



Stage Five – The Pier Area to Market Place

Stage Five begins at the **Napoleonic Cannon** close to the lock gates over The Marina.



(Please keep your eye on children round here, there is a lot of water.)

Be aware that in places the pavement is uneven and there are cobblestones.

As you walk towards the Humber, just passed the cannon on the right is a building standing alone. This was the **Customs and Excise House**, now apartments. On the left you will be passing the back of the **Minerva Pub**. Keep walking onwards to Minerva Pier (aka West Pier). On your way you'll walk over a 'Fish Trail' image of a haddock.

Once you are on the corner of the Minerva Pub you have an option. If you wish, you can walk slightly to your right and through the flood gates you can see in front of you on to West Pier (or Minerva Pier).



At the end of the Pier you will see two war memorials dedicated to seamen of the Royal and Merchant Navies lost in the two world wars.

Having returned through the flood barrier to the corner of the Minerva, take a sort of hairpin bend to the left around the end of the pub, walk about 15 metres and you'll be in Nelson Street and at the entrance of the Minerva pub. Here you can see some striking examples of buildings from the early part of the 19th century. This is all part of the reclaimed land using the spoils from the excavation of Humber Dock (the Marina) we mentioned on stage 4.



On your left is the **Minerva Pub**, it was built in 1829 and the layout has changed very little over time. It has lots of small snug type rooms.

One is said to be the smallest pub room in the country, seating only 3 people. The walls are covered in interesting photographs of Old Hull and this area in particular.

If you can drag yourself away from the Minerva, walk on and with the Minerva on the left.



In front of you are our **award winning public toilets**.

They were built in the 1930s and in a recent survey, they were voted one of the best 100

places to visit in England.

Keep walking passed the toilets and you'll come to the junction of Nelson and Pier Street both original signs from 1813. Now walk along Nelson Street which runs parallel to the flood defences and you will see another of our unique telephone boxes, look out for those missing crowns again.



Soon you will come to the **Pier Station** entrance (a pair of blue doors on your left). It is one of the very few British Rail ticket offices situated nowhere near

any railway lines!

This ticket office was for the ferry which from 1948 was run by British Rail. The ferry went from Victoria Pier behind you to New Holland in Lincolnshire. It was originally run by the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway Company with the initials **MLS**.



On the roof-line above the **Pier Station** (Now apartments) you will see a **Clock and the date it was built 1880 and those initials MSL.**

There have been ferries crossing the Humber since at least roman times, but they were to the west of here where the river narrows at Brough or Ferriby.

The first Hull ferries were established in the early 1300s with the consent of Edward II.

Now please turn around and walk across Nelson Street.

It is a cul-de-sac but keep an eye out for traffic.

Make your way up to the glass panel you can see in the flood barriers ahead of you.

Once you reach the glass panel in the food barrier – read on.

Victoria Pier was originally called Corporation Pier but was renamed in 1854 following the visit of Queen Victoria and Albert.

Unfortunately at present the pier itself is closed due to its hazardous condition.

The first regular paddle steamer service from Hull to New Holland in Lincolnshire was established in 1826.



... but sadly ferry service ended on 24th June 1981 when the wonderful **Humber Bridge** opened.

The bridge is about 7 miles to the east of here and at the time it was the longest single span bridge in the world.

It's still thought to be the longest bridge with a purpose built cycle path and foot path.

The span between the piers is 1410 metres and their height is 155 metres.

The Humber is about a mile wide here and drains about 1/5th of England.

When you are ready to continue, turn round and walk back towards Nelson Street and turn right and walk towards the stately statue you see in front of you.

You be walking towards the River Hull. Stop when you reach the glass panel in the flood barrier behind the statue. Please look over the barrier or through the glass panel and you will see a ramp going down towards the Humber.

This is known as ‘Os Wash’ the ramp you can see was used for washing horses, or in the Hull vernacular, ‘osses’! It was also used for loading goods directly from barges onto horse and carts. There are some excellent photos of oss-wash in action on the walls of the Minerva.



Please walk around to the front of the statue. This is a statue of Hull's first mayor **Sir William de la Pole** in 1332. It's not Lord Mayor you'll notice we didn't receive that honour until the visit of King George V in 1914.

The de la Pole family went on to be very influential in England's history.

Turn around and you will see a building with a sign 'Nelson Street' on the wall this is the splendid **Pilots Office** built in 1819.



The Pilots Office served as the headquarters of the Humber Pilot Service until 2002 when the operation was moved to Spurn Point. The building is now apartments. A pilot service is essential for the Humber, to guide boats through what is a very treacherous stretch of water.

Please now continue to walk towards the River Hull, as you walk take the steps or the ramp and you'll come to an open area on your right.

Facing you is a modern statue on a tall plinth looking seaward. This is Voyage it was a gift from the people of Iceland in recognition of the long established relationship between the island and Hull.



Look across to the east bank of the River Hull you'll see Hull's award winning millennium visitor attraction, **The Deep**.

Its home to over 5000 creatures, including sea turtles, sharks, rays, a colony of penguins and a fabulous pair of green swordfish. If this is your thing be sure to pay it a visit you certainly won't be disappointed.



Now further east about a mile beyond the Deep is the one time Alexandra Dock, now the centre of **Hull's Green Port area**. It produces some of the largest wind turbines in the world, all destined for the North Sea.

Now if you move to against the wall near the Humber and looking further east still you should be able to see one of the huge ferries that run passengers and freight on a daily service between Hull and Rotterdam. They may not look that big from here but let me assure you they really are.

Beyond the ferry terminal is the Saltend Chemical Complex and beyond that over 20 miles away is Spurn Point and the North Sea.

Ok whilst facing the River Hull, look to your left and you'll see an open gate in the flood barrier. Well it should be open otherwise we can be expecting a flood. So, please walk through the gate and then take the walkway along the edge of the River Hull.

As you walk, on your left you'll see warehouse 47 built in the mid 1800's and further on, on your left you'll see 'Stage at the Dock', Hull's open air theatre, set in a onetime dry dock used for repairing ships. Please continue to walk until you reach a modern white coloured footbridge over the River Hull, it gives direct access to the grounds of the Deep.

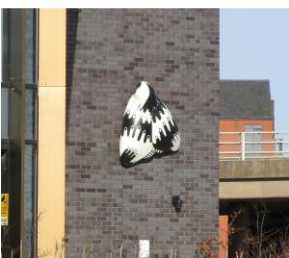
From the bridge continue to follow the walkway along the side of the River Hull in the direction of The **Tidal Surge Barrier** built in 1980. It is grade 2 listed. Before it was opened, the centre of Hull was subject to frequently floods.



The Barrier protects us against very high tides. Unfortunately, it didn't protect the area in 2007 when water running off The Wolds flooded much of the East Riding. 10,000 homes were flooded and one man lost his life.

Since then a massive flood defence system has been put in place so hopefully such a disaster won't happen again.

Now before we move on look ahead of you and to your left and you will see on the walls two images of a moths. These are part of **The Moths** for Amy, a tribute to Amy Johnson Hull's famous aviator. In 1930 she flew single handed from England to Australia. As with the Moths and Rats I mention earlier there are also stylised toads and puffin for you to discover around the area.



Ok so please walk down to the road ahead of you this is Humber Street. Once there turn right and continue to walk passed the Tidal Barrier and then a wide row of steps. Following the steps you will see a pedestrian ramp on your right, with a large anchor facing you.

Walk up the ramp and turn right around the anchor.

When you are at top of ramp make your way to the railings you will see in front of you.



Close by over the railings you will see two small sculptures of the heads of **two Inuit teenagers** with the inscription below reading '**Truelove**'. On the railings to your left is a plaque which explains the sad story of these two young 19th century immigrants who made their way to Hull on the whaling ship Truelove.

Now please now turn around and go back down the ramp and turn right along Humber Street. There are two dropped kerbs nearby by to make crossing easier. Just before you cross over Humber Street look ahead of you and you will see a street sign, which reads 'Blackfriargate'.

This area used to be the site of an Augustinian Monastery founded in 1303. Its friars wore black robes, hence the street name. You can hear more about the Augustinian Friars at the beginning of stage 6 of the walk.

Please cross over Humber Street, turn right.

Watch out for traffic from both directions here.

Now please walk under A63 flyover into what is the beginning of High Street.

Once you have passed under the flyover turn immediately left up a gentle ramped footpath which runs up parallel to the A63 up to road level.

Sorry it is very noisy under here, it does get a bit better once you are on the ramp.

Once you are at the top of the ramp follow the path round to the right and walk towards the gold coloured statue of **William III** you will see in front of you. You are now in Market Place and the end of stage 5 and the starting point for **Stage 6**.



Thank you