

Parish Pathways Inland

South West Boundary Walk

Bridleway 34. This is the number of this path on the Definitive Rights of Way map administered by North Lincolnshire Council. It is a linear path and unfortunately the only substantial right of way remaining along a section of the parish boundary. Centuries ago all parish boundaries would have been footpaths and it would have been important for local people to know where the boundary was.



The parish boundary defined the area from which the parish church drew its congregation and sacramental income.

From the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries it defined the area within which local overseers in vestry administered the Poor Law, church rates and highways, and often local charitable benefaction was administered by trustees within a given parish, details of which were often displayed on boards in the parish church. Barton, although it had two substantial, high status medieval churches, technically remained one ecclesiastical parish and the civil parish, which had existed now for over one hundred years, has the same boundary. Today's Barton Town Council administers the same area and send three elected councillors to the two tier unitary council of North Lincolnshire - this following the abolition of Gtanford District Council and Humberside County Council in 1996.



Parish boundaries are important features in the landscape and in this instance it is defined by a clear mound. Whether this is the remnants of a man-made linear mound to define the parish boundary or whether it is the result of differential ploughing on fields either side is not certain. As is often the case in this area the parish boundary field headland winds across the landscape in contrast to the rectangular field boundaries all around created by Parliamentary Enclosure of the medieval open fields, in the case of Barton in the 1790's



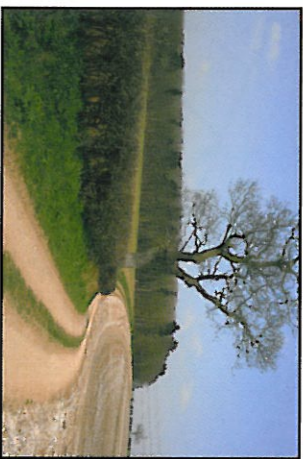
This bridleway crosses the dip slope of the Northern Lincolnshire Wolds chalk escarpment dipping WNW, but made undulating by the heads of post-glacial dry valleys. Barton lies at the lower part of two dry valleys, the inlets of which beyond the spring line gave access to the Humber. Thus in clear weather Hull's townscape is clearly visible to the North. As is often the case, from the south bank the estuary its self is obscured from view.

If the walk is started from Saxby Road, off the Barton-Brigg Road, there is a wide grass verge to park. Walking north along the field headland bridleway White Hart Farn (formerly Chapel Farn) and its shelter belt of trees can be seen across the field. Soon the path follows the eastern side of Turton's Covert, a post-enclosure rectangular plantation of mostly ash and beech trees, probably to provide brushwood and act as a fox and pheasant covert.



Shelter belts, hedgerows, coverts and plantations provide the only woodland in this landscape dominated by arable agriculture. As the footpath snakes towards Hokstow Road the walker can see ash trees and young hawthorn planted to replace the hedgerow uprooted in the 1960s. During this period much non-agricultural vegetation was lost in areas like this. Policies are now changing to encourage biodiversity. The field headlands across Horkstow Road are not a public right of way so the walker has to return to Saxby Road or take the footpath indicated which runs through the neighbouring parish of South Ferryby.

Walking South from the starting point one passes a solitary small oak tree and a little further on an ash, reminders that almost certainly a century ago mature and young trees would have been common along hedgerows and field/parish boundaries. Much of the thin chalk downs topsoil is covered with a layer



of post-glacial till so as well as cereal crops, the walker will see root crops such as potatoes and sugar beet in the fields around. Towards the southern end of Bridleway 34 the very end of a dense linear plantation is passed while a little further on the footpath passes alongside a thick, mature hawthorn shelter belt.

The southern section of Bridleway 34 is a section of The Viking Way - a long distance footpath from The Humber Bridge Viewing Area in Barton through Lincolnshire to the county of Rutland. Guide books can be bought from Waters' Edge Visitors Centre.



Countryside Section of North Lincolnshire Council.

2 Woldland Walks to the south of Barton. These rights of way, numbered 330 and 331 on North Lincolnshire Council's definitive Map, comprise stretches of wide field headland bridleway and considerable stretches of tarmacadamed field headland farm track. Because the is entirely post-enclosure (1790s), and because most of the fields are between 50 and 100 acres, the rights of way are long straight stretches with right angled bends at field corners. The essence of these walks is open space, expansive undulating landscape, - but with the intimacy of the nearby hawthorn and alder hedge and its flora and fauna demanding detailed attention. At various points in clear weather it is possible to study a panoramic view that extends from the scarp slope of the Yorkshire Wolds to the north west, across the dip slope to the suburbs of Hessle, Kirk Ella and Willerby and then, across the right, Hull flood plain on which is built the city of Hull (Hull Royal Infirmary and Reckitt's chimney rise above the general skyline), to Hull Docks to the north east with Holderness beyond. To the east Paull and the lower Humber Estuary with Immingham in the distance and Goxhill church in the middle distance, its pale ashar West tower often picked out by the low angled sun's rays in winter. In the middle distance to the north west the Humber Bridge is a majestic sight, and even when sections of the footpath dip down into a dry valley the top of suspension bridge towers are usually visible above the fieldscape.



Although this network of bridleways and footpaths can be accessed from Deepdale and Brigg

Road, this description will begin at Eastfield Road which branches south from Caistor Road, itself an extension of Whitecross Street with its fine period houses leading from Beck Hill, the site of Barton's two fine medieval churches. Eastfield Road passes the upper section of Baysgarth Park - an attractive wooded public park-spanning one of Barton's dry valleys. Footpath 37 runs along the field side of the hedge which marks the southern limit of the park; it dates from the time when the land of the park was in private ownership. Out into the countryside Eastfield Road becomes a green lane, clearly a post-Enclosure 40-foot road, but following the route of a pre-Enclosure track which throughout the middle Ages accessed two of Barton's three open fields and the common land beyond. The wide grass verges are a blaze of colour when the wild flowers are in bloom, particularly in May.



Footpath 331 continues south beyond the green lane. Gaps in the hedge can reveal the panoramic view previously described. At the end of 331 there is a choice - either walk 50 yards south, then through the gap in the hedge and walk east to the hamlet of Deepdale, most of the way being surfaced farm track.



Deepdale lies in a steep sided dry valley and the walker may wish to return to Barton by walking the wide grass verge of the post-Enclosure Burnham Road to Caistor Road and back to Barton. Fine views are again to be had from various points. Alternatively turn west above a shallow dry valley and follow the track past Kingsforth to Brigg Road, most of the way being tarmacadamed farm track.

Just to the south the walker will see a young plantation - mostly conifers. This in contrast to the permanent pasture and the parkland to the south of Kingsforth a welcome, rare survival of this type of land use in this region. Beyond the parkland the traffic noise from a cutting of the A15 Humber Bridge approach road can be heard but it is not intrusive. Kingsforth is a fine example of a post-Enclosure substantial farmhouse built out in the countryside by the family allocated the land around. Previously farms had been in the village (town) and people commuted out to work the open fields.



Some of the evidence of pre-Enclosure farmsteads remain in Barton at various points around the town and is one of the historic features of the town well worth exploring. At two points the bridleway passes around metal gates crossing the road as this is the vehicle access to Kingsforth.

Once Brigg Road is reached the walker can return to Barton, the Park and Footpath 37. If so the walker will cross over Beacon Hill, said to command the finest view of the area.

