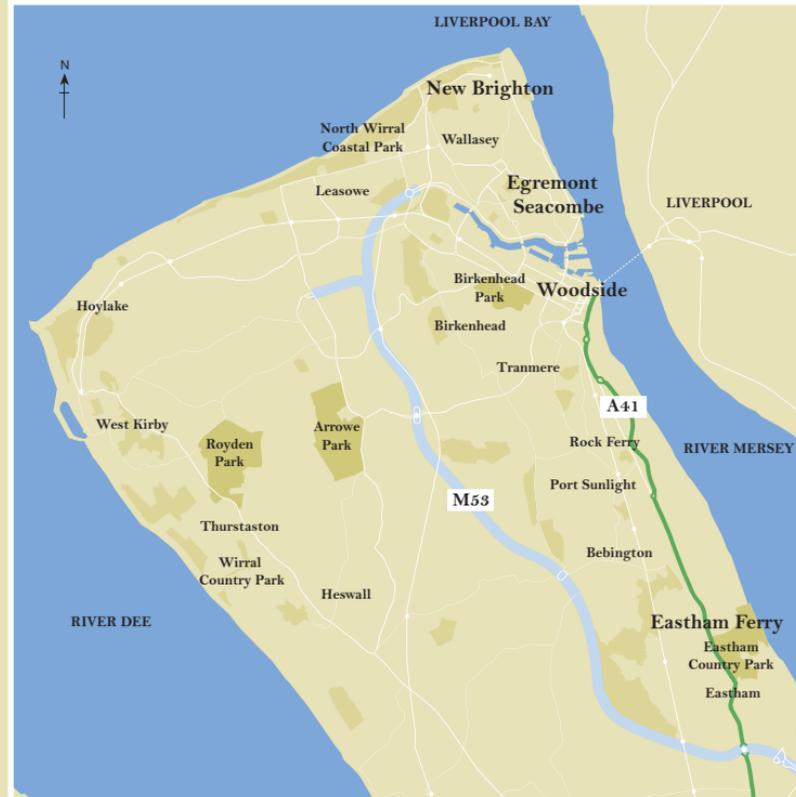


WIRRAL PENINSULA



Getting to Wirral and getting around

Wirral is easily accessible by road, rail, sea and air. Both Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Manchester International Airport are a realistic 45 minutes by road. The M53 motorway which runs through Wirral connects to the M56 and M6.

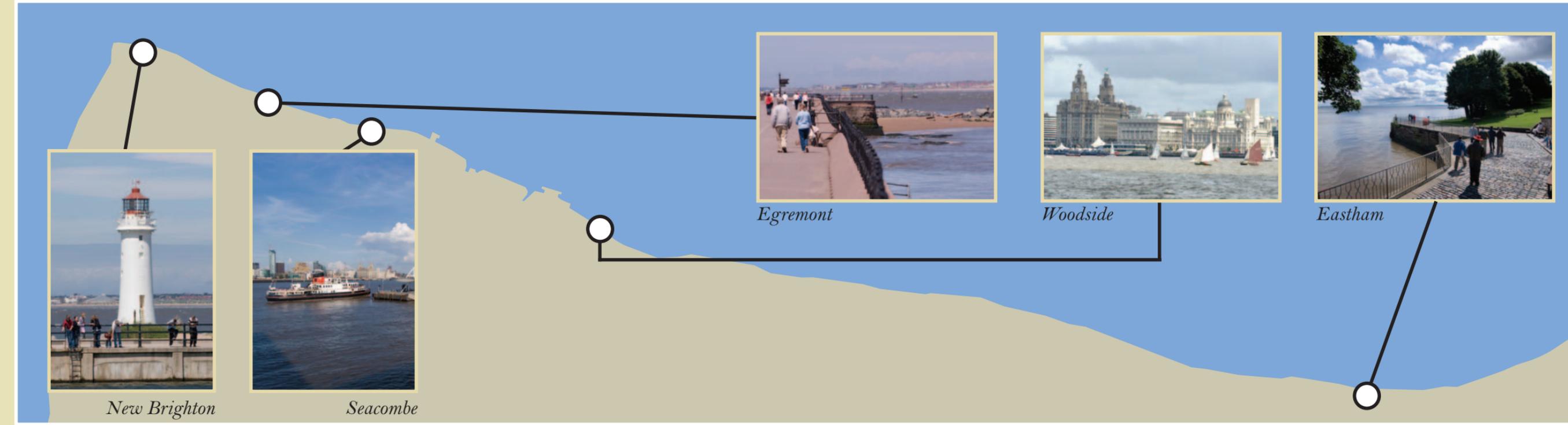
Two Mersey Tunnels link Wirral to Liverpool and the rest of Merseyside, and Europe's oldest ferry continues the "Ferry across the Mersey" service from Woodside and Seacombe.

A local rail network connects the peninsula to the national rail network via Liverpool Lime Street Station. Wirral also boasts a comprehensive local bus network for you to explore the region.

For more information click on:
www.merseyferries.co.uk 0151 330 1444
www.merseytravel.gov.uk 0870 608 2608

For more information on Wirral click on:
www.visitwirral.com 0151 666 3188

WIRRAL MARITIME HERITAGE TRAIL



New Brighton



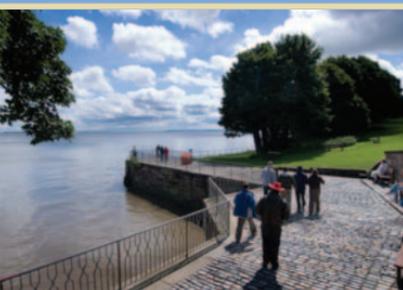
Seacombe



Egremont



Woodside



Eastham



WIRRAL MARITIME HERITAGE TRAIL



Produced in conjunction with Wirral Council and Wirrals History and Heritage Forum.



WIRRAL MARITIME HERITAGE TRAIL

Look to England's North West and you'll find the region's only peninsula - Wirral. It lies between the River Dee and River Mersey, and bathes in the waters of Liverpool Bay and the Irish Sea. Wirral Peninsula has a unique coastline with a variety of beaches, cliffs, wetland habitats and great natural beauty.

Wirral owes much to the legacy of the enterprising Benedictine monks, who turned a lonely birch-covered headland into a vital trade artery, by establishing the first recorded ferry across the River Mersey. Their endeavours put Wirral on the map and sparked the development of Birkenhead and its surrounding area in succeeding centuries.

Wirral's maritime economy really took off during the industrial era with the growth of shipbuilding in Birkenhead and Wallasey leading to a population explosion of dramatic proportions. This period also resulted in the area becoming a world leader in maritime innovation and oceanography.

The legacy of this heritage is clearly visible throughout the borough, but it is most evident along the Mersey Waterfront from Eastham up to New Brighton. Therefore the Wirral Maritime Heritage Trail tells the story of the people and places of interest through a series of plaques at key sites along the waterfront.

Due to a number of historical links to the American Civil War, the Civil War Preservation Trust has designated Wirral as a site on the American Civil War Discovery Trail.

Eastham Ferry

Eastham Ferry, first recorded in 1357, was once a vital river crossing but ceased operating in 1928. Throughout Victorian times it was a popular venue for day trippers. The 1857 ticket office and part of the 1874 pier can still be seen today. A moment's walk from the pier and you enter the tranquil Eastham Country Park. The broad-leaved woodland at Eastham Country Park supports a wide variety of wildlife and contains some of the finest mature trees to be found on the Wirral Peninsula. For refreshments, the Eastham Ferry Hotel, The Tap Public House, a tea garden and a kiosk are all within walking distance. The Eastham Ferry plaque is located on the pier at Eastham Ferry, just off Ferry Road.



Woodside

The name Woodside dates from a time when the woodland was close to the water. It is now the site of the only remaining ferry service from Birkenhead to Liverpool. Close by is Hamilton Square, one of the finest Georgian Squares in the country with a large concentration of Grade I listed buildings. The square, constructed between 1825 and 1844, was the dream of William Laird, the great shipbuilder. Also close by is Birkenhead Priory where an order of Benedictine Monks established the oldest recorded ferry service in Britain in 1150 AD. The priory, still open to the public, is the oldest standing building on Merseyside. The Woodside plaque is located to the right of Woodside Ferry Terminal, off the Woodside Ferry Approach.



Seacombe

The medieval Seacombe Ferry operated from the North side of Wallasey Pool to Birkenhead. By 1753, a new site on the Mersey Coast had been established for a ferry service to Liverpool. As passenger numbers grew, a small slipway was built to be replaced by a series of terminals, the current one dates from 1933. As well as catching the Mersey Ferry, you can try the cafe or visit the Aquarium to meet some of the marine life of the Wirral Coast. Also located in the Terminal Building is Spaceport, a unique attraction offering the chance to learn about space and explore our universe. The Seacombe Ferry plaque is located on Seacombe Promenade adjacent to the terminal building, just off the A554.



Egremont

Egremont Ferry was founded by Liverpool Harbour-Master Captain John Askew and Sir John Tobin in 1828. The pier and landing stage were hit by vessels in 1932 and 1941. The extent of the damage caused by the later collision resulted in the Ferry being closed and the pier eventually being dismantled in 1946. From Egremont you can stroll along the promenade and admire the unrivalled views of Liverpool waterfront. There was once a small cottage on the Egremont shoreline built about 1595. Popular with seafarers and smugglers, it became known as 'Mother Redcap's' after one of the tavern keepers who wore a red cap. The Egremont plaque is located on the promenade just off the A554 at the end of Tobin Street.



New Brighton

New Brighton Ferry was established in the early part of the 19th Century. The Ferry's original wooden pier was replaced by a cast iron promenade and pier in 1866. In 1936, the service was reduced to a seasonal one due to the growth in transport alternatives such as the car and electrification of the train service. The seasonal service continued up until 1971. A short walk along the promenade takes you to Perch Rock Lighthouse and Fort Perch Rock. This impressive sandstone fort was built in 1826 to protect the entrance of the River Mersey from enemy shipping. Today it is open to the public and houses a small museum. The New Brighton plaque is located on Marine Promenade opposite the Floral Pavilion Theatre.



The Wirral Maritime Heritage Trail guides visitors around some of Wirral Peninsula's most significant maritime heritage, which began around 1150 AD when the Monks of Birkenhead Priory developed the oldest known ferry service, through the industrial era and the growth of shipbuilding, to the modern day world famous Mersey Ferries. Enjoy exploring the varied beauty of the peninsula and unrivalled views of the Liverpool waterfront and its historic 3 graces.

