

WALK 3 Eastham & Bromborough

A circular walk linking Eastham Country Park with Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve.

Start: Eastham Country Park or Bromborough Rake Railway Station.

Distance: 5.5 miles. 2 - 5 hours.

Parking: Eastham Country Park.

Buses and Trains: Links to most parts of the route. Bromborough Rake Railway Station is an alternative start point at point 13.

At the Ranger's Office next to the car park, there is further information about Eastham Country Park. At the bottom of the road to the right, there are cafés and pubs should you require refreshments.

1 By facing the river with the Ranger's Office behind you, turn left and walk past the riverside car parks.

2 At the far end take the footpath and cycleway along the river. The cycleway passes a small riverside car park, follow the path round keeping the green railings on your right. *It is at this point that views across the Mersey Estuary are at their best. Liverpool is to the left, Runcorn Bridge to the right and Liverpool John Lennon Airport directly opposite across the river. Any large ocean going ships you may see will be on their way to or from the Manchester Ship Canal that starts at Eastham Locks, a short distance south of the start point of this walk.*

2a The path curves left to a roundabout. At this roundabout turn right along to the T-junction and turn left into Commercial Road and then right into Stadium Road.

3 At the end of Stadium Road just after Georgia Avenue on the right, the cycleway (where Stadium Road joins Port Causeway and Thermal Road) forks right, so follow the reddish coloured path off to the right, down round and under the bridge. *This cycleway through the rock*

cutting was an old railway line, used to transport products to and from Port Sunlight Soap Works and the river.

4 Continue along this track, under the A41. Access on the right to the new development cycleway runs parallel with the road for about 150 metres, take the exit to the left. Do not continue on the cycleway because the cycleway continues straight on to Port Sunlight.

5 At the road turn left down the hill. At the roundabout, Spital Road is to the right and leads straight up to Spital Railway Station, about half a mile away. The route crosses the River Dibbin, so cross this busy road immediately after the roundabout, and take the path which leads into Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve.

6 Follow the path keeping the River Dibbin on your right. The left fork takes you a short distance to St. Patricks Well. *Legend says that the well was blessed by St. Patrick during a visit to the area in 432 AD and it is reputed that the water has healing properties for the eyes. Putting this theory to the test however, is not recommended!*

7 Return to the main path, turn left over the bridge and continue straight on with the river on your right. Continue straight on ignoring the path branching off to the left.

8 Pass over another bridge, then bear left and follow the path.

9 Walk under the railway bridge and continue through the woods keeping the river on your right.

10 Cross the river at the next bridge and follow the path around to the left.

11 The path crosses the meadow here. With the seats and mown paths, this is an ideal place for a picnic. After about 400 metres, follow the path to the left again and you will reach a footbridge.

12 Head straight on, up a flight of steep steps and across the railway bridge.

13 Having either crossed the railway bridge from the woods or having arrived by train at Bromborough Rake Railway Station, leave the railway station ticket office behind you and go straight on along The Rake which is the road that passes the shops on your left. Carry straight on across the green, passing a playing field on your left. Go straight on at the roundabout and into Bromborough Village.

13a Bromborough Cross, at the T-junction, is one of the few surviving market crosses in the country. *The base and steps are probably late 13th century and the top was added in 1874.*

14 After the Cross at the road junction turn right into Bromborough Village Road, signposted to the Police Station, which you then pass on your left. I suggest you cross the road at this point.

15 By being on the left side of the road, it is safer to cross at the pedestrian phase of the new traffic lights at the busy A41 New Chester Road. Turn right along the A41 for a short distance.

16 Immediately after the Tebay Retail Park, turn left onto the well sign-posted bridlepath for Eastham Country Park. Follow this track straight through to the Ranger's Office, The River and the start of the walk. If you started this walk from Bromborough Rake Railway Station then continue from point 1 above at the start of the route.