

# WALK 2 Parkgate & Gayton

*A pleasant ramble beside the Dee Estuary returning along quiet tracks and lanes into old Parkgate.*

**Start:** The Old Baths car park off Boathouse Lane, Parkgate.

**Distance:** Approximately 3 miles. 2 - 4 hours.

**Parking:** The Old Baths car park off Boathouse Lane, Parkgate (turn off the road at the 'Boathouse Inn').

**Buses and Trains:** Bus stops are located nearby on The Parade, Parkgate. The nearest railway station is approximately 1 mile away at Neston.

① Start from the car park and follow the path with the Dee Estuary on your left. *This is an excellent vantage point for bird-watching, especially at high tide.* Pass by the track on your right which leads to the Wirral Way then pass through a gap in the wall and follow the sea wall path for about half a mile.

①a If you prefer a shorter walk, you have the option of taking the public footpath across the golf course. This also crosses the Wirral Way and continues across the



Deeside Estuary footpath

golf course meeting the footpath from Gayton. At that footpath turn right and go to ④a for further instructions.

② If continuing along the sea wall you will eventually reach a tall beech hedge at the end of the path. Descend the steps onto the old slipway which is at the end of Cottage Lane.

③ Turn right and walk up Cottage Lane. This passes over the Wirral Way.

③a Shortly after passing the entrance to the golf club you reach a crossroads junction. Turn right into the cobbled Gayton Farm Road, bear right onto the track which descends through trees, past the old historic Gayton Well within the bank on the left. *When this track was a route to Chester it was probably an old watering hole for cattle and horses.* Continue past the fields on the left and the golf course on the right. It can be muddy here. *You have gained about a hundred feet since leaving the sea wall and have the views over the Dee to show for it.*

④ Pass through the gap by the old gate and follow the path through a 'tunnel' of trees.

④a The short cut path from across the golf course at ①a joins in from the right. Continue on the path through the trees until it brings you out onto the golf course itself. Keep left along the line of the hedge for about 100 metres, to the gate.

⑤ Continue straight across the undulating field to the next gate, over the footbridge and tree-lined stream. The path rises up to the lane passing Backwood Hall Farm and stables. Continue ahead, along the track with open fields either side, for a third of a mile to Boathouse Lane.

⑥ Cross this fast busy road with care to Wood Lane opposite. This is also part of NCN 56 cycle route.

⑦ Having continued along Wood Lane, pass Brook Lane on the left, and soon after there is a sign pointing right to Parkgate. Take this path and follow it until you pass beneath the old railway bridge which is now the Wirral Way.

⑧ Walk past the school and turn left soon after into The Ropewalk. *This is a perfectly straight path once used by ropemakers to stretch out their ropes.*

⑨ When you reach a crossroads of tracks, turn right along Little Lane. You can now see the estuary ahead. This leads straight onto the seafront of Parkgate next to the ice-cream shops!

⑩ Turn right out of Little Lane onto The Parade where you are able to rest on the seats, enjoy an ice-cream and take in the views. *Parkgate is an old and interesting place. During the 18th century, before the river silted up, Parkgate was a busy passenger port for boats to Dublin. More information about the history of Parkgate can be found on the information panel by the seats.*

⑪ Continue by walking with the seafront on your left, past the Boathouse Inn and return to the car park.



Enjoy an ice-cream at Parkgate