



The Village Wharf and Bridge Street

The Bustling Heart of Saxilby

In the 1800's and the early 1900's, Saxilby Wharf and Bridge Street buzzed with barges, traders and travellers



Busy trade: Barges and packet boats carried goods to Lincoln and beyond. Alongside the human passengers were crates of hens and geese bound for market. At the wharf, cargo was unloaded and reloaded in a constant flow of activity that tied the village to wider trade networks.



Pubs and stories: The Sun Inn and The Ship Inn (now a residential property) offered warmth and refreshment for boatmen, especially in winter when the cold could be so severe that the Fossdyke froze, and boats could be trapped for days. But not all tales from Bridge Street are cheerful: in 1805, Mary Kirkham's body - murdered by her husband, Tom Otter, after only a single day of marriage - was brought to The Sun Inn. The crime shocked the community, and Tom was later executed at Lincoln Castle.



Village shops: Bridge Street was home to a blacksmith, a cycle dealer, and a newsagent, as well as the Lincolnshire Co-operative store. Behind the house that was once The Ship Inn, the village fire station stood ready to respond to emergencies.



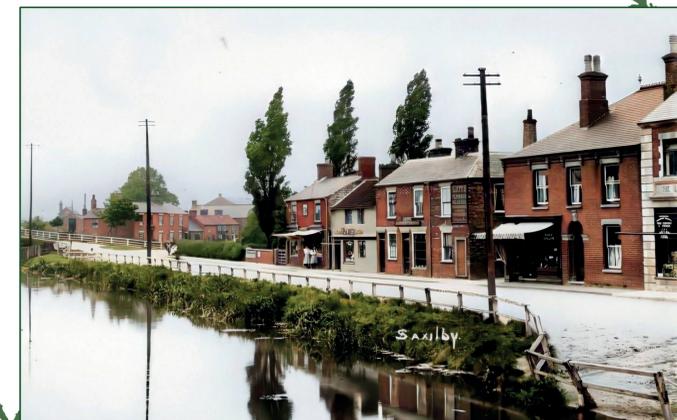
Survivors today: Echoes of this busy past remain all around. The original frontage of the Lincolnshire Co-operative can still be seen in the street's architecture. The Sun Inn still has its horse-mounting block outside, and an old mooring bollard can be spotted by the canal towpath. The pipe bridge, built in 1911 after a typhoid outbreak, still carries clean water from Nottinghamshire to Lincoln, though Saxilby villagers carried on using wells until after the Second World War.

Spot the signs of the past:

Take a walk down Bridge Street.
How many reminders of its bustling past can you see?

Can you find:

- Mooring bollards
- Shop fronts
- Old mounting blocks



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