

South Humber HERITAGE TRAIL

BURTON-UPON-STATHER



Our Wildlife Heritage

The deciduous woodland that hugs the bank above the Trent offers some spectacular riverside vistas. It is also a wonderful place to observe a colourful array of birds and butterflies that find food and cover amongst the trees and bushes.

In spring, the striking gorse blossom makes a handy perching place for the yellowhammer or linnet. Chaffinch, whitethroat and the tiny wren can be seen threading through the hawthorn. Over the summer months, speckled wood and comma butterflies can be seen dancing in and out of the dappled sunlight.

A Port and Shipyard at 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.



Musket, Fire and Drum

Burton-upon-Stather is situated 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. The Royalists used Burton to guard against attack by Parliamentarian ships.

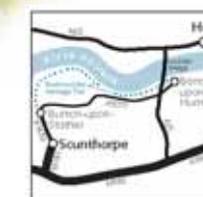


On the Heritage Trail

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



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Burton-upon-Stather Village

Burton-upon-Stather is a pleasant village perched on the brow of 'The Cliff'. A ferry was probably established at the landing place on the River Trent from an early date. In the reign of Edward II, a charter was granted for a weekly market and two annual fairs; Stocks Hill recalls where unruly villagers were punished. Like many medieval villages, Burton had archery butts for target practice. These low mounds once stood to the south-west of High Street. A separate village called Darby was mentioned in the Domesday Book but declined and was eventually deserted. The site is now a housing estate.

Burton was fortified during the Civil War and held by the Royalist troops to resist attack on Gainsborough up-river. Six guns were placed here and troops were garrisoned at Barracks Yard, which lay off the High Street. In December 1643, the Parliamentarians advanced towards Burton on land and water, attacking from both sides. The Royalist commander was forced to surrender and Gainsborough fell shortly after.

Down the steep hill is the small riverside hamlet of Burton Stather; 'stather' derives from the Danish and means a landing-place. A regular service of steamers and packet boats went back and forth to Hull from here. In the early 19th century, the shipyard at Alkborough Flats was moved to Burton and the village became widely known for its shipwrights. Burton developed into a thriving small port and the Kings Ferry Wharf is still in use today.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries the production of bricks and tiles was an important local industry with a brick works beside the river. The use of local ironstone, bricks and clay pantiles together on the same buildings is a particularly attractive feature of the village.

From Burton to Alkborough

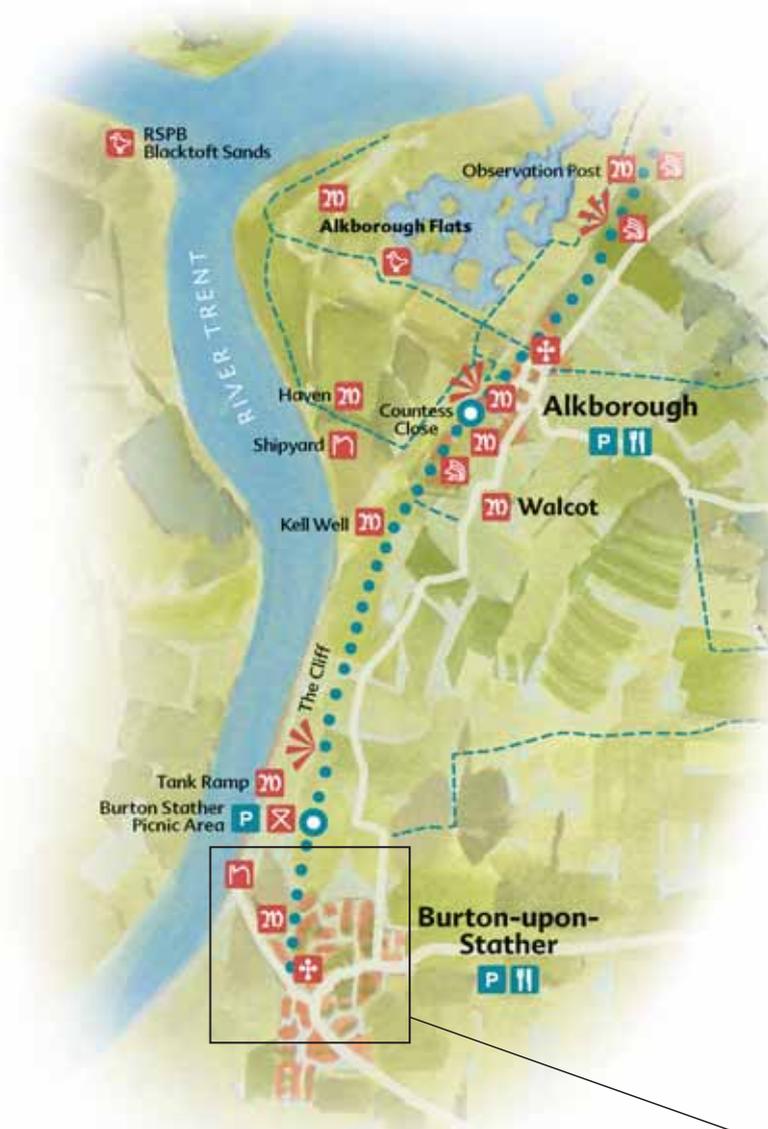
The attractive village of Alkborough lies within easy reach, two-and-a-half miles north-east of Burton. There are dramatic views from the churchyard across the river valley and the wide flat landscape. Beyond the church, a footpath leaves the village in a northerly direction and passes over wave-like undulations in the grass. This is a small remnant of medieval 'ridge and furrow'; each wave or ridge was a strip cultivated by an individual farmer. The land was farmed communally and the same crop was grown by all the farmers on each group or furlong of strips. Each year some land was left fallow.

At the Burton-upon-Stather Picnic Area, the South Humber Heritage Trail follows the line of the ridge all the way to Alkborough, through pleasant woodland alive with wildlife. Half-way along the trail is Kell Well. Kell is an old Danish word meaning a spring pool. The waters of this spring were once believed to have had petrifying qualities and most people visiting the well made a wish. Fossils are abundant on the limestone ridge and were locally called kestles and postles.

Alkborough is steeped in history and is home to the Countess Close earthwork and Julian's Bower maze; two nationally important monuments with medieval origins.

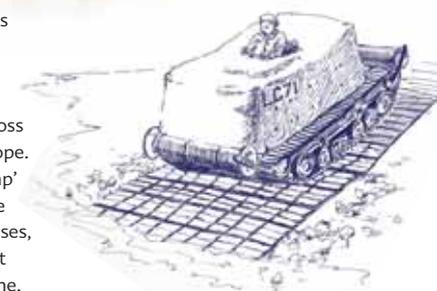
Wonderful Woodland Flora

The woodland along the bank above the Trent is rich in flora. In spring the delightful aroma of sweet violets can be enjoyed. Bluebells create an attractive carpet beneath the trees and the intense white flowers of the wood anemone light up the woodland floor. The early purple orchid can also be seen here with its distinctive spotted leaves.



Tanks in the Trent

During World War II, Burton was the secret location for testing amphibious tanks. Troops were trained to use the tanks in preparation for an assault to cross the Rhine in Nazi-occupied Europe. A concrete slipway or 'tank ramp' was built just to the north of the village, to facilitate these exercises, as the muddy banks of the Trent were similar to those of the Rhine.



The Medieval Ploughman

Medieval farmland in Burton parish was divided into a multitude of strips arranged in groups or furlongs in one great open field. Each farmer cultivated strips scattered through the furlongs. Ploughing the strips built up the ridges and created furrows in between.

The Church of St Andrew

The Church of St Andrew was built between the 12th and 14th centuries from local ironstone and limestone. Like the other churches along the South Humber Bank, its tower contains massive re-used Roman gritstones that must have come from water from the ruins in York.

