

Information gleaned from 'The Yorkshire Ouse'

(Baron F. Duckham, published by David and Charles 1967)

Nature of the River

Below Trent Falls the Humber estuary is 40 miles long. There are 38 miles of river to Naburn hock. From Spurn Head to Naburn hock is 78 miles.

Prior to the first lock (1757) ordinary spring tides reached Nether Poppleton four miles beyond York.

'On 12th. July 1925, the water below Naburn hock was so thick with silt that two steamers attempting to enter the lock could only do so with their engines at full speed and with steam winches lending assistance.'

The Goole/Swinefleet stretch may be one part sea-water to two parts river water towards the end of a spring flood tide. Salt water never reaches Naburn.

The river rarely freezes, but in 1878 winter skaters could travel from Selby to York without leaving the ice.

The width of the river at Blacktoft is 2,770 ft. reducing to 110 ft. at Naburn some 38 miles upstream. This gives an average reduction in width of 95 ft. per mile.

Prehistoric times Travel must have been difficult because of the undrained character of much of the valley.

Iron Age - ample signs of settlements, even in the lower vale. There may have been earlier cultures.

The Romans. By the time they arrived, the Ouse was certainly an established trade route.