

Birds near Hummersea

The coastal path near Hummersea bank provides many points for viewing residents and migratory birds. Included in the sightings during 2015 was a Wryneck near to the descending steps to Hummersea beach



Fulmar



Razorbill



Sanderling



Wryneck



Redshank



Ringed Plover

9-Continue along the track to Hummersea Farm then follow the road left uphill along Hummersea Lane past North Terrace down to North Road and down to Loftus Market Place

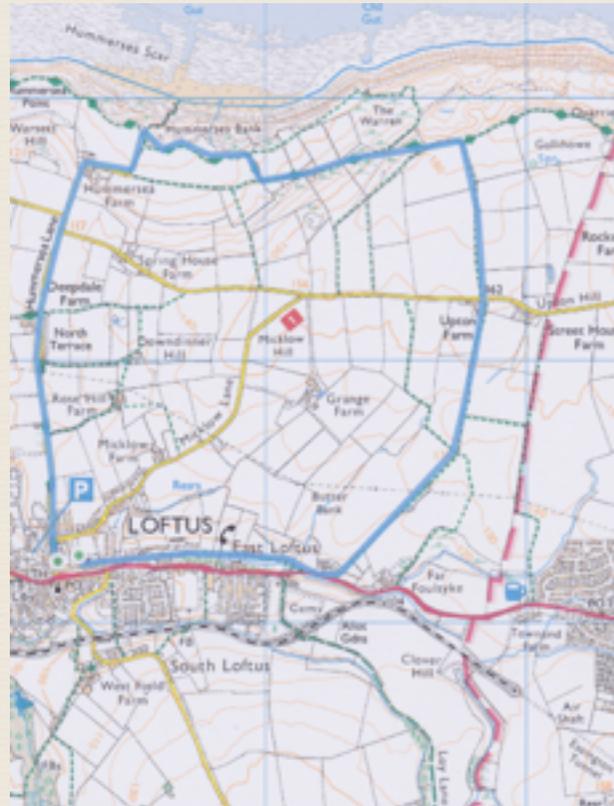


Refreshments are available at :-
Stonehouse bakery, Market Place
Old Co-op building, High Street

References

1-A Royal Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Street House , Loftus , North East Yorkshire- Stephen J.Sherlock Tees Archaeology 2012 , ISBN 978-0-9532747-5-8

2-Lewis Hunton- A Life Worth Celebrating Tees Valley RIGS Group, Margrove Heritage Centre, Margrove Park, Boosbeck, Cleveland TS12 3BZ



Designed by Loftus ACCORD walking group

CIRCULAR WALK

LOFTUS TO HUMMERSEA

Distance 4 miles



Description

Walk on historic paths

Time : 2 hrs

Terrain: Gradual ascent over fields. Two short steep sections. Several stiles

Our history is communicated to us through the shaped landscape surrounding Loftus. The number of tumuli in our immediate area speak of a distant past. The Roman legacy is currently being revealed to us and we have gained a significant appreciation of the Anglo Saxon Royal burial site from the painstaking work of Archaeologists.

Between 1650 and 1870 large numbers of workers lived and worked within the area of this walk. The numerous footpaths connecting moor to coast provide a measure of economic activity through the centuries. This walk will examine some elements of the legacy and will also look at our coastal flora and perhaps you shall also see some of the resident and migrating birds.

Route-

1-From the Angel Cafe in Loftus Market Place



proceed left along the footpath passing St. Josephs Church on your left and the war memorial on your right.

2-Cross the bottom of Springhead Terrace into East Crescent. On your right you can see a plaque which marks the site of the Newton Memorial Chapel.

3- Enter Swallwell Wood at the end of Micklow Terrace running parallel with the beck. This is one of seven woods surrounding Loftus. The lucky visitor may catch sight of a great spotted



woodpecker, long tailed tit or sparrow hawk.

4-The path exits on to the Whitby Road near Swallwell's Farm. Turn left at A174 then left again at the first footpath sign leading up a short steep sided hill.

5-The path soon levels out and passes over a small stream then along a perimeter fence with a small plantation on right.

To the left is Butter Bank field which in medieval times was used to provide produce for distribution within Loftus parish. To the North East of the field is Grange Farm which was administered by the Augustinian monks at Guisborough Priory.

To the east of the footpath intersection lies the site of Arthur field houses where employees of Loftus Alum works lived. In one of these houses Emily Godfrey was born in 1884. She served as a nurse in World War One

and was sponsored as a missionary nurse in East Nigeria by the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society

6-Continue north crossing a road and on to a path towards the Cleveland Way National trail. About 200 metres ahead on your right is an information board with details on the Saxon Princess burial site. Visitors can purchase publications on this discovery and interpretation at the Kirkleatham Museum shop.(1)



7-On reaching the coastal path you are on National Trust land. Please take great care here. To your right are Boulby Cliffs, reaching a height of 700 ft. (213 metres) which at this point are the highest cliffs on the eastern side of England. The horizon at this point is approx. 33 miles (53 kilometres) away. It is on Boulby Cliffs that the young geologist, Lewis Hunton, son of the Alum Manager, William Hunton, developed expertise on rock strata which resulted in an important paper published in 1836 in the 'Transactions of the Geological Society of London' on the subject of Jurassic Biostratigraphy. Geologists have used his method to date rock strata ever since. Detailed information on this subject

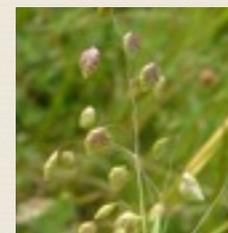
may be obtained from Tees Valley Rigs Group. (2)

The moonscape like terrain is the consequence of the calcination or burning of Alum shale over centuries.

8-Turn left on to the Cleveland Way and head downhill towards Hummersea Farm. Soon after passing North Warren Cottage you turn right. Close to the descending path leading to Hummersea bank were two ponds called Snilah ponds. These ponds were established as a source of rainwater to ensure the optimum crystallisation of the Alum. The local spring water contains Calcium Carbonate which is detrimental to Alum crystal formation.

Flora at Hummersea

The sloping bank at Hummersea supports a very large number of diverse flora



Quaking grass



Dyers Greenweed



Grass of Parnassus



Eye Bright

