

interest

Channelside Haven – A large variety of materials have been imaginatively used here to create flowing pathways. Visitors can wander among the scented gardens with panoramic views of Walney Channel.

Opening Hours For The Dock Museum

For details of the Seasonal opening hours of the Dock Museum please telephone **01229 876400** or visit the website www.dockmuseum.org.uk

Last admission 45 minutes prior to closing.

Admission to The Dock Museum and adventure playground is free.



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The Dock Museum

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Email: dockmuseum@barrowbc.gov.uk Website: www.dockmuseum.org.uk



Served by a car park and cycle parking.
The Dock Museum is 15 minutes on foot from Barrow railway station and on several bus routes

Discover Barrow on foot
GUIDE LEAFLET

Channelside Walk

This walk will take you from The Dock Museum along Channelside and over the reclaimed Slagbank's.

The walk is on paths and will take from 75 minutes (brisk) to 115 minutes (stroll and look round).



Points of interest



A The Dock Museum – Opened in 1994 and houses Barrow Borough Council's local and social history collection.

B Vickerstown – A model estate built in the 1900s by Vickers for their workforce. The estate includes shops, churches, a farm, nurseries and a park. You can see the northern estate, there is also one to the south of the bridge.

C Jubilee Bridge – Was opened in 1908 as Walney Bridge. It was a toll bridge until 1935 when it was freed from toll and renamed Jubilee Bridge (to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V).

D North Scale – An ancient hamlet once administered by Furness Abbey, its name is derived from the Norse skalar, which means hut.

E View Point on Slagbank – A huge mound created by the waste products generated by the Ironworks between 1859-1963.

View to East-

(a) The reservoir was created by the Iron and Steelworks. The upper reservoir has been filled in to create playing fields.

(b) The cemetery was laid out in 1871, before this time most of Barrow's dead had to be buried in Dalton-in-Furness.

Walney Airfield – First used as an RAF training airfield during the Second World War. It has also been a civic airfield.

Town View – The following prominent buildings can be seen on the skyline, from the east (left) to west (right) – St James Church (1869), Town Hall Tower (1887) and Devonshire Dock Hall (1986-1988).

Local Wildlife – Many species of waders, waterfowl and sea birds feed along the extensive mussel beds which are exposed at low tide. Oystercatchers, cormorants and occasional eider ducks can regularly be seen along the channel.

The rough grassland along the embankments is also prime hunting ground for kestrels, a small number of which have successfully bred and reared chicks over the last few years.



Lapwings have also reared their young on the open spaces created by the demolition of the Ironworks. For some years there has also been a resident flock of goldfinches which feed off the seed heads of thistles growing along the embankments.



Channelside Walk

Begin at The Dock Museum (1) and walk north along Channelside (2), across the channel is the workers' estate of Vickerstown. Halfway along Channelside is a commemorative plaque and mosaic (3), from here there is a good view of Jubilee Bridge. At the end of the Channelside promenade go up the steps (4), immediately opposite, across the channel, is the village of North Scale on Walney Island.



From the car park at the top of the steps take the bridge on the left and go along a straight section. On reaching the edge of the land reclaimed from the Ironworks either climb the steps or use the path on the right which then curves round left to bring you gradually to the top of the steps (5). Go along a straight section and at the junction of two paths take the one on the right across the eastern flank of the Slagbank (6).

After a gentle descent this path turns left and reaches the Cocken Cutting (7).

At Cocken Cutting bear left uphill to reach the crest of the Slagbank. Opposite on Walney Island is the airfield and North Walney National Nature Reserve. Re-trace tour route back to The Dock Museum. There is a good view of the town at the junction of the two paths.

When reaching The Dock Museum again, turn right across the bridge and head towards the viewing platform. Go below this and the path will lead you to Channelside Haven (8). Retrace your steps back to The Dock Museum.

James (Jimmy) Freel CGM. MID.



James Michael Freel, born at Hindpool in Barrow on 13 December 1919, joined the Royal Navy on 9 June 1936 and became Barrow's most decorated war hero of World War II.

After serving as a gunner on the battleships Revenge, Royal Sovereign and Rodney, he volunteered in May 1942 for "Special Hazardous Missions" and trained as a "Charioteer Diver" (a.k.a. "Human Torpedo"), assigned to the 10th Submarine Flotilla in Malta to prepare for Operation Principal (targeting enemy ships in Palermo, Sicily).

On 29 December 1942, Freel and Sub-Lieutenant R.G. Dove RNVR, with Chariot No. XVI, embarked on submarine Trooper to attack ships in Palermo harbour where they sank the Troopship Viminale. After they made their way ashore they were taken prisoners and sent to P.O.W. camps in mainland Italy.

On 9 September 1943 (after 9 months as a Prisoner of War), Freel escaped and fought with the local Partisans until December 1943, when he rejoined the Allied Forces and was repatriated to the U.K.

On 18 April 1944, James Freel was gazetted for the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, for his "courage, determination and devotion to duty".



He saw further action in the Far East and on 29 June 1945, he was also mentioned in despatches for "bravery, coolness of action and devotion to duty" in the rescue of survivors from a burning tanker near Japan.



Picture Courtesy of Natural England

North Walney National Nature Reserve

South of Sandscale Haws, but cut off from it by Scarth Hole and the Walney Channel, lies North End Haws, the tip of Walney Island. This is a National Nature Reserve managed by English Nature. Mudflats and saltings, shingle ridges, grey dunes and heathland, slacks and old gravel workings make up the wildlife habitats of North Walney. Again this is a place for special flowers to be able to cope with hot sunshine and biting winds. Specialities of the dry dunes include sea spurge and sea holly, the scented burnet-rose and the unique Walney geranium, a variety of bloody cranesbill. Because the dune slopes create their own sun-soaked micro-climate they attract a range of fascinating insects, including robber-flies and sand wasps, fox-moths and grayling butterflies.

The salt-marsh is carpeted by drifts of sea lavender and thrift, and in the winter it is the haunt of wading birds such as the redshank, dunlin, grey plover and bar-tailed godwit.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Map reference points

A B C D E F
See Points of Interest

Main walk

Accessible for wheelchair users

Assistance required for wheelchair users

