\*Serve ye markitt as need shall require & thende darth maye be avoided': How Hull's merchants stabilised the city's grain market in the subsistence crises of the 1580s and 1590s.

> Felicity Wood – PhD English (Water Cultures)

The University of Hull - sponsored by Leverhulme Trust and hosted by the Energy & Environment Institute at The University of Hull.



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18D III, f. 63r

### TRANSHISTORICAL

#### ANXIETIES

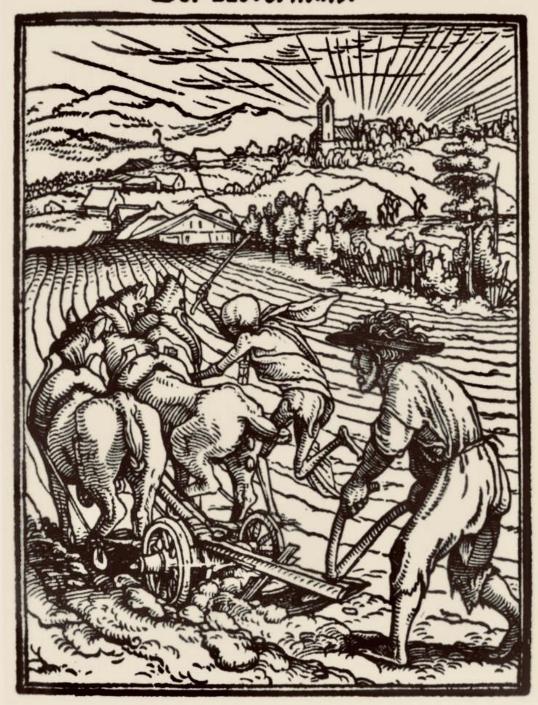
- Global climate warming
- International economy and market network
- Food access, availability and security
- Localized, sustainable and fair supply chains
- Equality of food rights.
- Shared experience

#### CLIMATE SENSITIVE ENGLAND

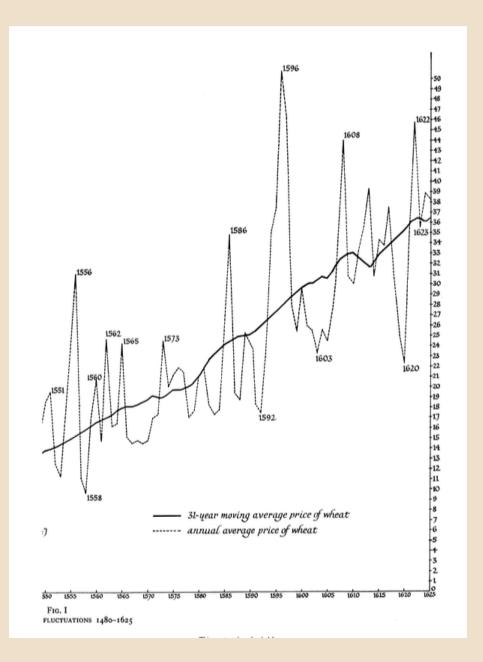
"What happened was immediately dependent on the weather; one county may be enjoying a surplus when the next has a serious dearth [...] One cannot overestimate the directness and the simplicity of the condition of things then: bad weather and a bad harvest meant starving people" (*The England of Elizabeth*, 1950:106).

"[it] is evident from a comparison of weather and harvest records that what the peasants feared most was a mild but very wet winter, continuing into a cool rainy spring" ... "sudden freaks of nature: June frost, the violent hailstorm, the sudden deluge that submerged the meadows as hay was being gathered." (*The Culture of the English People*, 1994: 174)

"for the majority of the Tudor population their daily task was to extract sustenance from the earth, rivers, forests and seas around them..." (*Tudor England: A History,* 2022:9)



<sup>&#</sup>x27;Peasant's dance of death' by Hans Holbein the Younger, (1523-1525)



'Wheat prices fluctuations 1550-1625' from Hoskins, W.G. (1964) 'Harvest Fluctuations and English Economic History'.

### **DEARTH MEASURES**

- Orders and measures issued by Elizabeth's Government.
- Maintain food security and accessibility
- Ensure the flow of grain within the market network
  specific focus on London.
- Management, control and manipulation
- Effective organized approach to manage and secure the supply of grain to everyday people.

### Orders deuifed by

the especiall commandement of the Queenes Maiestie, for the reliefe and stay of the present dearth of Graine within the Realme:

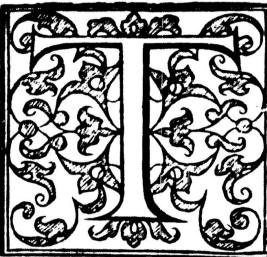
Sent from the Court at Greenewich abroad into the Realme, the fecond day of Januarie, 1586, Ju the 29, peere of her Spaieflies teigue, by her Spaieflies Hoginie Counfell.



Jmprinted at London by Christopher Barker, Printer to the Queenes most excellent Maiestie.

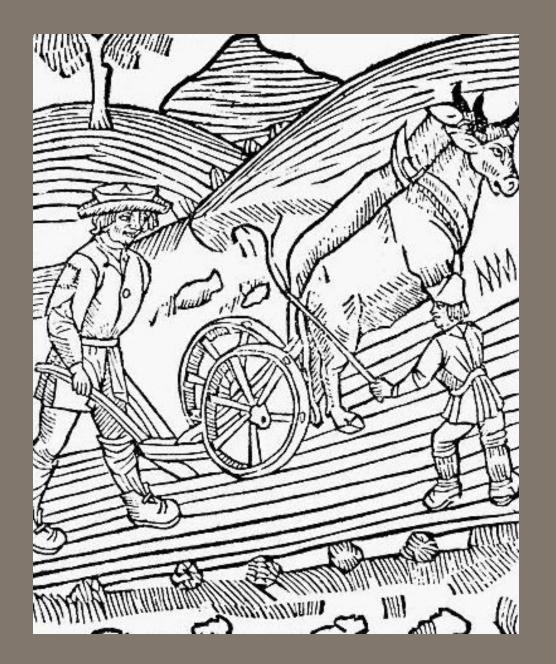
## By the Queene.

#### A Proclamation for the dearth of Corne.



De Dueenes Daiettie hearing by report out of lundry Countries in the Realme, of the burealonable encreale of prices of Graine, to the griefe of her poorer fort of people that have no living by Tillage: And though the feilers of Corne, as rich farmers, and Ingrollers, do pretend to raile the prices by colour of the bulealonablenelle of this Dommer : yet that being no iuft caule to raile the prices of their olde Corne of the laft recres growth, but that the farmers and Ingrollers of Corne, of meere couetoulnelle have bery lately, even within two moneths, molt bucharitably haunced by their prices, not tollerable to be fuffered. For remedie whereof, to the reliefe of the

great multitude of her pooze louing Subiects, lacking Corne for their foode, and also for reformation of many other abules committed by such couctous and bncharitable persons, being boide of all natural compaslion towards their neighbours: Her Matellie calling to her remembrance the good orders by her Matellies commaundement published the last yeere, especially for the stare of the dearth of Corne, to be crecuted by the Sherifes and Justices of Peace in every Countie of her Bealme, the good observation whereof would remedie these dicorders of the yll and wealthy sort, and to the reliefe of the good and needie: Woeth therefore charge and straightly commaund all her Sherifes and Justices of Peace, and other principall Officers in



### HULL'S POSITION WITHIN THE MARKET NETWORK



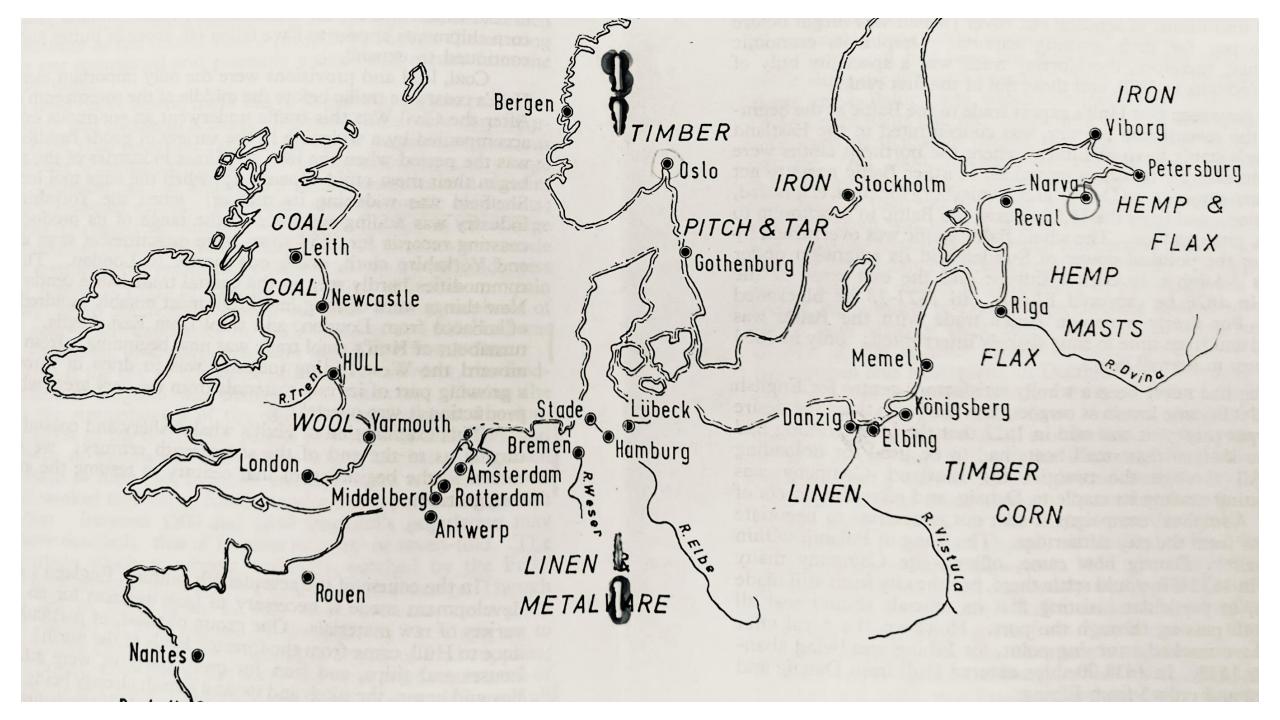
### HULL EARLY PROVISIONS OF FOOD( 1580s)

Decembrie

"there may be some meanes be found in some sort to relieve them, I would wishe you to cause survey to be made of the corne remayninge within your towne in the merchants hands, and upon view therof to deale with the said merchants hands in such effectual sort, that they will be contented to serve the poore of your sayd towne with corne at a reasonable rate and if those in your towne beinge sufficiently provided for, the aboute you may likewise be furnished at lyke reasonable prices." (BRL/68)

flox our garty tomon dond, Ro Er la loy and by ger mat perputer a dinition toppe most bond good or or or brifte and fitt Down By bis m to invall tometros for top better of Perlinge of top top Praint of the Offeringe dot cating of fleps in the tyme of Lent Taw 6. tebro No export At for toil interes the Int objectut Feat not so mit disc Let On for potnion or the + larte of the for morting poublisted at Lot a Ville in trat ar othermit not ne fame y ton mente, by your peace a towings to attlate the "pettotion ! I no bor port for by for make on prof 2 tom two at dw m more darment ty darge byon in St to for the print tan fulli and colifonter seferbod for rates in report of Cator great most ally bir of the poper, our offer type of groat Jutter fordalen semolt for buy out for mole traluw; and of for fartation de la sol ou to por to por of trade it by the to me Conto 35 Gat sport orant by few get in the trainest bogingo of top of enders in themi' of 32 orone forothe with quatters a funtion type is fortinge of the faw amongs top me duor parts a The de at mps supported by lagt a room, for for foil a form of all to man Mall tauft to be arenformed to for mannes, and april a fitters of prices of pratos, the come of the To et able attendinge to ger mate mit and pleasant forparis, nS83 Outram : Co: 2Entfrmpt fra: Browell's famos Groffer to: polo

"and rather in respect of the late great mortallytie of shepe, and other kynde of great cattle generalie almost throughout the whole realme: and of the Darthe and skarcitie alsoe of other kynde of vycctualls at this tytme and for meanes to the better performance here of wee are to [remember] unto you that your owne example in the straight kepingene of those orders in everie of your owne howses will greatlie further the observing of the same amonge the meaner sorte." (Ref no. BRL/70)





# HULL'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE (1590S)

Hor my Short " Do mond horons me Souches I sond or frand Loht Govo was rortanio Frippet of Danfick Opeman -Haben Scotland and Hollande teht of late spint brongst Dozno to the posto of Bull and for portadon for Go rolooft how of logo might illin bob of Teht form for milolo do untrut to voy mingo, and fat how ingay no fering stil by marine form los by one for Dan fut to roberno mily more gorn of hom pour mee place on Gove her Ton goto m' roquard or ferry wed & toto to soill hand Gomtrue And m as the Rhh roftelm. mperlo fent pp lest plines apron inned nome benige with bys porto to to rolat the hand to guft on Gove sorting I for him you mak to florte 1 2 Souro/Co to my for and bp loverige from

A REQUEST "that ships containing corn would be allowed into the port's haven excused from the restraints laid on. Certain " shippes of Danzick, Copen-Harben. Scotland and Holland that of last had brought corne to the port of Hull" to relieve "the inhabitants of that towne", were to passe on their voyage without the restrictions of foregin trade so that they may " return with more corne" and be "freighted bountiful of corne" (BRL/118)

In it is rond of rended and fullie uguesd by 100 faid maior and also brapman maior wit willion with Emile L: Chur fros Virgansfon Anternio bolo fogn Lifter , Doroand books about the wind patt being the Deil Daie. Abrofait Egal for afinning ab 40 prirob of borns dolp daily martette and likely to grove to exercity be prived for the pouror for lof poople poro finnon fat to poply for Noliof novofilio and partly to taio Sport oprlamarand in Hat Bofalfa quantilis of regite Vio not Call be Ripped filfer buto a party beyond for (bab) falle taken out of one fur Hon Any for faid Nid fo to be takon from fyrms to time Onling Jokop and parrohis fall to prized and baland by the laid maior 12 mar Dotte lo yal at lome indifferent under Vale, 101 Hon forsof may fans a rompsfort 2 motorale gamos from time to time to the poone prople or mothe buffetters porte and to fine and foresp. to belanfrored to morie arifing to over a mordingh m maior. 27. 6.

"That forasmuch as the prices of corne doth dailye increase in the market and likely to growe to excessive prices. For the better reliefe of the poorer sort of people here, in so much as to supply their present necessitie and partly to staie their [exclamation on their] behalfe & a reasonable quantite of white rie which shall be shipped hither unto this port from the porte beyond the seas & shallbe taken out of every such shipp or vessel at the discrecion of the Mayor, and according as such shippes or vessels shallbe in [brethren] And the said rie for to be taken from tyme to tyme during this dearth and scarcetie shallbe prized and halved by the said maior at some indifferent under rate lesse than the markette for the inhabitants [of the towne] therefore may have a competent & moderate gain of, not excessive for such small quantitie I such port to be taken. And the same rie to be sold from time to time and the poore people by mette, bushell or pecke" (C BRB/2/305b)

J.L



#### HULL'S INTERNAL

TRADE

asparted as Lafter ment

Fforasmuch as the highe waies to this towne are of laite greatly decased on every side the saime, and growen to be so fowel and especially on Holderness side that hardly any loden horses can gitt to this towne. By meanes whereof it is greatly to be doubled that corne will in this markitt growne is be very deare [...] it is though a good idea that some corne & especially wheate & rye be bought & provided with save ye markitt as nede shall require & thende darthe may be avoided & the scarcitie provided for as much as reasonably may be." (C BRB/2/178)



# THE FAIR AND FREE MARKET

Market Woman with Fruit, Vegetables and Poultry, Pieter Aertsen (1564)



Speed's plan of Hull 1610, available at HCC readers room



to boggen to 184 ( talk se plant Por But gat horne & be topt Hat bart Doro CF antle

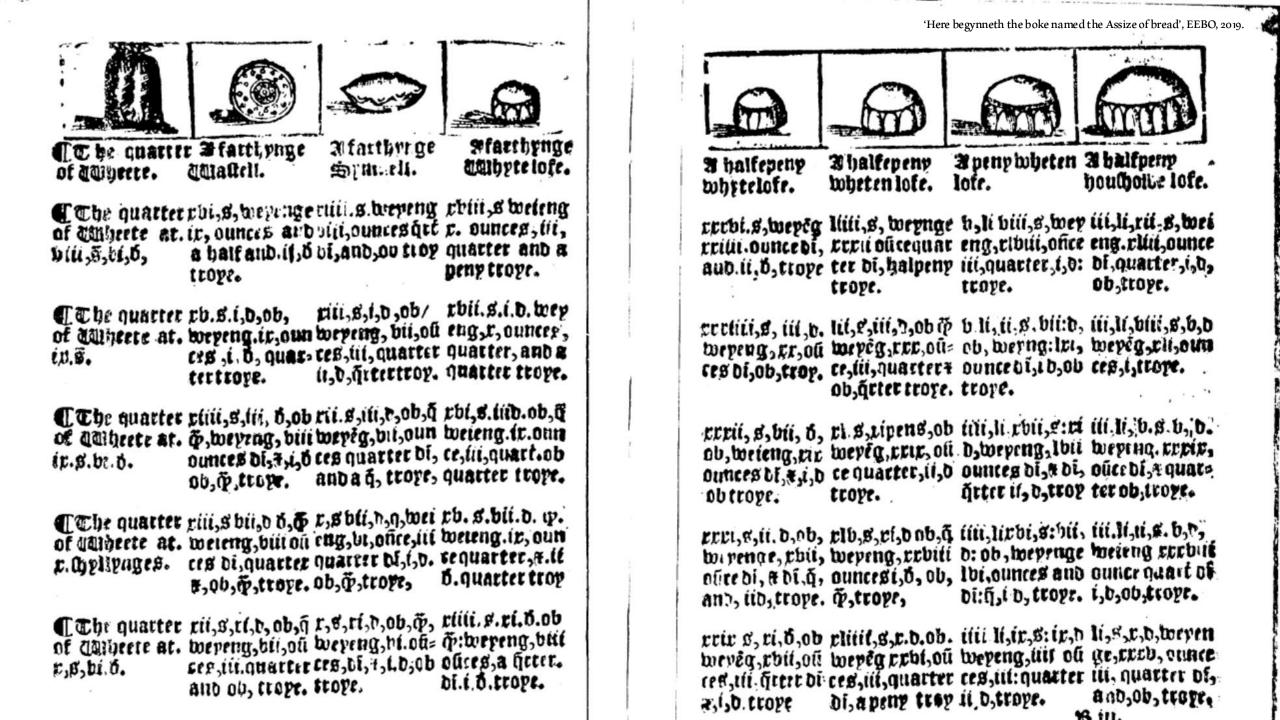
Basic instructions ordered that "all sellers of salt fishe by retaile and stande to the southward of the bull ring on the west syde" or that "over against towarde the Gate House to begyn to sett stall, or place people to stand, and so the northward: And first of that ranke townes people of Hull to be placed, and next theme pedlers & petie chapmen with small wares" (Ref no. C BRB/2/376)



# THE FAIR AND FREE MARKET: REGULATING THE MARKET

Bolas attomptif Comon Tolo Browne Changes Gilinguth when G Longo infor

"the said maior and aldermen being informed that [several] psons did engrose and gitt into their custody great quantitie of corne and butter where for the worth [that] they bought in ye markkit by means wherof bothe corne and butter dothe growe [...] very deare", "have appointed Antony Bownsall and John Bell to see yt no man upon one markitt day doe buy above two mettes of corne in the markitt and they present all such as by any great quantitie of butter in the markitt" "sufficient for their own provision is be spent in their howses" (C BRB/2/111b).



meit bus pe to Anarty maliale burad grage alim or forother buras ploat procy to as nont of the fine baking of get Good 6 1 40 this 28 about fall onri nation and formight ar so sprue trave volt of full of propre regative toming forings: from of Sins to sorry for they & Blaz Bo Dorne The teles and baller offerings in Boir manifed for for when he for first offense to los to be m E mais to Sit mor to bo silving to be balange any

"The size of bread, the wheate being xxxiis. the quarter" and subsequently that "wheat bread should weigh 13 ounces, Wheaten or Bowled bred should weigh 19 ounce, and Brown bread 25 ounce."

"shall hereafter bake and sell any two pennye bread, but i.d. or loaves upon paine every such ii.d. lofes or greater then that quantity hereby lymmited"

"That the said bakers shall once within one fornihht or as corn shall ryse and fall of pryce [meet with the mayor] for the tyme being. And of him to receive the weight that they shall observe in making of their bread accordygne [to] the pryce that the corne shall then be at." (C BRG/2 /254)



"misrule by daie and night, carde, dice & other unlawfull games there practiced, drunkenness and often times worse [proved] unthriftie expences caused"

"the witness of povertie within this towne, and ill spending of good time, the wastfull consuming of victuals and corne chiefly, by meanes whereof the same are in it growne & held up with excessive prices, with the great detriment of the corne wealth, private damage of manie and no small impediment to the performance of good lawes"

"no pson or psons of what estate or condition should he or they being burgesses or inhabitante within this towne, or the libertites thereof shall hereafter, during the time of darth at the least, go or resort into anie alehouse or other drinking house, and there to drinke either beere or ale" (C BRG/2/304)



## FAIRS, MARKETS AND TAXES

"Some fee main' mile for more for the Altorman e for no ske mi gufut and avoit ge onet at afore ty ske Noms. Coret al him gufut and avoit ge onet at afore ty ske Noms. Coret at him and addition for a for a for the faid more the fait him all addition for soft of a more for a for a for a for a for a for the faid of the faither with the for the form of the form of the form of the form of the form the formation of the form the formation of the form of the formation o

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pais, for noch following: Zesto and foro for to give hoter -foroof, to all for mate losning publicity / TEat go /aid fair it gow to be best a now ingh ( to begin tes shit said of soppondor most, and to be ron timed for tot gained, from he some next following And Bafer gat year les enting to daios aforisfaid of Od perilt To forment Z got all mand of Zlond / Leat and Sifeold, to Buy ou foll At the fair fairs / anis moves / max of and 2 so for the balle or offer finge may at for time, Hogain and rome fileer at four pleathrob , store improgent or gridorance of any in test reflect. .

And regorerab allo, for it granted to 47 to Corrovarow, too marbett saist, nookely good to be fother / Long on Coulday Helper on finding one wook it. And Egal all mand of Tole, of all fort of sinthalle or offer tem ge bolonging to anis forg fair or markett, Tall from time to time lo Horoqued to to blo of this zonne 182 to Offirors, for my propolo to be appointed : Zeolo and horoile, to gone thom lodgo for oft, to only goon To to only fal none foreafter may I lende & quovanne forom / 2Bnt willing the bouter and spain All forg Tolle, Inition, 5 Dood ab pall lawfully in that begalfe, be Domannow of form on anis of form, concorring to fame, soland bomputron, or bonfrant and vaide, to be op longed tomave amis And fat no plan Dos gowapter make goods or fall, of anis rorns or offer grain brought to this martel before the martet bell & tongs spon the forfaitme torsk. in the

Porpos.

no tofort to ales To vijf anis of Ortober being Gondan in bolg to before the note de folloroste . Diz: Bright open Jule

It bomet good to the fight worth and mailor and the format go a low I got the a low I got the order goin publicat to son in the times of m' brogened maior, aquin I & Nobeling infigurent to degou fob / finds or offer cipling lou for fall pid your if the the now be penerose, at note for if the land, not to i man and forme of in toto ske as allo compt it is forme, to be alto a cover for some goverto not a little Brificial to the demale day of E way toding any of man's Dibrook a allof from texture of mainer of to this practices & Degraps Salle from the form the form of the second of the the second of th

Any person presenting their wares to sell were to "willingly render and paie all such tolls, duties & dues as shall lawfully in that behalf to be demanded of them, concerning the same, without complication or constraint anie waies will be extended towared anie" and once again the audible sanction of the market bell is included as "no person doe hereafter make showe or sale of anie corne or other grain brought to this market before the market bell be ronge upon the forfaiture thereof." (C BRG/2/316)

These are therefore to give notice therof with all her majestie loving subjects that the said fair is here to be kept accordingly, and to begin the xjith day of September next, and to be continued for xv daies from thence next following. And so after that yearly during the daies aforesaid, if God permit to the intent that all manner of person that are disposed to buy or sell at the said fair anie wears, merchandises, horse, cattell, or other things may at that time repair and come hither at their pleasures without impeachment or hinderance of any in that respect. (C BRG/2/315b - 316)

In Hull's fair "all manner of toll, of all sort of victuals or other things belonging to anie such fair or market, shall from tyme to tyme be recyved with the use of this towne, by the officers for such purpose to be appointed" (C BRG/2/316b).



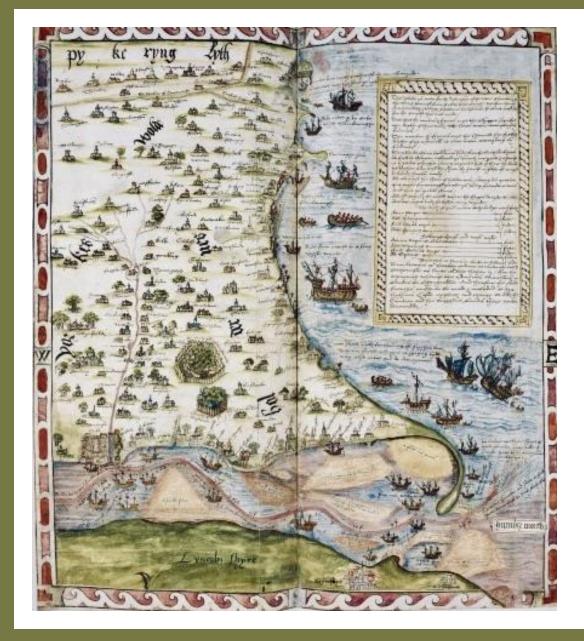
" all manner of tolls and dues of all, and all manner of merchandise, victuals, and other things whatsoever, from time to time sold and brought within the aforesaid markets and fair, or either of them, with the customs, usages, profits, commodities and emoluments whatsoever, belonging, appertaining, occurring, happening, or arising at such markets, marts, fairs and courts of piepowder " (Boyle, 116)



### THE BENCH, INFASTRUTURE AND LEGACIES

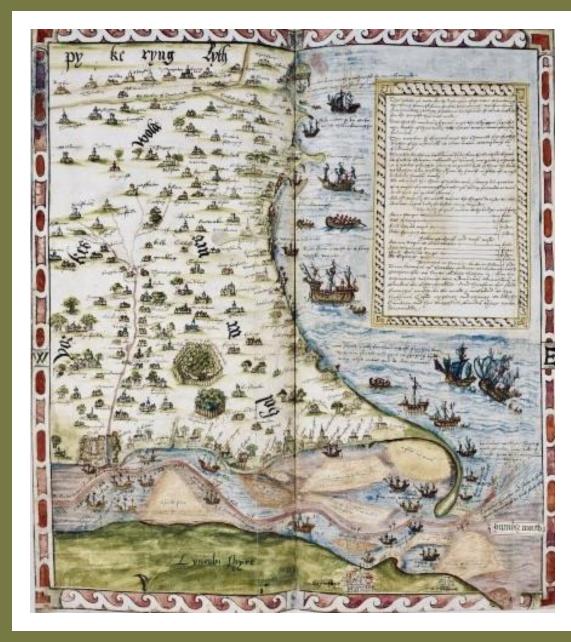
Good Blamboro. all poople to report this plant milomite To betan pasmit 10 Taid co On and cotandoro for 1

one hundred and threescore pounds in monie which he willed should by therein maior and his brethren their good advice or other honest psons be yerely at the beginning of the yere imployed to buy corne for the use of the poore of the saide towne that they might have the said corne for monie so that the saide towne loose not by it and that the same should be every yearely for ever provided always that if they will not so due the citye of Yorke to have the side money to imploy it for their poor accordingly [...] (C BRB/3/4)



#### FINAL REMARKS

Lord Burghley's Map of Humberside, (1559). British Library, <u>Royal MS 18 D III</u>, f. 63r



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