

# WALK 2 Royden Park to Frankby via former RAF Camp

*Starting and finishing at Royden Park, this walk will take you away from it all, along paths through the agricultural land of north Wirral and through the former RAF camp.*

**Start:** Royden Park Car Park, off Hillbark Road, Frankby.

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

**Parking:** Royden Park car park.

**Buses and Trains:** Buses stop at the entrance to Royden Park. Upton Railway Station is just over 2 miles away.

- 1 Start from the main building complex by the car park. With the Wardens Office, the café and toilets behind you, set off to the crossroads about 75 metres away and look for the signpost and follow the path marked to Montgomery Hill and Frankby Mere.
- 2 Follow the path along the edge of the woods to the road. *A short detour off the path halfway along will take you to Frankby Mere. A stone dam and an island are all that remain of this Victorian mere built in the 1840s.*
- 3 At the road, turn right and walk for about 50 metres and turn left into Birch Heys, then immediately right onto the permissive bridleway. *On your right is Frankby cemetery and Frankby Hall which was the 19th century family home of Sir Thomas Royden. When you reach the highest point on this path, look ahead and you should on a clear day be able to see the sea of Liverpool Bay.*
- 4 Cross over the road into Frankby Stiles and follow the track signposted to Newton. This is a tarmac track past the fishing lakes and Larton Stables.
- 5 Continue straight on to the end where there is a gate and a field in front of you. Turn left just before the gate.

- 6 Follow the path and then right over the bridge. Keep to the left edge of the field.
- 7 Pass through the kissing gate and the path leads diagonally right across the field. Aim just to the left of the house, out into China Farm Lane.
- 8 Turn right and take care walking at the side of the road past China Plate Farm to the T-junction with Saughall Massie Road.
- 9 Turn right along the road, walk past Newton Hall Farm and then footpath 9 on the right is a short cut to the former RAF site. If you take this short cut it will take you to the footpath crossroads (mentioned in paragraph 15 below) and turn right.
- 10 Continue along the road a short distance and turn left onto the track and follow it along the right hand edge of the field around the right bend keeping to the right hand edge of the field.
- 11 Stay on the path that leads straight across the middle of the field, which could be planted with crops.
- 12 Still within the same field that you have walked across, just before the gateway to the next field, turn left, keeping the hedge on your right. Walk a few metres until you reach some boards that lead you across the ditch. Cross the ditch into the next field.
- 13 Walk along the left hand edge of the field. At the next kissing gate turn right and walk along the field edge until you come to Oldfield Lane. Oldfield Manor farm is on your left.
- 14 At the lane turn right and walk to the main road where you will see the RAF West Kirby Memorial opposite. Cross the road and take the track next to the Memorial and onto the former RAF Camp.

- 15 Follow the track round to the left, then almost immediately right through to the footpath crossroads in the young woods. (The path to the right is footpath 9 which is the path from the short cut mentioned in paragraph 9). *This is the former RAF camp, which was built for use during the Second World War. It was used as a training camp for new conscripts who spent their first six weeks here. The buildings were demolished and trees planted in 1986. Some of the former RAF camp roads still exist.*



RAF West Kirby Memorial

- 16 Continue straight on, through two field gates. When the track splits look for the waymarker post and take the path on the left which cuts through the trees. This path leads to a bridge over a wide ditch. Please put dogs on leads at this point. This next section can be extremely boggy after heavy rainfall.
- 17 Keep to the left hand edge of the field past a pond. At the end of the field go through the kissing gate and follow the stony track to Manor House Farm.
- 18 As you approach the farm and stables, follow the public path signs behind the breezblock stable building. There is no right of access through the farmyard. Follow the path between the historic stones to the road.
- 19 Turn right onto Frankby Green by crossing the road at the bus stop and then walk along the road for about 50 metres and then turn left into Hill Bark Road, continue past The Farmers Arms and into Royden Park opposite. Follow the track back to the car park. *The café/servery is open most days. The model railway operates on weekends and Bank Holidays but check for details.*