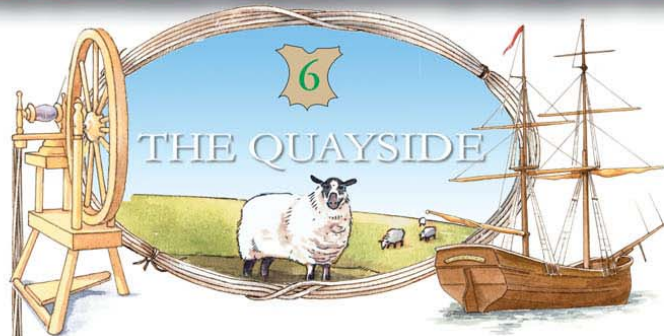


Exeter Woollen Trail



Exeter City Council



A new quay

This land between the city wall and the river has all been reclaimed from the River Exe in stages. The process began in 1564-6 when a new stone quay was built to take cargoes to and from the small tub boats that travelled along the newly dug canal. The quay behind you was extended further in the 1670s, 1680, 1760s and 1830s by which time sea-going ships could reach the city. A high wall once enclosed the quay to prevent smuggling.



The Custom House (Exeter City Museums)

'The fair house upon the key'

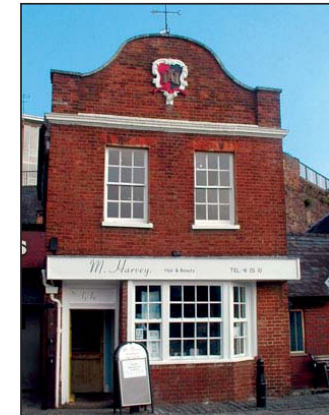
An increase in trade meant more tax could be collected and in 1680 the Custom House was built for the growing number of officials who carried out this task. This is the oldest custom house in Britain and one of the oldest surviving brick buildings in the South West. It contains a grand staircase and some beautiful plasterwork ceilings, made by north Devon plasterer John Abbott for a cost of £35. The arcade at the front of the building was originally open so that goods could be inspected.



The Quay House

Quay House

Built in 1680-1 at the height of the woollen cloth trade, cloth and other goods were stored here before being loaded onto 'lighters' (shallow bottomed barges), which took them down the canal to sea-going ships. The roof of the warehouse reached out over a dock next to it, enabling the lighters to unload their cargo in the dry.



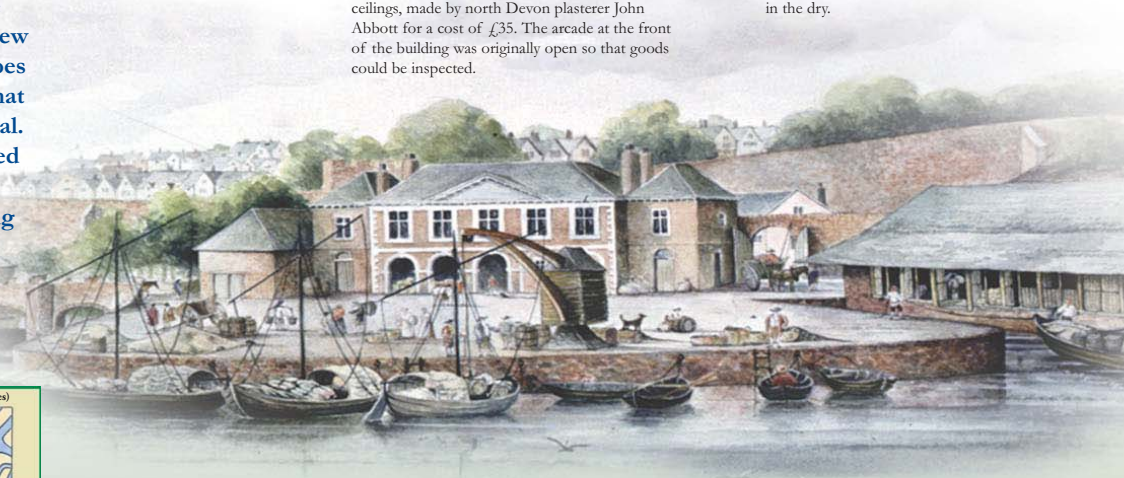
Wharfinger's House

The Wharfinger's House

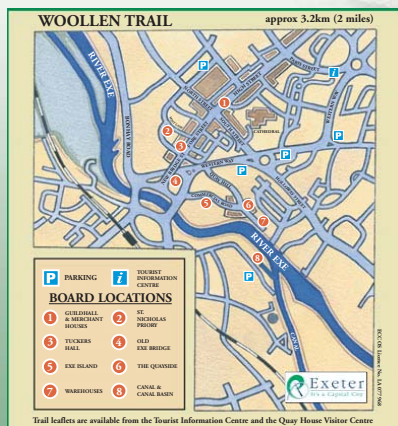
This gabled residence to your left was built in 1778 for the Wharfinger. He was the official in charge of collecting the wharfage fees.

The Fish Quay and King's Beam

The King's Beam, within the Fish Quay behind you, held the weighing scales used by customs officers to work out the duty to be charged on goods arriving at the Quay. It was made in 1838 at Bodley's Iron Foundry, just up from the Quay.

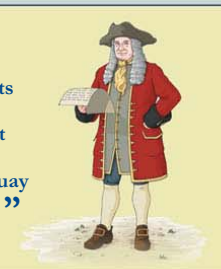


Reconstruction of Exeter Quay around 1680 by Jane Brayne (Exeter City Museums)

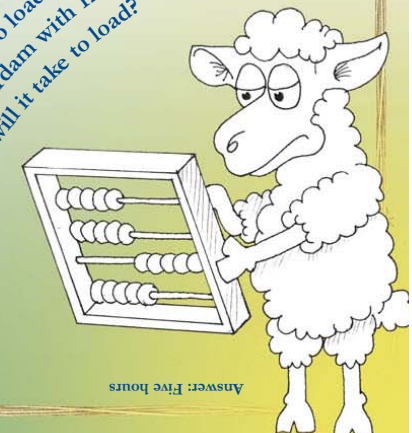


"There's cloth sailing to Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Lisbon and Cadiz this week. It's so much better now that cargo can be loaded straight onto the sea-going vessels from here. Not so long back

it had to be taken down to Topsham in small boats because the larger ships couldn't get up this far. It was worth investing a bit of money into the new quay to save on haulage costs."



If it takes 2 men 10 minutes to load 4 bales onto a ship, and if the ship sails to Rotterdam with 120 bales, how long will it take to load?



Answer: Five hours