

The Barton & Barrow Claypits

HERITAGE TRAIL



Original artwork by
Cheryl Cullingford

9

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.

This project is supported by:



waters'edge
country park & visitor centre



University Centre
Grimsby



**shrink
map**
.uk