

# WALK 3 West Kirby & Caldy Hill

*This is a varied walk from West Kirby taking in Grange Hill and Caldy Hill both with spectacular views of Liverpool Bay, across to the Pennines one way and North Wales the other, then dropping down into Caldy village, onto the Wirral Way and around the Marine Lake and back to West Kirby.*

**Start:** Outside West Kirby Railway Station.

**Distance:** Just over 4 miles. Allow 2-5 hours.

**Parking:** Pay and display car park next to Morrisons supermarket in Dee Lane **or** behind the railway station, in the Concourse car park.

**Buses and Trains:** Buses stop outside West Kirby Railway Station which is the end of the Wirral line from Liverpool and Chester.

① If you are starting from the car park next to Morrisons, turn right up Dee Lane and West Kirby Railway Station will be in front of you. Facing the railway station, turn right along Grange Road to the entrance to the Wirral Way and the Wirral Country park on your right. *The Wirral Way follows the line of the old railway route to Hooton. Built in 1866, the railway was closed for most traffic by the mid 1960s and developed in the early 1970s as Wirral Country Park.*

② Continue up the hill past Brookfield Road on your right, and then cross the road at the light controlled pedestrian crossing, cont up the hill passing Ashburton Road, Heatherdene Road, Gerard Road and Homestead Mews on your left to the public footpath signed to the War Memorial. Follow the path, turning left at the top of the Sandstone steps and follow the path to the War Memorial to enjoy the spectacular views. Continue on the path around the Memorial and remain on the level

path leaving the Memorial behind you. This leads onto the narrow path around Grange Hill House. **This is a new all accessible wheelchair friendly path.**

③ Turn right at the end of the path out onto Grange Old Road and then left up the hill on the main road of Grange Road. By using the central reservation crossing points, cross over the start of Blackhorse Hill, across Grange Road and across the start of Village Road and then immediately right onto the footpath parallel to Column Road that leads straight up to the Mariners Column. *The old millstone at the base of the column, a relic from the old mill which once stood here.*

④ Follow the public footpath straight on. There are numerous small paths leading off the main path. Continue on the natural main path ahead along the length of Caldy Hill, past a set of old gate posts, over a rocky outcrop and take the right fork past the fenced white house on your right, past the yellow CCFB 4 over 9 number 4 fire hydrant on your left, over the brow of the hill to where the Hill opens out onto 'managed heathland'. There are some great views from the seats along here particularly the seat by the Peak and Northern Footpath Society fingerpost.

⑤ Continue along, again following the main natural path ahead for some distance until you pass through a gap in an old sandstone wall, past the pine trees, through another gap in the wall to the a gate and walk straight ahead into Kings Drive along the grass verge.

⑥ After about 150 metres at the side of 'Pine Ridge', take the public bridleway locally known as Fleck Lane on the right and down the hill. At Caldy Road, take care due to lack of visibility. Turn right and walk along past the old hospital on the right, into Caldy Village. *Caldy Village is mentioned in the Domesday Book as 'Calders'. There are two old former farmstead buildings which date from 1683*

*and 1702. In 1832 the village was bought by a Manchester businessman, R. W. Barton. He rebuilt and renovated most of the property and built the Church and Manor.*

⑦ Opposite the Church after Croft Drive fork left down the short bridleway to the road below. Turn right, walk along the road to the entrance to Wirral Country Park and turn right.

⑧ Follow the path until you reach the small bridge on the left that takes you over a ditch and onto Cubbins Green with delightful views across The Dee Estuary and West Kirby Marine Lake. Walk along the cliff edge path past the bench and picnic area. At the end of Cubbins Green you will come to Macdona Drive. Here you have a choice, at low tide you can take to the beach and head towards West Kirby Sailing Club, or head down Macdona Drive and at Sandy Lane turn left to the promenade.

⑨ At the promenade, you have the option of either taking the path around the Marine Lake or walking along South Parade keeping the Marine Lake on the left. At the north end of the lake return to the bottom of Dee Lane and the car park.

If you started by train or bus head back up Dee Lane to West Kirby Railway Station and the bus stops.

⑩ At this point if the tides are favourable check tides times at info board, it is possible to walk to Hilbre Island from this location.

⑪ There are numerous excellent cafés in the area that are open during normal opening times.