

A Tale of Two Rivers

Hull is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but it is almost certain that people have been trading from the point where the River Hull joins the River Humber since before 1066. Trading ships regularly sailed majestically up the River Hull to the major port of Beverley. Soon the haven in the River Hull was trading in wool and wine with Flanders in France. A port developed on the west bank of the river and by the Middle Ages defensive walls surrounded the vital port to the west and north, with the two rivers completing the defences. So important had trade become to the port that King Edward I granted a charter and the town became 'Kingstown-upon-Hull' in 1299.

The River Hull was and remains today, the main area for ships to unload their cargoes. From The Deep, you can see the warehouses and the staithes that lead from the River Hull to the High Street.

As the trade in the river expanded it became too crowded to be able to unload easily and new docks were built in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century following the lines of the old town walls. These docks are now home to the Marina, Princes Quay shopping centre and Queens Gardens, with the main docks being along the River Humber and home to the 'super ferries' sailing to the continent.

At the start of a new millennium Hull is still earning a living from the sea. The wool trade has gone, whaling a distant memory and the fishing industry only a minor activity in comparison to its heyday but the confluence of the River Humber and Hull marks the place where you will find The Deep, a new venture to earn a living from its two rivers and their links with the oceans of the world.

THE DEEP

THE WORLD'S ONLY SUBMARIUM

A History of Sammy's Point

In 1543 Henry VIII built a castle on part of the site to guard against attack from the East. A new fortification was built in 1681 by Charles II on a much grander scale called the Citadel. This Citadel was used by military forces for nearly 200 years until the 1850's. The Citadel was flattened in 1864 to make way for new dock facilities.

During the time of the Citadel there was a pier which went into the River Hull and the land on which The Deep now stands did not even exist!

By 1842 land had been reclaimed on either side and when Victoria Dock was built in 1850 the dug out mud was used to reclaim even more land at the point.

Martin Samuelson set up a shipyard in 1857 on this new piece of land and it was from Mr Samuelson that the point took its current name - Sammy's Point.

In 1864 the point was sold to the Humber Iron Works and Ship Building Company and then in 1872 was bought by Bailey and Leetham Ship Owners. Finally in 1903 it was bought by Thomas Wilson and Son.

Later in the century, the point was used by the Humber conservancy as the Buoy Depot and was derelict from the 1980's until bought by EMIH for the building of The Deep!

THE DEEP
THE WORLD'S ONLY SUBMARIUM