Beverley. East Yorkshire

HISTORIC PUB GUIDE

In 1557 there were 38 drinking establishments in Beverley. Today, there are 29 – you can find them all in this brief guide to the pubs of the town.

Practicalities dictated that inns and taverns were usually confined to the main thoroughfares, such as around the Beck and the routes to and from the markets and the churches. Surviving buildings that were, or still are, used as public houses are therefore mostly situated around Beckside, Flemingate, Highgate, Toll Gavel and the market squares.

Sadly very few do remain from the early periods, but notable exceptions are The Sun Inn, The White Horse, and The Lord Nelson, all built before 1700. The majority of Beverley's older surviving pubs (with a few exceptions) date from the 18th and early 19th centuries, the second period of Beverley's importance as a centre of trade and industry.

Most of the information in this guide is sourced from the Beverley Pubs page on Paul Gibson's Hull & East Yorkshire History website; to find out more visit www.paul-gibson.com

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Beverley Tourist Information Centre (open all year)
East Riding Treasure House
Champney Road, Beverley

Tel: 01482 391672

Molescroft Inn - Molescroft Road (Grade II listed)

Previously: The Marquis of Wellington, The Battle of Trafalgar, The Grapes

The Marquis of Wellington was recorded as a pub in Molescroft in 1754. It was renamed The Battle of Trafalgar in the early 19th century in recognition of Nelson's great victory of 1805. During alterations in the early 1980s a small inglenook fireplace was discovered behind a cupboard – sadly the alterations meant the loss of some smaller rooms to create one large L-shaped room. The pub has been greatly enlarged and encompasses former dwellings to the north.

The Rose & Crown - North Bar Without (Grade II listed)

Previously: The Bull

This pub has been known as The Rose & Crown since at least 1800, although a feoffment (a property law) dated 1574 mentions a tenement called The Bull on this site. With many rooms and stabling, it was often used for racehorses and their owners at the Beverley Races and hunters out on the Westwood. Horse and pony sales took place in its yards. Its original address was York Road but it was drastically altered and re-fronted in 1931 to how it is now, facing North Bar Without.

The Hayride - Grange Way

The newest of Beverley's pubs, The Hayride was built around the same time as the bypass in 1996. Situated on the Northern edge of the town, it's a large brick building typical of the popular family eating pubs built at this time. Part of the Greene King group as of 2016.

The Royal Standard - North Bar Within (Grade II listed)

Previously: The Boot, The Turf Inn

The 1851 Census records a small beer-house known as The Boot; by 1858 it was known as The Turf Inn, suggesting it was a place for placing wagers on the races. By the 1870s it was known as The Royal Standard, possibly after The Royal Standard Lodge of the Independent Order of British Workmen who may have met there. This period also saw the addition of a 'dram shop [bar] window', the exterior details of which survive today although with modern window glass. The building is possibly 17th century and timber-framed, and was re-fronted in the 18th century. It was given its present black-and-white frontage in the early 20th century.

The Beverley Arms Hotel – North Bar Within (Grade II listed)

Previously: The Blue Bell Inn

An inn known as the Bell was recorded as early as 1686. Re -named the Beverley Arms Inn (1794) and once described as one of Beverley's principal establishments it became a Posting Inn or House(1840s until 1890s) where horses that pulled waggons or coaches could be hired or changed during long journeys. It would also have been an important meeting place where local farmers and businessmen would meet and conduct business. The most infamous highway robber Dick Turpin allegedly stayed here before appearing in front of the town magistrates (1738) Major renovation work started 2017 by the Thwaites Group and the hotel is set to reopen in full glory Summer 2018.

The Cornerhouse - Norwood (Grade II listed)

Previously: The Furlong & Firkin, The Valiant Soldier, The Holderness Tavern

One of Beverley's finest old pubs, this was constructed as early as the 18th century and may have even older origins. It was situated on the long winding lane of Walkergate with a narrow opening into Norwood which caused problems for carts and carriages; in 1811 part of the building was taken down to allow the widening of the road, and the gable wall was re-built. Outside on the roof you can see a black pot dog, a resident for many years.

The White Horse Hotel - Hengate (Grade II* listed)

Previously known as: Nellie's

Originally a coaching inn, pre-dating 1666 and probably the 2nd oldest in the town. An impressive architectural survival story, and one of the finest surviving examples of an intact 19th Century (or earlier) pub interior in North England. It was enlarged mid 1800s by acquiring adjoining cottages. Known as 'Nellies' since being owned by the Collinsons when purchased from St Marys Church (1927) and more notably daughter Nellie, managed the place until its sale to the Samuel Smiths Old Brewery (1976). The Inn, unlike other local hostelries, maintains most of its original features, including gas lights, chandeliers, small individual rooms, rickety stone and wooden floors, and open fires.

The Beaver - North Bar Within

Previously: The Wheatsheaf, The George

This pub has undergone a number of changes of name during its lifetime and has been re-fronted at least once, most probably in the early 1930s in then fashionable mock half-timbering. The sign of the beaver is most likely a reference to Beverley's coat of arms, which includes a beaver. A small alley, Wheatsheaf Lane, runs to the side of the Inn and was previously known as Suggitt's Lane after John Suggitt, a victualler in the 1820s and 30s. Although the alley was named on plans in 1841 as Wheatsheaf Lane, it continued to be known locally as Suggitt's Lane for many years.

The Cross Keys - Lairgate (Grade II* listed)

A fine building dating from the mid-1760s: it's recorded that coaches ran from Hull to The Cross Keys, which sold for £1,000 in 1809. In 1889 it had a commercial room, a bar, a smoke room with domestic quarters, cellars, a sitting/dining room, four bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor, and seven bedrooms, the servant's bedroom and a box room above. Outside there was stabling for 20 horses with rented adjoining accommodation for a further 30. The interior still retains many fine details including an excellent early 18th century staircase. It has been tastefully refurbished by JD Wetherspoon, which preserved its history with pictures and information on the walls and an original doorframe in the ladies lavatory.

Chequers Micro Pub - Swaby's Yard

Chequers is Yorkshire's first micro-pub. It opened in 2013 in a former baker's shop, and in 2014 was named East Yorkshire Town Pub of the Year by CAMRA. Local micro-breweries represented include Atom, Brass Castle, Great Newsome and Wold Top plus micros from throughout the UK, along with ciders/perrys. The cellar and toilets are above the bar. Typically of a micro-pub, no lager, keg beer or spirits are sold. There is no TV or loud music, making Chequers a place for real conversation.

The Dog & Duck Inn - Ladygate

The Dog & Duck was rebuilt by John Smith's Brewery in 1929 on the site of a much older pub thought to date from 1745, which stood on the corner of Ladygate and Dog & Duck Lane – the lane was then known as Burden Middling Lane, but was later renamed to reflect the name of the inn. The 1851 Census records its inhabitants as William Green and wife, two sons (a painter and a gilder), two female house servants and an ostler, suggesting the inn had stabling. Today it retains its character and has B&B accommodation at the rear.

The Grapes - Saturday Market (Grade II listed)

Also known as: The Push Inn

There was a building on the site of The Grapes in 1717, rebuilt in 1755. In later years it was home to an apothecary and spirit merchant. Selling beer brewed on the premises, the apparently multi-purpose shop was a beer shop of sorts and has by definition been a 'pub' since at least 1851. A new dram shop, or bar, was added in 1869. The colloquial name 'Push Inn' was allegedly taken from a door to the inn. In the 1980s the wine vaults and adjoining Grapes Cellars were integrated into the Push.

Green Dragon Inn - Market Place (Grade II listed)

Previously: The Green Dragon & Black Swan (?), The Malt House

Records show a Green Dragon on Lairgate in 1745 suggesting that the entrance was originally on that street. Its original name The Green Dragon & Black Swan, may have been an interpretation of a heraldic inn sign, possibly incorporating the coat of arms of the original landowner and becoming abbreviated over the years to the 'Green Dragon'. The mock timber facade of the Inn, disguises the earlier origins of the building, which has some residual timber-framing. The Inn is undoubtedly very old and holds many secrets.

The King's Head Hotel - Market Place (Grade II listed)

Possibly an inn in the late 17th century, The King's Head is said to have a resident ghost. Reports in the Eastern Counties Herald noted sales in 1827 and in 1841: "To let with brew house, large dining room, 20+ beds, ground plot & 1,200 sq yrd." Alterations started in the early 18th century when it was described as a 'distinctive three-storey five-bay stuccoed facade with a Doric porch and above a balcony to round-arched window flanked by coupled pilasters'. It looks much the same today. It's been extended to encompass adjoining offices and a new bar, but still retains some original details despite undergoing many transformations over the years. A recent refurbishment by Marston's includes ten boutique bedrooms.

The Windmill Inn - Lairgate

Previously: The Carpenter's Arms

The Carpenter's Arms was a beer house owned by Mair & Clarke Brewers of Wilbert Lane, and became known as The Windmill Hotel around 1844. After alterations in 1912, an 18th century corner cupboard from the inn is said to be preserved in the sitting room of a Beverley property. Windmill Walk is situated alongside the inn, running between Lairgate and Toll Gavel, and most probably took its name from the Inn.

The Woolpack Inn - Westwood Road (Grade II listed)

Previously: The Boy & Barrel

Known as The Boy & Barrel in around 1831, and The Woolpack from about 1840, you can find a history of this pub displayed inside which shows that it had been built originally as two cottages, and most likely became a pub after the Beer House Act of 1830. At one time it had its own brew-house and a three-stalled stable to enable travellers to put up their horses. Pictures from around 1926 show it looking much the same as it does today.

The Tiger Inn - Lairgate (Grade II listed)

Previously: The Black Bull

There are referenced to The Black Bull dating from 1746. Probably following a later sale its name was changed to The Tiger following the closure of Beverley's more famous Tiger Inn in North Bar Within. In 1858 prostitute Fanny Turner was found fighting here with another woman; she was described in the press as 'a young lady of no enviable reputation'. In the 1860s and 70s it was noted to have a 'shop – whether this was an early 'off-sales' or bottle and jug department or another type of business altogether is not known. Once described as a double pile building of early 18th century origins, it was re-fronted in the third quarter of the 19th century.

The Angel - Butcher Row (Grade II listed)

Rebuilt in the mid-19th century, it's probable that the original Angel was low and had been an inn or alehouse for some years prior to its first entry in trade directories from around 1806. It was known to have been 'frequented by Liberals' during the 18th and 19th centuries; in 1851 the landlord was Daniel Boyes, a famous Liberal. The sign of The Angel was derived from the Salutation and is a religious reference – this pub is rare having retained its original name for the 200-plus-years of its existence.

Moulders Arms - Wilbert Lane

The Moulders Arms was built post-1860; however, evidence within the structure of the building and plans from 1852 and 1890 suggest that it includes part of an earlier adjoining building. A plan of Beverley from 1828 shows a building on the same site. Internal alterations and refurbishments began as early as 1902; today there is a friendly atmosphere with many interesting photographs, illustrations and bric-a-brac.

The Queen's Head Inn - Wednesday Market

Previously: The Hart (?)

An alehouse known as The Hart in Wednesday Market is mentioned in documents dating from the 16th century: these may be early references to the property that became the present Queen's Head. Originally it would have been a plain red brick building similar to the remaining properties to its south. The whole of the front building was demolished to the wall of the old kitchen building at the rear in 1926. The new construction, now gable-end to the street, is in the fashionable mock Tudor, imitation half-timbered design. The ground floor was in red-brick with stone blocking around the window and door, and the glass in all the windows was imitation leaded diamond quarries.

The Monks Walk - Highgate (Grade II* listed)

Previously: The George, The George & Dragon, The Old George & Dragon

Documented as far back as 1658, at first glance this property appears to date from the early 19th century. However, it was re-fronted during the 18th century and medieval buildings are evident on both sides of the passage as well as stonework details dated 1671. A treasure trove of history was discovered during work in 1995 as layers of plaster were stripped away to reveal a series of medieval cottages within the building. Roof and wall timbers dating back as early as 1420 were uncovered and evidence of medieval craftsmen's handiwork can clearly be seen. Among the finds were roof timbers hewn roughly out of whole tree trunks in what is thought to be the only roof of its kind in the town.

The Sun Inn - Flemingate (Grade II listed)

Previously: The Tabard (?), The Tap & Spile

Said to be haunted, Beverley's oldest pub may date back to the 15th century. The first floor joists appear to be laid on edge rather than flat, which was not common practice until the 17th century, dating it to at least 1600. The surviving building is almost certainly the original structure with later alterations. Most of the timber frame of the building is externally concealed by render, although it is still evident that the ground floor has been built out to square off the overhang of the original jetty above. The first of many 20th century alterations took place in 1905; in 2000, and much to the annoyance of almost everyone but the brewery, its longstanding name was removed but later reinstated.

The Lord Nelson Inn - Flemingate (Grade II * listed)

Previously: The Admiral Lord Nelson

This pub is probably one of Beverley's oldest pub buildings, and bears a name which is probably one of the country's top ten pub names. It was possibly established as an inn as early as 1620, and appeared in trade directories around 1814, only a few years after the death of Lord Nelson. Alterations have been undertaken over the years including in 1912 a new smoke room, scullery and serving counter in the Tap. An article of 1858 tells us that a 42-year-old keel owner 'partook of a glass of beer, sang a song & fell down dead' in the pub.

The Potting Shed - Flemingate (Grade II listed)

Previously: Hodgson's, The Grounds

Fleming House was an early 19th century villa that was latterly used as the recreation club of nearby tanners Hodgson's Ltd. In 1996, after a long planning process, the then derelict house was approved for conversion into The Grounds pub, at an estimate cost of £500,000. Four years later it was renamed Hodgson's; in 2016 another extensive £800,000 refurbishment was undertaken to bring the building back to life by new owners Burning Night Group.

The Sloop Inn - Beckside (Grade II listed)

The Sloop has retained its original name for at least 200 years, taking it from a type of vessel then commonly used on the nearby Beck and River Hull. Simple clean lines and lack of unnecessary decoration and signage make this one of Beverley's least pretentious and most attractive pubs. The first noted changes took place in 1896 and 1906, when toilets were added. It's described as being 18th century, which is confirmed by some architectural details including its front window casings, which are flush with the exterior and therefore likely to be mid-1700s. At the rear is a typical Yorkshire sliding-sash dormer window of the same period.

The Foresters Arms - Beckside

Previously: The Cock & Bottle

First mentioned as a pub in the Poll Book 1784 (a list of voters), it may have gained its original name because it held cockfights, a popular sport until it was prohibited in 1849. Coincidentally, it changed its name to The Foresters Arms about this time probably because Beverley's various lodges of the Foresters Friendly Society were founded between 1839 and 1844 and may well have met there. It was altered in 1900, but the current property was completely rebuilt in1938 in the typical road-house style of the period. Nice features remain around the doors including an illuminated sign above the entrance lobby and some carved stonework within the mock-Tudor hood-moulds of the door surrounds. Sadly one of the original matching pair of entrances has been bricked up.

The Game Bird - Holme Church Lane

Previously: The Grovehill Tavern, The Grovehill Hotel

Built for Moor's & Robsons' brewery in 1907, this pub took its licence from the redundant Nag's Head near the old Grovehill Ferry crossing. The large building built by G Pape & Sons at a cost of £1,895 still dominates its surroundings and is a good example of the confident if not overly stylish architecture of the Edwardian era. A bowling green stood at the rear but has now sadly gone. Some fine details do remain including a dramatic stone entrance and some original opaque lettered glass windows to the bar and smoke room. In 2014 after a petition from locals the pub was saved from being demolished for housing and taken on by the Bateman Group.

The Highfield - Highfield Rd

Previously: The Scottish Soldier, The Eager Beaver

Built within the Model Farm Estate in 1966, this pub took its licence from the closed Blue Bell in Wood Lane. The plain lines and box structure present a fair example of pub architecture at that time. Following a refurbishment in 2015 it changed its name to take on that of the road on which it stands.

Durham Ox - Norwood

Previously: The Ox

This is named after a legendary gigantic ox bred in Durham around 1800. Although its appearance is relatively modern, behind its exterior is a much older building possibly dating from the 18th century. There are two different levels of roofline either side of the chimneystack, suggesting a single property within the terrace expanded at some point. It was scheduled for redundancy as a beer-house in 1909, a decision not upheld. It became a corner property in 1937 with the demolition of three houses for the development of Corporation Road.

Whilst you will find character and history in abundance in the pubs of Beverley, over the last few years the town has seen an increase in the trendy bar scene. From day time food and cocktails, a special occasion drink with friends, an afterwork meet with colleagues in a lounge bar, catching up with sporting events at the sports bar or just to dance into the night with music and a DJ.

- Central 42
- Kubana Bar
- The Firepit, Sports Bar
- Lucias

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www.visitbeverley.org