

Ufford Heritage Trail

20. Clapper Path

This footpath between the High Street and School Lane has existed for many years and there are varying explanations of how the path was named:

It is most likely that the name comes from the area just across the High Street, now occupied by

The Red House, where the sloping banks and sandy soil were home to the village rabbit colonies. These rabbit warrens would have provided landowners and villagers, from the Middle Ages onwards, with plentiful supply of rabbits for food and for their fur hides. 'Clapper' comes from the Anglo-norman "clappier" meaning a rabbit warren; in modern French, the word "clapier" means rabbit hutch.



The 1881 Ordnance Survey map shows the path between what is now School Lane and the High Street.

Another possible explanation, perhaps a Victorian fantasy, derives from Ufford's C19th history when there was a turnpike on the High Street, which at the time was on the main route from London to Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth. The story goes that the original turnpike had a bar that lifted to allow carriages and people to pass. When it dropped back into place, it made a clapping sound.