

# Bristol Harbour Timeline

**1000**



A coin of King Cnut made in Bristol c1010. Anglo-Saxon coins were minted only in market towns, where they fed trade.

**1067**

**Bristol surrenders to William the Conqueror**

**1100**



**Bristol Castle built. Brigstowe settlement established on Castle Park.**

**1200**



This drawing is of dredging the reach in the 1820's; the original excavations might have looked something like this

**1239 St. Augustin's Reach dug out and the Frome diverted to increase quay side.**

**1300**



**Plague in Bristol; at least 1/3rd of population dies.**

**1400**



**1497 John Cabot sails to Newfoundland on the Matthew.**

**1500**



**1552 Elizabeth I visits the city, calls St Mary Redcliffe church "the fairest and godliest in all the land"**  
**1574 Society of Merchant Venturers formed**

**1600**



**1654 Cromwell orders destruction of Bristol Castle**

**1698 Bristol officially joins the slave trade**

**1700**



From 1690 to 1807 British ships transport about 2.8 million enslaved Africans

**Bristol, enormously wealthy from the transatlantic slave trade, is the second biggest town in England. Theatre Royal opens and Wills Tobacco Co. founded.**

**1800**



**1809**

**Bristol Floating Harbour opened.**

**1841**

**Great Western Railway opens.**

**1843**

**SSGB launched**

**1864**

**Clifton Suspension Bridge opens**

**1884**

**Corporation secures control of all docks.**

**1900**



**1940**

**Bristol Blitz**

**1960's**

**Bus boycott, first St Paul's Carnival, Concorde's maiden flight.**

**1970's**

**SSGB returns**

**Port of Bristol moves to Avonmouth.**

**2000**



**1970's - present  
Regeneration of  
Bristol's Harbourside.**