

The Victoria Dock Heritage Trail : A Walk of Discovery



The trail describes a history of Victoria Dock. It includes Henry VIII's defences on the East of the River Hull. Of interest to historians and especially people who enjoy engineering.

It is probably best to drive onto the Dock via the traffic lights junction which leads past the pub, then you could park in front of the shops on Southbridge Road. *You could, however, start near The Deep and begin at board 7 or 8. This is a circular walk and will you come back to this point near The Deep.*

Practicalities: There are no public toilets on the trail.

The trail may take 2 hours if you read all the available information along the way,

The shops are close to information board number 1, which is on the side of the **Winding House** It will introduce you to the walk. There is a large trail map here.

There are information boards with numbers 1-20, each with headings and locations. Each Board has a trail map on it and shows where to find the next in the sequence.



1 **The Winding House**, is on the far side of the roundabout at the junction of Plimsoll Way and South Bridge Road. The 5 ton steam engine that was here is, at present, in Humber Dock Street, close to the Marina.

2 Here there is reference to **Humphrey and Pearson's Shipyard**

3 Across the road, on the grassed area are the remnants of the **Citadel** and **Watch tower** which stood on the east bank of the River Hull, between 16th to 19th centuries.

4 Going west towards the river Hull is a board about **The Fever Hospital** built in the mid 17th century to serve people suffering from diseases like cholera and typhus. This lies in front of the school playing field.

5 Continuing west along South Bridge Road near to the Premier Hotel, is a board marking the site of **The Citadel Hotel**. It was a 19th C pub on the corner of Citadel Street..

6 Near to the Deep is the site of the **South Blockhouse**, again part of the fortifications on the east bank of the River Hull ordered by Henry VIII in 1542.

7 Again, by the Deep, the board tells about the **Ha'penny Bridge** that was over the River Hull. The name is also celebrated by the name of apartments off Plimsoll Way.

8 This board marks **Sammy's Point** where the Deep is situated.

Walk behind The Deep and enjoy the two rivers, the birds and the peace. Land was reclaimed here in the 1850s by Martin Samuelson.

Along here is a lovely walk by the side of The Humber.

9 **The Foreign Cattle Depot** This board is shown on board 8 to be on the river front by Pilots Way, but it is missing, possibly having been moved because of the building work. The depot was built to cope with the increase in the imports of live animals in the 1800s, as living standards rose and more meat was required.

Continue in the same direction to board 10

10 **The Slipway or Patent Slipway** meets the river front on Plimsoll Way. It was served by the Winding House which you may be able to see from where you are standing.

11 **The Flap Gate** stretches across the **Half Tide Basin** and will serve you as a bridge to the Timber Pond information board. It is now in a fixed position.

12 **The Timber Ponds** stored large baulks of timber.



13 **The Promenade and a new sculpture - Windows on Nature-** was designed by local artist Theo Wickenden.

14 **Pettingell's Bird's Eye View and Earle's Shipyard.**

15 **Earle's Shipyard and SS The Bessemer.** This board can be found up on a mound that has been gardened. You will have to follow the path that winds its way to the top. This is where the riverside meets the bottom of Corinthian Way. Nearby, in the water, is part of a rotting barge.

Also you can find, at the base, a very attractive blue bench, sculpted in metal and dedicated to the NHS and to keyworkers.

16 The **Last Man**, is a reference to the closure of Earl's Shipyard and can be seen at the top end of Corinthian Way on South Bridge Road.

17 **Coal Crane and Fires** is adjacent to Victoria Park. Coal from the West Riding was exported from here.

18 **Victoria Dock Railway Station** is to be found inside the Victoria Dock Park It was the end of the Hull and Holderness Railway line. *Look out for the very large sun dial.*

19 **Victoria Dock** is also inside the park. Opened in 1850, it was intended to be a timber dock. It closed in 1970.

20 **Hartley Bridge** is on the end of the Half Tide Basin.

From here continue in the same direction to the shops and pub, or further, to The Deep.

We would like to credit the people who originally devised this trail but we don't have names.

There was a comprehensive booklet about the Trail by Colin McNicol, but it is no longer in print.

Thank you to Dog Walk Tours for their help when we began this.