

The Barton & Barrow Claypits **HERITAGE TRAIL**



Original artwork by
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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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