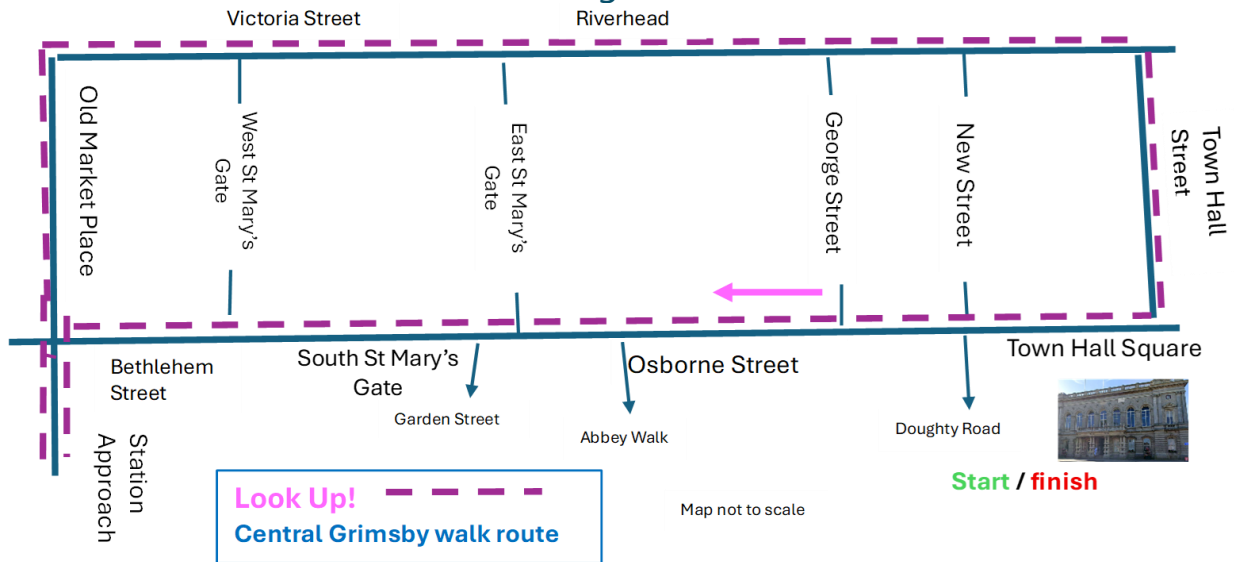


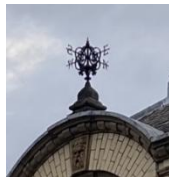
Allow at least ¾ hour for this **LOOK UP!** tour of Central Grimsby

Supporting information about points on the Tour is available online at <https://www.grimsbycleecivsoc.com/> While it is not essential for taking part in the Tour, it may be read before, during, or afterwards to provide additional context and understanding.



STARTING ACROSS THE ROAD FROM GRIMSBY TOWN HALL

outside the 'yellow' building



The Carers' Support Service 1, Town Hall Square

Built for *Grimsby Water Company* 1896, **Look Up!** the prevalent 'shell' design (there are 9 of them) is from heraldry representing long journeys or hospitality so often appears in 19th century stonework. There's nothing more

hospitable than clean drinking water! And thinking about the weather, **Look Up!** spot the original weathervane on the roof.

LOOK BACK to the Town Hall, on its righthand side



Look Up!

This extension to the Town Hall was built in 1887. See the entrance to Grimsby's early *Court House* **fanlights**: windows with glazing that radiates like an open fan and often seen above house front doors to allow light into hallways.

Cupola: a dome-like structure on the roof, often to get more light or air into a building, (or sometimes as a belfry or lookout post).

Walk away from the Town Hall to corner of Town Hall Square and Doughty Road

BG Solicitors LLP **Look Up!**



Built in 1870 as a pair of houses in red brick with:
string course: a continuous horizontal band of masonry or stone that projects from the exterior face of a building at each floor and to deflect rain from the wall

finials: decorative ornament placed at the top of the roof

Grimsby Central Library OPPOSITE

Grimsby Central Library, 1966-68 J M Milner



Hailed by *Twentieth Century Society* as a 'Civic Masterpiece', the library is currently closed for urgent restoration, subject to funding outcomes.

Look Up! and see the public Art on its 3 sides:

- window panels by David Morris designed for a stairwell to be viewed from inside as modern stained glass
- *Guardians of Knowledge* by Peter Todd, a set of five 11ft (3.3 m) tall sculptures
- bronze relief sculpture of an enlarged replica of Grimsby's 13th century seal depicting the town's legendary founders *Grim and Havelok*, by Harold Gosney with multi-coloured mosaic installed by Anthony Cappocci



With your back to Town Hall, walk up Osborne Street to the corner with Abbey Walk

DDM Estate Agency **Look Up!** Red brick with buff coloured *faience* (glazed ceramic) frontage. Opened in 1924 as offices for *Great Grimsby & North Lincolnshire Permanent Building Society*, (established 1848) which, by 1990s became part of *Nationwide*

LOOK down Abbey Walk from Osborne Street



Landowners of the past, sold plots of land to builders or investors with each following the line of a laid-out road but building to their own design.

Look up! One terrace and how many builders? Look for the clues:

- differing roof pitch
- differing *original windows*
- differing *original gutter details*

Continue along Osborne Street to Grimsby Learning Centre (opposite 'Racks')

Neo Georgian windows replaced with Plate glass **Look Up!** check out the changes – or not!



present day



1928

Opened as showrooms in 1928 for Great Grimsby Gas Company (1867-1949)

Look Up! at the street sign 'East St Mary Gate' – but continue as if on Osborne Street

- which has now changed to **South Saint Mary's Gate**. Further up, the next side street on the right is 'West St Mary Gate' – all are indications of where the 12th century church of St Mary stood and was much older than our present Minster.

Continue on South St Mary's Gate, past Garden Street

Bridge M^cFarland offices (next to 'Iceland')

Built in 1924 as a car showroom for *Roland C Bellamy, Motor Engineer and proprietor* of 'Lincolns Leading Motor Agent' selling Morris, Wolsey, Humber, Chrysler, MG and SS (Jaguar cars).

Note Greek Doric columns: the simplest of the ancient Greek architectural columns recognized by a lack of base, sturdy proportions, and plain round tops.





Abbeygate (1984)

Look Up! The brick arch was entrance to Grimsby brewers Hewitt's bottling stores (brewing ceased 1968) where Tadcaster's Tower brewery beers were also bottled. Imagine the brewers' drays and heavy horses coming and going! See the rounded stones at the bottom of the entrance gates – they helped prevent damage to the walls from cart wheels.

South St Mary's now becomes Bethlehem Street **Look Up!** and spot the street sign..... How *Bethlehem Street* got its name is lost in history – but it is the only one in the UK!

Walk to Yarborough Hotel (Wetherspoons) the building on the corner of Bethlehem Street and Station approach)



Make sure you are beside the walls of Yarborough Hotel, Left of the front door, under the 'free house' pub swing-sign,

Look Up! And Spot
'OLDHAM NEON LEEDS' (it isn't very big)

Because Neon lighting needed a high voltage to work, a conspicuous, red-painted Fireman's Switch sign was necessary for firemen to switch the power off. Voltage of any amount and water does not mix but you can't help but wonder how big Yarborough Hotel's neon sign was!

Into Station Approach, towards the station entrance – Look Up! to last first floor



windows (especially if the lights are on) You can just see the ceiling of the original hotels' ballroom –now the ladies' toilets! Wetherspoons opened as a pub in 1997 and these upper floors as a 36 bedroomed hotel in 2026 after a £3million makeover to return the Listed building to its Victorian splendour.

Round the corner, facing the Station entrance on the rear wall of Yarborough Hotel

The name Yarborough is one often seen in the area, from the Earls of Yarborough of Brocklesby Hall (now North Lincolnshire). **Look Up!** Here, it is in its shortened form *Yarboro'* on the Yarborough Hotel, built in 1851 by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (MS&LR); the Earl of Yarborough at that time being a Director of both the railway and docks companies.



RETRACE YOUR STEPS and go straight across Bethlehem Street into Old Market Place

Old Market Place is now a pedestrianised street and much smaller than the original, which was the site of Grimsby's old outdoor market remodelled in the 1960s

Look Up! see Victorian Mock Tudor (or Tudor Revival) architecture which emerged in the late 19th century as a romanticized return to medieval English building styles. Here, both are by local architect H C Scaping.



Walter's built for Hadley's Brewery, (London) 1917

Chambers Bar built for Chambers' Tudor Café 1913



The arrival of the railway in 1848, and a dock dedicated to commercial fishing in 1856, brought

about easy transport of goods and people to and from the port, markets and farms. "Grimsby fish" brought wealth, prosperity and huge growth - and with it, unprecedented urban expansion, retail development, banking and entertainment.

TURN RIGHT into Victoria Street (*it's not all a building site....*)

- Now pedestrianised and once called *Loft Street* until Queen Victoria's visit in 1854 to open the new Royal Dock.
- As in many high streets, buildings have, over time, been adapted for modern use and mostly on the ground floors; it is only if you **Look Up!** that you get an idea of original design and use.



GUY AND SMITHS department store (*Binns, House of Fraser...*) was once Grimsby's premier independent store developed from small beginnings in 1850. Today, National Lottery Heritage funding has enabled a restoration project *Window to 1913* - so watch this space!

Look Up! and spot evidence of the building's expansion over time: guttering, slight roof realignment and window styles)



Victorian Grimsby experienced huge wealth as did many industrialising towns of the period – and that meant a rise in banking, retail and entertainment opportunities.

CONTINUE DOWN Victoria Street **Look Up!** and find each of the following:

Boston Brothers built for York City and County Banking Company, 1898 (became part of Midland Bank) then Grimsby Electricity Department in 1935, and finally YEB electricity showroom in the 1970s.

[image](#)

Specsavers (no pun intended) rare original curved-glass sash windows—plus repeated heraldic shell designs [image](#)

Barclays Bank (currently empty) 1913, by Yorkshire Architects, Garside and Pennington

TSB 1904, by local architect H C Scapling for Royal Insurance . [image](#)

McDonalds ex Savoy Picture House, 1920, by Chadwick and Watson of Leeds . [image](#)

Santander by Paul Waterhouse, 1913, Manchester for Prudential Assurance Company Ltd. [image](#)

'64' Ex-Post Office (currently empty) 1910 by John Rutherford, Architect within *Office of Works*

NatWest 1903-4 by W Campbell Jones of London for Union of London and Smiths Bank Ltd **Look up!** and see the bank's crest: intertwined U, L & S, at the top [image](#)



Nearing the end of Victoria Street

Cooplands **Look Up!** and see curved oriel window (upper floor bay window) and fanlight (shaped like a fan)



End of Victoria Street and into Riverhead

Current Post Office designed by local architect William Wells, built for Lees Furnishers Ltd, 1930) **Look Up!** at the roof and upper windows

- Neo-Georgian windows topped with fanlights
- *Mansard roof* - a four-sided French-style roof with

two slopes on each side: a steep lower slope, often near-vertical, for dormer windows. The upper slope is flat or gentle. This roof shape makes the attic into a usable space ('dormer' = French for sleep).



Pearl Assurance House Another building with a financial business background, though not as ornate as previous examples! The Pearl Assurance Company (1914) started out as *Pearl Loan Company* in 1857. After many merges and take-overs, the company became part of *Standard Life*

On to RIVERHEAD **Look Up!** on the corner with New Street to see an unused remnant of gas-lit streets



Go down the next street on the right: Town Hall Street

LOOK UP! at the **Town Hall frontage** and spot the medallion busts of Queen Victoria, Prince Consort, Edward III, Archbishop Whitgift, Gervase Holies, and the Earl of Yarborough who are all had a significant part in Grimsby's history. 3 Boars heads are in Grimsby's Coat of Arms; 14 boars heads appear on the front – see if you can find them all!

**You have now completed the
Look Up! Tour of Grimsby town centre**

**For supporting information visit
www.grimsbycleecivsoc.com/news-events**

