

Heritage and Heritage Tourism of the town of Grimsby

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The aim of this research was to undertake a two-year longitudinal study using a qualitative approach to look at the heritage, artefacts and history of the town of Grimsby. Grimsby is situated in the borough of North East Lincolnshire and largely consists of Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Immingham and the surrounding countryside and villages with an approximate population of 160,000 people. All three specific areas, even though they exist in close proximity have their own unique histories and heritages. Grimsby is a post-industrial northern fishing town, Cleethorpes is a Victorian seaside resort, Immingham is a large Humber port with petro-chemical industries, and the surrounding countryside based around agriculture and the gateway to agricultural Lincolnshire. It was decided that the scope of this research would be based around Grimsby.

The original aim was to catalogue Grimsby's historical artefacts, and to create an online resource that people could access because the town is limited in regards of museum space, which is largely Grimsby's Fishing Heritage Centre. BA Tourism and Business Management students were involved in some of the desk based research around the historical development of the town. Access to the various repositories of historical artefacts were gained via North East Lincolnshire Council. The four main areas housing these historical artefacts were based around Grimsby Central library and their historical archives, Grimsby Town Hall which has a large amount of documentary archive material, a secret air conditioned site which includes the Doughty collection and a lot of larger historical objects many of which get put on display at the Fishing

Heritage Centre. It was decided that a BFI film maker would produce a film cataloguing all of this, which could be used for anyone to gain access to these artefacts.

Once these visits had taken place along with detailed research into the history of Grimsby. A timeline of the main historical developments of Grimsby was produced which obviously covered approximately 2,000 years. It was realised that the size of the task of cataloguing all of the historical artefacts would take too long so discussions took place with Dom Bowles the series executive producer of Channel 4's 'Britain's Most Historic Towns' who were going to film about Lincoln. It was decided to produce a small film as result of these discussions, based around key Grimsby events – such as Grimsby's creation myth and the story of the town's foundation by the Vikings in around the 9th Century, the influence of the Romans and its links to Caistor; the development of the town through its royal charters and town maces; the First World War through its impacts upon the fishing industry; the Second World War and how the town's people purchased two spitfires, along with how the town was used as a test by the German Luftwaffe and carpet bombed with anti-personnel bombs; and finally contemporary Grimsby and the decline of the fishing industry. One area of research is the authenticity debate trying to separate fact from fiction and how this has been used over the years.

Filming was arranged at various locations around the Grimsby area during April because of the commitments of the BFI film maker, and we were going to discuss the project with Estuary Student TV. However, the covid-19 pandemic and lockdown during this period has meant none of this so far has happened. Therefore, everything has been put on hold with the filming now hopefully taking place early Spring 2021. The

specific events/time periods have not been affected by the pandemic but it has meant a delay in the research.