

The Barton & Barrow Claypits **HERITAGE TRAIL**



Original artwork by Cheryl Cullingford

2

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 m³ of clay. This was an area 1,693 m² 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.

This project is supported by:



waters'edge
country park & visitor centre



University Centre
Grimsby



**shrink
map**
.uk