

✘ Ordered in 1416, Grace Dieu was completed by in 1418 and at the time was one of the largest ships in England. Her weight was estimated to be 1,400 tons

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The remains of *Grace Dieu* suggest that it was built in a hurry as some of the planks and ribs are roughly finished.

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At 218 feet long and 50 feet wide, the *Grace Dieu* was twice the size of the *Mary Rose*.

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The ship was designed with a clinker build, a technique popularly used by the Norseman. The Victorians originally believed the wreckage to be a Viking ship due to the build of *Grace Dieu*.

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Despite originally being built for battle, *Grace Dieu* was no longer needed by the time it was operational in 1420. She made only one voyage, which ended very quickly after leaving Southampton when most of the crew mutinied.

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Two other ships, *Valentine* and *Falcon*, were also built to escort *Grace Dieu*.

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After the failed voyage *Grace Dieu* was moored in the River Hamble, where she remained until she was struck by lightning in 1439 and burnt to the shoreline.

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The *Grace Dieu* was already stripped of equipment by the time she burnt in 1439. This led to a local rumour the shipkeeper burnt the ship on purpose after stripping and selling materials from her, and blamed a bolt of lightning as a cover up.

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When the wreckage was identified as *Grace Dieu* in the 1930's, the rightful ownership lay with the British Crown. This was until 1970, when the University of Southampton bought it for £5, and it then became one of the first sites to be designated as a protected wreck site.

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50 metres from the wreck of the *Grace Dieu* is believed to be the remains of the *Holighost*, another vessel that was commissioned by Henry V.

