



# The Journey Begins

There are three ways to enjoy the Barton and Barrow Claypits Heritage Trail

**You can walk the whole trail**

Follow the trail map and walk from the starting point, at Barton Haven, following the footpath along the top of the flood bank to Barrow Haven. Then return along the same path until you arrive back at the North Lincolnshire and Humberside Sailing Club. Follow the directions to Pasture Road North and continue back to Waters' Edge Country Park.

**Or walk to Barrow and get the train back to Barton**

Start at Barton Haven. Follow the trail map along the top of the flood bank to Barrow railway station. Then get the train back to Barton railway station and walk back to your start point at Barton Haven. **Remember to check the train times.**

**Or walk to Barton and get the train back to Barrow**

Start at Barrow Haven railway station. Follow the trail map by walking onto the footpath along the top of the flood bank and follow directions to Barton Haven. Continue to Barton railway station and get the train back to your start point at Barrow Haven railway station. **Remember to check the train times.**



**Feeling hungry?** There are cafés at Waters' Edge Country Park and at the Pasture Fisheries on Pasture Road North. At Barrow, you can also walk from the railway station to the nearby Haven Inn.

**Legend:**

- Outward trail route
- Inward trail route
- Food
- Parking
- Turn around here

**Stop List:**

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# *The Barton & Barrow Claypits* **HERITAGE TRAIL**



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## **The Journey Begins**

Walk along the footpath onto the top of the flood bank towards Barrow Haven.

Stop at the railings overlooking the Humber Estuary. On your left is the majestic Humber Bridge. When it opened in 1981 it was the largest single-span suspension bridge in the world. To your right are panoramic views of the Humber Estuary and the City of Hull and its ports on the north bank.

As you look along the southern bank of the Humber Estuary, there are vast stretches of mudflats and saltmarsh, where sea club-rush and common reed grow. The mudflats are used by wading birds as feeding grounds. The land to your right between Barton Haven and Barrow Haven is a mosaic of open water, pools, grassland, hedgerows and woodland. This area supports a diverse assemblage of invertebrates including insects, moths and butterflies, and numerous species of birds. Sometimes you will see sheep grazing in the country park.

You are walking along the top of the flood defence which protects the land from flooding. The last significant tidal surge was in December 2013. The flood defences in Barton protected the town, but the flood defence was damaged in places and needed repair. After 100 m you will see a small opening on your right leading down from the flood bank back into the Waters' Edge Country Park. This is an excellent path to take if you want a shorter walk.

As you walk further along the pathway, you will pass hedgerows made up of brambles, hawthorn and blackthorn. You will also pass woodland with many indigenous species of tree including oak, ash, field maple, hawthorn, beech and alder.

See if you can identify the different shrubs in the hedgerows and trees in the woodland.

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## **Brick & Tile Manufacturing**

Bricks and tiles were made around Barton upon Humber for many years. In 1826 there were only four brickyards. The Brick Tax ended in 1850. This created a significant demand for the bricks. By 1892 there were 13 brick and tile manufacturers west and east of Barton Haven.

To make bricks and tiles, you need clay. And Barton had lots of clay. The clay was dug out in the winter when it was wet. Tiles and bricks were made during the spring, after the last frost, and summer. Frost-damaged tiles were reused to make bricks. In the late 18th century the construction of buildings changed. The old mud and stud buildings with thatched roofs began to disappear. They were replaced with new brick buildings with tiled roofs. This led to a growth in brick and tile making around Barton.

The industry went into gradual decline from 1896 to 1936. The number of brickyards fell by 64% during this period. The introduction of concrete tiles in the 1950s further reduced the manufacture of clay tiles.

The production of one million tiles needed 3,096 m<sup>3</sup> of clay. This was an area 1,693 m<sup>2</sup> to a depth of 1.82 m. Lime was added to soft clay to stiffen it. Clay varies in texture. Some clay contains a high percentage of silt, and other clays are more plastic. This had to be addressed in the manufacturing process. Production improved in the late 19th century when brick and tile making machines were developed. These machines could make 10,000 bricks a day.

Today, the only tile yard working between Barton Haven and Barrow Haven is Blyth's at Hoe Hill. Blyth's 'Barco' tiles and ridges can be found on many buildings in the UK and other parts of the world.

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## **Barton & Barrow Claypits Woodlands**

The claypits' landscape is dominated by open water and reedbeds. Older reedbeds gradually become invaded by willow scrub, with alders, elder and birch becoming established as the habitat becomes drier, slowly forming wet woodland. These willow fringes support the elusive Cetti's warbler and the declining willow tit and provide lookout perches for kingfishers.

Larger areas of woodland have been planted close to Waters' Edge Country Park with a wide variety of trees. These include ash, sycamore, oak, silver birch, alders, willows, aspen, poplar, hazel, hawthorn and guelder rose. The woodlands provide a habitat for declining bird species, including the willow warbler, bullfinch and song thrush. Near open water otters may use the woodlands for lying up, though mammals such as red fox, roe deer and grey squirrel are more likely to be seen. In places, wildflowers have been reintroduced from local ancient woodlands such as bluebells, wild garlic and primroses.

At night-time, the woodlands come alive with bats, moths and small mammals. Five species of bat have been recorded. Where trees have become flooded out, this may produce standing dead wood, which is essential for great spotted woodpeckers, treecreepers, roosting bats and a variety of fungi.

In autumn and winter, the profusion of berries on hawthorns and the occasional guelder rose provides food for visitors such as redwings, fieldfares and waxwings.

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## **Barton & Barrow Claypits' Habitat**

The Barton and Barrow claypits were dug to access clay to make bricks and tiles and cement. Today, the claypits form a series of water bodies. These are right next to the saltmarsh and the intertidal mudflats on the south bank of the Humber Estuary.

The habitat provided by the abandoned claypits supports several rare birds. These include bittern, willow tits, water rail, bearded tits and garganey.

In the past, five species of reed-dependent wainscot moth were found on the site alongside other specialist reedbed insects including the rare ground beetle, *Dromius longiceps*.

The claypit reedbeds are essential to the survival of many species and to the claypits' water quality. The reedbeds also assist in the prevention of erosion. The Barton and Barrow claypits are an example of how an industrial landscape can, over time, provide valuable wildlife habitat.

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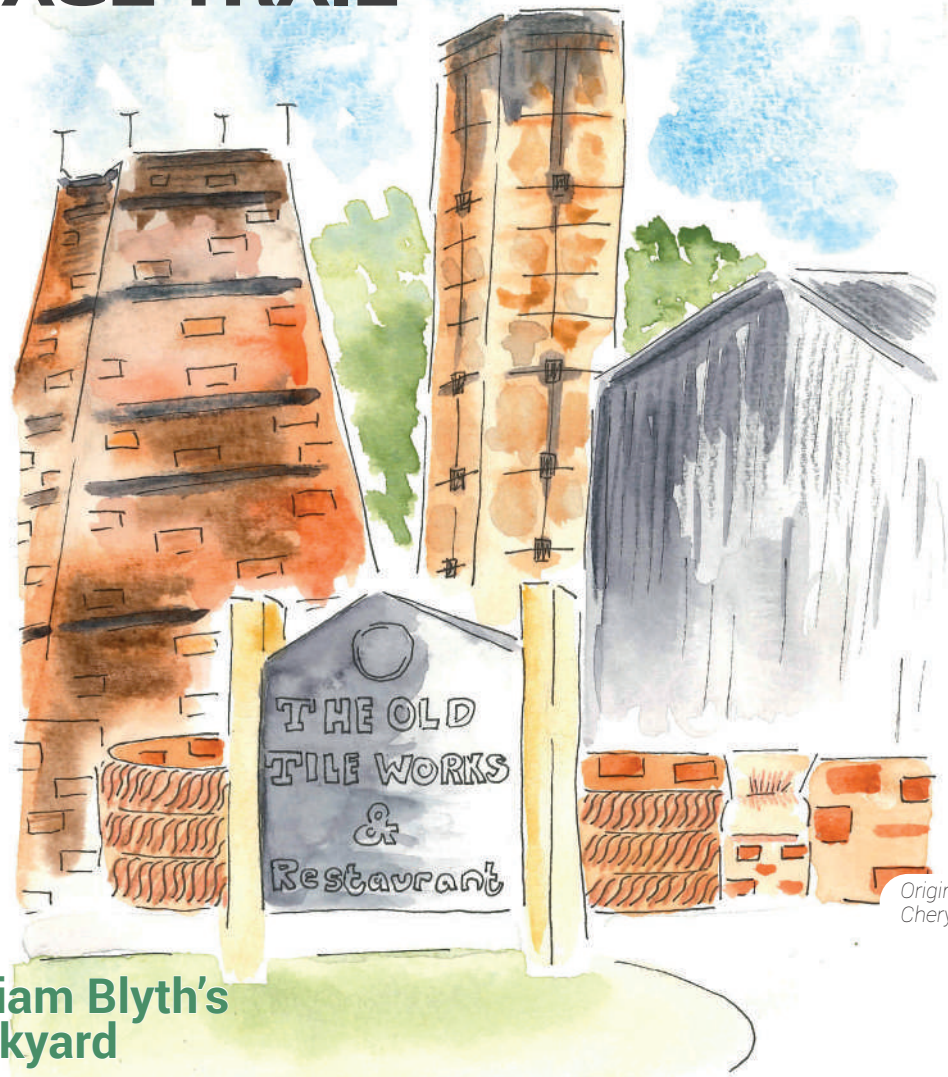


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## **William Blyth's Brickyard**

The footpath straightens out again in front of William Blyth's Hoe Hill Tile Works. You will see the tile works and its products stored in the yard.

William Blyth's brickyard was first established in 1840. Previous owners were George Houghton and Sons, and Eccles and Barton Brick and Tile Co. There have been several different types of kiln used at the brickyard during its history. These included open-top kilns, downdraught kilns and a massive 12-chambered Hoffman kiln. The site also used a tramway.

William Blyth Tileries still produces traditionally made tiles. There are no toxic chemicals used in manufacturing. It was owned by the same family for 150 years and manufactures handmade single lap tiles, plain tiles and fittings. Their method of producing tiles ensures a long life expectancy. William Blyth's brickyard covers 37 acres. The earliest record of brick and tile making in the area was the Henry Alcock brickyard at Hoe Hill in 1849.

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## **Kilns Used to Fire the Bricks & Tiles**

Open-top kilns were built on a hard clay base large enough for ten fire holes. Each fire hole could produce temperatures of 1,000 °C. The bricks of the kiln were laid on the ground without foundations. The corners were built first, then the outside walls and finally the inside wall. When the building was finished, the fire holes were lined with firebricks. When the burner (usually the foreman) decided the contents were burnt correctly the fire holes were extinguished with pug: a mixture of silt (warp) and sand. The silt was collected after each tide. Pug was also used in building the kilns. The kilns were almost always burnt from Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, the burner would prepare the new fires for Monday. The kiln was allowed to cool for some time to prevent damage to the wares.

Arch/updraught kilns appeared about four years after the open-top kilns. These were similar in design and operation but had two extra fire holes. They were wider at the base with the outside wall sloping inwards towards the top, but the inside wall would be vertical. The burning cycle of these kilns was much the same as the open-top kilns.

In downdraught kilns, instead of the heat being pulled upwards, it is forced upwards into the domed roof by the bag wall. This allows the flues to pull the fire down through the products with help from an outside chimney. Downdraught kilns did not need large numbers of unwanted bricks to fill out the bottom and were cheaper to build because they were lower in height.

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## **Hoe Hill House & Hoe Hill Pit**

The footpath turns at right angles at the east border of the tile works for a short distance before straightening out again. Alongside the footpath is Hoe Hill House. The owner of the brickyard used to live in this house. A small number of workers' cottages stood in what is now a copse opposite the relatively new bungalow. William Blyth purchased the yard in 1895.

The Hoe Hill Pit directly behind Hoe Hill House was the earliest and deepest claypit. The pond is owned by the Victory Angling Club and is a private syndicate fishing pond although day members are allowed. The private road alongside the pond leads to Pasture Road North.

The Hoe Hill brickyard ceased production in 1967. The claypit became flooded and reedbeds formed. Wildfowl and voles took advantage of the habitat. You can also see a single unused chimney which was part of the old kiln system.

Hoe Hill Pit covers an area of 5.6 ha with reedbeds at the southern end and along the eastern edge. Reed, great willowherb, yellow flag, hawthorn scrub, hazel, ash, and willow are present on the other borders.

In past years bitterns, great crested grebes, little grebes, kingfishers, marsh harriers, reed warblers, sedge warblers, water rails and barn owls have been present on the site.

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## **Pasture Wharf Nature Reserve**

As you continue along the footpath, the area to your right is the Pasture Wharf Nature Reserve. This is managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. This site was part of Hoe Hill tile yard.

Pasture Wharf has an area of 4.3 ha and is fed by an inflow pipe from Hoe Hill Pit under the track. Nearly 40% of Pasture Wharf is great willowherb. To the north it also has areas of rough grassland, scrub and extensive reedbed with small areas of open water. Hazel and ash are found along the western boundary. Willowherb is present in the north, suggesting that this section may be drying out. Birds, such as the bearded tit, pochard, reed and sedge warblers, water rail, and the marsh harrier have bred at the reserve. It also gets visits from wintering bittern.

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### North Lincolnshire & Humberside Sailing Club

To your right is North Lincolnshire and Humberside Sailing Club. This large claypit was used to extract clay by Earle's Cement of Hull to produce Portland cement. Foster's Wharf was used to transport the clay to the cement factory in Wilmington in Hull. At the entrance of the wharf you will see the wrecks of two old stone barges called Lady Ina and Swinefleet. The clay was taken by barge across the estuary and down the River Hull. There were houses across the site which have disappeared. Before its use by Earle's the site formerly housed Spencer's brickyard and Marsh Farm. The dock was also used to import coal during the miner's strike in the early 1980s.

The claypit was later owned by Blue Circle Cement after they had taken over Earle's. Eventually, it was abandoned, and the North East Lindsey Internal Drainage Board took over responsibility for drainage in the area in the early 1950s. A sailing club was started in 1953. The land and property were rented from Blue Circle Cement until the members of the sailing club bought it in 1986. The club also has a fishing syndicate which was founded on the fishing club established by Earle's Cement many years ago.

The sailing club's water body covers an area of 26 ha. It is up to 3 m in the centre of the lake. Water depth is shallower around the edges but with steep drop-offs. The clay was extracted by machine in a south-west to north-east direction. This created a ridge and furrow pattern on the bed of the claypit resulting in differing depths of water. There may be natural springs in the south-western corner of the pit.

Until the early 1950s, this claypit was a vast reedbed with small strips of open water. Then the pit became flooded, and reed disappeared. Otters bred here in 1959 and great crested grebes were present. Bittern bred here until the early 1970s. There is very little reed coverage on this lake now, and only coots breed, although marsh harriers bred here in 2016.

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## **10** Barton Wildfowlers Club

To your left is the Barton Wildfowlers Club. The site was also used for clay extraction by Earle's Cement Company. A dyke runs between the sailing club and the wildfowlers club and discharges into the estuary. It is controlled by a sluice gate.

Barton Wildfowlers Club claypit covers an area of 12 ha. Like the sailing club claypit, it is one of the few pits that used machines to extract the clay to produce cement. Water was allowed to flood into the claypit from the Humber on a high tide. It used to have extensive reed growth and many islands. Water levels rose in the 1980s and reed growth was suppressed and islands submerged.

Water is supplied by rainfall and two culverts. One culvert is in the south-western corner, and the other is in the south-eastern corner. This comes from the blow wells, run-off from surrounding agricultural land and surface water from nearby Falklands Way industrial estate. The inflow of blow well water is a significant contribution to the pit's water quality. There is an outflow into the sluice drain between the sailing club pit and Wildfowlers into the Humber via a flap valve.

Although you cannot see it, beyond the railway is the southern Barton Wildfowlers Lake. It was once called 'New Diggings', and is the most recently excavated pit abandoned in 1970. It was dug by machine and has steep banks and minimal fringes of reed, reedmace and lesser reedmace. Three sides are lined with scrub, but the pit is mostly open to arable land to the south. Its water sources are the same as the main lake.

There is reed to the west and north-west, and hawthorn scrub to the south and south-west. Unlike its neighbours, this pond is not troubled by weeds. This may be due to its depth and the fact that it is fed from blow wells.

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## **Barton & Barrow Claypits' Birds**

The extensive wetland habitats of the Barton and Barrow claypits are a haven for wild birds. But what you see and hear, will depend entirely on when you visit.

In springtime watch out for the graceful courtship displays of the great crested grebes and the noisy mating chases of the mallards. Coots and moorhens make little attempt to hide their nests tucked into clumps of water weed. Listen out for the explosive song of Cetti's warbler and in May, for the rattle of the reed warbler. Both of these small brown birds are usually well hidden. You may be lucky enough to catch the electric blue flash of a kingfisher heading back to its nesting burrow in a bare local waterside bank. If incredibly lucky you might just hear the strange 'boom' of a calling bittern, a rarely glimpsed gold and black heron-like bird. The commoner ducks are joined by scarce breeding species such as shoveler, gadwall and pochard. A dark shadow passing over the reedbeds might just be a superb marsh harrier, hunting for the next meal for its chicks.

Summertime can be one of the quietest seasons for birds, most getting on quietly with the hard work of feeding and protecting their young.

Autumn sees flocks of swallows and starlings use the reedbeds for roosting a few nights before moving south. The local ducks take on strange, more cryptic feathering as they pass through 'eclipse' plumage.

Wintertime welcomes visitors from the north. Ducks such as pochard, tufted duck and goldeneye dive in the deeper waters of the pools. They chase small fish and invertebrates. Mallards and teal dabble in the shallower water of the pool edges after seeds and little creatures. In the evening the ducks and gulls will gather in the centre of the larger pools to roost safely for the night. The hawthorns are visited by flocks of redwings and fieldfares, winter thrushes from the far north, drawn here to gorge on the rich crops of berries. Winter is an excellent time to see the local herons standing sentinel at pool sides or fishing in shallow water for sticklebacks and other small fish.

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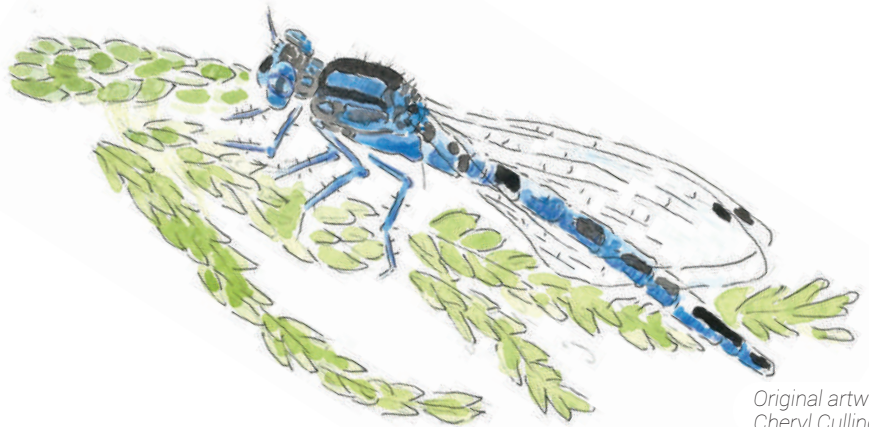
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## Barton & Barrow Claypits Dragonflies

You can see damselflies and dragonflies flying near the claypits on sunny days from May to October. Most adults live for less than a month, but their aquatic larval stage can last several years. Adults prey on flying insects; their larvae feed on small aquatic animals. Compared to dragonflies, damselflies are smaller, more delicate and weaker fliers. Most damselflies hold wings close to their body when resting. Emerald damselflies and all dragonflies rest with wings spread out.

### **Blue-tailed damselfly**

Mature males have blue eyes and a blue and black thorax. They have a thin blackish abdomen (25 mm long) with a blue patch just before the tip. Other blue damselfly species do not show this combination of features. Mature females have various colours. Often the blue-tailed damselfly is found close to bankside vegetation and can be active in dull weather. You can see them from May to September.

### **Emperor dragonfly**

Emperor dragonflies are large and mature males have a green thorax and a blue abdomen (55 mm long). Adult females can have a green abdomen. Males and females have a long black stripe on top of the abdomen, distinguishing them from other large dragonflies. Male emperor dragonflies constantly patrol several metres above the water. They occasionally rest by hanging from vegetation, and you can see them between May and September.

### **Four-spotted chaser**

The four-spotted chaser is a medium-sized dragonfly. Adults have a brown thorax and brown tapering abdomen (30 mm long). There are two dark spots on each wing making four spots per pair of wings. At the base of each hind wing is a dark patch. Mature males repeatedly return to their perches on vegetation, sometimes following aerial 'dog-fights' with other males. You can see them from May to August.

### **Common darter**

The common darter is a small dragonfly. Mature males have a narrow orange-red abdomen (28 mm long). They are somewhat similar to the ruddy darter, but this has a blood-red, club-shaped abdomen. Mature females have a yellowish-brown abdomen. The common darter frequently perches on vegetation or the ground. You can see them from June to October and sometimes, in a smaller number, in early November.

Like to know more? Visit [www.british-dragonflies.org.uk](http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk)

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## **13** **Lincolnshire Water Ski Club**

The Lincolnshire Water Ski Club claypit is also known as the West Marsh Pit. Such's brickyard (owned by the Grimsby Brick Company) and Pearson's brickyard were on the site. They shared a creek, and there was a well in Pearson's brickyard, which provided drinking water for both brickyards. Sanderson's was the third brickyard. It was initially two brickyards; Collingwood's brickyard and Brotherton's brickyard. The water ski club covers 8.8 ha and is very shallow. The large area of open water is used for water skiing.

The claypit water supply is from rainfall and seawater. The club has a clough into the Humber to let in water at high tide. Saline water slows but does not stop milfoil growth. Saltwater also adds nutrients. The Lincolnshire Water Ski Club waterbody is higher than Wildfowlers', and a ditch allows water to flow out of the lake.

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## **14** Barrow Haven Reedbeds Nature Reserve

The final claypit between Barton Haven and Barrow Haven is the Barrow Haven Reedbeds Nature Reserve. It is on the site of what was Sanderson's brickyard and is now managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. There are bird hides around the waterbody with excellent views of visiting birds.

Barrow Haven Reedbeds covers an area of 6.3 ha. It is supplied by rainfall and springs. Barrow Haven Reedbeds feeds into the ski club claypit through a pipe in the south-west corner of Barrow Haven. The water level in the Reedbeds is higher than in the ski club pit by about 600 mm after a dry spell. Reedbeds, rough grassland and hawthorn dominated scrub surround the area of open water. Bearded tit breed at the Barrow Haven Reedbeds.

Follow the footpath alongside Barrow Haven to the railway crossing. On your left is Barrow Haven railway station. This is the eastern end of the Barton Haven to Barrow Haven Natural Heritage Trail.

If you would like refreshments, cross the railway line and follow Ferry Road until you come to the Haven Inn. After leaving the Haven Inn, walk in a southerly direction over the Haven Bridge. Take the next right then you have the choice of walking along the footpath to Falklands Walk Estate or back to the ski club via the level crossing.

You can also get a train back to Barton-upon-Humber but make sure you check the train timetable.

Turn around!

To get back to Barton, return along the footpath until you reach the North Lincolnshire and Humberside Sailing Club. Then walk down from the footpath onto the road in front of the sailing club's building. Follow this road to the end of the claypit, where it turns to the left. Continue down the road following the western edge of the claypit until you reach Pasture Road North where the road turns right.

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## **Pasture Wharf Nature Reserve (Eastern Border)**

As you continue along the footpath, the area to your right is the Pasture Wharf Nature Reserve. This is managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. This site used to be Thompson's Brickyard and later was owned by William Blyth before production ceased.

Pasture Wharf has an area of 4.3 ha and is fed by an inflow pipe from Hoe Hill Pit under the track. Nearly 40% of Pasture Wharf is great willowherb. To the north it also has areas of rough grassland, scrub and extensive reedbeds with small areas of open water. Hazel and ash are found along the western boundary. Willowherb is present in the north, suggesting that this section may be drying out. Birds, such as the bearded tit, pochard, reed and sedge warblers, water rail, and the marsh harrier have bred in the reserve. It also gets visits from wintering bittern.

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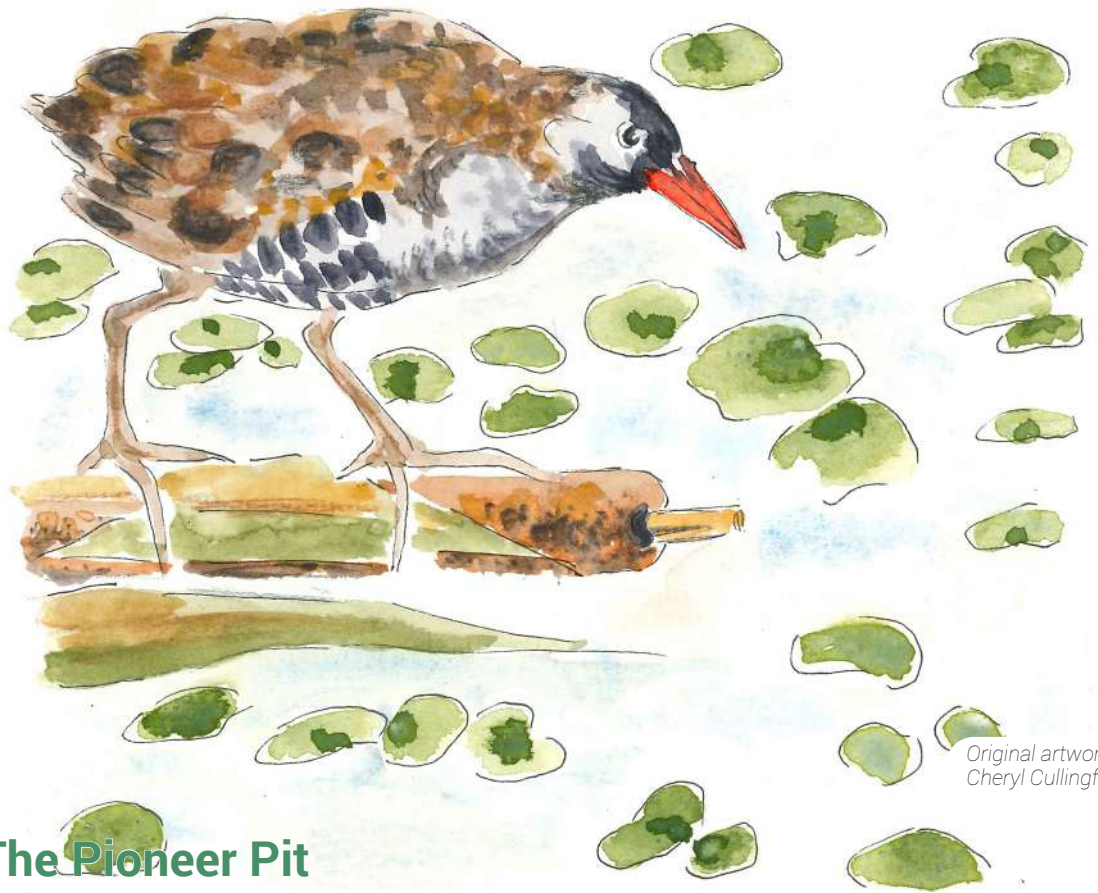
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## **16** The Pioneer Pit

The Pioneer Pit is on the southern side of Pasture Road North. At the western side is the Jubilee fishing syndicate covering an area of 1.68 ha. The rest of Pioneer Pit is managed by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and covers an area of 4 ha and has an average depth of about a metre. Water flows into the Neck from the Pioneer Pit via a culvert under Pasture Road North.

The Pioneer Pit is likely fed by springs as it holds clear freshwater and has low nitrate and chloride concentrations. Its water quality is good, but reedbeds are extensive. It may also feed the Tile Yard which, in turn, flows into Hoe Hill through a connection in its north-eastern corner. The Pioneer Pit has rich wetland and aquatic flora. It is surrounded by hawthorn scrub with some willow and mature ash.

Mute swan, little grebe and reed and sedge warblers breed here. There are also lots of dragonflies.

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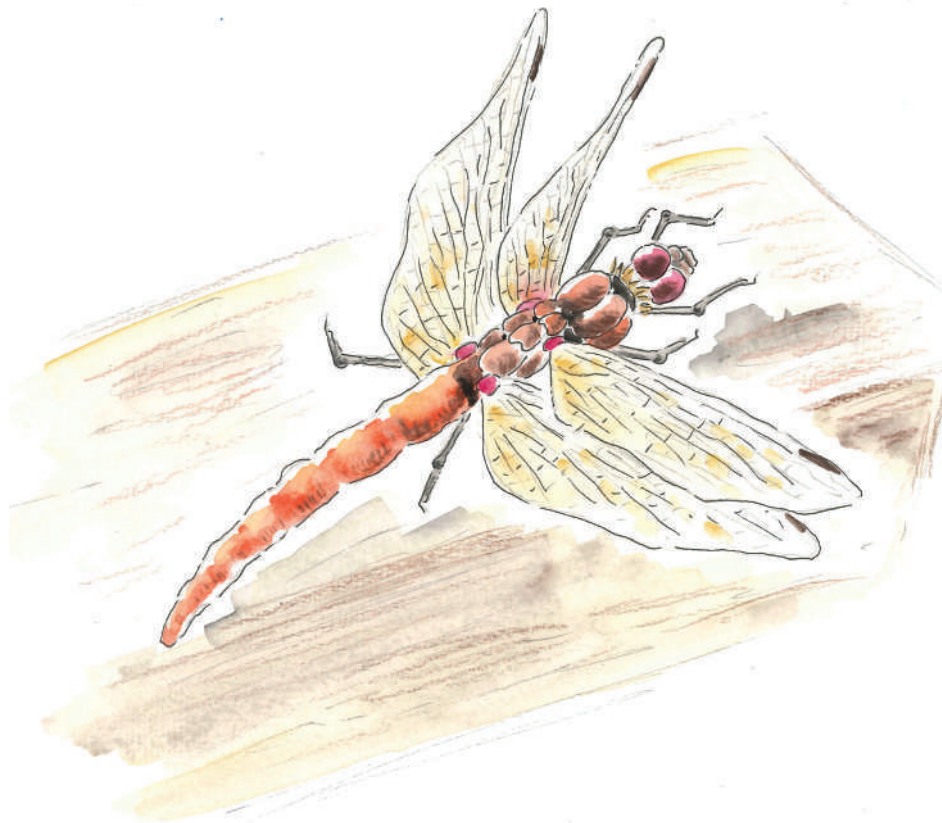


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## **17** Hoe Hill Pit

Hoe Hill Pit directly behind Hoe Hill House was the earliest and deepest digging. The pond is owned by the Victory Angling Club and is a private fishing pond. The private road alongside the pond leads to Pasture Road North.

The Hoe Hill brickyard ceased to be used from 1967. The diggings became flooded, and nature reclaimed the industrial site forming reedbeds on the higher land and ponds for voles and waterfowl. You can see a single unused chimney which was part of the earlier kiln system.

Hoe Hill Pit has an area of 5.6 ha. It may be connected to the water table and links with Marshlands Pit in the north-western corner. An outlet flows under the road in the north-eastern corner into a ditch, which connects with Pasture Wharf. When the blow wells are flowing, Hoe Hill Pit feeds water into Pasture Wharf.

There are reedbeds at the southern end and along the eastern edge. Reed, great willowherb, yellow flag, hawthorn scrub, hazel, ash and willow are present in the other borders. The flooding of 2013 brought 450 mm of saltwater into Hoe Hill Pit. This influx of nutrient-rich water from the estuary contributed to significant weed problems.

In past years bitterns, great crested grebes, little grebes, kingfishers, marsh harriers, reed warblers, sedge warblers, water rails and barn owls have been present on the site.

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# *The Barton & Barrow Claypits* **HERITAGE TRAIL**



Original artwork by  
Cheryl Cullingford

## **18** The Marshlands Claypit

The Marshlands claypit is directly behind William Blyth's brickyard. It covers an area of 4.8 ha and has an average depth of 3 m. It is probably spring-fed as there is a corner in the north that does not freeze. Its water level is higher than that of Hoe Hill to the east and water flows out of its north-eastern corner into Hoe Hill through a dyke. It is fringed with reeds, and there is a canal along the roadside of the lake. Reedbeds are present on the southern end and willowherb along the margins.

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## **19** Jubilee Pit

Jubilee Pit covers 1.6 ha and is owned by the Jubilee Angling Club. The club bought it from William Bythe in 2002, the Queen's jubilee year, hence the name. The club has over a hundred members. The predominant species of fish in the pond are tench, bream, roach, rudd, perch and eels.

Kingfishers nest in river and pool banks and visit Jubilee Pit. Sometimes they will land on fishing poles awaiting a free meal!

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## **20** Pasture Wood Fishery

Pasture Wood Fishery is on the site of Barraclough's Brick and Tile Works. There were three updraught kilns as well as drying sheds for bricks and tiles. The brickyard had its own jetty, and the site also had a tramline for transporting clay. Pasture House used to be occupied by the brickyard foreman.

Pasture Wood Fishery (2.9 ha) is composed of three lakes. The narrow Canal Lake borders Waters' Edge Country Park. The Main Lake is to the east of the Canal Lake, and the Neck Lake to the south adjoins the western end of Pioneer Pit.

The water quality of the lakes is good. The average water depth is between 1.8 m–2.0 m and up to 6 m in the Main Lake.

Reedbeds and willow surround the margins of the claypits. An aerator is used in the Neck Lake and Main Lake to help prevent weeds becoming dominant. The Main Lake is very deep and therefore not prone to weeds. Weeds struggle to establish roots below 1.8 m. The surrounding vegetation includes hawthorn scrub, reed and rosebay willowherb on the western margin and in the north-eastern corner. On the south side are poplar, willow, reed, willowherb, hawthorn and ash. There is also a small reed island.

Breeding birds include great crested grebe and Canada geese. The fishery is home to eels, bream, tench and carp.

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## **21** Marshlands Lakeside Nature Retreat

The Marshlands Lakeside Nature retreat was established in 2016, having been dog kennels for many years before. The one-time palisade fencing separating the plot from East Lake in Waters' Edge Country Park was removed and replaced with a hawthorn and blackthorn hedge. This has increased the number of greylag and Canada geese in the area, particularly in the breeding season.

East Lake is a popular spot for many overwintering shovelers. They can be seen paddling around in circles for many hours. This movement creates a vortex to draw up food from the bottom of the lake. Grey heron frequent the area and occasionally white egret and the great white egret also visit. Cetti's warblers are present in the scrub close to the reedbeds.

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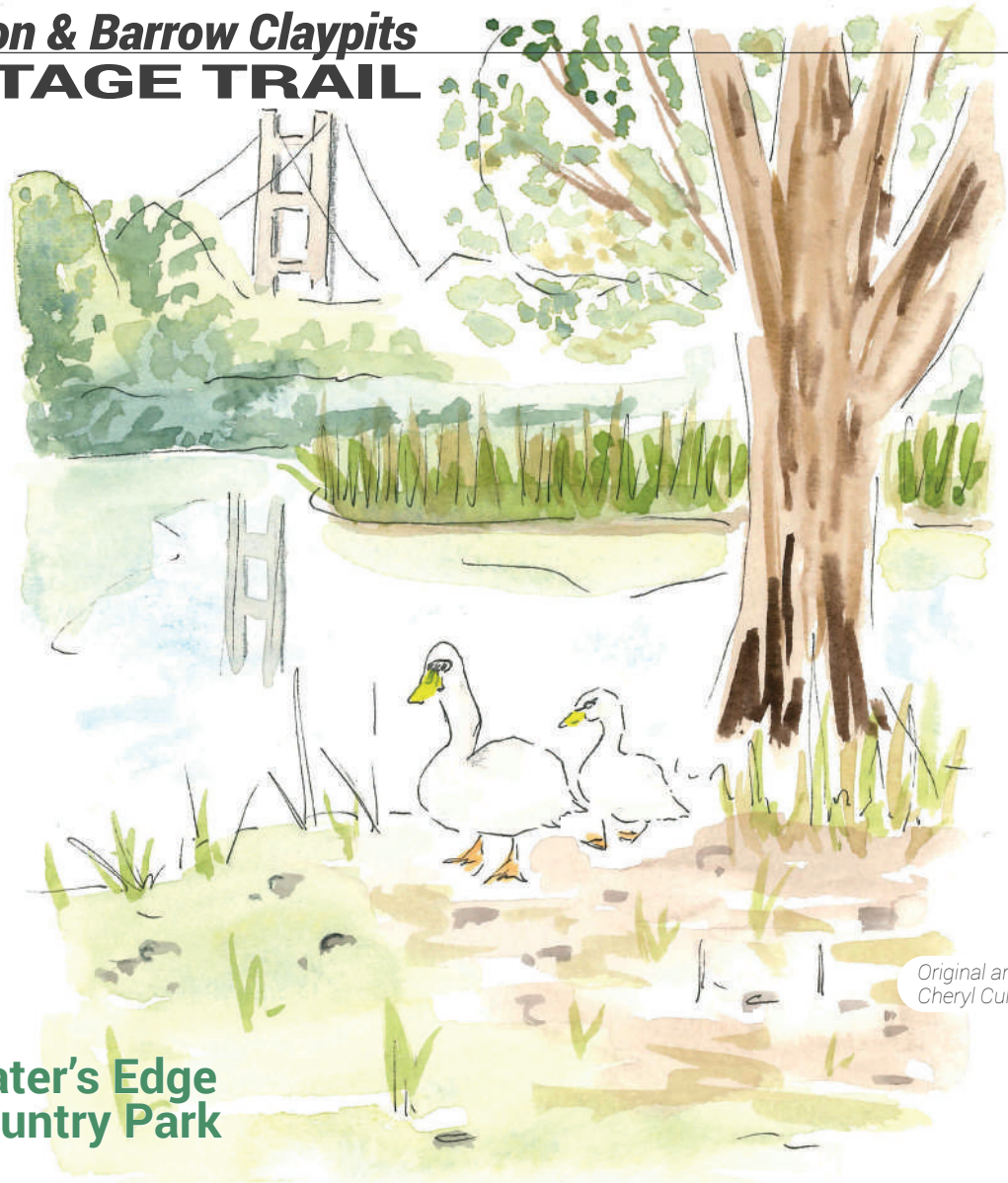


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# ***The Barton & Barrow Claypits*** **HERITAGE TRAIL**



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## **22** **Water's Edge Country Park**

Waters' Edge Country Park is managed by North Lincolnshire Council. The site was home to the BritAg and MTM chemical factories. These closed in the 1980s, leaving the land on which they stood heavily contaminated with toxic waste.

The area underwent an astonishing recovery in the 1990s. The land was reclaimed, and gypsum beds were used to neutralise toxins and clay dug from an area south of Far Ings Road was used to line the ponds. This created other ponds at Far Ings.

Thousands of trees were planted to create a 44 ha haven for wildlife. The Waters' Edge Visitor Centre was built beside the Humber Estuary close to the magnificent Humber Bridge.

It is hard to believe that one of the most contaminated industrial sites in Europe is now a remarkable sanctuary for wildlife. This demonstrates how the most polluted areas can be transformed into natural wildlife habitats and contribute to the general well-being of local communities and visitors.

The Water's Edge ponds are fed from rainfall and by the Barton blow well. The water from the blow well runs down an old culvert beside Pasture Road. There is also an inlet from Canal Lake in The Pasture Wood Fishery ponds. The ponds in Water's Edge are interconnected.

Haste ye back!

We hope you enjoyed the Barton and Barrow Claypits Natural Heritage Trail. Tell your friends about it and revisit us soon.

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