frustration of pedestrians and motorists.

There is a photograph of how this area used to look in the Now & Then section on our website.

Now to the monument, it still exists; it's a huge column and statue dedicated to William Wilberforce.

It was situated just behind you at what is now the entrance to Princes Quay Shopping Centre. It was moved in 1934 as part of a traffic re-organisation. It is now at the east end of Queens Gardens in front of Hull College; we'll get to see it later on in the walk.

So if you could now move forward about 20 metres and look over the glass barrier on your left, you will see foundation of, what was, Beverley Gate. **This is your next stopping point**



**Beverley Gate.** Where you are now standing was the place that on St Georges Day in 1642, the then Governor of Hull Sir John Hotham refused King Charles access to the town and its extensive armoury which at the time was the largest stash of weapons outside London.

This was the first act of defiance to the King and is thought to have sparked the beginning of the English Civil War.

Although most of the north of England was Royalist, in typical Hull style they sided with Cromwell and the Parliamentarians. The King declared Sir John a traitor and ordered his execution. To find out how this challenge to the King's authority affected the outcome of the Civil War and to Sir John Hotham personally (see Hull and the Civil War "Want to know more" section on our website)

Now please walk forward to the junction of Princes Dock Street and the pedestrianised Whitefriargate, turn right and stay on the right walk down Princes Dock Street and walk about 50 metres. **This is your next stopping point.**



On the opposite side of the street, the second brick building in with 2 half cellars with brick arches was formerly **Colonial Chambers built in 1846**, it is thought to be Hull's first purpose built office block. As you can see it is now a coffee shop and restaurant.

Next to Colonial Chambers is **Roland House** (see photo opposite) this was formerly Ferres Hospital Almshouse built in 1822, this was before Princes Dock opened. To the left is a photograph of Roland House. What with the building and then the operating of the dock I don't think it would be a tranquil place to live. It now operates as offices for small businesses.



The striking building next to Roland House dated 1842 was the entrance to Trinity House Academy a **Nautical College founded in 1787**. The college moved to new facilities in 2013. The archway is now the entrance to Zebedee's Yard, named after a former headmaster of the college; it is now the location of one of Hull's memorials to over 6000 fishermen lost at sea.

On your right you can see what was Junction Dock, it was called this because when it opened in 1829 it was the junction between Humber Dock, now the Marina and Queens Dock.



*This, in effect, made the then centre of Hull an island which could only be accessed over one of four bridges. It was renamed Princes Dock following the visit of Prince Albert with Queen Victoria in 1854. As you can see it is now dominated by the Princes Quay Shopping Centre opened around 1990.*

*Please walk down Princes Dock Street, on the right until you reach **opposite the end of Posterngate**.*

***This is your next stopping point.***

*In front of you to the left is an attractive row of Georgian buildings, now mainly restaurants and coffee bars.*

*As you walked you may have notice a metre wide row of red coloured bricks set in the pavement, they represent the outline of the old town Walls built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Four and a half million bricks were used to make this wall, mostly made locally.*

*You will have notice I keep referring to Hull as a town, well this is because we didn't get city status until 1897 as part of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrations.*

*If you look down you will see the brindle bricks form the outline of a narrow gate. It was called a Postern; it allowed one person at a time in or out of the town when the main gates were closed.*

*At the corner of Posterngate is a large former warehouse, well if you fancy going out clubbing tonight then this is the place, it's been part of the Hull night club scene since the 1970's.*

*Now please cross over the street Princes Dock St. and walk down Posterngate (wheelchairs should move to the left-hand pavement) until you reach Dagger Lane and in front of you is **The Mission**. Carry on walking until you reach the entrance.*

***This is your next stopping point***



***The Mission now a pub/restaurant***, as you have probably guessed this was not how it started out in life. It was originally a Seamen's Mission built in 1866. It's been a pub since 1995. If you were to visit you would notice the compelling urge to speak in hushed tones, it really is quite odd. (See Want to Know More Section – Hull's Pubs)

*Opposite the Mission the large pair of buildings next to the exit of Zebedee's Yard is the one time Mercantile Marine Offices built in 1868 and extended in 1874. This is where ship's crews would be signed on and discharged.*

In front of you to your left is Carmelite House, now this is interesting as much for the origins of the name as for the building itself.

The name comes from the Carmelite Monastery that stood on this land in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the monks or friars wore white robes which gave the name to the street which runs behind here called Whitefriargate.

You can find out more about Hull's Monasteries and Monks in the "Want to know more" section of our website

The present building was completed in 1826 as an Almshouse for Trinity House and is now offices for small businesses.

*Opposite Carmelite House is No 6 Posterngate, the Parochial Offices for the main two Churches in Hull, Holy Trinity and St Mary's. It was built in 1864 as you can see from the carvings on the frieze above the doors of the building.*

*Now back over the street further on from Carmelite House is the former Harry Lazarus Hotel – used for overnight accommodation for European Migrants en route to Liverpool (and on to America) from the Riverside Quay near the Humber Dock.*

*From here migrants were marched to the building now called Tiger Lair, (named after Hull City AFC). This building is on the end of a purpose built platform for migrants. Marched is the correct term. They were literally frog marched from here as it was felt there was a real need to keep migrants away from local people! (See Want to Know More Section – Hull's Town Docks)*

*Ahead in the distance you can see the imposing Dome and Bell Tower of the Market Place and below that is the entrance to St Paul's Boxing Club, where Luke Campbell, the Olympic Boxing Gold Medallist in 2012 started his boxing career.*

*Now please make your way into the end of Posterngate until **Hull Minster** comes into view – Until 2017 it was known as Holy Trinity church, it was the largest parish church, by area, in England and is well worth a visit.*



*As Hull Minster it serves in a more senior role in the area on behalf of the Diocese of York*

*Also please take a look at the mirror pools in front of the Minster if you have time*

*You are now in Trinity Square. (See Trinity Square in the Want to know more section on our website).*

Just a little bit of Trinity House history. It gets its name from Holy Trinity Church and a house originally set up to look after visiting seamen. It dates back to the 1300s as a religious guild. It was later awarded a Royal Charter by Henry VIII in 1541 as the Guild of the Holy Trinity so in its words "that they might regulate the pilotage of ships in the King's streams" and these duties continued until the Pilotage Act in 1987.





There are lots to explore around here the church of course, Trinity Market, the **Old Grammar School** built in 1585. It was attended by both William Wilberforce and the **17<sup>th</sup> century poet Andrew Marvel** whose statue you can see close to the school entrance. **This is the end of Stage 2 of the walk**

Once in Trinity Square walk a little way down Trinity House Lane on your Left and if you look back you will see the magnificent pediment over the **Trinity House main entrance**. I hope you agree the artwork is superb.



When you are ready, make your way to Prince Street, you'll find it on your right in Trinity Square. Look for the Sign '**Prince Street**' under the arch directly opposite the main entrance to Hull Minster. **This is the start of Stage 3**

We are making our way to the Marina from here. Prince Street is not named after Albert this time but the Prince Regent who became George .IV in 1820.

Please walk down Prince Street about 50 metres (keep as quiet as you can). **This is your next stopping point**



On the right is a very attractive curved **terrace of Georgian buildings** completed around 1770, they originally had gardens opposite and must have been a very desirable place to live when built, as indeed they still are.

Now please walk on until you reach Dagger Lane – turn left, stay on the left, and walk on until you reach Castle Street/A63. You will know you are there because it is a very busy dual carriageway running from the M62 in the west to the industrial docks in the east. **This is the end of Stage 3**

Using the light controlled crossing cross over Castle Street/A63 and you will be heading towards the Marina.

**This is the start of Stage 4 of our walk**

Well as you can see we have temporary hording up at the moment during the building of a new footbridge across Castle Street designed to reduce the number of traffic lights, improve the traffic flow and reduce pollution.

Please stay on the left hand side and walk to the end of the hoardings and cross over what is Humber Dock Street then make your way to Marina railings. **This is your next stopping point**

Look across the Marina and you will see a tall building - No 13 warehouse its luxury apartments and an Italian Restaurant.

To its right is the Holiday Inn and between them is a modern version of a Dutch style bridge. It spans the entrance to the old Railway Dock, built in 1846. It's now part of the Marina. (See Want to Know More Section - Hull's Docks and Hull's Railways).

The Marina itself was the second of Hull's town docks opened in 1809, and was originally called New Dock and wasn't until Princes Dock was opened in 1829 when it became Humber Dock.

The material excavated from Humber Dock was used to create the land to the south of the present Humber Street, which we will see later on this stage. . It was designed to provide a birth for 70 ships and it was excavated using the newly developed steam powered bucket and chain method of dredging.

Continue down the side of the Marina, glance down and you will see, set into the pavement, a series of iron rings. They were originally set further back and were used for tethering horses as the carts were being unloaded and loaded.

You will soon come pass a steam engine in a glass case and the Humber Dock Tavern. **This is your next stopping point**



Now we come to **Humber Dock Tavern** (previously known as Green Bricks) opened in 1806, whilst the new dock was being built. It was a dockside pub, it has changed its character somewhat now but the heart of the pub is still there. It's recently been extended but if you look at the older tall part you will see where it got its nickname from, they really are green bricks and not just tiled cladding. (See Want to know more section – Hull's Pubs) Next to the Green Bricks is a building with the sign 1884 carved into the roof line. This is Hesse Gate House and as the date suggests was built in 1884 it is now an upmarket restaurant.

Look across Humber Dock Street and you will see Blanket Row (Tailors used to have shops here) and Sewer Lane (Guess what went on here?). These narrow streets are part of the old Medieval Street pattern.



On your right we have **The Spurn Lightship** which was built in 1927, without an engine and served for 48 years as lighthouse in the middle of the mouth of the Humber.

It was decommissioned in 1975 and bought and restored by the City Council before being moved here in 1987.

Now please walk down Humber Dock Street until you reach opposite the end of Humber Street, **This is your next stopping point** Humber Street was formerly the Fruit Market, now it's a cultural centre with café bars and specialist museums.

Around the city you will see references to 'Dead Bod' on T shirts, pens, mugs, coasters and things like that. Well if you want to find out what it's all about then you can visit the **Humber Street Gallery/café** down the street on the right and see the original 'dead bod' for yourself.

If you look down you will see another town gate marked out in brindle bricks, this was Hesse Gate.

Humber Street was named when it was much closer to the Humber. Between here and the Humber Estuary is a large area of reclaimed land built up with the spoils from the excavation of Humber Dock I mentioned earlier.

Now please walk towards the Humber and you will come to the un-marked Wellington Street

(Together with the nearby Nelson Street it was named after well-known national heroes of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century).

**Just a brief stop here.**



Ahead of you on the other side of a brick wall you will see a **Napoleonic Canon**.

**We'll be coming back to it to start stage 5.**

But for now, turn right and walk to the lock gates and old railway bridge. Please cross over the lock to the west side of the Marina. With luck you will see a boat entering or leaving the Marina. You are now in the area where the cargo railway system was prominent; indeed the rails can still be seen embedded into the road. (See Want to Know More Section-Hull's Railways).

There's a lot to see around here so when you are ready to continue the walk turn back the way you came over the Bridge and back to **the Napoleonic Canon and the start of stage 5.**

In this section we visit the **Pier Area**. So please walk towards the Humber on the left hand pavement and you will soon come to the Minerva Pub on the corner. Take a sharp left and walk until you are opposite the entrance to the pub.

...and remember this is all part of that reclaimed land I mentioned earlier. **This is your next stopping point**

The first building is on your left it's the **Minerva Pub** itself. It was built in 1829 and is well worth a visit, it has lots of small snug type rooms and one of them is said to be the smallest pub room in the country, it only seats 3 people. The walls are covered in really interesting photographs of old Hull and of this area in particular.



From here walk between the Minerva and the toilet block and you will come to the junction of Nelson and Pier Street. The street signs here are original from 1813. If you would now turn right and walk down Nelson Street on the left hand pavement. You will pass one of our infamous cream phone boxes (notice no crowns again)



You will come to the **Pier Station**; one of the few British Rail ticket offices situated nowhere near any railway lines. **This is your next stopping point.**

It was the ticket office for the ferry which, from 1948 was run by British Rail. The ferry ran from the pier behind you to New Holland in Lincolnshire. The Pier Station has now been converted to modern apartments. If you step back and look up above the door of the **Pier Station**, you will see the date when it was built 1880 and the initials MSL. The letters stand for the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway Company who originally ran the ferry. It has been converted into apartments.

So please now turn around and walk across Nelson Street, it is a cul-de-sac but still watch out for traffic.

Make your way across to the pier, along the wooden planking to the wooden steps ahead of you and onto the end of the pier near the Humber. You can go up the steps if you wish but it's not essential.

**This is your next stopping point.** The Humber is about a mile wide here and drains about 1/5<sup>th</sup> of England.

From here to the west you get fine views of the Humber Bridge which opened on 1981 and it marked the end of the ferry service and of course the Pier Station. If you look east and the first thing you see is The Deep, Hull's millennium visitor attraction. In there are sharks, huge stingrays and more recently penquins. (Mind you they are not all in the same tank) Beyond The Deep, is the new Green Port Complex which produces some of the world's largest wind turbines all destined for the North Sea. Beyond that you should be able to see the huge ferries that run passengers & freight on a daily service between Hull and Rotterdam and beyond that, over 20 miles away is the North Sea.

Please now walk back towards Nelson Street and you will see, on your right, the painted sign "Oss Wash" on the slope running down into the River. **Just a brief stop here.**

This used to be a 'oss wash a place for washing horses and also for loading carts to and from barges.

(You can see 'Oss Wash in action in some of the photographs in the Minerva).



Now please continue down the pier back to Nelson Street, turn right and you will come to the statue of Sir **William De La Pole, Hull's first mayor in 1332**. Lord Mayor's status was awarded to Hull in 1914 following a visit by King George V.

#### **Another brief Stop**

Whilst still facing Sir William look to your left and you will see an artwork of a human figure looking out over the Humber. It was presented by the people of Iceland in recognition of the long established relationship between the island and Hull.

If you are thinking of visiting The Deep this may be a good opportunity. There is direct access into the grounds of the Deep via a foot bridge over the River Hull. To do this make your way to the Icelandic statue and you will see in front of you a footpath along the banks of the River Hull which lead to the footbridge and directly into the grounds of The Deep.

For the rest of us if you could please cross over Nelson Street and you will see the entrance to Queen Street. Please walk to the righthand and wait a moment. **This is your next stopping point.**



On the opposite side of Queen Street you will see the splendid **Pilots Office built in 1819**, it served as the headquarters of the Humber Pilot Service until 2002 when the operation was moved to Spurn Point. The building has now been developed into apartments.

If you could, please walk down Queen Street, staying on the right. You will pass a covered alleyway on your right.

Keep on walking passed the **C4DI** building until you reach the other end of Humber Street.

**This is your next stopping point**



On the corner of Humber Street you will see **Hull's Dinosaur Museum**, it's well worth a visit.

On your right you will see the **Tidal Surge Barrier** which protects Hull from extreme high tides from the Humber. Unfortunately it didn't manage to prevent the July 2007 floods of Hull and the East Riding, 35,000 people were affected and 10,000 homes were evacuated. These floods came mainly from off the Wolds and the rivers and drainage system simply couldn't cope. Well the flood defence

systems seem to be sorted now so hopefully it won't happen again.

Continue down Queen Street until you reach Castle Street/A63 and light controlled crossing.

#### **This is the end of Stage 5**

Before you cross Castle Street for the start of Stage 6 glance back and note the street sign which reads Blackfriargate. I will explain in a few minutes

Once you have crossed over Castle Street go to the right hand pavement of what will be **Market Place and the start of Stage 6**.

There has been a market here since the Middle Ages and was here until the 1950s. They continued on until 1980's in, what is now know as, Trinity Square (See Want to Know More Section – Hull's Market Place)



Please walk down Market Place until you are alongside the magnificent gold coloured statue of William III, **William of Orange erected in 1734** and in front of him you will see another Victorian public toilet.

#### **This is your next stopping point**

Across the street, behind the statue is King William Hotel known to have existed since 1799 but it didn't become a hotel until 1834. Along from that on the same side you will see a gold coloured telephone box. This is a tribute to Luke Campbell Hull's gold medallist from the 2012 Olympics.

On your side of the Market Place you can see the new Magistrates Court. I mention this only because it sits on the land that was occupied by a 13<sup>th</sup> century Augustinian Monastery. (See Hull's Monasteries and Monks in the Want to know more section). These friars wore black robes – hence the street name Blackfriargate.

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 examples of a brick building still surviving in Britain today.

Please walk on until you reach Liberty Lane. Opposite the **Old Blue Bell Pub this a brief stop.**

Look across the street, to your left and you will see **Ye Olde Corn Exchange** originally Coffee House dating back to the late 1600's. Next to the Corn Exchange is the one time Gaiety Picture House built in 1912, and in between them is a driveway,

which in Hull we call a 10 foot. Now a 10 foot is a public access which runs to the back of a group of properties. Mind you, it doesn't have to be 10 feet wide and usually isn't.

Now just across the street you can see **Ye Olde Blue Bell** it's a Victorian pub which has changed very little over the years. In fact once inside you feel it still could be 1880's.

Cross over Liberty Lane (watch out for cars coming round this corner) and walk to the next junction which is Scale Lane. **This is your next stopping point.**



Whilst here it's worth looking at the buildings on 3 of the 4 corners. They have had a previous life, as city centre banks. The one diagonally opposite with the word 'BANK' over the door was the Midland opened in 1890 and the one in front of you was a branch of the National Provincial opened 1900; these 2 are now bars and restaurants. The third one on the left was a branch of Lloyd's opened around 1900. It has now been developed into apartments.



Please now walk down Scale Lane, stay on the right and the first pub down here is the William Hawkes Pub. **This is your next stopping point.** William Hawkes (1820) was previously the home and workplace of a gunsmith and dentist – what a combination.

On the right you will see Jacobean revival style pub built in 1898 the Manchester Arms.

Now in front of you, you will see No 5 Scale Lane, Hull's only surviving 15<sup>th</sup> century house and opposite No 5 is Burnett Avenue built in 1880; it's hardly an avenue but please note the heavy wear on the front step. It seems rather excessive for the entrance to a group of offices. The reason for this is it was originally built as an L shaped alleyway giving open access to the properties down there; you will see the other entrance to this ally when we walk down High Street. Now please walk to the end of Scale Lane. **This is your next stopping point**



You are facing across High Street the Lion and Key, it started out in life as the Britannia Coffee House in 1812. It was renamed to the Lion & Key when Wellington began his campaign against the Spanish at Ciudad Rodrigo during the Peninsula Wars when he declared "the Lion now has the Key to Spain".

Please cross over High Street and walk down, what is, Scale Lane Staith about 25 metres .

**This is your next stopping point**

On your left you will see how one merchant's house developed between the mid-18<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The front part facing High Street was completed in 1858 as a purpose built office block but if you look carefully you will see that it was built in the front garden of a five bay merchant's house built around the 1770's and behind that there would have been a warehouse that faced the river.

Now just before we step back to High Street, please take a look to the far end of the staith and you will see a swing footbridge over the River Hull. It is unique in that it is the only bridge in the country you can ride on whilst it is in operation.



You can find out operating times from the Information Centre under the City Hall

OK please walk back towards High Street; turn right and you will see **the Black Boy Pub** just a little way down, it was first licensed in 1729 and is **Hull's Oldest Pub**, it was also one of the favourite haunts of poet Philip Larkin.



Please continue on down High Street, on the right until you come to **Bond 31(1828)**. **This is the end of stage 6**

Look through at the gates into **Bond 31 Staithe** and you will see warehouses running down each side to the River.

A little bit further down High Street still on the right you will come to another pair of gates, these provide access to an another staithe leading to Crowle House dated 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. If gates are not locked it's OK to walk down but remember they are working offices so be as quiet as you can.

**Bond 31 Staithe is the start of Stage 7 of our walk**

This stage of the walk takes us to the Museum Quarter and gives us a chance to look at the old river wharf.

First if you could look over to the other side of High Street and next to the Black Boy, set back, is the other entrance to Burnett Avenue I mentioned during stage 6.





Next, further along from the Avenue, we have Dunswell Forge a medieval building re-built in the mid 1700's as a shipsmith's, however I'm pleased to be able to tell you that much of the original internal structure remains. It's now a popular Vegetarian restaurant.

So if you now walk down High Street, on the right hand side, opposite Dunswell Forge, you will come to the former **Pacific Club** (just before the pillar box). **This is your next stopping point**

The Pacific Club was a meeting place for Hull's corn and seed merchants, dated 1899. The style is Jacobean revival and there is a wealth of detail to be seen. It is now used by the Absolute Culture Team who took over from City of Culture 2017 team.

Just beyond the **Pacific Club**, on the same side we have Bishop Lane Staithe; this shows how a typically staithe entrance would have been in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

It has excellent examples of the heavy wrought iron protective plates that were put there in, perhaps, the 1750's, by the property owners to stop carts from damaging the walls of their buildings as traders manhandled their goods to the quay side. Go on rub them and tap them and just imagine who has passed down this Staithe before you.

Please now walk on, still on the right until you reach a rather grand building with a pair of Corinthian columns either side of the gated entrance with the name '**Commercial Museum**' was the former Corn Exchange designed by Architects Bellamy and Hardy in 1855 – their name is engraved on the gates. **This is your next stopping point**

On the way, on your side, you will have passed a row of Warehouses from the early 1800's some still with their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor loading bays intact. These have now been converted into student accommodation.



On the other side of the street is **Maister House, Hull's only National Trust property**. It was built in 1775 for Henry Maister a wealthy merchant. Although quite austere on the outside the inside reveals a delicate wrought iron balustrade to the stairs and gallery with ornate plasterwork and is worth a look.

Please walk on again and on the right is the entrance to 2 of Hull's excellent museums, Street life and the East Riding Museum. All are free and well worth visiting.

We'll be coming back to this area at the end of this stage, so just for now please turn right into the museum precinct and walk down the cobbled section, between the buildings of what was Chapel Lane Staith you then reach the River Hull turn left and you will see the Arctic Corsair the Arctic Corsair, Hull last side winder trawler. (See Rise and fall of Hull's Fishing Industry in the Want to know more section). Arctic Corsair is currently undergoing restoration as part of the Maritime City Project.

Along here is an unguarded riverside walk with a number of stopping points so walk carefully and keep children close by. So if you could continue along the riverside boardwalk with the Arctic Corsair on your right and you will pass the back of the Street Life Museum, next you will come to the rear garden of Wilberforce House. Continue to walk along the boardwalk until you see a building with red painted steelwork, this is the Pease Warehouses and **your next stopping point**.

**The Pease Warehouse** was built in 1745 and extended in 1760 although now converted into apartments they have retained all the original external features.

Joseph Pease was a Dutch merchant who established Hull's first bank in 1754 it is thought to have been the first bank in Yorkshire and one of only 12 in the country at that time. It was at one time a branch of the Bank of England.



If you look across to the other side of the river you will see a rather ornate if somewhat faded building that was Trinity House Buoy Shed built in 1901. It is a grade II listed building. It is now used as industrial workshops.

In front of you, you can see Drypool Bridge this is an electrically operated rolling lift bridge, opened in 1961.

Please continue walking towards the bridge and up the ramp in front of you, turn left and right you will reach the main road which is Alfred Gelder Street.

**This is your next stopping point**

To your right on the other side of Drypool Bridge is the district of Drypool and for the mathematicians it was here in 1834 that John Venn was born, he of the Venn diagram fame.

Further east at 371 Holderness Road in 1888 J Arthur Rank the film mogul was born. Further east, but still in Hull is the birthplace of Mike Ronson lead guitarist with the Spiders from Mars support group to David Bowie throughout the



'70s. Sadly Mike died of cancer in 1993. You can hear David Bowie feeling toward Mike on the Youtube link in the 'Want to know' more section of our website.

Alfred Gelder Street was built around 1900 and cut across High Street isolating the northern end of the street. It was part of the main road network through the city until the Castle Street/A63 development was completed in early 60's

We now cross over Alfred Gelder Street, it can still be quite busy around here and there's no designated crossing point so please cross with care.

Once over Alfred Gelder Street walk down little High Street, on the left hand pavement, for about 30 metres.

**This is your next stopping point.**

In front of you is **Blaydes House** built around 1750 for Benjamin Blaydes a merchant and shipbuilder. In 1784 his company built the *Bethia* here on the River Hull. It was later bought by the Royal Navy for the princely sum of £1950 and they renamed it the *Bounty* and the rest as they say is history. It is now, appropriately enough, University of Hull's Maritime History Research Centre.



Look up to the roof line and between the 2 chimneys you will see a small window. Young boys were sent up there to look out for ships sailing up the Humber so that cargos could be got ready for loading; by doing this ships could be unloaded and reloaded quickly so they could be sent out on the same tide. How's that for 18<sup>th</sup> century 'Just in Time' management.

As you look at the window it's pretty clear it was an afterthought. It was built after 3 boys were killed falling off the roof whilst ship spotting. It's difficult for us to image attitudes at that time when it took 3 fatalities before they did anything about it.



Now please stay on the same side and walk passed Blaydes House, Alexandria Wharf and a group of rather undistinguished terraced houses and you will see, in front of you the former Dock Office built around 1820.

**This is your next stopping point.**

This **Old Dock Office** was the main offices for the Hull Dock Company until the new Dock Offices, now the Maritime Museum, were opened in 1871. You will notice that it originally had 5 bays set around a front entrance with a central triangular pediment. Three more bays were added in 1840 to give us the building we can now see.

Now please walk on passed the **Old Dock Office** and cross over, what is now Dock Office Row, towards the River Hull and look through the railings and you will see the dock basin for what was Queens Dock which is now of course Queens Gardens. This will be the new site of Hull's, historic trawler, the Arctic Corsair together with a purpose built modern visitors centre from around 2021. **This is a brief stopping point**

If you could now look up at the north wall of the Old Dock Office you see why the offices were built where they were. Every ship that entered or left the Dock could be watched over by the dock owners.

We will now make our way back to the **Museum Quarter** now so please walk cross back over Dock Office Row and back the way you came towards Alfred Gelder Street, you will cross over the end of a cul-de-sac called North Wall. This as the name suggests was the outer limit to the old town wall.

Just before you reach Alfred Gelder Street you will come to Salthouse Lane cross over it and with the same caution as you had when you crossed over earlier walk back over Alfred Gelder Street.

Once you've crossed over Alfred Gelder Street go to the left hand pavement of High Street and you will see a Blue Plaque.

**This is a brief stopping point.** This Blue Plaque is dedicated to Joseph Pease. If you look through a gap in the wall you will see the other side of Pease warehouse we saw earlier. This area used to be a complete row of elegant Georgian Houses, including that of Joseph Pease but sadly most of this area was destroyed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

Fortunately the next 2 buildings we are going to see did survive. So please now walk further down High Street, staying on the left, and you will come to a pair of Georgian Houses. **This is your next stopping point.**

These **Georgian Houses** are very unusual in that they are a pair which went very much against the Georgian convention of symmetry and there are very few examples of this layout still existing in the country today.

They were built in 1756 for the tar merchant James Hamilton. The 2 houses have now been combined into a museum, displaying costume, firearms, Hull silver from the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> century and clocks made in Hull and the East Riding. Like all of our museums it's well worth a visit. It is accessed through our next building **Wilberforce House**

Please walk on until you come to the entrance of Wilberforce House.

**This has brought us back to the Museum Quarter and the end of Stage 7 and your next stopping point.**



**Wilberforce House** was probably built in the 1660's and was originally the official residence of the Governor of Hull. It was bought by the Wilberforce family in 1730 and it stayed in the family until 1832. William Wilberforce is probably Hull's most world renowned son; he was born in this house in 1759, and became MP for Hull in 1780.

It was he who led a group of MPs to push through the Slave Trade Act 1807 to end Britain's involvement in the international slave trade.

### Stage 8 of the walk starts outside Wilberforce House

This part of the walk takes us back into the old town and onto the Victorian Commercial quarter of the city.

You should be standing outside Wilberforce House. So please cross over High Street and to your left you will see Gandhi Way, walk down there on the left hand pavement until you reach Alfred Gelder Street.



Please turn left and walk down Alfred Gelder Street, you are walking alongside the new Law Courts which opened in 1990. You come to a cross roads of Lowgate and Alfred Gelder Street, overseen by the statue of the venerable **Charles Henry Wilson** founder member of Ellerman Wilson Shipping Line. Once there walk towards the light controlled crossing to your left, but don't cross over just yet. **This is your next stopping point**

Now here we have a similar problem with street names to that we had with High Street. We have two Lowgates this time, again cut in two by Alfred Gelder Street. So let's have a look at the area itself, and there's a lot to see.



Diagonally opposite, the grand building with the clock tower is **the Guildhall**. It is still the working offices for Hull City Council including council chambers and administrative offices. It was built between 1904 and 1919 originally it housed the local Law Court but these were replaced by the Crown Court behind you in 1990.

If you look down the side elevation of the Guildhall you will see on the first floor 35 bays with alternating arch and triangular pediments over the windows with columns either side. Look up and you will see on pedestals above the roof line a colossal statue.

You can visit the Guildhall. There is public access to the foyer, with its impressive marble staircase and floor and wonderful mahogany wall panelling; it really is worth a look. If you ask at the reception you can visit an anti-room which displays the Hull's tapestries and other items of interest.



Now if you look beyond the entrance to the Guildhall on your right, in the middle distance, you will see the grand column and **statue of William Wilberforce** erected in Victoria Square in 1833 for the princely sum of £1250 all from public donations. You will recall on stage 2 I mention it was moved to its present site in the early 1930s

Now in front of you, we have another rather grand building this is the former General Post Office. Built during the same period as the Guildhall in Portland stone it indicates the wealth of Hull during that period.

When the lights permit cross over Lowgate, turn left and make your way towards a pair of cream phone boxes until you reach the entrance of the uniquely named **Three John Scots' pub**. **This is your next stopping point**

**Three John Scots'** gets its names from 3 vicars of that name who served as ministers at **St Mary's Church**, the church you can see on the opposite side. St Mary's itself is Hull's second oldest church c1340.

The walkway under the tower you can see was put through in 1863 to allow Lowgate to be widened.

Please continue walking down Lowgate, the next building you come to is **Ocean Chambers** built around 1900, as law offices which it still is today. Just passed Ocean Chambers look on the pavement and you will see the image of a fish pointing towards an alleyway. Just walk into the alley and look through the gates, the wall you can see at the end actually turns a sharp left and comes out in **Bowlalley Lane**, we will see the other end in a few minutes.



This is **Exchange Alley**; it's the best surviving example of Hull's L shaped alleys. This one dates back to 1794. It was this type of alley and courtyard that covered this area before the Alfred Gelder development.

Most of the original alleys and courtyards contained around 10 houses on either side, with no bathrooms and only 2 or 3 earth closets and 1 stand pipe to serve them all. Can you imagine what they would have been like, cramped, insanitary, and unhealthy and no doubt crime ridden? I'm sure the people would have been delighted to see the back of them.

If the gate is unlocked there is public access so it's OK to take a look but please bear in mind these are working offices. Once you have taken a look please return to Lowgate to continue the walk.

Continue to walk down Lowgate and you will be passing the former Shipping Exchange building in 1866 for the Hull Exchange Company. It was described when it was built as 'one of the chief ornaments of the town'. I think it's fair to say time has not been kind to this building.



Take the next right into Bowlalley Lane and stay on the right-hand pavement until you are opposite **Ye Olde White Harte pub sign**. **This is your next stopping point**

If you now look to your right you will see the other entrance of Exchange Alley I mentioned earlier. On the other side of the lane you will see Samman House, the rather elegant entrance to Hull's Chamber of Commerce and Shipping and next to that is Ye Olde White Harte Alley the entrance to perhaps Hull's most interesting pub.

Please cross over the lane and walk down Ye Olde White Harte Alley into the Beer Garden.

**This is your next stopping point.** Please remember these are commercial premises so bear in mind the outside seating is for the use of customers. Although I'm sure they would be pleased to welcome you as a customer if you wish.

If you step inside **Ye Olde White Harte** you get the real atmosphere of the place with its flagstone floors and inglenook fireplaces. You can imagine parliamentarian men with their large wide brimmed hats, long black coats with large white collars leaning against the inglenook fireplace. Upstairs and on the right you'll find the plotting parlour, this is where it is said that Sir John Hotham and the Aldermen of Hull met to plan the refusal to allow King Charles to entry into the city.

Whilst this may well be a correct interpretation of events, some historians say that the plot spoken of was in fact hatched to rid Hull of a Catholic Governor imposed by Charles II.

Well whatever, happened in this building over 370 years ago this is a must see place to visit whilst in Hull.

(You can read more about the Plotters Parlour in Hull & the Civil War in the 'Want to know' more section)



When you are ready continue on through the next covered part of the alley until you reach what is Silver Street turn left and when it is safe cross over and walk on until you reach the corner with Lowgate. Once at the corner turn right and walk to the sign which reads **Hepworths Arcade**. **This is your next stopping point**

Once at the arcade look across Lowgate and you will see the 4 storey Old Custom House if you look up, just below the top cornice carved into the stone you can see Post & Telegraph Office. That is what it was when it opened in 1877. It's now a rather nice restaurant.

Now please walk into the Arcade, under the arched entrance. It was built in 1895 for the gentleman's outfitters, Joseph Hepworth; it has 25 shops and cafes and is fascinating for both the building and the shops, so let's take a look.

As you enter the third shop on the right is one of my favourite shops in Hull, **Dinsdales**. Just take a look.

**This is the final stopping point on stage 8**

Dinsdales is an Aladdin's Cave of magic tricks and jokes and the shop window seems to be the same as when I was when I was a youngster in the 50's. If I can drag you away from Dinsdales look up and you will see the arcade itself, it's a very ornate two storey building with a glass roof. In between the window are half columns decorated with swags and tails.

Please walk down the arcade towards the shops facing you in the corner on the left is one of the entrances to the indoor Trinity Market so turn right and continue to the exit on Silver Street opposite the entrance to Ye Olde White Harte.

**This is the end of stage 8**

You may wish to revisit Ye Olde White Harte, take a closer look at Dinsdales or one of the other shops in the Arcade.

**Stage 9 starts at the exit Hepworth's Arcade** on Silver Street on our way back to Queen Victoria Square.

If you look across the street to the right and you will see, once again, the entrance to Ye Olde White Harte.

This is the final stage of our walk so please now turn left, stay on the left and walk to the junction in front of you. You are standing on the corner of Silver Street and Trinity House Lane with the pedestrianised Whitefriargate in front of you.

**This is your next stopping point**

The building you can see, on the opposite corner of Silver Street is another one time bank, now a Restaurant. This one used to be the offices for both the Royal Bank of Scotland and Nat West, it was built in 1907. On the corner nearest to you on the left we have yet another bank this time built for Barclays in 1891, it's now a Pub/Restaurant.

The inside of all these one time banks is worth a look, if only to see how prestigious banks used to be.

Please now walk across Silver Street stay on the left and you are entering the famous Land of Green Ginger.

The **Land of Green Ginger**. There is no documentary evidence as to the origins of the name some say it's the corruption of the name 'Lindegreen' a Dutch family who lived in this area in the early 1800's, others say that it was the centre of the spice trading, you can take your pick.

Walk down the Land of Green Ginger, stay on the left hand pavement and you will come to one of Hull's most historic pubs dating back to the 17th century, the **George Hotel**.



Walk up to the George Hotel and just before the coach entrance on the first stanchion you will see a brass plaque and to the right of the plaque is **the smallest window in England**. **This is your Next Stopping Point**.

**The George Hotel** is one of Hull's most historic pubs dating back to the 17th century. The window is said to be used for observing guests as they approached the hotel's courtyard a boy, who sat behind the small window would identify them and allows them entry. Other accounts say it was a lookout point for **Excise men** or even to watch out for **press gangs** coming, again, you can take your pick.

Diagonally opposite the George is an attractive 3 storey building with lanterns hanging at either side of the entrance. This was Imperial Chamber built in 1878 as meeting rooms & library for the Hull's branch of the Law Society.

Please now go back the way you came and turn down Whitefriargate and walk down about 50 metres.

**This is your Next Stopping Point**

Fortunately this area was not touched in the World War II bombing raids so on the left of Whitefriargate we have an almost complete row of Georgian buildings right down to Queen Victoria Square at the other end.

Over the street you will see what was **Smiths Bank**, the centre eleven bays with the triangular pediment above was formerly Smith's a local bank set up by a partnership between Abel Smith of Nottingham and Thomas Thompson of Hull in 1784. It was originally based at what we now know as Wilberforce House. They moved to this site when it was completed in 1830. The other parts of the building either side of the bank were originally built as elegant town houses.

Walking on again and soon on your right you will be at the corner of Parliament Street. **This is your next stopping point**

On the corner of Whitefriargate and Parliament Street is a 4 storey stone building. It was the HSBC Bank built in 1879; this was the last of Hull's 19<sup>th</sup> century banks when it closed its doors for the last time in early 2017.



Now to the highlight of Whitefriargate, please turn and look above the shop opposite the end of Parliament Street and you will see the magnificent one time **Neptune Inn**, built in 1795, just a few years after the Hull's first dock was built.

As you face it you will see a coaching archway with the keystone depicting the head of Neptune, above that are 7 bays with Venetian style windows and on the roof line is a triangular pediment with a centre panel.

This panel depicts the coat of arms of Trinity House, that's the inverted anchor you can see in the centre.

The original idea of the Inn was for people of substance that needed to travel between London and Scotland or perhaps to York would be safer travelling by sea with a stop off in Hull rather than take on the hazardous journey by coach, with terrible roads and the possibility of highwaymen.

However they were difficult times in Britain and the expected rents could not be met so unfortunately the inn did not prove a commercial success.

It closed in the early 1800's and in 1815 it became Hull's Customs House and remained so until 1912.

Now please turn and with your back to the Neptune Inn look down what is Parliament Street.

**Parliament Street** is almost a complete Georgian Street. It was built at the same time as the Neptune Inn and formed a direct link between it and the dock it was planned to serve. An Act of Parliament was needed to acquire the land and hence the named Parliament Street.

In 1861 the Builder Magazine described the street as 'a snug street full of attorneys, notaries, registrars and accountants' and as you will see as you walk down the street not very much has changed.

Walk on until you reach Alfred Gelder Street and to your right you will see a light controlled crossing please walk over to it but do not cross. **This is your next stopping point**

Before you do cross look to your right and you will see the west end of **The Guildhall** from here you get an excellent view of the building and the wonderful statue of the **River Goddess shown at the bow of a boat being drawn by seahorses**.



Now look behind you to your right and you will see **Burlington Tavern** this used to be a dockside pub, there's no dockside now. Now please cross over the street and turn left, then almost immediately turn right and you will be on Quay Street facing Queens Gardens. Walk down Quay Street towards Queens Gardens, you will cross over the end of Hanover Square and Guildhall Road, both are one way so please look to your left. Walk down the steps leading into Queens Gardens.

**Note:** If you require a ramp then please turn left and walk to the end of the gardens and you will see a ramp on your left. Walk down the ramp, turn left again and make your way back to these steps.

Keeping to the footpaths make your way across the gardens, towards the café area, to the wall on the other side.

Notice how Queens Gardens is sunken; it was left like this is to give a reminder of the dock heritage of this area.

Whilst you are walking if you look to your right, through the avenue of trees you will get an excellent view of the Wilberforce Monument and Hull College. As you approach the café area you will see, fastened to the wall, a large plaque dedicated to **Robinson Crusoe**. According to Daniel Defoe's novel he sailed from Hull on his first ever sea voyage.



Now please veer to the left and walk up the path, with the pond on left, until you reach the wall at the end of the gardens. As you are passing the fish ponds please keep any children you have with you close by.

As you walk please look to your left and you will see the Solar Light artwork, known locally as the 'cheese grater' it really is quite effective and worth a closer look.



Once at the wall turn right up the ramp and at the top take sharp left and walk about 50 metres.

#### **This is your next stop**

You are now in **the fountain area of Queens Gardens** and ahead of you across the fountain you should recognise the domes of the Maritime Museum.

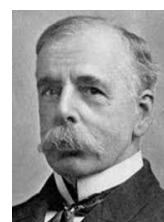
Please now turn right and walk around the gardens with the flowerbeds on your left and you will see to the right of the **Maritime Museum** a long rather plain looking, curved 3 storey building that is Dock Office Chambers.

On the building's original plans from 1872, it was described simply as "Offices, Stables etc. on behalf of the Hull Dock Company". As you walk around if you look carefully you can see the larger arched doorways which is where coach and horses could access the stables behind.

Continue to walk around the fountain to a set of traffic lights and when the lights permit, across over what is Queens Dock Avenue and you will see the pedestrianised New Cross Street in front of you. Walk down New Cross Street and you will be back in Queen Victoria Square and **at the end of the Hull Heritage Walk**.

If you haven't already done so this is your chance to visit the Maritime Museum or one of the other fascinating museums we've passed on our walk.

Before I finish I would just like to mention one of Hull's unsung heroes **Ebenezer Cobb Morley**. He is recognised as the founding father of **Association Football**, there's a Blue Plaque dedicated to him at FA headquarters in London. He was born in Hull in 1831. In 1863 he led a group of 8 who first codified the rules of association football, he was the first secretary of the FA and his hand written notes can still be seen in the British Library. Quite a legacy I hope you agree.



Well we do hope you have enjoyed your walk and on behalf of the production team of Eric Twigger, Tom Dealey and Dave Todd may we thank you for downloading the guide and taking the walk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Photographer Rupert Rudd, the Hull Daily Mail for the use of the historic photographs and last but by no means least two very tolerant wives.

We would welcome your feedback so please go to [www.visithull.org.uk](http://www.visithull.org.uk) and then to the 'contact-us' section THANK YOU.