



River Riches AND ROTTERS

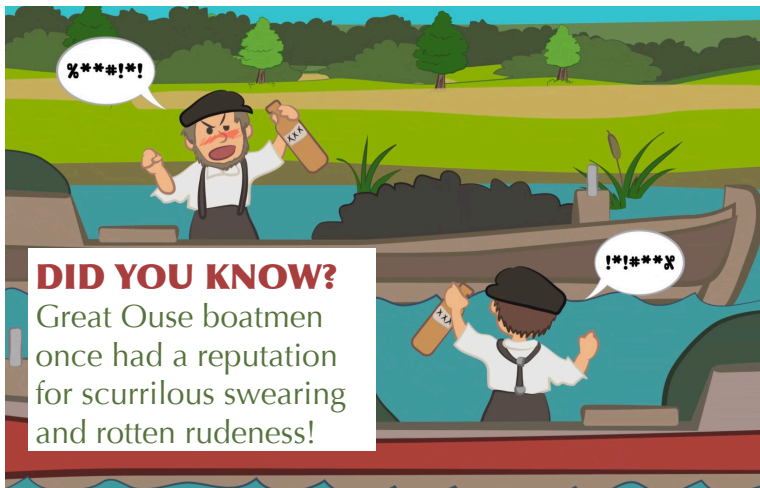


FACT

In 1689 the Great Ouse was dredged and opened up all the way to the sea. With all those boats trading on the river, Bedford got busier and richer too.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1700s the river got so busy with boats, that people complained it was no good for fishing any more.

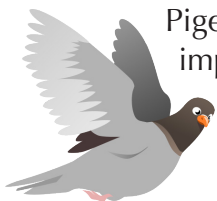


IMAGINE

What do you think were the best things about life and work on board – and the worst?

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Pigeon poo was once an important Bedford import. Farmers used it to fertilise the grain crops they grew for food and export.



Look at the illustration on the panel. Can you find...?

A water mill, a cow field, a horse and cart, a woman rowing across the river? Do you think she's trading, fishing, or off home after work?

FACT

One boat could carry as much cargo as 40 horses.

GET SPLASHING!

You can still go boating in BRVP. Hire a boat at Danish Camp, or take a trip up the river.

Take a net and you'll be able to go pond-dipping in the Grange Estate. Follow the riverside path to the pond-dipping platform near Danish Camp.



Dig Deeper

Fen lighters and Humber keels were the main local boats.

Watch a Humber keel in sail. www.bedfordrivervalleypark.org/dig-deeper-river-highway/