

Public Houses

The Cock & Bottle pub was built in 1965 on the site of the old Plumbers Arms in Skeldergate.



Corner Shops

See how many former corner shops you can spot on your walk. This one is in Victor Street.



Points of Interest

- 1 Skeldergate Bridge* and Skeldergate
- 2 Skeldergate Ferry Landing
- 3 The Bonding Warehouse
- 4 Start of the [optional] walls walk (* in turret)
- 5 Baille Hill
- 6 Site of former House of Correction
- 7 The walls and towers
- 8 Victoria Chapel
- 9 Victoria Bar*
- 10 Terraced housing and corner shops
- 11 Baptist Church, Priory Street
- 12 Site of Trinity Priory Gatehouse
- 13 Holy Trinity Church (rear)
- 14 Wesleyan Chapel (now Q Church) and adjoining Priory Street Centre
- 15 St. Columba's United Reformed Church
- 16 St. Mary's Bishophill Junior Church
- 17 Cooke's No. 2 Works, Bishophill *
- 18 Jacob's Well
- 19 The Ackhorne public house
- 20 Boundary stone, St. Martin's Lane
- 21 Site of Capaldi's former ice cream factory
- 22 Site of Red Rhino Records
- 23 Site of Cooke's Buckingham Works
- 24 Site of York Penitentiary, 19th century
- 25 Site of St. Mary's Bishophill Senior Church*
- 26 Carr's Lane and Quaker Burial Ground*
- 27 The Golden Ball pub
- 28 Middleton's Hotel historic buildings
- 29 Site of John Carr's house, noted 18th century architect
- 30 The Cock & Bottle pub
- 31 Site of Skeldergate Mission Hall and birthplace of George Ellison
- 32 Queen's Staithe

* Plaque or interpretation available

A walk around historic Bishophill in York

This walk explores the history and buildings of Bishophill in York. This historic area, to the south of the city centre, is surrounded by the River Ouse and the City Walls.

The riverside setting has given it a particular character, with traders throughout history using the river to bring goods in and out of York, along Skeldergate.

You can start and finish where you like and take as long as you like. If you do the whole walk, it will take around one hour.



Start Here...

1 Skeldergate Bridge
– The west bank of the Ouse once lined with warehouses, ships and cranes. Now apartments and hotels.



2 Old ferry landing at Skeldergate Bridge, replaced by the Bridge in 1881. Skeldergate was originally blocked by a bar or gate roughly where the bridge now runs. *Skeldergate – Viking name meaning possibly 'street of the shield-makers'.*



3 The Bonding Warehouse – typical of the warehouses once used to store goods imported by river. Now offices and apartments.

4 Start of the walls walk. An optional route with views over the City towards Clifford's Tower and York Minster.

5 Baile Hill – one of York's two Norman castles. Only the motte remains. Terraced housing has been built over most of the bailey.



6 Site of House of Correction at Baile Hill from 1805. Demolished in 1878 and replaced by housing.



7 The City Wall and towers. You can look up at the medieval walls, much altered by the Victorians. There are a number of defensive towers.

8 Victoria Chapel. Primitive Methodist, 1880. Now apartments.



9 Victoria Bar. Pop outside the bar or gate for a view of the walls and to read the plaque. The bar was a Victorian creation.



10 Terraced housing and corner shops – the latter now largely 'shadows in the bricks'.

11 Baptist Church, Priory Street, 1868.



12 Site of the gatehouse to Trinity Priory, at the end of Priory Street.



13 Rear of Holy Trinity Church. Entrance off Micklegate. Last vestiges of an extensive medieval priory which, with its grounds, once covered much of this area.

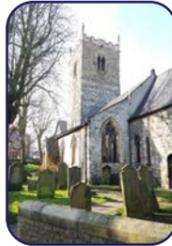
14 Wesleyan Chapel 1856, now the evangelical Q Church. The adjoining Priory Street Centre houses CVS, supporting the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.



15 St. Columba's United Reformed Church. The tower is long gone. Built for Presbyterians, 1879.



16 St Mary Bishophill Junior Church, ca 12th century incorporating some Roman stone. Note Vicarage and Church Hall, both now private houses.



17 Cooke's No.2 Works on Bishophill. World-famous firm made optical instruments, including telescopes. Now residential.



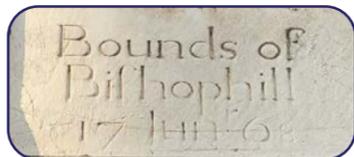
18 Jacob's Well. Late 15th century building with a long and varied history.



19 The Ackhorne – a historic hostelry.



20 St. Martin's Lane with rear view of St. Martin cum Gregory Church – now a stained glass centre accessed from Micklegate. Parish boundary marker, over the door of no.7.



21 Site of Capaldi's former ice cream factory, now residential.



22 Former Red Rhino Record's warehouse to the right of Capaldi's. Influential in independent music scene in 1980s.



23 Site of York Penitentiary, 19th century refuge for 'fallen women'. Now residential.



24 Site of Cooke's Buckingham Works, built 1855, world's first telescope factory, on plot of Buckingham House, built in 1642, for Duke of Buckingham, but demolished before 1800.



25 St. Mary's Bishophill Senior Church. Now demolished and converted into a community garden. Interesting gravestones.



26 Quaker Burial Ground and nearby Carr's Lane. Plaque on Cromwell Road.



27 The Golden Ball, late 18th century. In 2012, the first UK city centre co-operative pub.



28 Middleton's Hotel incorporates a group of historic buildings.



29 Famous 18th century architect John Carr's house was here, next to Albion St Chapel.



30 The Cock & Bottle pub on Skeldergate. Formerly the Plumber's Arms, pre-1869.



31 Site of Skeldergate Mission, also the birthplace in 1878 of the last soldier killed in WWI, Private Ellison.



32 Queen's Staithe



Finish Here

More details can be found in our book *Bishophill and Skeldergate* – available locally – and on our website at www.clementshallhistorygroup.org.uk

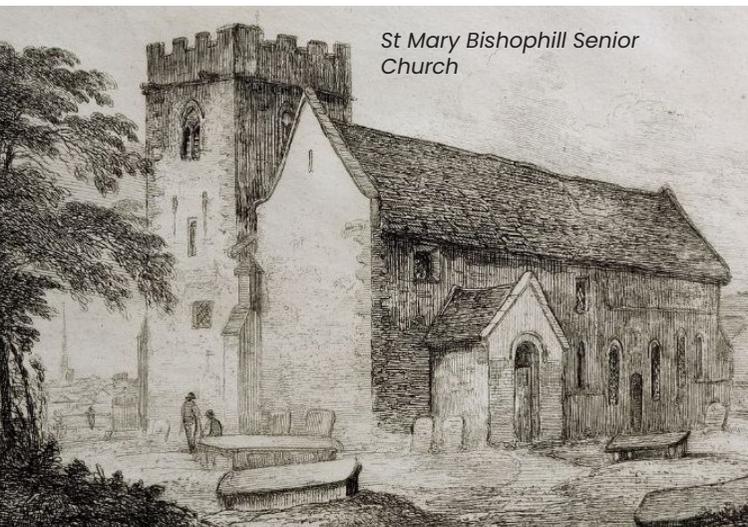


Bishophill through History

Bishophill occupies an area of York within the city walls and the west bank of the River Ouse, with Skeldergate as its riverside street. The Romans settled here some 2000 years ago to service their fort at Eboracum. A bridge, just to the north of our area, connected the two banks of the river.

In medieval times there were religious buildings and gardens, notably those belonging to Trinity Priory. Several churches served the local population of different denominations. Then in the 18th and 19th centuries the area provided housing for the growing population of York. There were local services and industries, some of them of considerable size. The western bank of the Ouse provided wharves for the import and export of goods, and was lined by warehouses, flour and timber mills, and cranes.

In more recent times there has been extensive change and redevelopment. The industries and corner shops have largely gone, to be replaced by apartment blocks, hotels and holiday lets



St Mary Bishophill Senior Church

The Riverside

The River Ouse was a key transport route, with regular steam packet passenger services to Hull from 1816, then to Selby. Vessels left from Albion Wharf and the New Crane Wharf (now Castle Mills sheltered housing). By the 1870s however the steamer service had stopped, with competition from the railway lines on key routes. Passenger traffic on the Ouse had disappeared by 1876.

Queen's Staithe was busy with the coal trade in the 1860s. Then, by the 20th century, there were warehouses with builders, roofing contractors, shipping agents, electrical goods wholesalers, scrap metal merchants and corn merchants. Refurbishment of properties on this side of the river started in the 1970s.



Skeldergate warehouses, early 20th century

Wharves and cranes at Queen's Staithe, 1969



Walk Practicalities

The walk is based on our book *Bishophill and Skeldergate: exploring old shops, pubs and industries in York*. The leaflet highlights most of the area's historic local features, but there are others which have been omitted for shortage of space, and they can be found in our book, which is available locally. More information about stockists, our group and its activities is online at www.clementshallhistorygroup.org.uk

We have designed this as an exploratory walk, but it can also be done by bicycle. Most of the route is accessible by wheelchair users, but there are some uneven surfaces and slopes.

There are places for food and drink in the area and around its edges. There are no public toilets in the area



Boundary stone at no.7 St Martin's Lane

The walk is dedicated to Elizabeth Melrose, a great supporter of our local history group for many years.

A collection was held in her memory, which has been used to produce this leaflet.