



On the Heritage Trail

The South Humber Heritage Trail is split in two sections and can be walked in either direction between Burton-upon-Stather and Winterringham and between Barton-upon-Humber and South Ferriby. There are several car parks along the trail and regular bus services between the villages.

Along the trail are seven information panels at Burton-upon-Stather picnic area; Countess Close medieval earthwork at Alkborough; the Humber bank at Whitton; Winterringham Haven; River Ancholme Car Park at South Ferriby; the Old Cement Works at Far Ings; and the Waters' Edge at Barton-upon-Humber.

Within this pack are leaflets providing information about the South Humber Heritage Trail and each of the five villages along the trail, and details of local walks. As well as the fascinating buildings and historic sites to discover the villages offer a number of establishments to cater for a pleasant refreshment stop.



How to get there
The South Humber Heritage Trail is located along the South Humber Bank between Barton-upon-Humber (7 miles south-west of Hull), and Burton-upon-Stather (5 miles north-west of Scunthorpe).

Exploring the Humber's Heritage

Trail leaflets are available from tourist attractions and information centres across the region, and can be downloaded from the South Humber Collection website: www.south-humber-collection.org. The Ordnance Survey Explorer 281 map covers the route of the trail.

South Humber Bank Wildlife and People Project

Far Ings National Nature Reserve Visitor Centre
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Off Far Ings Road, Barton-upon-Humber
North Lincolnshire DN18 5RG



Barton-upon-Humber to South Ferriby

From the Waters' Edge, cross the Haven via the footbridge and walk to the Old Boathouse past the boatyard and coastguard cottages. Barton Haven once heaved with sailing barges carrying cargos to and from the extensive works that used to stand on the Waters' Edge. In the past this site has produced bricks, tiles, rope, malt and fertilizers. Admire the stature of the Humber Bridge spanning the water below as it flows towards the North Sea.

Head west on a gentle trail along the Humber Bank. En route pass the William Blyth tile yard and the ruins of an old cement works. On the foreshore are the remains of the wooden jetty where the cement was loaded onto barges that sailed on the high tides.

At Far Ings National Nature Reserve, old clay pits flanked by reed beds have been successfully transformed into a destination for some of the country's rare birds. The elegant avocet may be seen by the shoreline at Chowder Ness where the flood bank has been realigned to create mudflats.

The fields along the route hide traces of ancient settlement sites that once overlooked the Humber. Descend to the pebbly beach by the disused chalk quarry, or follow the path along the low cliff top to the chalk heap where an old shipwreck can be seen at low tide. A variety of dragonflies, butterflies and wild flowers flourish here where the foreshore meets chalk grassland and woodland habitats.

Follow the foreshore and rejoin the Humber Bank, or take the track towards South Ferriby through the village, passing the old channel of the River Ancholme where the medieval haven was located. Before reaching the River Ancholme car park, Read's Island can be seen across a narrow channel. Reclaimed from a sandbank in the 19th century the island is now a retreat for wildfowl and deer.



Our Most Rapidly Declining Mammal

Glance along a watercourse for a rare sighting of the water vole. Often mistaken for a rat, this beautiful creature has suffered due to the loss of its natural wetland habitat through drainage, agricultural intensification and building development. Thankfully, due to careful conservation measures in the South Humber region, numbers are now stable.

Tale of Two Tribes

Before the Romans arrived, there was a sizeable Iron Age village at South Ferriby. These native Britons were of the Corieltavi tribe who occupied much of the East Midlands. They used their own gold and silver coinage and traded with the Parisi tribe on the North Bank. The Humber has eroded the soft clay cliff and most of this site. Occupation continued here through the Roman era.



An Abundance of Flora and Fauna

The area along the trail is rich in flora, in particular the chalk grassland around South Ferriby. Across the fields and waysides there's every chance to see wild strawberry, autumn gentian, cowslip and horseshoe vetch – first choice food plant for the dingy skipper butterfly.



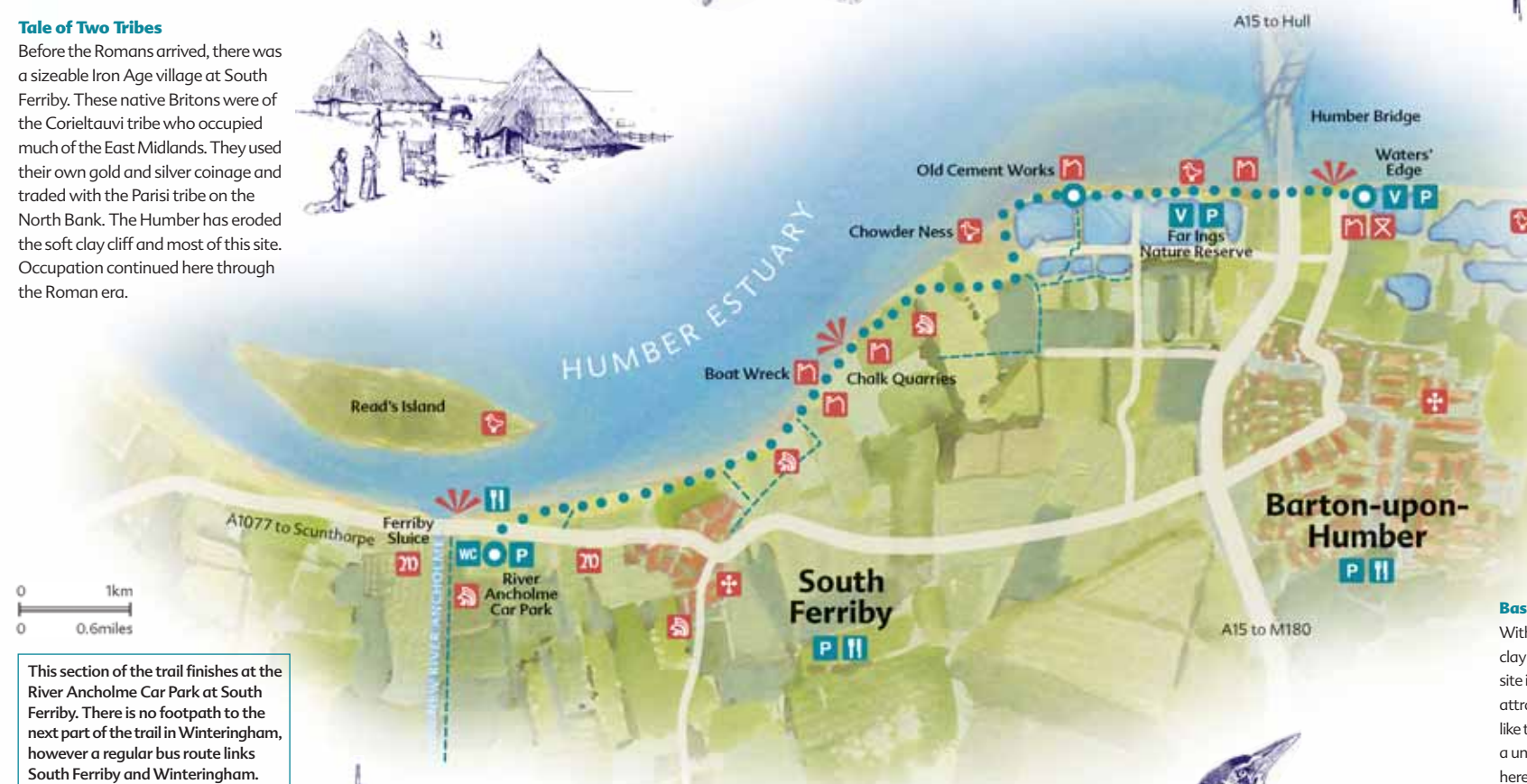
Bridging the Banks of the Humber

For centuries ferries have passed between the banks of the Humber. The first serious proposal for a permanent link was a tunnel in 1872, backed by merchants and businessmen dissatisfied with the local ferry service. Over one hundred years later, work began on the suspension bridge that spans the Humber today, opened by the Queen in 1981.



Bashful Bitterns and Busy Bearded Tits

With the decline of the local brick and tile making industry, the old clay extraction pits flooded and were reclaimed by nature. One such site is Far Ings National Nature Reserve, a rich haven for wildlife, that attracts many people from across the country hoping to spot birds like the 'booming' bittern. Careful reed bed management has created a unique habitat and an ideal breeding ground for this shy bird. Also here is the much smaller and very sociable bearded tit, seen flying amongst the reeds in search of insects and larvae.



This section of the trail finishes at the River Ancholme Car Park at South Ferriby. There is no footpath to the next part of the trail in Winterringham, however a regular bus route links South Ferriby and Winterringham.



Raising the Roof

By 1900, there were thirteen brick and tile yards along the Humber bank west of Barton Haven and others at South Ferriby. William Blyth's yard at Barton was established in around 1870 and worked for over 130 years. Clay dug in the winter would be made into roof tiles during the spring and summer. Traditional Humber sloops and keels landed coal at long wooden jetties to fire the kilns, and left laden with as many as 40,000 tiles. The clay pits and pantiled houses of the region are the visible legacy of this disappearing industry.



Parking	Wildlife
Visitor Centre	Church
Toilets	Heritage Site
Refreshments	Industrial Heritage Site
Heritage Trail	Roman Settlement Site
Information Panel	Picnic Site
Footpath	Viewpoint

South Humber HERITAGE TRAIL





Explore the Heritage of the South Humber Bank

Discover the abundant wildlife and the fascinating heritage and archaeology of the attractive landscape along the south bank of the Humber Estuary.

This great estuary has been a gateway of vital importance to our ancestors – Romans, Saxons and Vikings all settled here. In the 19th and 20th centuries, industries that have now all but disappeared exploited the natural resources and river transport network. Today the area is a haven for wildlife, with spectacular marsh harriers, 'booming' bitterns and bearded tits to be seen and heard.

The 20km (12.5 miles) trail follows the water-side from Burton-upon-Stather to Barton-upon-Humber and is split into two sections: Burton to Winterringham (8 miles) and South Ferriby to Barton (4.5 miles). Each section can be walked in either direction. The route also lends itself to be walked in the short sections between the villages.

There is a regular bus service between Barton, South Ferriby and Winterringham. Another service links the villages of Burton, Alkborough and Whitton.



Burton-upon-Stather to Winterringham

The trail heads out through woodland with a chance to spot a variety of colourful flora and fauna such as sweet violets and bluebells in spring and the speckled wood butterfly in summer. Glimpses and fine views of the River Trent and Blacktoft Sands can be seen through the trees en route.

An insight into Alkborough's past can be found at Countess Close and Julian's Bower. The village has a selection of attractive buildings including the church of St John the Baptist and stone-built cottages. Leaving the village to the north of the church, Alkborough Flats can be seen below; now managed to alleviate flooding on the Humber, it is a wonderful wetland for wildlife.

The approach to Whitton passes the sites of Roman settlements with commanding views of the river confluence and estuary. An old observation shelter that overlooked the World War II practice bombing range on the Flats provides an excellent viewing point.

The quiet village of Whitton used to have its own pier and was linked to Winterringham by the North Lindsey Light Railway. Pass through the village by the church and join the Humber bank below. Between Whitton and Winterringham enjoy expansive views across the Humber. The estuary and surrounding wetland is a protected nature conservation site of international importance and offers a rare opportunity to see unusual birds such as the marsh harrier.

This section of the trail ends at Winterringham Haven, which lies close to the Roman crossing point of the Humber. The discovery of many archaeological finds and ancient settlements has shed light on the strategic importance of the estuary and the South Humber Bank through the ages.

Anglo-Saxon Whitton

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been unearthed in a private garden near the church at Whitton. The discovery of iron fittings round the skeletons indicates that they were buried in wooden coffins or chests. This Christian cemetery is 250 years older than St John's Church, suggesting there was a much earlier Saxon church in the village.



Beasts of the River Bank

One mythical creature associated with this area of Lincolnshire is the tatter-foal, a goblin that appears in the shape of a small rough-coated horse. Preying on the unsuspecting traveller at night, it is said to lure them into a stream or river before vanishing with a 'half horse neigh, half human laugh'. Local folklore also tells of ghost dogs and riders patrolling the Devil's Causeway.



A Stone Cross, Shaped by Swords

The Church of St John the Baptist at Alkborough has an Anglo-Saxon tower with characteristic twin bell-openings in the lower part. There are re-used Roman and Saxon stones in the tower, and hidden under the raised floor inside. In the churchyard stands a curious sculptured stump. Once a medieval churchyard cross, the gritstone shaft has been shaped by generations of sword and tool sharpening.



Bustling Shipyard in Burton

With deep water in the River Trent and a substantial landing place at Kings Ferry Wharf for steam packet boats, Burton Stather developed into a flourishing port. The Wray family founded a shipyard here, launching 341 ships between 1816 and 1892. The largest, the ocean-going 'Burton Stather', was launched in 1866 weighing over 400 tons.



Woodland Fluttering with Life

Scatterings of deciduous woodland along the bank provide a habitat for a variety of flowers and butterflies. One such butterfly is the attractive speckled wood; dark brown in colour with creamy white spots, its appearance is well-suited to partially-shaded woodland dappled with sunlight.

This section of the trail finishes at Winterringham Haven. There is no footpath to the next part of the trail in South Ferriby, however a regular bus route links Winterringham and South Ferriby.



A Conservation Success

The Humber Estuary is one of the world's most important wetland habitats and was designated as a Ramsar site in 1994. Its unique ecosystems make it a key destination for specialist birds. Species include the specially-protected marsh harrier and avocet, whose presence is a credit to careful conservation work in the area.



Roman Trade on the South Bank

The high ground between Alkborough and Whitton offers stunning views of the Trent Falls, where the Rivers Ouse and Trent converge to become the Humber. Archaeological surveys have identified a number of Roman settlements along this strategic ridge and there was probably a trading station down on Alkborough Flats. The Romans had a number of landing places along the South Humber Bank. Local produce could be traded for goods such as fine pottery and wine that was imported via the Humber from all over the Roman Empire.



Musket, Fire and Drum

Burton-upon-Stather is situated on the brow of a cliff 50 metres above the east bank of the River Trent. This vantage point was used during the English Civil War in the mid 17th century when the Royalists used Burton, and a fort on Alkborough Flats, to guard the river mouth against attack by Parliamentary ships.

