

## Walk No 16.1: Lady Bay & Holme Pierrepont, Part 1

Walk/Photos taken 7<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020

This walk follows the first part of Walk 2 to Lady Bay and then goes across Trent Fields to the Holme Pierre Country Park & Watersports Centre. There are 2 main options; the full walk (A), of 15km, or a shorter walk (B), just Lady Bay and Trent Fields, of 10.7km.

There is also the possibility of parking at Holme Grove, going straight into Trent Fields, or at the Country Park, where there are lots of paths to choose from – I have just included one.

The walk is split into 2 documents (to manage file size), this one, 16.1, goes to just before the Watersports Centre; the second part, 16.2, continues around part of the Watersports lake, through the Skylarks Nature Reserve and back via Adbolton Lane-Regatta Way to the canal and back.



From Musters Road go along Devonshire Road, across Melton Road and then along Carnarvon Road. Turn right into Exchange Road, past West Bridgford Junior School, and through the alley to Burleigh Road. Turn left and continue past Abbey Road and take the path between the Abbey Road Primary and the St Edmund Campion Schools.

Admire the painted hands rainbow.



At the end of the path turn right and then left onto Nearsby Drive and then right onto Rufford Way. Go past the Willow Tree pub, turn left at the corner and then ahead, over the little bridge and left along the path which goes to the canal.

There were some superb Autumn colours on my walk.



Continue alongside the canal – I included a bit of the history of the Grantham Canal in Walk 10, so won't repeat it here – just look for the water birds.



Go under and across the two carriageways of Radcliffe Road and continue alongside the canal until there is a barrier – go through and turn right, leaving the canal (which used to continue to the Trent, including going under an interesting bridge at Rutland Road – see [Further Info 1. Rutland Road Canal Bridge](#)).



Turning right from the canal path takes you to Rutland Road in Lady Bay – turn right.

Lady Bay has only been a residential area since the late C19th. Maps surveyed in the early part of that century, show just a couple of farms; the rest was fields.

But why does it have this name? – for an answer, see [Further Info 2. The Origin of 'Lady Bay'](#).

Also, note the name Adbolton – this used to be a village – see [Further Info 3. The Lost Village of Adbolton](#)



This 1914 map, surveyed in the 1880s with an update in 1913, shows how the area had developed with the street layout much as it is today – but not the part of Rutland Road we are on. You will also notice that there are many undeveloped plots. This partly explains the mix of ages of the buildings we will pass – many dated back to the early 1900s but some much later. Also, in 1941 a German Luftwaffe bomber dropped a line of bombs across Lady Bay, leading to new houses being built in the 1950-60s on bomb sites in streets of otherwise pre-war housing.

Go east along Rutland Road and then turn left into Seymour Road.  
Many of the older houses have date stones on the wall, e.g. 'Imperial Villas 1902',  
'Seymour Villa 1903', and are of a style typical of that period.



At the end of Seymour Road, turn right and immediately left onto Adbolton Grove.



The 1914 map shows that there had been limited development here, with no houses on the right side.  
Later, some mock Tudor style homes were built, as this one, below, on the junction of Adbolton Grove/Trent Blvd.



At one of the houses, someone has kindly fixed this positive message (from The Wizard of Oz) for anyone passing by.

Towards the northern end of the road, looking over the houses to the left, you can see the top of Home Lodge which was here before 1913 and is now a care home – see

[Further Info 4. Holme Lodge](#)



As you turn left into Holme Road, there are more of the older houses, including this one on the corner, aptly named 'The End House'.



I believe I mentioned in a previous walk that once, very briefly, I lived on Holme Road. So too did Paul Morel, in D. H. Lawrence's 'Sons and Lovers'.

Near the end of the story, Paul has split with Clara, his second love, and meets up again with his previous love, Miriam, at the Unitarian Church, High Pavement in Nottingham (now the Pitcher and Piano public house). He asks her to come back to his lodging for supper. They cross the Trent, which *'ran dark and full under the bridge....He lived down Holme Road, on the naked edge of the town, facing across the river meadows towards Sneinton Hermitage and the steep scrap of Colwick Wood. The floods were out. The silent water and the darkness spread away on their left. Almost afraid, they hurried along by the houses'*.

From Holme Road turn right, into Holme Grove. At the end, to the right of this old building, is a small car park for use of people visiting The Hook – perhaps a start point for shorter walks.

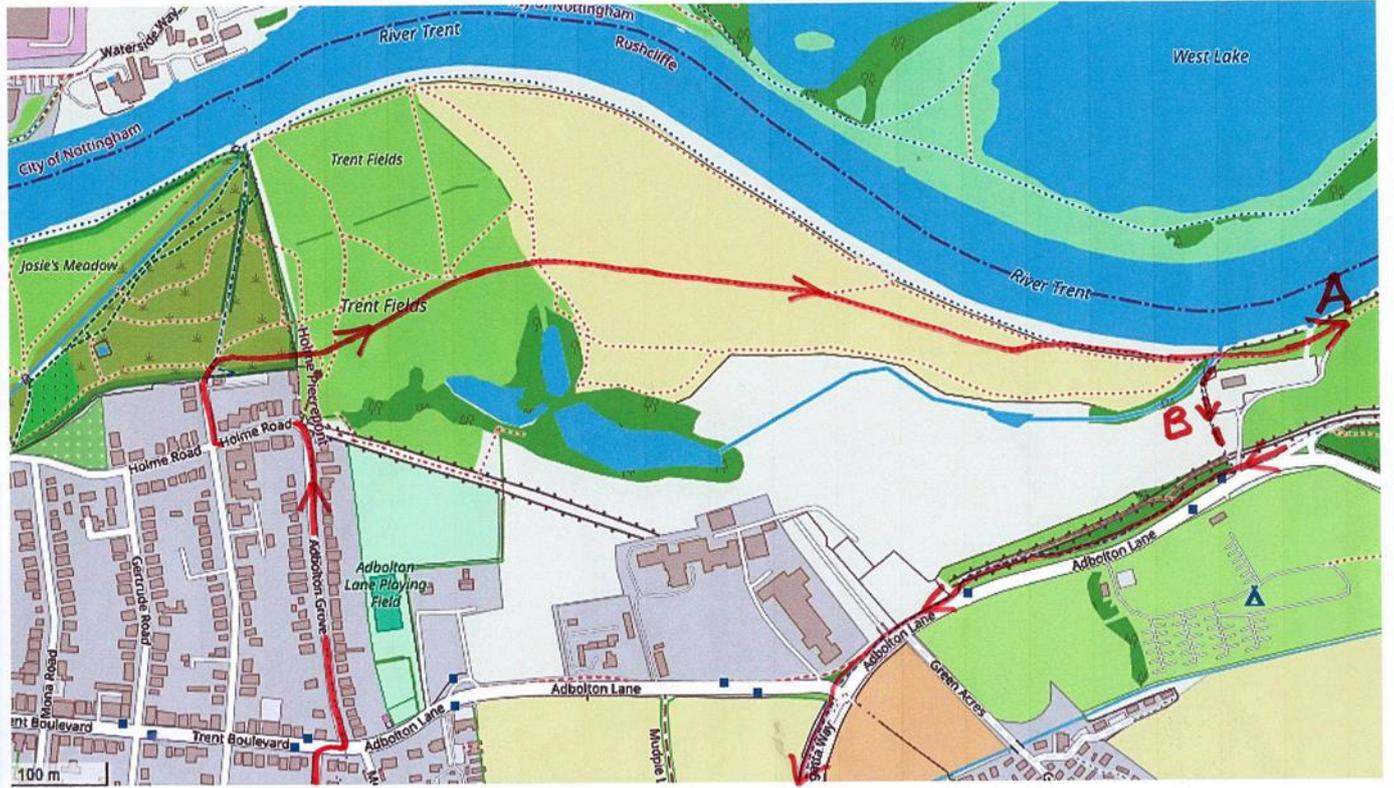
Go ahead, down the steps to the left of the building, and into The Hook – an area of statutory washlands which flood dramatically every few years – which would explain Paul and Miriam's fears.



The Hook provides a habitat for wildlife and a recreational area for local residents; it was declared a Local Nature Reserve in December 2009. A 'Friends' group has been established and volunteers work to manage and maintain the site.



See **Further Info 5. Commemoration of WW2**



At the bottom of the steps, take the first path to the right, through the trees and out into the open area of Trent Fields.



The path continues across the open area and curves to the right,



You get a broad view beyond the curve of the river, from the city centre to the left, then *'the steep scarp of Colwick Wood'* and on to Colwick Park on the right.



You can even see Green's Mill – strange how this keeps appearing on my walks.

Downstream are Holme Sluices, which form an integral part of the Nottingham Flood Protection Scheme. Built near the Holme Locks and opened in 1955, they consist of five 40 ft. wide steel lifting gates, each 16ft 6in deep. The sluices replaced the old Colwick weir and were designed to maintain navigable water levels at low summer flows and allowing greater flows when water is high.





The path over the Trent Fields eventually joins with the riverside path and comes to a gate just before the sailing club. If you are doing the short walk, turn right along the path **B** (see map above) – this takes you to Adbolton Lane, to re-join the longer route back into West Bridgford.

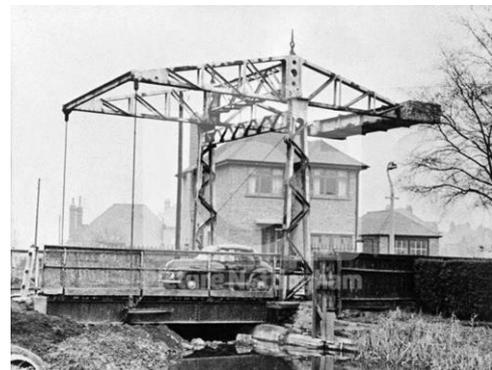
For the longer route **A**, continue ahead alongside the river, with the sailing club on your right.

The Walk continues at **Walk No 16.2: Lady Bay & Holme Pierrepont, Part 2.**

## Further Information on Sites along the Walk

### 1. Rutland Road Canal Bridge

In the 1950s, the way into Lady Bay at Rutland Road used to cross the canal over a lifting bridge. Apparently it was known as the 'Meccano' bridge.



### 2. The Origin of 'Lady Bay'

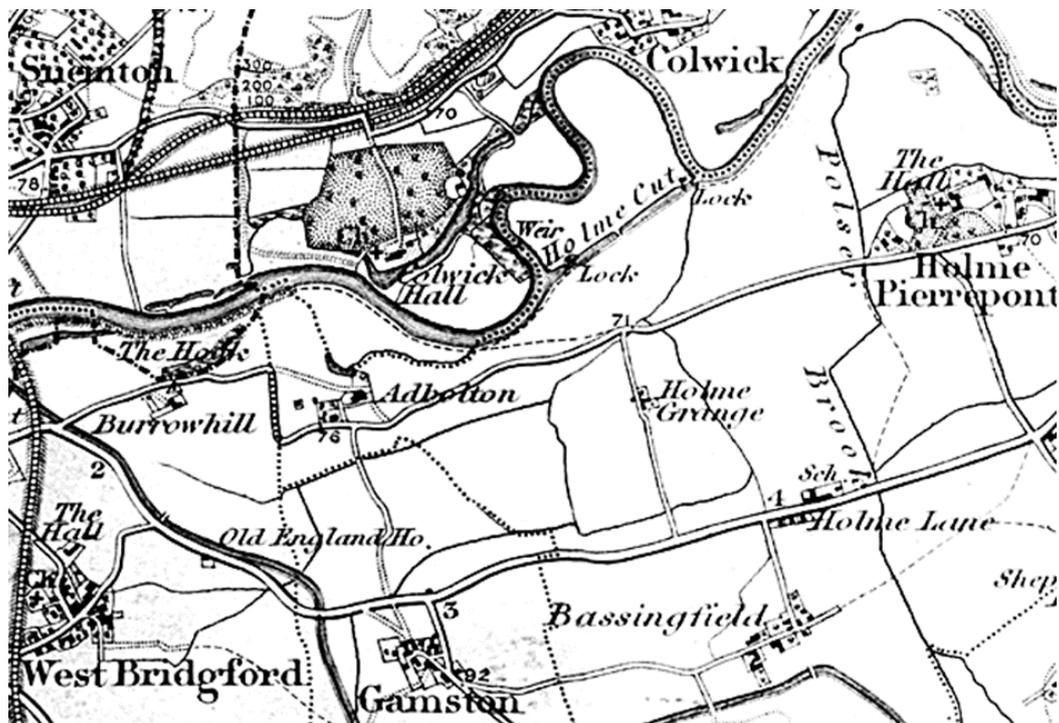
In his 1914 writings (*Old Nottingham suburbs: then and now* [West Bridgford] <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk>), Robert Mellors asks 'Where, and what was Lady Bay?' He says the name was 'well-known three hundred years ago' and likely to be even older. The area between Radcliffe Road and the River Trent was fields divided by a dyke and 'the Bridgford brook, formerly much larger than now, having run right through the parish, and under Radcliffe road' (at its junction with Trent Boulevard). He continues:

*Now in 1321 Alice le Palmer was receiving tolls for repairing Trent Bridge, and "another bridge [the one over Radcliffe Road] between it and the land towards Gamston, to be newly constructed according to the King's grant." The two bridges were thus joined together in their work, repair and dedication. In 1301 a license was given by the King to John le Paumer, and Alice his wife, referring to divine service*

*daily in the Chapel of St. Mary on Hethbeth-brigg, or Trent bridge, and that chapel continued for several hundreds of years. I think we are therefore justified in agreeing with Dr. Deering (1751) that the chapel might possibly have given to the ground which is the farthest boundary of the Town [Nottingham] to the east beyond the Trent the name of Lady bay, and that the old Trent creek, and the land round it, was the bay of "Our Lady," the mother of Our Lord.*

### 3. The Lost Village of Adbolton

Lady Bay has only been a residential area since the later C19th. Maps surveyed in the early part of that century, show two farms – Burrow (or ‘Barrow’) Hill and Adbolton.



Burrow Hill Farm was somewhere near the junction of Holme Road and Melbourne Road, Adbolton Farm was near Adbolton Hall.

W E Doubleday, ( Notts villages: Adbolton, The Nottinghamshire Guardian, 31 January 1942, [www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/doubleday/adbolton.htm](http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/doubleday/adbolton.htm) ) describes the origin of Adbolton as follows:

*ADBOLTON arose out of the marshes as alluvial land when the waters drained off and the Trent carved out a changeful course for itself through the valley to which it gave its name. A deserted bed of the river shows that it once flowed where buildings and gardens now exist. The name of the village comes from a Saxon named Ealdbeald, whose "ton" or farm it was [thus 'Ealdbealdton']..... and by the 14th century it was known as Adbolton. It had a church in Danish times, a building almost certainly of timber and consisting of a nave and chancel, probably small, for the parish has ever been one of the smallest and least populous in the shires.*

*At the Conquest its manor was held by Godric the priest [but, like other lands King William passed to his supporters, e.g. Wilford, Gamston, Clifton (Walks 5, 11 & 14), it became] part of the huge possessions of William Peverel. It comprised six bovates of land—each bovat being as much as an ox could plough in a year —and 7a. of valuable meadow. There were six villeins (men not permitted to quit the manor) and one bordar (or serf), who were under the supervision of the reeve of one of Peverel's many other manors.*

An article on the Holme Pierrepoint & Gamston Parish Council website ([www.holmepierrepointandgamstonpc.org.uk](http://www.holmepierrepointandgamstonpc.org.uk)) describes Adbolton as 'one of the lost villages of England'. It was situated at the eastern end of what is now Lady Bay, on an ancient west-east track roughly following the course of Holme Road and the road through Holme Pierrepoint to Radcliffe-on-Trent. Much of this track fell into disuse in the C18<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of a turnpike road (now Radcliffe Road).

In late Roman times, when the Trent followed a more southerly course than today the village 'was a river port exporting grain from its productive hinterland, sometimes to Western Europe..... When the Trent migrated north, its abandoned course became an elongated pond and swamp; fishing and reed culture replaced Adbolton's port activities, together with continued farming of the rich alluvial soils, which surround the village'. Doubleday suggests that by the C14<sup>th</sup> 'There may have been a little landing-stage here, but it requires some imagination to conceive of Adbolton as a riverside port, however tiny'.

As also noted by Doubleday, there was a church, All Hallows, situated at the crossing of the west-east track and a north-south track, which 'rejoiced in the alternative names of Mudpie Lane and Kingsway'. Nothing of the building can be seen today, or indeed the rest of the village.

Apparently, Adbolton's demise originated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, 'following fines and confiscations imposed by the authorities on farmers who refused to conform to the requirements of the newly reformed Church of England'. Doubleday writes that:

*By the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century "the inhabitants and possessors of this town, being sensible of the convenience and safety of inclosures as well as of the profit of them, separated their lands from the common field and fenced them in, ...and the physical appearance of Adbolton was changed to its modern form". In 1746 came a further change, for then the church was pulled down. The parish had been annexed to Holme Pierrepoint in 1707; its church was in ruins, and in 1743 the parson reported that "there is now no house or parishioner belonging to it." Its plate was removed to the new mother church, and its material was scattered, some going to repair Holme Pierrepoint church and some was incorporated in farmhouses here and at Gamston.*

Today there is nothing left of Adbolton, the lost village, it is farmland, except Adbolton Hall, to the east of the old village and its lodge. The Hall was a Country Recovery Home belonging to the Nottingham Hospital for Women after the war (as pictured below in c.1950). It is now a residential nursing home and the lodge is children's nursery.



#### 4. Holme Lodge

Until recently the service provider at Holme Lodge was Cheshire Homes and the following article gives an idea of life here 60 years ago (from the magazine 'The Cheshire Smile, summer 1962)

##### **Holme Lodge, Nottingham**

Since our last report much has taken place. A huge Bonfire and Firework display on November 5th attracted an enormous crowd of people to the garden of our Home, and the heat generated by Mr. Bob Blackburn and his helpers gave us a few anxious moments for the windows of the building. This event "sparked off" a happy romance between two very popular members of our band of helpers. Monica (Mrs. Jackson to the general public), who had been helping us since the very beginning and when we opened became our Housekeeper and Cook, became engaged to Mr. Jack Carter. Jack also came as a volunteer as soon as we bought Holme Lodge and was in fact our "Unpaid Clerk of the Works" during the reconstruction period. A few weeks ago, to the surprise of the happy couple all the residents and staff, accompanied by a large crowd of their friends, went to pretty Edwalton Church and saw Monica and Jack married.

Cyril, one of our more recent additions, has decided to go to live with his brother, and his place has been taken by Albert, to whom we offer a warm welcome and the hope that he will be very happy with us.

The residents are feverishly prepar-

ing for the fete, which this year will be held on Saturday, 23rd June, and should be at least twice the size of last year's. Baskets of all shapes and sizes, dolls, woolly toys and embroidery are beginning to fill the store cupboards ready for the great day.

Joe, one of our male orderlies, hit upon a wonderful idea to help meet the costs at the Home and he has installed a number of hens who are providing us with eggs; he also has rabbits, the progeny of which will assist Mrs. Clay, our new Housekeeper, to stay the pangs of hunger.

The great excitement at the moment is the construction of the lift. Through the generosity of two Directors of a Nottingham engineering firm it will soon be possible for all residents to take themselves upstairs without assistance. This will greatly lighten the work of the staff. It is hoped that the G.C. will be in Nottingham in June to launch the new ship on its up and down life.

Flag days are now very much in our minds and those of our friends in the branch committees, and everyone is looking forward to the results to see if they exceed 1961's amazing totals.

REG. WRIGHT.

## 5. Commemoration of WW2

As I am writing this in November, it is appropriate that I include the following piece written by Jeff Mackintosh (Chair of Friends of the Hook) in 2019:

*In the autumn of 2012 Friends of the Hook planted an avenue of 18 native black poplars on the Hook Nature Reserve to honour those men from Lady Bay and West Bridgford who fell in the First World War. To remember them we held a memorial event on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. This event took place on the Hook, Lady Bay with approximately 60 people in attendance. The commemoration commenced with the sounding of the last post, followed by a reveille. Our research identified 31 men from Lady Bay who died in the war. These men were aged 19 to 35, many being killed in action or dying of wounds. They left behind grieving sons, daughters, wives, brothers, sisters and parents, to whom there is no memorial.*

### Commemoration of Lady Bay's Men who fell in the Great War

