



How has Bristol's harbourside changed?

What made Bristol the ideal place for a harbour?

Bristol grew around the point where the River Avon flows into the Severn Estuary and out into the Bristol Channel.

Ships could reach it by drifting into the harbour on the tidal current.



The rivers in the Bristol Channel can rise and fall as much as 14 metres twice each day with the tides. These tides caused problems.

1802
William Jessop
 (civil engineer)
 How do we create a harbour with no tides?



What problems did the tide cause?

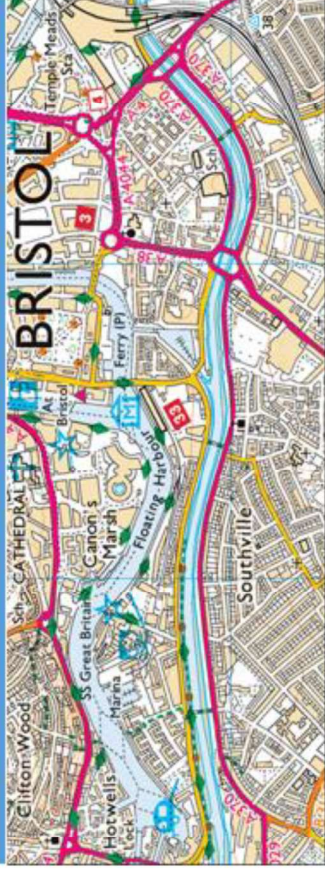
The river was **too crowded** at tide times.



At low tide, all the **ships** in the harbour ran aground and they were often **damaged**.

There was a **fire risk**.

Solution – dig a new river channel 'The Avon Cut' (1809) and build dams to create a floating harbour.



Changes in harbourside land use over time

warehouses
 industry
 trade
 ship-building

redevelopment
 tourist attractions
 unemployment
 derelict buildings

Key Vocabulary

harbour	an area of water where boats are kept that is protected from waves and currents.
floating harbour	a harbour alongside a tidal waterway which keeps a constant level, despite the changing tides.
tide	tides are the rise and fall of sea levels around the world. There are two high tides and two low tides each day.
merchant	a person who buys goods and sells them for a profit.
trade	the act of exchanging or buying and selling goods.
industry	the businesses that provide a particular product or service.
port	a safe space where ships/boats may shelter. A port is usually a bigger harbour.
tourism	the act of travelling usually for sightseeing or relaxing.