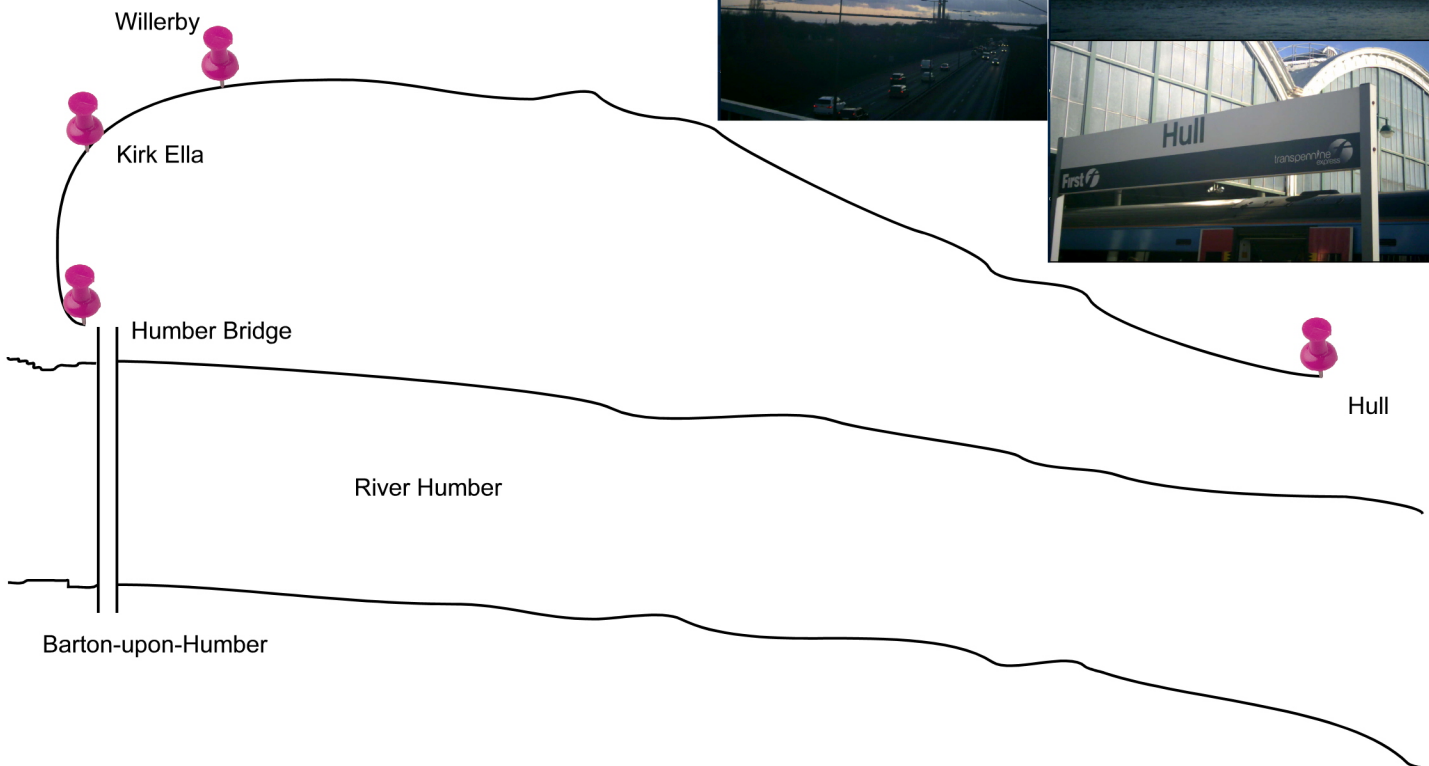


## Hull to the Humber Bridge and Back.



Hull to the Humber Bridge and back is my shortest walk. It should have been about 12 miles there and back, however it took slightly longer because I managed to get lost around the Kirk Ella and Willerby housing estates. Housing estates are easy to get lost around because everything looks the same and some streets are dead ends. I had wanted to walk over the Humber Bridge, but by the time I reached the Bridge, it was 5:30 p.m. and I needed to get back to the train station. I got back to the station with 10 minutes to spare for the last train back.

This brings me to an important point. Uppermost in your mind as you embark on any walk of substantial length should be safety, not just for yourself, but for others as well. A map can be very useful, however they can be expensive. The best maps are the OS explorer maps, but they only give you a limited area, and, if like me you like to walk anywhere around Britain then this can be very expensive, not to mention that maps need to be updated every once in a while. These days there are numerous electronic devices e.g. handheld gps, gps watches and mobile phones that you can use and some maps can be downloaded for free, but I must make a point about these. Some electronic devices allow disposable batteries, but because they are not good for the environment many are tending towards rechargeable batteries. Rechargeable devices are good, but if you go for a very long walk they need to be recharged at regular intervals. This is not always possible outdoors unless you have a solar powered or portable charger. Nevertheless, all this can be very expensive and thus quite limiting. I have found some electronic maps to be quite misleading, telling you that a certain path or road is ok for walking when they are not.

I have found that maps are useful, but not infallible and have had to resort to intuition. Ideally I would rather walk along footpaths, bridle ways, cycle paths and canal towpaths because they are safer, but some paths that I have been on can be deceptive. Some paths lead you into farmers fields only to find that there is no way out of the field at the end or that the field has been blocked off or padlocked, preventing you from progressing, even despite the fact that there is a clear sign or is clearly shown on a map. Some footpaths and canal towpath's can get quite boggy, especially after a period of wet weather. All this can greatly increase the time taken and thus puts more stress upon you. This has led me to walk along roads because they can get you to your destination faster and it is much easier to follow the road signs and many have very good pavements running along them, but not all. I have been on some roads that have had a good pavement or cycle path running along side for miles, only to come to a point where the pavement or path has just stopped. In this situation, there is no choice but to carry on and try to get off the road as quickly as possible. If you find yourself on these roads then the best thing to do is stay on the right side of the road, that is, facing the on-coming traffic, so that you have a chance to see what's coming. If anything is coming, then stop and step to the edge of the road, or better still, off the road as far as possible until the vehicle has passed. Be very aware of dangerous corners! Ideally I would always try my best to avoid these roads completely and I can learn from such experiences in the past and avoid them in the future. Do not walk on Motorways at all, but for other roads it would be good if there was some sort of map that shows which roads have proper paths or pavements running along them. I have yet to find one, although some maps I have looked at, falsely indicate that you can walk along them and I know from experience that you can't. Remember, it's not just your safety, but the safety of others as well.

Stop Press:- I have just recently completed Hull to Barton-upon-Humber (That's right, I walked over the Humber Bridge and back on 08/07/16).

By Philip Catherall.