



## **Stage Seven – From Scale Lane Staithe to Salthouse Lane**

*Takes approximately 20 minutes*



This stage of the walk starts where we left off in Scale Lane Staithe and finishes where 'Little' High Street meets Salthouse Lane and Alfred Gelder Street.

At the corner of Scale Lane Staithe turn right and see the black and white frontage of **Ye Olde Black Boy Pub** just a little way down. It was first licensed in 1729 and is Hull's oldest surviving pub. It was also one of the favourite haunts of the poet Philip Larkin.

Across the road from the pub is **Bond 31 Staith** built in 1828.

A "staith" or "staithe" is a landing place for goods. The merchants who lived in High Street built their warehouses between their homes and the river Hull, and these small lanes ran between the warehouses down to the river where goods were loaded and unloaded. Staith can be spelled with or without a final "e" and you will find both spellings used around Hull's old streets.



Across High Street and next to the Black Boy, set back, is the other entrance to Burnett Avenue, mentioned earlier, in Stage 6. This is an example of how in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, commercial properties were developed on the yards and alleyways on this side of High Street. Further along from the Burnett Avenue, we have **Dunwell's Forge**, a medieval building re-built in the mid 1700's as a shipsmith's. Much of the original internal medieval timber framing remains. It's now Hitchcock's, a popular vegetarian restaurant with its entrance round the corner in Bishop Lane.

On the right hand side, opposite Dunwell's Forge, you will come to the former **Pacific Club** (just before the pillar box).



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 has served as a gentleman's club, a centre for folk music and dance and, most recently, as offices of the Absolutely Cultured team who took over from the City of Culture 2017 team, but are now based in the Humber Street Gallery.

Just beyond the Pacific Club and running underneath its bay window, we have **Bishop Lane Staithe**.

This shows how a typical staithe entrance would have looked in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

It has excellent examples of the heavy wrought iron protective plates put up around the 1750s by the property owners, to stop carts from damaging the walls of their buildings as traders manhandled their goods to the quay side.

Opposite the staithe is Bishop Lane, named because there was a property down here owned, in 14<sup>th</sup> century, by The Bishop of York.

As you walk on you will pass **Pacific Court** on the right. Now student accommodation, it was a row of warehouses from the early 1800s. Some of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor loading bays are still intact.

Opposite Pacific Court is **156 High Street, Salter's Court**, named after the 19<sup>th</sup> Century sloop owner John Salter. The entrance is gated, but if it is open, take a quick look in the beautifully set out courtyard. On the same side is another Avenue that isn't there any longer, but which originally came out in Bishop Lane. It is an elaborate commercial property built around 1900 to replace an L shaped alley. Next is **The Sailmaker's Arms** (Above is a solicitors). It was a ship's chandler (a merchant for ship supplies, such as spare sails) in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These days it is a welcoming pub with an open fire in winter and a sun catching courtyard in summer.



Continuing on the right and you will come to a rather grand building with a pair of Corinthian columns either side of the gated entrance with the name '**Commercial Museum**'. This was the Corn Exchange designed in 1855. It is now The Hull and East Riding Museum, and is accessible from The Museum Quarter.



On the other side of the street is **Maister House**, Hull's only National Trust property, built in 1775 for the wealthy local merchant Henry Maister. Although quite austere on the outside the inside reveals a delicate wrought iron balustrade to the stairs and gallery with ornate plasterwork. It is often occupied by tenants but the stairs and gallery are usually open to the public when the building is in use. Read the blue plaque for a little more information.

On your right, as you walk on, is Chapel Lane Staithe and, the entrance to the The Museum Quarter and Peace Garden. It houses The Street Life Museum and The East Riding Museum. Both are free to visit. You may wish to continue the walk now and come back later to visit the museums. Walk beside the wall of the Peace Garden for a little while.

Soon you will pass, on your right, Oriel House, named for its oriel window on an upper floor. It houses the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation.

Then we have the second entrance to The Museum Quarter.

Next is **Wilberforce House**, birthplace, in 1759, and home to William Wilberforce. He is probably Hull's most famous son. As MP for Hull he led a group of other MPs pushing for the abolition of the slave trade.

*The Slave Trade Act of 1807, slavery was abolished in 1833*



Further along High Street, on the right, you will come to, a pair of semi-detached **Georgian Houses** which are now a museum displaying costumes, firearms and Hull silverware from the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries as well as clocks made in Hull and the East Riding. These houses are very unusual in that they are a semi-detached pair which went very much against the Georgian convention, and there are few existing examples of this layout in the country today.

This museum is accessible through **Wilberforce House**.

This area was bombed during WW2 so you will walk past a wall which has a Georgian doorway in it, but no building. This is part of the house of Joseph Pease, a Dutch born man who established Hull's first bank in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Behind is a private car park and garden for the residents of Phoenix House, Lister Court and Pease Court.



As you join Alfred Gelder Street look right for Drypool Bridge.

**Drypool Bridge**, a rolling lift bridge opened in 1961, replacing the original bridge which was built in 1888.



There are information boards near the bridge and you can get a view of the river from there.

In 2017 the bridge was repainted in the memory of the mathematician John Venn the developer of Venn diagram. He was born just over the river in Drypool Parish in 1834.

The main road is Alfred Gelder Street. This road 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 the early 1960's. We now cross over Alfred Gelder Street. There is a dropped kerb nearby but **no designated crossing point**, so please cross with care. (You may prefer to walk down to the crossing to your left.)



Walk down the continuation of High Street, known locally as 'Little' High Street, on the left hand pavement, for about 30 metres. Ahead of you is **Blaydes House**, built around 1750 for Benjamin Blaydes, a merchant and shipbuilder. Alongside it is Blaydes Staith (note the difference in spelling). In 1784 his company built a ship called the Bethia here on the River Hull. It was later bought by the Royal Navy for £1,950 and renamed **HMS Bounty**, of the famous mutiny.

The house is now, appropriately enough, the University of Hull's Maritime History Research Centre.

Up on the roof between the two chimneys you will see a small belvedere, or viewing point. Young boys were sent up there to look out for merchant ships sailing up the Humber, so that cargoes could be readied for rapid loading. This meant that the Blaydes merchants could bring a shipment in with the high tide, load the ship with fresh cargo and send it out again on the same tide. It is said that the belvedere was built after 3 boys were killed falling off the roof whilst ship spotting.



Staying on the same side, pass by Blaydes House, Alexandria Wharf and Number One and number two High Street. They are next to the site of **North Gate**.



A little way past is the **Old Dock Office** built around 1820. This was the main office for the Hull Dock Company until the new Dock Offices, now the Maritime Museum, were opened in 1871. The original building had a central triangular pediment on the roof above the door, which now looks out of place because of the extension built in 1840.

Walk on past the Old Dock Office and cross over what is now Dock Office Row towards the River Hull.

Dock Office Row is the continuation of 'Little' High Street, but does not have a street sign at present. Looking through the railings you will see the dock basin for what was Queens Dock, now the site of Queens Garden. The old passage of ships from the river going into the dock is marked across the pavement and road. There is some information carved into the pavement on the side near the river.

This will be the new site of Hull's historic trawler, the Arctic Corsair together with a purpose built modern visitors' centre.

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

You will have seen the street called **North Walls** on the left as you came up to the Old Dock Office. This, as the name suggests, was the northern limit to the medieval town wall. North Walls runs from Little High Street, down the side of the college to Lowgate. From there you can see Queen's Gardens. *We are not taking this route at present.*

From Dock Offices we go back to Alfred Gelder Street to where it is joined by Salthouse Lane.

This is the end of **Stage 7** and the beginning of **Stage 8**