

Walk No 16.2: Lady Bay & Holme Pierrepont, Part 2

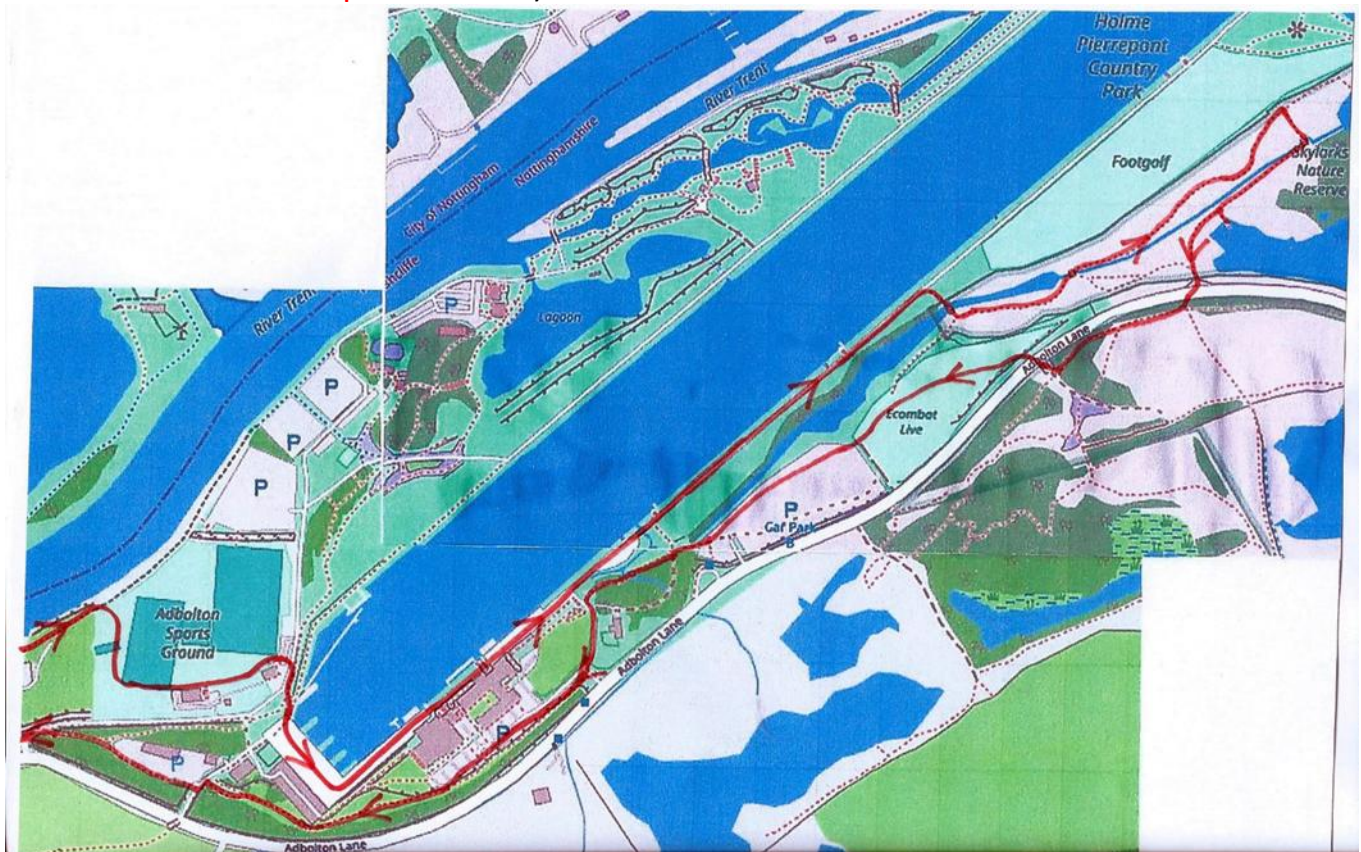
Walk/Photos taken 7th – 21st November 2020

The walk continues, from **Walk No 16.1: Lady Bay & Holme Pierrepont, Part 1**, at the Trentside path alongside the sailing club.

Just past the sailing club go right, around the cricket and rugby field, heading for the white cricket pavilion and then the brick building to its left – the Desperate Measures canoe shop – and onto the road.



Turn right and then go down the steps on the left to the Watersports Centre lake. (See [Further Info 6. Watersports Centre](#))



Go anti-clockwise alongside the lake, passing the main building and spectators' area.

There may be some birds to watch....





Continue alongside the lake until after the 500m hut and just before a sign on the right saying....



....go right, onto a path through the trees (there is a nature reserve information board at the start of the path).

This is part of the Skylarks Nature Reserve, which is not just an important area for nature but also has archeological interest – see: [Further Info 7. Skylarks Nature Reserve.](#)



Cross the bridge and turn left



Continue through the trees and, at a fork in the path, bear left.



Look out for interesting fungii

At a 'crosspaths' (is there such a word?), turn right



Bear right at a clearing and then take a short path to the left to a viewing platform by a lake.



Come back to the main path, turn left and continue round to another view of the lake.



Then go out through the gate onto the road – cross over and through the gate ahead and turn right along the right side of the field.

Ahead are three small buildings – this is ‘Hrafnsholm’, a re-creation by Skylarks Experimental Archaeology of a Norse-Saxon farmstead from the Danelaw (C9th) with a house and grubenhauser (a sunken floored building, with a loom for weaving).

‘Hrafn’ is Norse for ‘raven’ – of which there is a carving beside the huts.



To the left of the huts is a re-creation of an Iron Age burial mound.



Go up the slope to the right of the huts and down to the road – cross over and take the path to the left.

The path takes you to an ECombat Outdoor Laser Tag battlefield (children playing with electronic ‘guns’).



Go through and then continue over the next field, keeping to the right side.
Go up the path in the corner.....



..... down the path,
over the bridge and
along till you reach a
road before the main
watersports buildings.



Turn left and follow
the road around to the
rear of the buildings.

Continue through the car park, past the
home of British Canoeing,



...and then go up the bank to the left.



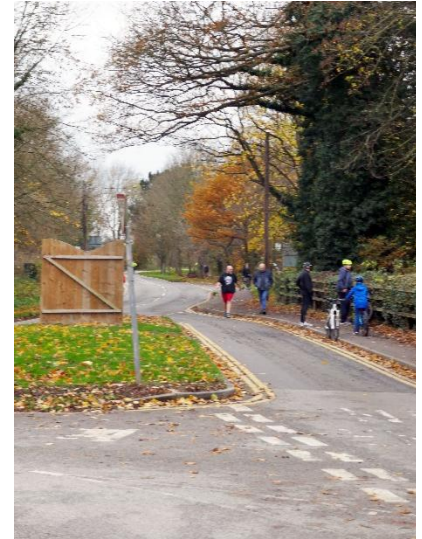
Follow the bank around and above the boat
yard buildings



There is a good view up the lake



Go down, towards a white building, turn left at the road and then right, up a path through the trees, down to the road and turn left onto Adbolton Lane.



Go along Adbolton Lane, looking out for wildlife.....



There are horses in the fields on the right – this is a horse rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming charity called Moo-Haven. It is named after a horse called Monty who's story is told on their website: <http://www.moo-haven.co.uk>





At the junction where Adbolton Lane turns right into Lady Bay, there is the care home 'Church Farm at Skylarks' and behind that is Adbolton Hall nursing home.

Continue around to the left along Regatta Way, with more horses on the right



At the end of Regatta Way cross Radcliffe Road turn right and then left into Stavelly Way.

Take the path on the left, then continue ahead along the path and back to the canal. Turn left, alongside the canal, and then go right, across the canal, and then left and then bear right and continue back the way the walk started, past the Willow Tree pub, into Nearsby Drive, through to Abbey Road School, along Burleigh Road, through to Exchange Road, Carnarvon Road and Devonshire Road to Musters Road – and the end of this walk.



Further Information on Sites along the Walk

1. Watersports Centre

Holme Pierrepont Country Park is the home of the National Watersports Centre. The centre was constructed during 1970 and 1971 on a former gravel works and required the excavation of one and a half million cubic yards of material. The centre opened in 1971 and won second prize in the 1972 Times/RICS Conservation Awards.

The Centre was chosen to host the first National Rowing Championships in 1972 and the venue for the World Rowing Junior Championships in 1973, and for the World Rowing Championships in 1975 and 1986, and many major competitions for UK rowing.

Set in 270 acres of parkland, Holme Pierrepont Country Park not only offers a host of water activities, but also a range of land based fitness and adventure activities. The centre is made up of three distinct pieces of water:

- Regatta lake, a 2,000 metre regatta rowing facility which features a six lane rowing course
- A 700 m purpose-built white water canoe slalom course
- A water ski lagoon equipped with ski jump as well as a ski cableway.

2. Skylarks Nature Reserve

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust website (www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/nature-reserves/skylarks) describes the reserve as:

An area of disused gravel pits with important areas of marginal vegetation and willow woodland habitat.

Created in 1982, Skylarks Nature Reserve became the first specially designed accessible nature reserve in the UK, allowing those with limited mobility improved access and better opportunities to experience wildlife and get closer to nature. Now owned by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, this 8.5 hectare site has been expanded to include a further 38 hectares to the south of Adbolton Lane, where since 2014, with careful planning, management and a dedicated team of volunteers, habitat has been restored as well as new wetland habitat created, resulting in the reserve now being recognised as one of the most important wildlife sites in the Trent valley.

These former commercial gravel pits now comprise of a number of stunning and diverse habitats including lakes, grassland, reed beds, shingle islands, scrub and woodland, making it attractive to a wide variety of invertebrates (14 species of

dragonfly), plant life (5 species of orchid), mammals (11 species of bat) and birds (over 200 species) recorded, many of the latter migrate to the reserve to breed or use it as an important refuelling station en-route.

As well as the wildlife aspects of the area there is also much of interest to archaeologists. There have been many discoveries, including prehistoric flint tools, burial mounds, Bronze Age spears, swords and axes, Iron Age settlements with round huts, Anglo-Saxon jewellery and a medieval road.

Visit the website for more information.