

Field trip to Paull Holme Strays March 2024



Above: The group walks along the embankment above the saltmarsh.

We've been to some wild and windswept places but Paull Holme Strays must count as one of the loveliest and loneliest. It can be bleak indeed out here where Humber meets saltmarsh meets sky, with just birdcalls for company, but today we were blessed with perfect March weather.

Our timing was a bit out. We'd have been better arriving before high tide when the birds are forced inshore to feed on the mudbanks, instead of a couple of hours after, but we still saw enough to keep us happy.

Bird List	Robin	Teal
Little Egret	Black-headed Gull	Cormorant
Wigeon	Common Gull	Mallard
Redshank	Herring Gull	Common Ringed Plover
Carrion Crow	Kestrel	Lapwing
Woodpigeon	Skylark	Grey Heron
Wren	Curlew	Dunnock
Merlin (possible)	Oystercatcher	Buzzard



Above: the group looking towards Hull and, below, a saltmarsh creek



Above clockwise from top: Common Ringed Plovers well-camouflaged as they scavenge among the seaweed; a curlew feeds on the shore; a pair of Teal; a male Teal; a Redshank, two handsome male Wigeon.

Overleaf: Wigeon snooze on the rocky spit built to stop the Thorngumbald Creek from silting up; a Little Egret takes off across the saltmarsh.





Above and left: Thorngumbald High and Low Lighthouses. Built in 1870 these replaced the decommissioned Paull lighthouse. The lights work together to guide ships past the treacherous sandbanks of the Humber. The light was on in the High Lighthouse (the red one) as we passed

They are both listed buildings.

HK 4/3/24