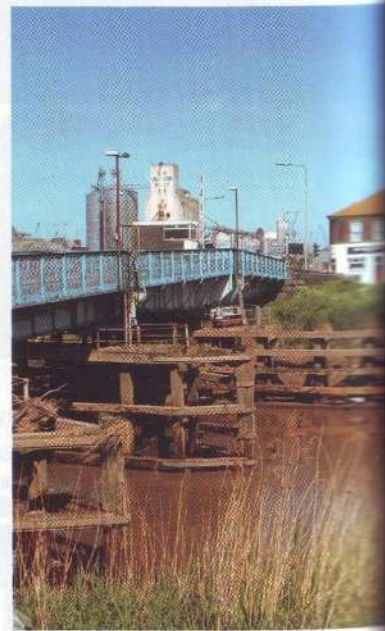


Right: The former bank chambers now council offices seen from the clock tower roundabout
Below: The clock tower with Boothferry Road beyond



Going Great Guns



John Turner finds Goole - home to the largest inland port in the country - on the brink of an exciting new era with millions of pounds worth of investment

Photography: Leo Rosser

SLEEPY Hollow, a Port in Green Fields, the most boring town in Britain - Goole has been called many things in its time and not all of them complimentary.

But if you can shake off the images a name like Goole invariably brings to mind (those Anglo-Saxons have a lot to answer for when they named it Gulle, meaning wetlands...) you will begin to see the town in a very different light.

As playwright John Godber would say of its people, they are the salt of the earth. Warm-hearted and open in a world more

Right: The water tower seen beyond two dock cranes

Below: The splendid redbrick facade of the former Goods Offices in the dockland





Above: The impressive facade of the market hall
Above right: A public walkway through the docks at Goole offers fascinating and dramatic dockland views
Below: The sign says it all. Goole - the UK's Premier Inland Port

usually associated with brusque indifference. Families who have lived here for generations are proud of their inheritance, while those who move in on a temporary basis find themselves permanently drawn into its small-community ethos.

For Goole is something of a paradox, a sheep in wolf's clothing whose tough public image belies a town of quiet inner strengths.

You only have to consider the development of the 120-hectare site on the edge of the M62 - where a total of 360,000 square metres of floor space is ultimately set to create around 3,700 jobs - to realise that Goole is on the verge of a new era.

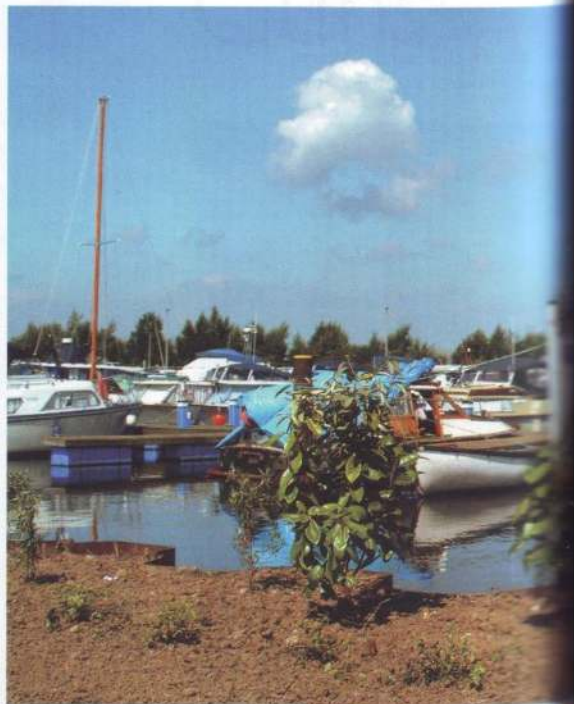


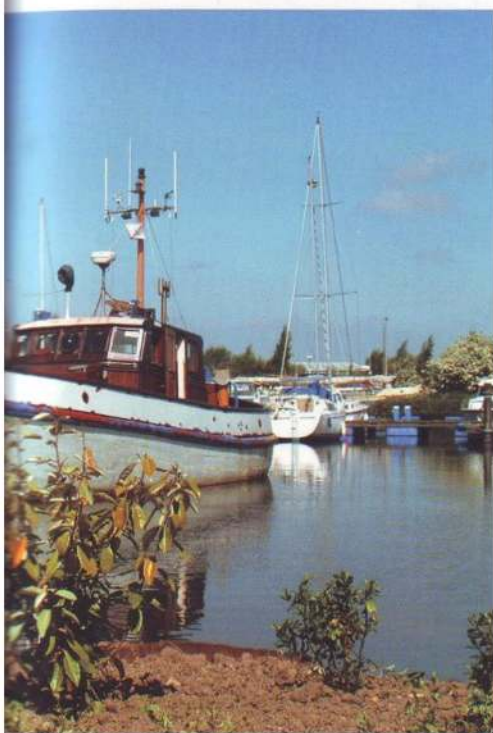
Yorkshire Forward is said to be investing in excess of £20m in the site and the completed infrastructure will include an enlarged motorway junction, a dual carriageway access road and all utility services. The first major inward investor in the shape of Guardian Industries has developed a £115m; 87,000 square metres float glass plant on a 60-acre site.

Meanwhile the port - the largest inland port in the country - continues to thrive with shipping

links to mainland Europe and the rest of the world. It handles large amounts of cargo for import and export, including cars, timber and grain.

Owned and operated by Associated British Ports, it stands on the River Ouse 80 kilometres from the sea and just two miles from the M62 and M18 motorways. Less than an hour's drive from the industrial centres of the northwest and the Midlands, the port is in a perfect position of strength. Its





Top: Quiet moments in the normally bustling Boothferry Road

Above: The village green in nearby Rawcliffe

Left: Pleasure craft moored in the marina

jagged, industrial skyline highlights the port's 174-year-old history and its burgeoning future is epitomised by the new all-weather covered steel terminal and gantry cranes.

The Sobriety Project, established 26 years ago, is a charity developed as a direct link with the port, offering training programmes, exhibition facilities and creating an acclaimed waterways museum.

As the port continues to thrive so, too, does the town centre which has enjoyed a continuing programme of improvements over

Guide to Goole

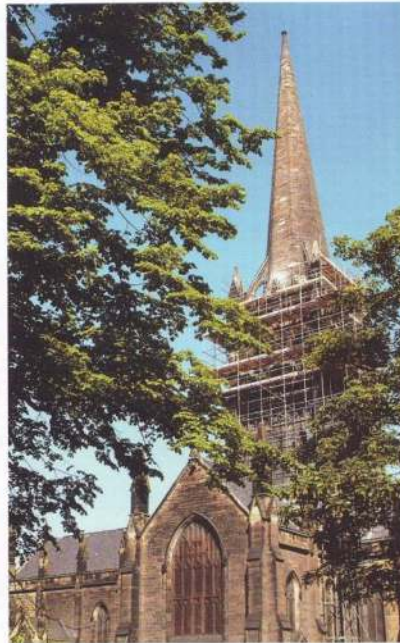
- Full market days are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The Victorian hall is also open Thursdays.
- Hull is a 30-minute drive away which itself has ferry links to the continent - Zeebrugge in Belgium and Rotterdam in Holland. Doncaster is roughly 25 minutes away and Leeds 45 minutes.
- Parking is free in most of the town except for a 50p per hour charge in Wesley Square.
- Trains run direct to Hull, Doncaster and Leeds.
- There are bus links to the major local cities of Leeds, Doncaster, Hull and the nearby towns of Howden and Selby.
- The nearest commercial airport is Humberside - approximately 45 minutes by road. The next nearest is Leeds Bradford - taking about one hour to travel to by road.
- The Waterways Museum offers information on the history of the port of Goole. There is a 'Floating Art Gallery' called Room 58, originally a working barge.
- Birdwatchers can visit the RSPB bird sanctuary at Blacktoft - the largest tidal reedbed in the UK.
- Axholmr is a Goole based historical re-creation group specialising in the 3rd-11th century. Contact: Matt Jones 01405 763550.
- An archery group shoots at various locations in the area including Cowick Hall. Saturday and Sundays at 12noon. Also Tuesday evenings in summer. New members welcome. Contact Mr P Appleyard 01405 761050
- The Goole and District Rambling Club organises a Sunday walk each month to various parts of the country. For a membership application form, or for a non-member vacant seat booking form for the next walk, e-mail your name and address to jandm@goole44.freereserve.co.uk



Above: A colourful waterside exhibit at the Waterways Museum

Above right: The Parish Church currently undergoing refurbishment

Below: Craft moored at Rawcliffe Bridge



the standard of living - something the town has been crying out for in its efforts to overturn its poor public image.

'People who don't know Goole tend to give it a wide berth,' said one long-time resident whose family have lived in the town for three generations. 'But if they took the time to visit they would realise it's not such a bad place after all. There's more to Goole than the name suggests.'

the last five or six years, including the pedestrianisation of the main tree-lined shopping street, the installation of CCTV cameras for increased safety and the continued upgrading of shops and shopping facilities.

On top of all this, you will find one of the finest leisure centres in the area, a thriving back-street theatre, a Lawn Tennis Association indoor centre and adult education facilities offering a wide range of courses.

Which is all good news for the people of Goole. More business suggests increased employment, better training facilities and a rise in

Potted History

- Goole was a small village until the construction of the Dutch River in the early 1600s - so called because the man who built it was Dutchman Cornelius Vermuyden. The formal name today is the River Don. It was around its confluence with the River Ouse that the town of Goole began to grow.
- The original development grew up on the eastern side of the wooden bridge that crossed the Dutch river - known as Goole Bridge
- This area is now known locally as Old Goole and the bridge is now known as the Dutch River Bridge, rebuilt in iron in the 1890s.
- The port on the other side of the river, now known as Goole, was built by the Aire and Calder Navigation Company in the 1820s. This was the start of the rapid development of the port.
- Many different cargos were imported and exported through the port but one of the most important was coal, mined in Yorkshire and carried through the canal network on small linked barges called Tom Puddings.
- Today the main cargos passing through the port are wood and imported cars.
- The first building in Goole is reputed to be the Lowther Hotel built in 1824 on Aire Street and which still stands today. It was originally called the Banks Arms Hotel, named after Sir Edward Banks, a contractor for the Aire and Calder Navigation Company.
- The first post office was built in 1831, the parish church in 1843 and the original railway station in Aire Street in 1848. The existing railway station was built in the late 1860s.
- Goole Grammar School was built in 1909 and three years later Bartholomew Hospital was constructed, taking its name from the engineer Charles Bartholomew.

