

WALK 3 The River Birket, Leasowe Lighthouse & the Coast

This walk starts at a coastal car park and goes inland to the River Birket Cycleway. Although the route includes some urban areas, it is still an excellent circular walk along a river bank and then returning along the North Wirral Coast, part sea wall and part sand dunes.

Start: North Wirral Coastal Park/Gunsite car park and picnic area, Green Lane off the A554, Wallasey. *The car park is called the gunsite picnic area because anti-aircraft guns were based there during the war.*

or Leasowe Railway Station at point 6a .

Distance: 5 miles. 2 - 5 hours.

Parking: North Wirral Coastal Park car park, Green Lane off the A554. From junction 1 of the M53, take the A544 towards New Brighton, after the exit to Wallasey (A551) turn next left at the North Wirral Coastal Park sign.

Buses and Trains: Numerous services along Leasowe Road at point 2 **or** if starting at Leasowe Railway Station is about 300m from point 6a .

1 From the Gunsite car park, walk back along Green Lane which is the track you entered by. Turn first right at the metal gate into Telegraph Lane following the signs for the Wirral Circular Trail. *On the bridleway there are old market gardens to the right and the old willow trees support many birds.*

2 At the main Leasowe Rd, the route continues across the road to the right of the garage. Take care crossing this busy dual carriageway. You may wish to cross this road at the pelican crossing about 200yds left or at the roundabout 100yds to the right. Enter the playing fields area leaving the garage and houses on your left, continue across the playing fields.

In the distance you can see Bidston Hill Observatory.

3 Before the houses, turn left across the field with the houses on the right until you get to the raised embankment.

4 Turn right onto the raised embankment with the river on the left and the houses on your right. Follow this grass path past the access path to the Golf Club on the left.

5 The path turns right to run alongside the main River Birket on your left. Continue to the metal bridge where you turn left and then immediately right and continue along with the river on your right until you reach the main road, Reeds Lane.

5a If returning to Leasowe Railway Station, turn left along Reeds Lane to the trains.

6 Cross straight over Reeds Lane and continue along the cycleway with the river and the confectionery factories on your left.

6a If starting the walk from Leasowe Railway Station, walk along Reeds Lane passing Reedville Grove on your left and then the River bridge. Turn left onto the cycleway with the river on your left.

7 At the main road, Pasture Road, cross straight over to the continuation of the cycle route and walk.

8 Follow the cycleway along the River Birket and at the road turn left to Leasowe Lighthouse. *The lighthouse has occasional opening times on some Sunday afternoons.*

9 From the Lighthouse go through the car park on the right and up onto the embankment and sea wall. Turn right along the North Wirral Coastline, with all the spectacular views on offer.

9a After about 500m on your right, there is a kiosk and toilets in the car park adjacent to the sharp bend where Pasture Road from Moreton becomes Leasowe Road towards Wallasey.

10 Continue along the embankment past Leasowe Castle Hotel, a red brick and white building. *The castle was built in 1593 by Fernando, the fifth earl of Derby, who was also the Mayor of Liverpool. The entrance door was originally five foot above the ground as the area was prone to flooding. The purpose of the eight sided tower was to view the famous Wallasey Races, forerunner of the Derby Race.*

11 Shortly after the Golf Club House is a sign at the start of some wooden steps that says: 'no vehicles, horses or cycles'. Take this path that runs parallel to the embankment and onto the sand dunes. Continue down the log steps and bear right across the short boardwalk. Go through the gate and head diagonally across the field back to the car park.

If you started the walk at point 2 from the bus stop, or point 6a from the train, continue the walk from that point to return you to your chosen finish point.



Leasowe lighthouse