

# WALK 1 Bidston Hill & River Fender

*A circular walk starting at the Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm, this route takes you across Wirral Ladies Golf Course, along the River Fender and back to the heights of Bidston Hill with views of Liverpool to the east and the Welsh hills to the west and the Lancashire Fells to the north east.*

The farm has a collection of farm animals, a small play area, information, toilets and a café. Contact the Ranger Service if you have any queries (0151 653 9332).

**Start:** Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm, Boundary Road, Bidston or from Upton Railway Station.

**Distance:** 4.5 miles. 2 - 4 hours.

**Parking:** Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm car park.

**Buses and Trains:** The nearest bus stops are on the corner of Upton Road and Boundary Road, near to the start of the walk or Upton Station is at point 6 on the route, therefore follow the instructions from there.

1 From the main car park of Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm, exit out of the far left hand corner where a small sign points to the windmill. Do not take this path, but take the worn, grassy path to the left of it. After 200 metres on the edge of the woods onto the main path known as King Georges Way. *This footpath was opened by King George V and Queen Mary on 25th March 1914.*

2 At the crossroads cross Upton Road at the traffic lights and continue along Boundary Road. The water tower is on the opposite side of the road on your left. Cross Vyner Road South and turn right onto the public footpath alongside the Wirral Ladies Golf Course Club House. Follow the path across the course until you reach the track which leads to a gate onto Noctorum Lane.

2a Turn left onto Noctorum Lane. Follow this unsurfaced lane to the junction with Budworth Road. Cross with care as there is a blind bend to the right. Continue along Noctorum Lane past Mere Bank on the right. Continue straight ahead. The track swings right and descends past tall trees to the left and a high sandstone wall. There is a more open view to the right.

3 Continue to the bottom of the hill past the medical centre and row of shops.

4 At the road turn left, and cross the road at the pedestrian lights, continue into Calverly Close keeping the school on your right. Turn immediately right and follow this wide paved path between the houses all the way to the bottom.

5 When you get to the road which is Holmlands Drive, turn right and then left into Christleton Close. Follow this road round to the left until you see the footpath on your right, and follow that path under the railway arch into the Fender Valley.

5a Turn first right (not across the bridge) and follow the footpath which runs between the railway line and the M53 all the way to Upton Railway Station.

6 As the path finishes it bends to the right and over the railway with Upton Railway Station and the shops on your right. Walk up Upton Road. Go straight on at the roundabout. When you reach the entrance to Windermere Road take the track opposite and continue straight on to go under Vyner Road, this is the 'Thermopylae Pass'.

7 At the end of the path you come to Upton Road. Continue for about 60 metres to Noctorum Lane and cross the main Upton Road at this point to the woods opposite following the sign for footpath 1. *This path passes through birch, scots pine, gorse and heather which*

*grows in the shallow sandy soils.* Follow the main path along this natural Sandstone Pavement. The Windmill should now be coming into view.

8 Continue to the iron footbridge above the deep rocky cutting above Vyner Road North. The famous Bidston Windmill is a short distance on the right. *If you walk past the windmill along the sandstone ridge there are views over to Liverpool and the Welsh Hills. At the end of the ridge the building in front is the Bidston Observatory, built in 1866 to determine the exact time from the stars which was then indicated by the One O'Clock Gun in Birkenhead between Seacombe and Woodside Ferries.*

9 To return to the car park, go back over the iron bridge, take the middle of the three paths to the left. The path descends down through the woods on King Georges Way. The open space and the car park should come into view on the left. *The Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm and all its facilities are the other side of the car park.*

If you have joined the route from Upton Railway Station, please continue the route from point 1.



Bidston Windmill