



Swanland Heritage Trail

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Swanland was not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 but was possibly then part of the district of Alvengi. The first references to its name appear in the Pipe Rolls, (King's accounts), of 1189 and in the Chronicle of Meaux Abbey in 1210. The latter relates to a dispute over lands belonging to the Abbey and Swanland at Myton.

By 1332 we have the names of those paying taxes in the village provided by the Lay Subsidy Rolls. These include reference to the Lady of Swanland, who amongst other things: 'broke by night walls and dykes made for the preservation of the King's manor of Myton'.

Within the village are the medieval sites of a chantry and 'a magnificent hall', thought to be the home of the Haldenby family. Whilst such buildings are no longer with us, the Heritage Trail takes us past 16th century cottages, a 17th century Minister's house, and a Georgian chapel.

The walk around the village begins at Christ Church by the pond where parking is available. It is almost three miles in length and will take about one and a half hours. Walkers are asked to respect the property and privacy of village residents.

1 Christ Church

The first Independent Chapel in the village was built in 1693 and rebuilt in 1803. The 1803 chapel forms the central section of the present building. On the northern side, (the side nearest the road), it had a schoolroom housed in a 'cottage like' building.



Porches were added in 1840 thanks to the generosity of John Todd of Tranby and wings built in 1854 by James Watson of the Manor House. One wing replaced the schoolroom. Note the increasing sizes of brick.

An early member of the school was Thomas Blossom who grew up in Swanland leaving it as a 20 year old to find work. He helped to set up the Sunday school in the village, the first in the East Riding and subsequently established others in the various towns in which he worked. In 1821 he travelled to Tahiti as an artisan missionary.

2 The Old School

The first village school was incorporated within the premises of the Independent Chapel, but by 1876 these had been outgrown and a separate school was needed. This was the beginning of the school by the pond, provided as a gift by John Todd of the Hall. In 1894 a further classroom for use by infants was added to its southern side, and in 1936 the school further extended to the north. The latter extension provided a classroom and two new cloakrooms downstairs, and a staff room and store room upstairs. The 'Old School' remained in use until 1970 when it was replaced by the school on Tranby Lane. It was later converted into Swanland Village Hall, which opened in 2005.

3 Mere House

The large house opposite the pond was once thought to be the oldest house in the village due in part to its Tudor style. It is now thought to be Victorian. It appears on maps of 1824 and 1837 as a farmstead with fold yard and barn. It was then



known as Dam Farm. Sarah Osborne owned the property in 1839. The initials WW over the window above the porch may refer to William Walmsley, a Hull solicitor, who is thought to have rebuilt the house in Tudor style between 1839 and 1855. The two wings were retained and refaced with new bricks. Note the corbels, including a monkey, in the strings of brickwork.

4 The Old ‘Café’

The building with bow windows which presently houses an estate agency, used to be known in the village as the café. A café had been added at the rear of the shop in 1919.

In the nineteenth century it was a public house first known as the Fleece, then from 1855 to 1879, as The White Horse. About 1879 a man died on the premises on Christmas Day as a result of consuming an excess of whisky. This resulted in the loss of the licence and the village being without a public house for the following 100 years.

5 West End Cottages

The white cottages opposite the end of Kemp Road, (No’s 14-16A West End), are

thought to be the oldest buildings in the village. They were dated by Dr David Neave of Hull University, as early 17th century or even late 16th century in origin. Before being turned into cottages it is thought that they would have been a single

farm building. The original structure was timber framed, with padstones, supporting vertical posts and a horizontal beam, (the wall plate), supporting the roof. The padstones can still be seen. Note the changes in brickwork that indicate where alterations have been made. The tumbling brickwork in the gables can also be seen in the corner building opposite. The cottage at No16 at one time housed the village cobbler. What is now the butcher’s was once the blacksmith’s.

6 The Post Office & Boulder Cottage.

On the opposite side of the road lies the village post office with IL1721 inscribed above the doorway. This is thought to stand for Isaac Lupton who built it. Adjoining it is Boulder Cottage. The granite boulder at the door of this cottage is believed to have been brought down on ice from Westmoreland during the Ice Age at least 300,000 years ago. Note the plaque.



7 The Haldenbys

A little further on lies Haldenby Court. The Haldenby family came from the lost village of Haldenby on the south bank of the Humber near Adlingfleet. In about 1400 a Robert Haldenby married an Isabella Usflete whose father Sir Gerard, knighted in 1372, owned lands in Swanland. Extensive stone footings found under Queensbury Way, and further footings and a limestone brick wall (still visible) uncovered by D Brooks in his garden at 40 West End may be related to the Haldenby’s “magnificent hall”.

The four houses from 34 to 40 West End were built in 1913 by Sir James Reckitt for his employees at Swanland Manor. They were built in the same style as those of the Garden Village in Hull, which had also been built for Sir James.

8 The Old Parsonage

The Old Parsonage was built in 1696 as a house for the Minister of the Independent Chapel. The east end was originally one storey high but was pulled down and rebuilt two storeys high in white brick, in 1855.



9 Swanland House

Swanland House, now a Residential Home, was originally built between 1860 and 1870 for Andrew Duncan, a Hull seed crushing merchant. Business men moved out of Hull to escape the unpleasant smells of tanneries, blubber yards, and bone mills. It was built on the site of an estate of about 8 acres known as Rock Lodge, which belonged to Charles Thompson a retired merchant, and his daughter, Jane, a village schoolteacher. In the twentieth century the house was owned by George Jackson Bentham, son of William Jackson the well known Hull Grocer. George added Bentham to his name because of his belief in Utilitarianism.

10 The Former Westfield Farm

The buildings of Swanland Equestrian Centre at the end of Westfield Lane formed until quite recently a working farm. It was built in 1873 and was termed a ‘model farm’ because of the care taken in laying it out. It was built in an E configuration, with buildings sited around interlocking yards. These were open to the southern sun, whilst tall buildings sited to the north, provided shelter for the stock. Animals were housed in stalls to the east and west, the fold yard providing them with exercise. The farmhouse was on the south.

11 The Old Chantry

Ordnance Survey Maps show the site of an old chapel in a field to the north of Chantry Way. It is thought that this could be a chantry dating from the 14th century, in which masses were said for the souls of the departed.

12 The Site Of Swanland Mill

A walk along Mill Road to Woodgates Lane takes us to the site of Swanland Mill built some time before 1797, and rebuilt in 1848. The 1848 Mill was seven storeys high. It was demolished in 1906. One can see why the site for the Mill was chosen. The nearby water tower was built in 1931.

13 Swanland Manor

If we retrace our steps and walk down West Leys Road, we come to West Lodge, which was the western lodge to the former Swanland Manor. Note the Dutch gables. The Manor was built by James Watson, a wealthy farmer, in 1848. In 1884 it became the property of James Reckitt, the well known Quaker industrialist, but was sadly demolished in 1935.



14 The Model Dairy Farm

Returning towards the pond along Manor Road, at the junction of Manor Road and Kemp Road we pass the Old Dairy Lodge. This was originally the Old Dairy Farm, belonging to Sir James Reckitt. The interior of the octagonal building, which formed the creamery, still retains its original tiles.

15 The Old Pump House

The building by the pond, which is now the doctor's surgery, was originally a pump house for the village water supply.

16 The Old Wheelwrights & Joiners Shop

If we carry on down Main Street we can see to the rear of No 34 a building that was the old joiners shop. Before that it was the village wheelwright's premises. It belonged to the Andrew family for most of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The wheelwright was a vital member of the farming community.

17 Toft House

A little further along lies eighteenth century Toft House. The name is of recent origin but a toft was simply a plot of land with a building on it. The window above the front door was bricked up to avoid the eighteenth century window tax.

18 Swanland Hall

If we carry on towards the end of Main Street, a diversion up North Drive enables us to view the back of Swanland Hall.



(A view of the

front may be seen from Hall Park off Tranby Lane). John Porter acquired the land in 1740 and built the Hall sometime later. He was a Hull merchant and mayor and sheriff of that town. The names of his family are remembered in Porter, Pease, and Hill streets in Hull and in Admiral Walker Road in Beverley. Swanland Hall with its 41 windows was a substantial building. Subsequent owners were the Sykes and the Todds. It is now converted into eight apartments.

19 Easenby Farm

Carrying on to Greenstiles Lane we can see in front of us the Easenby Farm development. The name Easenby comes from that of an eleventh century manor. A drain called Easenby drain once ran from Swanland to Westella and further on to Anlaby.

20 Beech Hill House

If we now turn left and walk up Beechill Road, we come to Beech Hill House. This was formerly known as Northfield House and was built for Nathaniel Shaw, who is listed in the Census of 1841 as a farmer. In 1908 Madam Clapham occupied the house and could be seen each day travelling in her dog cart to her business in Kingston Square in Hull. Madam Clapham was a couturier having amongst her customers members of the British and European aristocracy.

Make your way back along Main Street towards the pond and car park. For a longer walk and a closer look at Swanland Hall continue along Greenstiles Lane to Tranby Lane and turn right up Hall Park. You can rejoin the walk by walking through On Hill and down the footpath into Main Street.

21 Todd's Cottages

Just after the modern church of St Barnabas there is a row of six red brick cottages that were owned by the Todds. It was known locally as Soddem Row, which is believed to have been Mr Todd's response if the residents complained.

22 No. 35 Main Street

Note the house opposite Toft House with its English bond brickwork. Orphan children from Hull were housed here during the 1939-45 war.

23 The Village Shop

Opposite No 34 Main Street lies the village shop. This was completely rebuilt in 2001. It had been a single storey building prior to 1912 (as shown here) but in 1913 a second storey was added. The foundations were adequate for this, but had to be replaced for the 2001 development



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Quiz

- What are the initials over the door of Mere House?
- When was the school behind the pond opened?
- Where can you see tumbling brickwork?
- Give two names for Swanland's former public houses.
- What is the date over the Post Office door?
- Where did the boulder outside Boulder Cottage come from?
- What is the date on the Water Tower?
- Where in the village can you see a milk churn?
- Name the house at 34 Main Street
- How many cottages are there in 'Soddem Row'?

Heritage Trail Map

