

Beverley Beck Heritage Walk

Client – East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Design and production of 4 interpretation panels

Beverley Beck has a hidden history dating back to its use as a medieval river port and centre for brick making, grain export and leather working. Nothing of this industrial activity remains except a few clues in the stonework of the old quays and surrounding buildings, which only the trained eye would notice. Working with council staff and local historians we created 4 panels using reconstruction illustrations, archive photographs and local resident's memories to bring these stories to life for visitors. As a map base we used an old Ordnance Survey map to highlight where former industries had once been located.

Beverley Beck Heritage Walk
Living and working on Beckside

"They used to say you weren't a Becksider if you didn't fall in the beck!"

Many local people have fond memories of Becksides as a tight knit community with everything you needed right on the doorstep - shops for supplies, friends around the corner and industry for jobs.

The main employers were Hodgson's Tannery and Barker and Lee Smith's Mill. By 1890, Hodgson's had a workforce of 450 and were producing high quality leathers, gelatine and glue products. Wet and dry animal hides were carried by the company's fleet of barges from Hull Docks to a huge warehouse on the opposite side of the beck.

To your left, boats carrying grain, linseed and nuts arrived at Barker's Mill where they were turned into oil and animal feed. In 1975, the mill became Paul's (British Oil and Cake Mills), finally closing in 1991. The tannery warehouse was demolished around 1999 and the tannery along Fleminggate, was pulled down in 2010.

Fascinating Facts
System, British, Danish, Sicilian and London were the names of some of Hodgson's motor barges. They were named after famous people.

Frangy a reward
Nothing was wasted in the tannery. Scrap pieces of bark and cuttings were boiled down to make gelatin, which was used in the production of fruit jams, chocolates, fillings, pork pies and other photographic film.

History Detective
Under your feet
Coal for the gas works was unloaded from barge huts at Crane Hill. Can you spot one of the rails that the gas works used to sit on?

Have you seen it?
All tied up
As you walk along the beck, you may have large round rings you can feel. These concrete rings show an where boats were tied up to unload their cargoes.

Safety First
Beware you're a large weight on an uneven ground. A large piece of equipment for a boat that regularly navigated the tannery River Market. This boat was once generously donated by the Beverley Barge Preservation Society to the Barge of Yorkshire Coast in 2010.

More to Explore:
Visit www.beverley-tannery.com for details about the history of Hodgson's Tannery and Beckside. (Beverley Barge Preservation Society - www.beverlybarge.org.uk)

Things to know about Beverley Beck Heritage Walk:
Distance: 2.3 km
Time: Allow 60 minutes at an average pace.
Routes: Follow both sides of the beck. At the lock, either cross over (there are some steps) and a handbridge or return along the water route.
There are four information panels along the walk. ⚠️
Stay Safe: The narrow roads are open to traffic. Take care beside the water's edge.

For Further Information:
To find out more about Beverley Beck please contact the Beverley Tourist Information Centre
Telephone: 01482 391 872
beverley@eastingridings.gov.uk
www.eastingridings.gov.uk

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Beverley Beck Heritage Walk
A Busy Medieval Port

Imagine stepping back in time, 800 years, into the bustle of Beverley's medieval port.

Boats laden with stone for the new Beverley Minster arrive at the wharf. Others are loaded with wool destined for Holland and Belgium. Creelers, or carriers, unload heavy baskets of firewood, or barrels of salt, while carters and porters wait with barrows and sleds to carry the goods into town. The air is ringing with the sound of deers being struck in the market and thick with smoke from the brick and tile yards that line the beck.

In the early 1100s, the Archbishop of York, who was lord of Beverley, recognised the importance of the beck as a trade link via the Rivers Hull and Humber to the North Sea and beyond. The waterway was deepened and straightened and Beckside was a major port.

By the late 1300s, Beverley was one of England's largest towns, its growth largely due to the exports of wool. Beckside was thriving, with millers, leather workers, skivvymakers, potters and tile-makers all joining their trade. The water provided a raw material for the cloth and leather industries, power for corn mills and transport for heavy, bulky goods.

Fascinating Facts
Have you heard of Beverley's Scaffer?
Beverley was famous for producing a material to cloak, but Beverley and cloth was also very popular with Spanish merchants in the late 1300s.

History Detective
What's in a name?
There's more to the name than meets the eye. The name of the town, Beverley, is derived from the name of the river, Beverley, which means 'home of the beaver'.

Have you seen it?
Look out for the horse trough to your right. It was installed by Queen Victoria's Civilian children in 1867.
"They called it the fountain... fresh water gurgling through the stone and the horses were going on either side like they had just got from 'Frost Bitten'."

More to Explore:
To discover more about Beverley's history you can visit the Beverley Guildhall and Treasurer's House. The site of the river bridge you can see from the river is the site of the medieval bridge and the town's original church was built in 1100. There are four information panels along the walk. ⚠️
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