

# South Humber HERITAGE TRAIL

## SOUTH FERRIBY



### Wildfowling on Read's Island

Read's Island is a peaceful wildlife haven with a resident herd of fallow deer and a flourishing population of the elegant avocet. The island was reclaimed from a sandbank in the 19th century and was inhabited by tenant farmers until 1989. The tradition of wildfowling has strong links with the area and was popular in the 1950s when low-lying punts were used with specially adapted guns. The South Humber Area Joint Council of Wildfowling Clubs now oversees the sport. A balanced approach to shooting and conservation is maintained and today the Humber Estuary is a thriving habitat for waders and wildfowl.

#### A Secret of St Nicholas' Church

Set above the porch is a 10th century carved stone depicting a bishop, perhaps St Nicholas the patron saint of children and fishermen. The stone is probably a relic from an earlier church as the present building is of 13th century date. Unusually, the church is oriented north-south.



#### Traces of Iron Age Settlers

Evidence of an Iron Age settlement lies on the edge of the Humber around the spring known as St Chad's Well. The Humber has eroded most of this low cliff-top site, revealing thousands of artefacts and coins; one particular form of Iron Age coin found here is known as the 'South Ferriby' type.

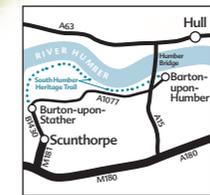


### On the Heritage Trail

The South Humber Heritage Trail is split into two sections and can be walked in either direction between Burton-upon-Stather and Winteringham 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; Winteringham 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, 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

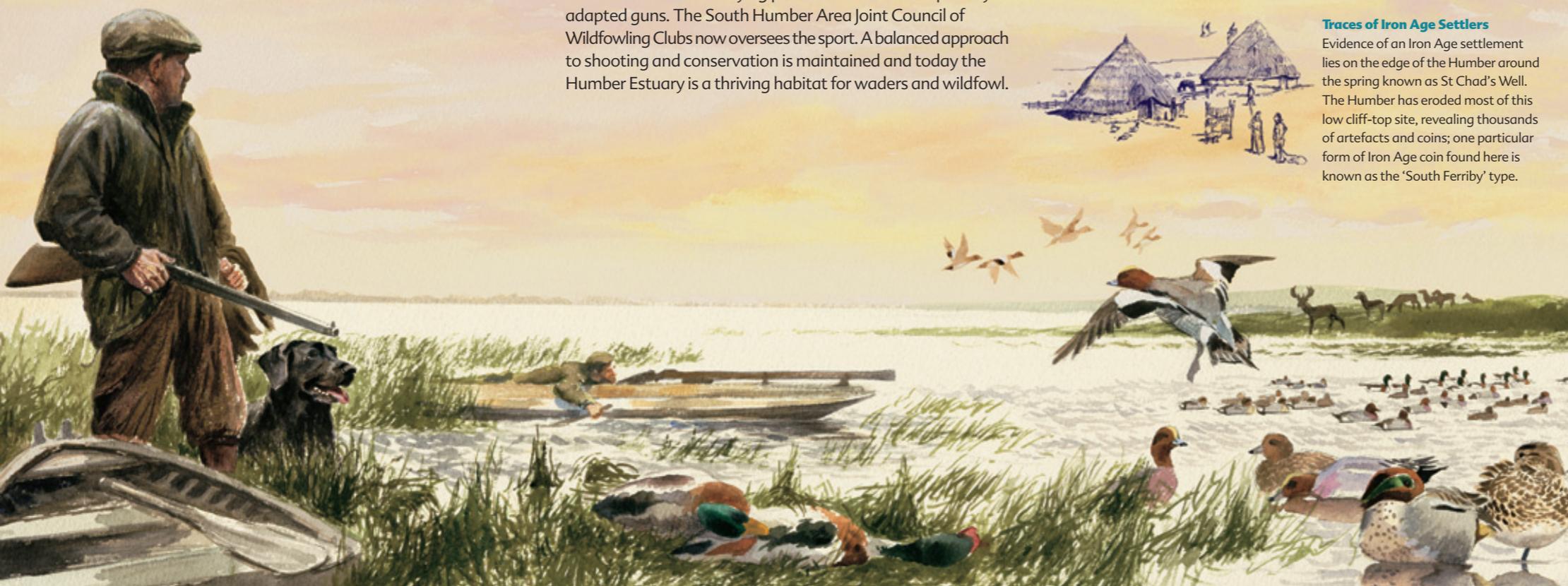
The South Humber Heritage Trail is located along the South Humber Bank between Barton-upon-Humber (7 miles south-west of Hull), and Burton-upon-Stather (5 miles north-west of Scunthorpe).

#### 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](http://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





## South Ferriby Village

There was a settlement at South Ferriby long before the Roman invasion in 43AD. The Iron Age tribe, called the Corieltavi, had a major centre overlooking the Humber and minted its own gold and silver coinage. Occupation continued here through the Roman era and the discovery of several Anglo-Saxon burials indicates later activity. The village place name derives from Viking-age colonisers and refers to the centuries old ferry crossing.

The village had two ferries, a water mill and a church recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086AD. The old village and church are perched precariously on the steep hillside above the River Ancholme. St Nicholas' Church is oriented north-south rather than on the usual east-west axis; the result of stabilising the damaged structure after a major landslip in the 16th century.

In the valley below, the River Ancholme runs in two intertwining channels; the winding Old River, and the straight New River. In winter, the flooded channel of the Old River Ancholme appears in the fields beside Sluice Lane. This was the location of the medieval haven, a small port, which brought considerable wealth to the farming village. Snaking through a wide valley, that skirts the rolling Lincolnshire Wolds, the Old River Ancholme was tidal and navigable for ships until the channel silted up.

In 1636, the straight New River Ancholme was cut to drain the valley. The scheme was only completed in 1842–44 when the modern sluice and lock were built to keep out the tidal waters of the Humber. The newer part of the village developed at South Ferriby Sluice in the 19th and early 20th centuries, alongside several brickyards. The cement factory was built in 1938.

Today, the New River Ancholme is a popular route for leisure craft and berth for the traditional Humber sailing barges; the sloop Amy Howson, and the keel Comrade.

## South Ferriby to Far Ings

Far Ings National Nature Reserve can be reached along the South Humber Heritage Trail, four miles north-east of South Ferriby. From the River Ancholme car park, follow the trail along the Humber bank and foreshore or start in the village. Follow North End to a track that passes South Ferriby Hall and a field of undulating 'ridge and furrow', the remains of medieval cultivation strips.

A footpath descends to the foreshore below the ancient cliff top settlement site and St Chad's Well, towards a chalk pebbly beach dappled with terracotta pieces of old bricks and tiles. The wreck of the Mary Maria can be seen here at low tide at the base of a prominent quarry spoil heap; ascend and seek out some choice chalk-loving plants. Beyond the beach and chalk quarries, stride out along the Humber Bank and enjoy great views of the estuary.

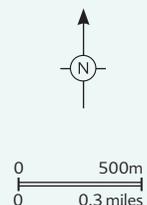
The route passes the Roman settlement at the Blue Coat Charity Farm and diverts around the Chowder Ness realignment. Further on are the ruins of an old cement works. The last stretch reaches the visitor centre at Far Ings, a great place for birdwatching before retracing the route, or continuing the trail to Waters' Edge.

### New School Reveals Ancient Past

Excavation prior to the construction of the new village primary school revealed Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation. Amongst the remains of stone buildings, a number of human skeletons were discovered. Most were buried in a tightly crouched position characteristic of the Iron Age tradition. They have been radio-carbon dated to the period 370–100BC.



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



### A Roman Pottery Industry

A substantial Roman settlement at South Ferriby extended from the Humber cliff top site along the valley side. The discovery of fragments of misfired Roman pottery containing flecks of red chalk from a local geological source, suggests that kilns were set up beside the River Ancholme. The finished pots were probably transported by boat to other local Roman settlements.



### The Wreck of the Mary Maria

The quarries just outside the village supplied much of the chalk for building the Humber banks following the devastating flood of 1953. An old wooden sea-going ship from the Baltic port of Riga, the 3-masted Mary Maria, was deliberately scuttled to create a jetty for one of the quarries in the 1920s.



### Sightings of the Elegant Avocet

A distinctively-patterned black and white wader, the avocet, has a noticeable up-turned beak. As the emblem of the RSPB it symbolises the strong bird protection movement in the UK. Its return to the Humber Estuary is credit to the careful conservation work carried out in the area.



### Chalk Grassland Flora

Chalk grassland plants such as cowslip and horse-shoe vetch grow on the chalky soil at the northern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Chalk-loving plants, including wild strawberry and autumn gentian have colonised the quarry spoil heap overlooking the Humber. This rich flora is important to a wide range of invertebrates and a number of scarce or declining birds.

