

# History

## Local History

The town of Goole is unusual in that it was built by a company. It is quite a new town but the local area has a history that dates back many hundreds of years.

The village of Adlingfleet, for example, takes its name from where Edgar- Aethling (heir to Harold and the crown of England) moored his fleet of ships in 1068; at one time Adlingfleet was one of the most important places in the country! The village of Swinefleet probably takes its name from King Sweyne who would have sailed his ships past the village in 1013.

In 1626 King Charles I gave a Dutchman, Cornelius Vermuyden (1595-1683), the job of draining the Isle of Axholme, an area of land that lies to the south of Goole. For completing this work Vermuyden would receive 95,000 acres of the drained lands. Vermuyden's first action was to divert the River Don by cutting a new river to make it flow into the River Ouse. This new river, still called 'The Dutch River', prevented the marshland from flooding. The people who lived in the Isle of Axholme were angry about the land being drained as they had been granted the right to hunt, fish and shoot in the area by Lord De Mowbray of Epworth and the rivers and marshland provided them with fish, waterfowl and game, including deer. Vermuyden's work meant that their way of life would never be the same again. To make matters even worse, Vermuyden employed Dutch workmen to complete the drainage. The local people attacked the Dutch workers and claimed money from Vermuyden when his system of drainage flooded previously dry farmland.

In 1630 it was agreed that to complete the project Vermuyden should employ English workers and compensate the local people for the losing their traditional way of life. The mistakes that Vermuyden had made were very costly to put right and when he died in 1683 he was penniless.

In later years, Goole's success as a port was enormous, not least because of the 'Tom Pudding' system of moving coal that was invented by William Bartholomew in 1863.