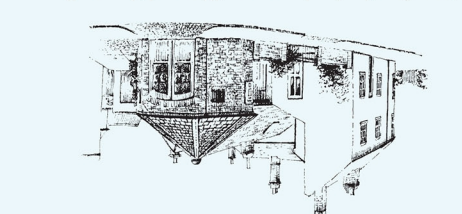


On the other side of Beveridge Street the imposing building was the **Old Men's Hospital**, an original single-story granite building established as an almshouse in 1694. A second storey was added in 1802. Humphrey Bobington will the money for the foundation but the residents were known as "The Bedesmen of Theophilus Cave". The building was divided into flats and houses for both men and women.

Through the large double doors was the shoeing forge. Jack Turlington was the last smith, retiring in the 1950s. Immediately to the left of the Roundhouse is the **Old Holy Trinity Church** was built at the highest point of the village. Although there is a record of a church on this site as early as the 12th century, much of its exterior is relatively modern - the tower was completely rebuilt in the 19th century when it fell down during restoration work. The churchyard is also of interest, particularly in spring and early summer. Some of the very few remaining churches or grounds surrounding areas of long-established, largely undisturbed grassland. Here two designated conservation sites are left unmown until the end of June to emulate a traditional haymaking regime. Caladines start the flowering season in March and later meadow saxifrage, an increasing rarity in the countryside, is a spectacular sight. A large colony of mining bees, which emerge in April making small molehills an inch or two high, thrive in the sandy soil.



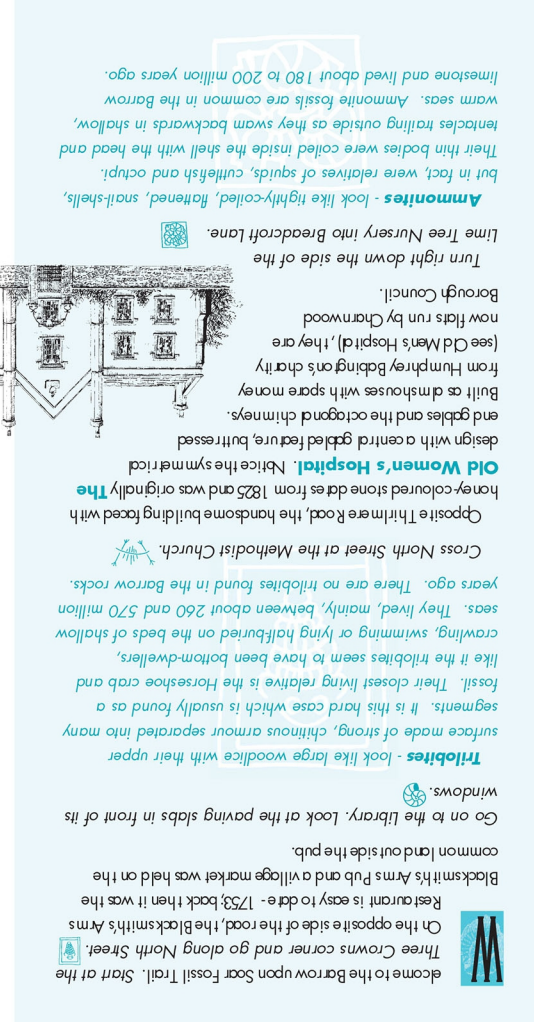
Across from the church your eye will be caught by a small octagonal building known as **the Roundhouse**. Originally the village lock up, its date is above the door. Subsequently it was used to house the village funeral bier and at another time served as Barrow's fire station. In 1996 Barrow Community Association renovated the building. It houses a Village Map made by members of the community to celebrate life in the village and has occasional displays in the summer season. Admission is free. Immediately to the left of the Roundhouse is the **Old Forge**. Jack Turlington was the last smith, retiring in the 1950s. Through the large double doors was the shoeing

limestone and lived about 180 to 200 million years ago. warm seas. Ammonite fossils are common in the Barrow, tentacles trailing outside as they swam backwards in shallow, but their thin bodies were coiled inside the shell with the head and occiput. Ammonites - look like tightly-coiled, flattened, snail-shells, lime Tree Nursery into Breadcroft Lane. Turn right down the side of the Borough Council. now flats run by Charnwood (see Old Men's Hospital), they are from Humphrey Bobington's charity built as almshouses with spare money end gables and the octagonal chimneys. design with a central gabled feature, buttressed Old Women's Hospital. Notice the symmetrical honey-coloured stone dated from 1825 and was originally The

Opposite Thimblemore Road, the handsome building faced with Cross North Street at the Methodist Church. years ago. There are no trilobites found in the Barrow rocks. seas. They lived, mainly, between about 260 and 570 million crawling, swimming or lying half-buried on the beds of shallow fossil. Their closest living relative is the horseshoe crab and like it the trilobites seem to have been bottom-dwellers. segments. It is this hard case which is usually found as a surface made of strong, chitinous armour separated into many Trilobites - look like large woodlice with their upper windows. Go on to the library. Look at the paving slabs in front of its common land outside the pub. Blacksmith's Arms Pub and a village market was held on the Restaurant is easy to date - 1753; back then it was the On the opposite side of the road, the Blacksmith's Arms Three Crown's corner and go along North Street. Start at the welcome to the Barrow upon Soar Fossil Trail.

Pass Bryan Close and turn first right down the footpath. At the end of the path (known locally as a little) the building on your right, now a private house, was until recently St Alban's Catholic Church. Irish Navvies working on the railway helped to build it in 1839. There are two fossils represented here - Jurassic amber. The largest insect ever found is a dragonfly million years ago. The dragonfly and the amber. Dragonflies evolved about 300 layer of coal showing that it lived when the coal was formed. Straight on at the end of the lilly into Church Street.

tons of lime per week were despatched by rail. century this was the major local industry and at its peak 1,800 popular pub with employees of Barrow's lime works. In the last from their wages. Also called at one time the 'limb skin', it was a original meaning of the 'trap' was a snare to put working men The lime Tree Nursery used to be a pub called The Trap. The



Why fossils?

Imagine what Barrow was like 180 million years ago: it was under a sea teeming with amazing creatures including ammonites and marine reptiles. When these life forms died they were covered with layers of mud or sand and became fossilised. In the 19th century, museums all over Britain bought up many splendid fossils discovered in the village lime workings, including one which is world famous because it contained very rare soft tissue. Barrow's past inspired the students of Loughborough College of Art & Design to produce a series of sculptures in 1998 to celebrate its important position in the world of palaeontology.

Sculptures

	Trilobite	resin bronze plaque	Nick Bartrum
	Shell forms	bronze forms in cement	Emma Evans
	Skeletal relief	bronze plaque	Jamie Frost
	Three ammonites	bronze plaque	Conal McCabe
	Jurassic Amber	bronze in clear resin	Sara Spencer
	Broken arc	Ancaster weatherbed stone	Michael Thacker
	Fossil	Cadeby stone on plinth	Conal McCabe
	Trilobite II	bronzed resin	Sara Spencer
	Kuehneosaurus	bronze	Lorna Grossner
	Organic forms	cement and resin	Glenn Webb
	Giant Ammonite	Ancaster stone	Andrew Smith

How to get to Barrow

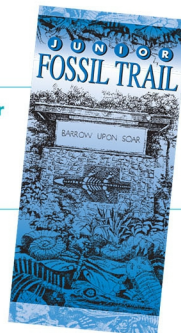
Bus - The Nb.21 Leicester - Loughborough bus service runs regularly through the village and the Nb.27 Loughborough - Thurmaston service stops in Cotes Road and North Street as a regular service throughout the day.

Train - Barrow is on the Ivanhoe line with trains calling at Leicester, Syston, Sileby, Barrow and Loughborough, Monday to Saturday. Main line connections at Leicester and Loughborough.

Car - The village lies 3 miles south east of Loughborough.

Boat - Barrow is on the Grand Union Canal.

An additional trail leaflet for children is available from the Paper Shop, the Parish Office and the Library.



This guide has been created with the help and sponsorship of

The people of Barrow-upon-Soar & BUSCA (Barrow upon Soar Community Association)



FOSSIL TRAIL

Turn into Beveridge Street.

Historically this is the most important street in the village. It has a fascinating mix of cottages, grander houses and more modern buildings. It is worth taking your time here and reliving a bit of history. The brick lean-to on the large granite house at Number 35/37 housed the first Barrow Co-op store and in the early part of the century it was one of the largest shops in the village!

Further down on the other side of the road is a large residence called **Bishop Beveridge House**. Its construction is a unique blend of building materials - look out for Mountsorrel granite, Barrow limestone and mortar, Swithland slate, red clay bricks and oak timber. Sixteenth century in origin, it has since undergone various changes and additions. Legend has it that there is a tunnel from the house to Holy Trinity Church but no trace of it has been found. William Beveridge is one of Barrow's most famous sons. Reputedly born in this house into a family of clergymen, he lived through the turbulent times of Cromwell and the English Civil War, rising to the position of bishop in 1704. On the left is Number 47, The Chestnuts, a late 17th century building which was later extended and modified. Originally named Home Farm and owned by the church, it was for many years the village surgery.



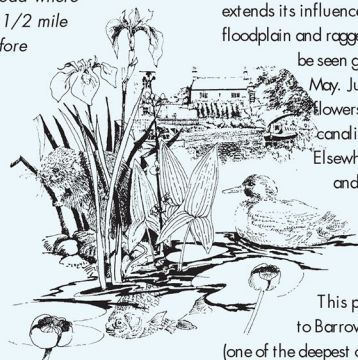
Beveridge Street was Industry Street until the 1920s. This may have been on account of the many framework knitters who lived and worked here but could also have been named after the **House of Industry**, Barrow's Workhouse. Numbers 49-51 are all that is left of the more extensive complex of buildings where paupers were housed and employed until 1837. The street opens out into Industry Square which was the site of the old village pond where horses were brought from the fields to be washed down at the end of the day.

Turn right past the War Memorial into Melton Road and over the railway bridge onto South Street.

If you wish to extend your walk to visit the latest addition to the fossil sculpture collection, turn left along South Street towards Sileby onto Sileby Road where you will find a huge ammonite about 1/2 mile on the right hand side of the road just before the village ends.

In 2014 Barrow Parish Council commissioned Andrew Smith to create a new sculpture based on designs by Chris Bates to be sited at the entrance to Barrow on Sileby Road. Made of local Ancaster stone, it is an authentic but scaled up replica of an actual fossil ammonite unearthed in Barrow in the 19th century and presented to the British Geological Survey, now in Keyworth. Its name is *Waehneroceras prometheus* and in life it was only a few centimetres across. Like other ammonites, it would have swum in the warm shallow sea covering Barrow with the opening of its shell facing backwards and its head, eyes and tentacles trailing behind.

If you wish to continue with the river walk retrace your steps to South Street.



River walk

(This part of the walk is unsuitable for wheelchairs)

From South Street take the turn onto Mill Lane. Continue past the play area, as far as the Navigation Inn.

The name of the road is a clue to the existence of a mill on this site in past times. The mill owner's house and the workers' cottages remain. The Navigation Inn was built shortly after the opening of the canal in 1794, providing refreshment for the barges and stabling for their horses.

It is worth detouring here for a few minutes, crossing the river bridge and taking the path to the left between the railings, to look at the sluices and the weir. The River Soar extends its influence into the surrounding floodplain and ragged robin and lady's smock can still be seen growing in old meadows in May. July is the best time for riverside flowers, although there are few on the canalised sections of the Soar. Elsewhere yellow water lily, arrowhead and purple loosestrife can be seen.

Return to the bridge at the Navigation Inn and go down the steps to the towpath.

This pleasant walk brings you to Barrow Deep Lock (one of the deepest on the canal). Go over the canal bridge and down into the grassed area with seats. You will have a fine view of Barrow Bridge.

Cross Bridge Street and walk up the hill towards the roundabout. This is **Jerusalem Island**.



If you wish to take the shorter route avoiding the new sculpture and the river walk, turn right into South Street from Melton Road and you will come to the roundabout known as **Jerusalem Island**.

The name Jerusalem is a mystery, but the origins of the Barrow sign are well documented.

It shows a plesiosaur fossil, a famous discovery in a Barrow lime quarry in 1851. You can see the original in New Walk Museum, Leicester. It is affectionately known as the Barrow "kipper". The roundabout is planted and maintained by Barrow upon Soar Gardening Club to give all year round interest.

Plesiosaur - An extinct reptile that possibly lived rather like a seal in the warm seas that covered Barrow about 180 to 200 million years ago. It had a short body, a long neck and four strong flippers used to 'row' itself through the water. The legendary Loch plesiosaur. The Barrow limestone is famous for plesiosaur and ichthyosaur (a marine reptile that looked like a fish) fossils. Examples can be seen in Leicester New Walk Museum.

Turn right into High Street which will lead you back to the starting point. If you have enjoyed the trail, please come again or pass the guide on to a friend.

TRAIL KEY

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Main route | Three ammonites |
| River route | Jurassic amber |
| New Route | Broken arc |
| Jitty | Fossil |
| Bar/Restaurant | Trilobite II |
| Trilobite | Kuehneisaurus |
| Shell forms | Organic forms |
| Skeletal relief | Giant Ammonite |