**History of Leeds' Waterfront**

The earliest settlement at Leeds developed near to a crossing point on the River Aire, and without the river it is likely that there would have been no settlement, and no city of Leeds. The river and its associated waterways have been crucial to the growth of the city as a centre of industry and commerce.

The waterfront, where the city and the waterways meet, was for many years one of the most important areas of Leeds. The river was also important in providing water for the textile industry.

During the medieval period the most important part of watercraft was the fulling mill. The fulling process became mechanised with the invention of the water-powered fulling mill. The soft water of the River Aire was ideal for this and a fulling mill was built in 1322 on the east side of Leeds Bridge. A second mill was built in 1356 on the west side of the bridge, and by 1700, there were fulling mills at either end of the river. They were powered by water wheels, like the one at Thwaite Mills.

**Leeds Bridge**

Leeds Bridge, crossing the river at the bottom of Briggate, was built at some time during the 14th century. It is said that it was built with stones from the old Leeds castle. The cloth market was held on the bridge every Tuesday and Saturday morning until 1566, when it was moved to Briggate. The bridge was widened at 1730, 1745, and again in 1796, and was demolished in 1872 when the present bridge was built.

Louis Aimé Augustin Le Prince was a French artist and the inventor of an early motion picture camera. It is claimed Le Prince filmed the first ever moving images on Leeds Bridge in 1888. Take a look at the Leeds website to see the moving picture sequence.

The Tetley (asda House)

**Transport & Information**

- **Walking:** A 5 minute walk from the station.
- **Bus:** Taxis run every 5 minutes from both stations.
- **Train:** Five per hour at all times.
- **Taxi:** Available at the station.

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**Key Pieces of Interest**

- **Shopping:**
  - Waterfront Walk
  - Call Lane
  - Trinity Leeds
  - Dean Street
  - The Calls
  - Leeds Lookout
  - The Tetley
  - Waterloo Place
  - West Street

- **Eating and Drinking:**
  - Ciao
  - Iguanas
  - Holiday Inn Express
  - Park Plaza Hotel
  - Staybridge Suites
  - Novotel
  - Marriott
  - Hilton

- **History:**
  - The Calls
  - Monk Bridge

- **Eating and Drinking:**
  - The Majestic
  - Tetley
  - Asda House

- **Transportation:**
  - The Majestic
  - Tetley
  - Asda House

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