

The Barton & Barrow Claypits **HERITAGE TRAIL**



Original artwork by
Cheryl Cullingford

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.

This project is supported by:



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