



# WHITBY HERITAGE TRAIL

This trail and its associated activity sheets are to allow you and your students to explore the town of Whitby and discover more about its history and heritage. Follow the trail and stop at each point to discover a fact and/or have a go at the activity. Students will need their Stop and Spot architecture cards and 'Yards' check lists with them at all times.

**START**

Start by leaving the Abbey via the courtyard and heading into town along the Church Steps.

**POINT 1****Church Steps**

**FACT** If you look carefully you will notice that some of the steps are much wider than others. This was for resting a coffin on, in the days when the dead were carried by friends and family up to the church. The Church Steps have long been part of Whitby. The earliest recorded evidence of them is a painting of 1717, although they no doubt existed long before this. Today there are 199 steps.

**POINT 2****Henrietta Street**

**FACT** This street was originally much longer with over 100 houses and called Haggerlythe. The cliff behind the houses was unstable and landslides in 1787 and 1871 destroyed many houses, leaving a shorter street. If you now look along Henrietta Street you can see just how close to the cliff the houses are built. Notice that the extensions are built right up to the rock face.

**POINT 3****Tate Hill Pier Today**

**FACT** As you come down on to the pier you get more of a sense of Whitby's maritime heritage. This pier is on the site of the original East Pier, dating back to at least the 1600s. The pier was also known later as Burgess Pier. It was made its present length in c1765. It was where the lifeboat was kept from 1822-1863. This is where boats would have been tied to the pier and you can imagine boats coming and going, unloading their cargos.

POINT  
3a**Tate Hill Pier 1929**

**ACTIVITY** Hand out copies of the 1929 picture of the pier (**Activity Card A**). Take a few moments to **compare this picture** with what you can see today. Ask one half of your students to draw a circle around all the **things that have changed** and the other to circle all the **things that have stayed the same**. Then get each group to discuss their findings with the other.

ACTIVITY  
CARD

A

POINT  
4**Whitby Jet**

**FACT** This is just one of many jet shops in Whitby. Jet is wood that is millions of years old and has been compressed into stone (fossilised). Jewellery made from Whitby jet became very popular in Victorian times because of Queen Victoria's fashion for wearing black mourning clothes. The conditions for jet workers were often bad. Hundreds of men and boys **worked long hours in cramped and dusty conditions** to make the jewellery.

POINT  
5**Stop & Spot**

**ACTIVITY** **Use your architecture cards (Activity Cards B)** to work out the date of this building. Is it Victorian, Georgian or Medieval? What are the main clues?

ACTIVITY  
CARDS

B

POINT  
6**White Horse & Griffin**

**FACT** This inn was built in the late 18th century. The name, White Horse and Griffin, was an acknowledgement to the Cholmley family. They were the **Lords of the Manor** and had a griffin on their coat of arms. The first Stage Coach from Whitby to York travelled from here.

**ACTIVITY** Explore White Horse yard. Ask pupils to look at the signs around the entrance to the yard. What do they tell us about transport in the past? Can they **find out the date** of the first Stage Coach trip? Get them to stand in the yard and **imagine the hectic scene**, filled with horses, carriages, people and poo!

POINT  
7**Captain Cook's House**

**FACT** In the 1740s this house belonged to a Captain Walker. He took on apprentices to learn about sailing ships used in the coal trade. It was in the attics of this building, from 1746, that the future Captain Cook lived when he was apprenticed to Captain Walker. In 1755 Cook left Whitby to join the Navy, but remained good friends with Captain Walker. Captain Cook went on to become an explorer. He mapped the Pacific and found out about its islands and its peoples

**ACTIVITY** Architecture Challenge – Look at the date plaque on the wall. Then **look at your architecture cards (Activity Cards B)**. Do the dates match? Look all around the outside of the building – can you tell what has happened to this building?

This house is now a museum if you wish to visit it and discover more about Captain Cook.

POINT  
8**Bridge & Old Market Place**

**FACT** The earliest reference to a bridge here is from 1327. It has been vital to Whitby's development as a town, not only for access but also for the ship building industry. The width of the bridge and the height it could open to, limited the size of the ships that could be built in the ship yards further up the river.

Take a few moments to **read more about the current bridge.**

**Turn around**

**FACT** **Look across at the buildings** and streets ahead. This area was originally the Old Market Place and was an important meeting area. It was where the major streets of Baxtergate, Golden Lion Bank and St Ann's Staith all joined up. It is now a busy road and the area seems much more open than it would have done in the past.

POINT  
9**Sandgate – Stop & Spot**

**ACTIVITY** Make your way back to the abbey via Sandgate. As you walk along **look up above the shop fronts. Use your architecture cards (Activity Cards B)** to try and date some of the shops. Why not see if you can work out the type of brick bond used as well?



POINT  
10**Town Hall & New Market Place**

**FACT** The Town Hall was built in 1788 by Jonathan Pickernell of Whitby. He was also an engineer who worked on the harbour and built the West Pier. The Hall was paid for by Nathaniel Cholmley (Lord of the Manor). The Cholmleys became an important family in Whitby after the Dissolution of the monasteries. It was a Richard Cholmley who bought the abbey in 1555. This Town Hall and Market Place replaced the old market place on the other side of the river

**ACTIVITY** As you continue to walk back **keep looking up above the shops** to see how many you can date using your architecture cards (**Activity Cards B**).

ACTIVITY  
CARDS

B

POINT  
11**Kiln Yard**

**FACT** As you reach the bottom of the Church Steps glance to your right to find Kiln Yard. (If you are doing the Whitby Yards Worksheet – did you get them all?) **Peer into the Yard today and then compare your view with this photo** from the past. It shows workers' housing with a washing tub standing by the drain.

**ACTIVITY** Hand out copies of the Kiln Yard (**Activity Card C**) and ask your students to be picture detectives. Can they work out what is going on in the photo? Get them to look for clues such as: the piles of clothes on the ground, the wash tub and the empty washing line rigged up above. Let them work out that the photo must have been taken on wash day. Then ask them to consider the difference between how we would do our washing today and how it is being done in the photo.

ACTIVITY  
CARD

C

RETURN

And finally, if the weather is nice and dry why not walk back up to the abbey via the **Donkey Road?** This was **the route used to take everything up to the abbey**, either carried by hand or pulled up on donkey carts. Notice how there are raised rows of bricks. These were to help people and animals keep their grip when the path was wet – mind you don't trip on them though.



# WHITBY HERITAGE TRAIL



POINT 1



POINT 2



POINT 3



POINT 11



POINT 4



POINT 5



POINT 6



POINT 7



POINT 8



POINT 8a



POINT 10



POINT 9



# Tate Hill Pier 1929

Ref AA63/04965 © English Heritage.NMR

CARD  
A





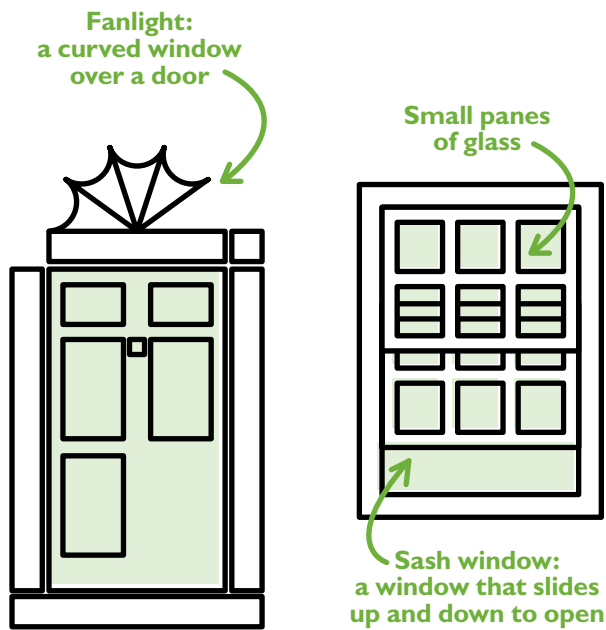
# Stop & Spot

A beginner's guide to architecture

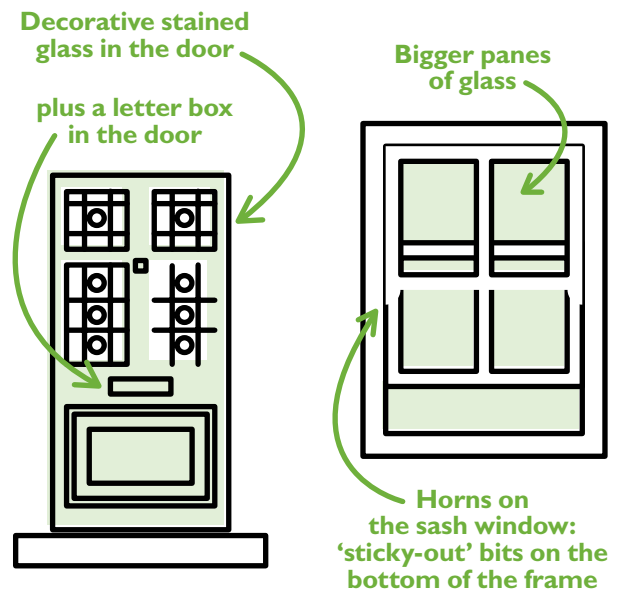
Cut out the cards below and take them with you as you walk around a town. See what clues you can spot and teach yourself how to be a building detective. Remember a building may have been changed many times and have 'bits' from several different time periods!

**CARD  
B**

## Georgian 1714–1836

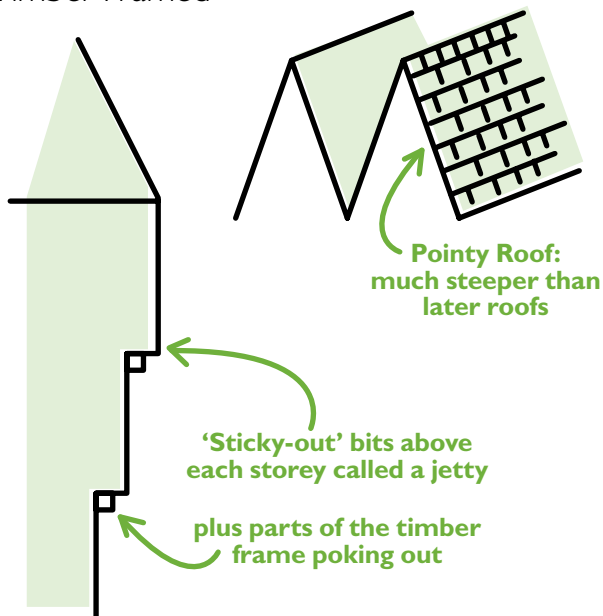


## Victorian 1837–1901

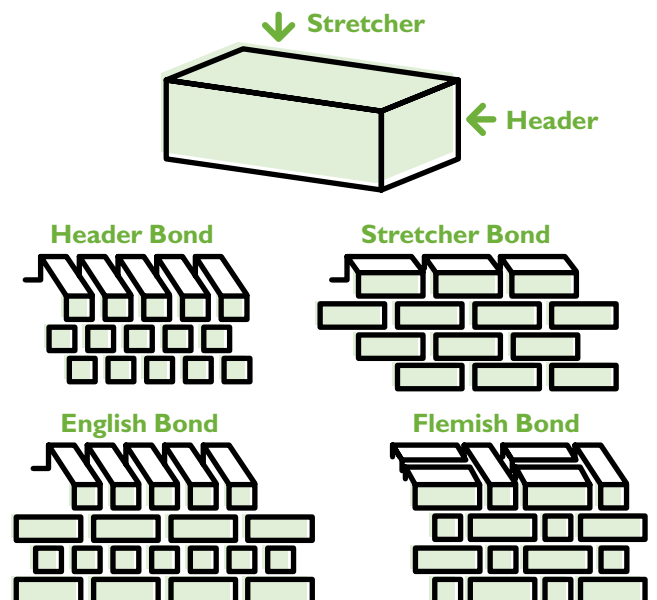


## Medieval/Tudor 1066–1602

Timber Framed



## A bit about bricks





# Kiln Yard

Ref BB84/02816 © English Heritage.NMR

CARD  
C







# Whitby Yards

Whitby's yards were built behind the original houses which fronted the main streets. They provided small, cheap houses for people who moved to Whitby to find work. They were usually built by the owners of the original house as a way to make extra money from renting them. Some acted as passages between the main streets. They created an unplanned maze of alleys and houses.

Take this sheet with you as you follow the Whitby Heritage Trail.  
Can you find all the hidden yards on the trail? Tick them off as you go.

<b>WHITE HORSE YARD</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>BLACKBURNS YARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SANDERS YARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BENSONS YARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>KILN YARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>LEES YARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>WILSONS YARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ARGUMENTS YARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NICHOLSONS YARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BLACK HORSE YARD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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