



## Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 Adwick Site Visit

Before Easter, Hannah and Claire from the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) national office headed out to the eastern boundary of Barnsley to check out a circular walking route on behalf of Barnsley Public Rights of Way.

Parking up at the Adwick Washlands carpark on a dry (for a change) and bright day, the pair headed north east along the TPT to join Lowfield Lane. This lane which is recorded as a bridleway leads west to Adwick Washlands. This wonderful wetland is managed by RSPB by staff based at RSPB Old Moor.



As they walked past the washlands they couldn't believe how many different varieties of birds were out on the water and in surrounding farmland. They spotted geese, different types of wading birds and Claire might have spotted an Egret but couldn't be certain as neither she nor Hannah are bird experts. It is the perfect spot to go and do a bit of bird watching whether you are an expert and being on a right of way it is quite easy to get to although not fully accessible at present.



Continuing along the route towards Bolton upon Dearne they came across what is known as the Bolton Gun Battery. The gun emplacement has lay unused for nearly 80 years but played a vital role in World War II during 1943 and 1944. Four anti-aircraft guns, a command centre and a battery base were installed in what were formerly farmer's fields. It was there to defend Sheffield's munitions, but it never fired a single shell.

They headed past Bolton Railway Station and turned left down Mexborough Road towards Bolton Viaduct. On the left after the junction is a little hardware store which used to be one of the original Co-operative stores and still has the original sign intact. A little Barnsley heritage gem!

Once at the Viaduct they turned left to pick up the TPT. Here, if you turn right, you can explore Brookfield Park which is a great reclaimed pit site and now a wildlife haven with sculptures and a bench created by local sculptor Dan Jones.



Back on the TPT they followed the route along the River Dearne until they reached the green bridge at Adwick and their walk was complete. A lovely 3 mile route.

This circular route is going to be made into a walking leaflet for Barnsley Public Rights of Way to encourage people to explore different areas in and around the TPT so watch this space.

