

# Parish Pathways Humber Bank and area

## Wolds, lakes and Estuary bank walks West of Barton.

This leaflet defines a circular route for walkers that access most public rights of way west of Barton upon Humber, however many shorter circular walks can be devised particularly if local lanes are utilised. Except for the eastern end of Far Ings Lane (passing under the Humber Bridge approach road) and Gravel Pit Lane, these minor roads carry very little traffic.



**W**e will start at the Humber Bridge Viewing Area at the bottom of Waterside Road. Parking is almost always available, there are

public toilets and a footbridge crosses the Haven to access Waters' Edge Country Park to the east and the Waters Edge Visitors Centre which is in part an information centre owned by North Lincolnshire Council.

**T**he clay bank of the Humber Estuary can be walked westwards under the Humber Bridge and on past Reeds Hotel restaurant and function centre.



**F**or most of this clay bank section the walker can view a series of inland rectangular lakes as well as appreciating panoramic views across the Estuary. These lakes result from the clay digging for a series of local brick and pantile making works which were concentrated along this section of the Estuary bank by the late nineteenth century. These warp land clays had been divided into summer grazing fields by the Enclosure Act in 1790s and the field

pattern was reflected in the clay digging. Causeways accessed the Humber Bank from Far Ings Lane but few are public rights of way. This post-industrial landscape, recolonised by Nature, has become rich in fish, birds and waterfowl. Most of the clay pits are now owned and managed by the Lincolnshire Trust with the recently acquired Visitor Centre beside the Humber bank and offices along a public right of way to Far Ings Road.

**R**eturning to the clay bank the route now passes through a derelict site of a former cement works, again a haven for wildlife and for the adventurous, there are pathways to the stony Estuary beach.



**A**t 'Pebble Beach' where a small chalk rubble car park stands at the end of Far Ings Lane – until 2005 the public right of way followed the clay bank. Today a newly constructed clay bank encloses

one of the Estuary's areas of 'managed retreat'. With rising sea level valuable linear salt marsh habitat will be gradually lost; so areas of previous farmland are being opened to periodic inundation by Estuary tidal waters – so encouraging the growth of new salt marsh and its associated wildlife.

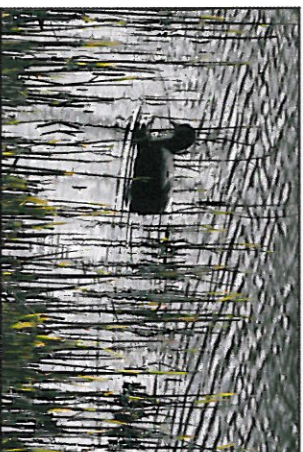
**T**he route now follows the lane south and then west round West Cliff Farm and beside the new bank until the old is reached.

**F**rom here the walker can continue west beyond the parish boundary and so on to the site that was once the landing jetty for Leggott's chalk quarry.



**A**lternatively, returning east of south Cliff Farm a signed public footpath continues east alongside two shallow lakes created recently by the

removal of top soil to the then Waters Edge Country Park to replace removed contaminated soil. A wooden bridge then crosses the stream that drains Blow Wells where a copple of mature willow trees grows around springs at the base of the Wolds. From here a newly created footpath accesses the Lincolnshire Trust Visitor Centre, while the original footpath east passes a third new wetland area before



**A** long Dam Road is another footbridge accessing a path south alongside the parish allotments and onto Westfield Road.

Turning east from here the public right of way is linked to the town of Barton by an underpass under the A15. Alternatively turning west the post Enclosure road follows the hillside above the Humber to two large disused chalk quarries.

**W**estfield Road provides fine panoramic Humber-side views – the southern Yorkshire Wolds with the Walling fen Humber head lowlands to their west and the River Hull floodplain to the east with the Vale of Holderness beyond Hull Docks. The Estuary is again a political divide between the unitary authorities of the east Riding of Yorkshire, Hull City and North Lincolnshire –



but the majestic Humber Bridge, although reinforcing the perception of a divide by being a toll bridge, in fact enables the two sides of the estuary to be in close contact.

**H**istorically the Humber has been a highway for passenger and goods traffic and at high tides today ships can be seen sailing up to or from Goole Docks or the River Trent wharfs, public footpath running beside one quarry links to the footpath beside the new wetland lakes. Continuing along Dam Road beyond the allotments a permissive path through a plantation owned by the Humber Bridge Board leads to Far Ings Lane. Having walked under the A15 and just before the terraces of industrial houses a signed footpath leads towards the Humber and so back to the Viewing area.



**T**he Humber Bank section of this suggested route is also included in the Ancholme Valley Walks. No 10, produced by North Lincolnshire Council, and forms the first stretch of

'The Viking Way' long distance walk from Humber-side to Rutland.

**2 Warpland walks to the East of Barton.** This introduction to the public footpaths on the eastern side of Barton begins at the waters' Edge car park. This country park was developed by North Lincolnshire Council and funded largely by European Community land reclamation grants. Nineteenth century clay digging for a local brickyard resulted in a series of lakes now forming the southern section of the Country Park. By the late nineteenth century a large factory making artificial



fertilisers was sited near the Humber bank which continued in production until the 1980s. Much of the resulting heavily contaminated topsoil had to be removed, along with

the factory rubble, to a sealed landfill site and fresh topsoil brought in. By the late 1990s thousands of young trees had been planted and a network of paths criss-crossing the site was created in the next few years. In 2004 the Park was linked to the west side of the Haven by a footbridge, and in 2006 the Visitors Centre was opened. This building incorporates advanced fuel efficient systems and is the hub of an observation system of local wildlife.



**W**alkers wishing to continue east beyond the country park can follow the Humber bank round the tiliary, past a large house and disused tiliary to the sailing lake. Here a finger board pointing south gives the opportunity to walk to the narrow pasture Road, again between further wetland areas, and back through the Country Park via its eastern entrance.

**T**hese successive warpland lakes were created by clay digging for pantile and brick works of which there were over 30 along Barton's foreshore in the late nineteenth century. Today they form a network of



wildlife-rich, wetland habitats, while on the other side of the clay bank, and if the tide is ebbing, you can take in the biodiversity of the mud flats.

**W**alkers wishing to venture further east along the Humber bank can pass two further lakes beyond the sailing club lake.

**W**here you reach some caravans turn inland between two lakes, across the railway line and onto Marsh Lane West. Follow the lane between fields rimmed by mature hawthorn hedges and turn right where the road bends sharp left. Follow the field headland footpath back towards Barton, along the northern edge of the Kimberly-Clark landscaped site, and eventually to Pasture Road via Pasture Road south.



**T**he third option is to extend the second walk to Barrow Haven. From the caravans beside the Humber Bank continue eastwards to the mouth of Barrow haven. Cross over beside the railway line and follow the linear village south. A short detour east along West Hann lane will bring you to the site of Barrow's motte and bailey castle. Cross the bridge over the Haven and turn right down West Marsh Lane. At a sharp bend follow the field headland way marks as with the previous route.

