

An ancient Pier (possibly the oldest in England if not the world)

TATE HILL PIER

Tate Hill Pier was formerly known as Burgess Pier which was formed out of the ancient east pier. This was the original access to the harbour. It probably obtained its original name as it was constructed by the Burgesses of Whitby prior to the appointment of trustees for the pier.

- 1190's the pier was a loose structure of irregular shaped stones held together within a wooden structure.
- In the year 1301 it is recorded that a Pier Master was employed.
- Prior to the pier being lengthened it was also known as 'Little Pier'
- On the part nearest the channel stood a kind of flag-staff, to direct vessels into the harbour
- 1766 The pier was lengthened to 105 yards
Can you see the join?
- 1822-1863 the lifeboat was housed at the pier overhanging the south west side

(thanks to Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society for Photographs and information obtained from 'Whitby Time Line' by Alan Appleton, 'History of Whitby' by George Young 1817, 'The Book of Whitby' by Rosalin Barker BA and to Mr Trumper for picture post card and Mr Freeman for copy of lifeboat house painting and the support of Whitby Harbour Board)



Pictured is the wreck of the Dimitry of Narva which ran aground in August 1885. Bram Stoker visited Whitby, and the wreck was an inspiration for his famous novel 'Dracula' which was published in 1897 in which he renamed the ship Demeter of Varna.



Edwardian picture postcard depicting the everyday lives of fishermen and families on Tate Hill Pier



A picture showing the working life of Tate Hill Pier with the old spa ladder in the back ground



The original lifeboat house on Tate Hill Pier 1854 from an original drawing by JW Carmichael