

WALK 1 Brimstage & Thornton Hough

A gentle walk visiting the two historic villages of Brimstage and Thornton Hough and the quiet surrounding farmland.

Start: Brimstage Hall and Craft Centre.

Distance: About 3 miles. 2 - 3 hours.

Parking: Brimstage Craft Centre, with its shops and facilities.

Buses and Trains: Buses stop at the Brimstage end of Talbot Avenue, 5 minutes from the start. Heswall Railway Station is just over 1 mile away.

- 1 From Brimstage Craft Centre, take the footpath at the end and turn left, walking along the road to Talbot Avenue, and turn left onto the bridleway.
- 2 When the bridleway turns left go straight on across the fields to a kissing gate. *Looking right up the private drive you can just see Thornton Manor, built about 1840. This became the home of William Hesketh Lever, founder of the Lever soap factory at Port Sunlight.*
- 3 Cross the drive to another kissing gate, and walk across that field, then at the next field the hedge is on your right.



Entrance to private drive of Thornton Manor

- 4 Continue on to a hedged path which leads to another private drive. Turn right, onto this drive and then immediately left.
- 5 Continue past a farm and a school and into Thornton Hough Village. Take time to look around this historic and picturesque village (*see picture*). *Thornton Hough was originally known as Toritone and owned by Roger de Thornton. After his daughter married Richard de Hough the village was renamed. Detailed village history booklets are on sale at the Post Office.*
- 6 From the end of the footpath cross over this main road and turn left and walk along Thornton Common Road on the pavement provided. After about 300 metres just before the cottages turn left onto the footpath.
- 7 The footpath turns right behind the cottages and through a gate. The fence of the house will be on your right. Continue across 3 fields in total.
- 8 At Rocklands Lane public bridleway, turn left.

- 9 At the private drive, continue straight across on the bridleway. Please ensure you do not take the wrong route on the private roads of The Leverhulme Estate. At the footpath sign, take the path on the right across the field.
- 10 Cross the private drive.
- 11 Walk along the field with the hedge on your left, and into another field with the hedge on your right.
- 12 Head for the road the craft centre is on your left. *Brimstage Village was originally called Brunstath and dates back some 1000 years.*
- 13 At Brimstage Road turn left and then left again at the sign to Brimstage Craft Centre to return to the start. *At Brimstage Hall the oldest part is the medieval tower, but the house was built sometime between 1175 and 1350. A leaflet about the history is available from the hall. The shops and café are open most days.*



The picturesque village of Thornton Hough