

WALK 3 Heswall Dales & Fields

A pleasant walk along the coast and then inland up through Dungeon Wood with its waterfalls and ancient woodland. The rise in height to one of the highest points Wirral near Oldfield Farm gives magnificent views over the River Dee to Wales before returning through Heswall Dales to the shoreline. Why not take a picnic for a detour to the Thurstaston Visitor Centre which is part of the Wirral Country Park and make a day of it.

Start: Banks Road, Heswall. (Sheldrakes Restaurant situated at the end of Banks Road, where walkers are welcome to use their facilities during their normal opening hours. They are hoping to offer 3 other shorter alternative walks available from the restaurant.

Distance: 4 - 5 miles, 2 - 6 hours, including a detour to Thurstaston Visitor Centre.

Parking: Free large car park at the start/finish.

Buses and Trains: Bus stops are located within Lower Heswall. Heswall Railway Station is just over 2 miles away.



The beach at the end of Target Road.

① Start at Banks Road Car Park and walk up Banks Road with Sheldrakes and the coast behind you. When Banks Road bends to the right, turn left into Broad Lane.

② Continue along Broad Lane. *Look out for wildlife in the hedgerows and a variety of trees, wildflowers and birds.*

②a When you see Target Road on the left you can, as an alternative, follow this bridleway to the beach (sometimes difficult at very high tides). (See picture below left). Other than at high tide follow the beach a short distance to the stream and then climb up the steps to point ⑤.

③ By continuing along Broad Lane: at the end of the lane before the driveway of the large white house, go through the gap next to the middle gate and walk to the end of the field.

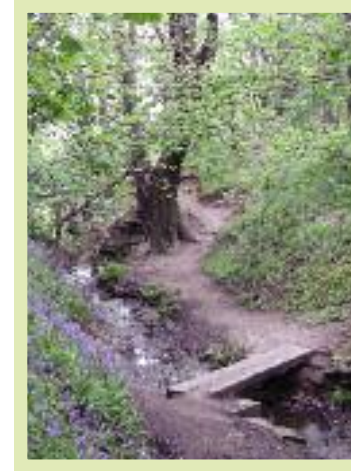
④ Turn left and go through a kissing gate, then a pinch gap onto Heswall Fields. *This area is owned by the National Trust, and if you have brought a picnic it is a great place to stop and enjoy the views. Listen for calls of the estuary birds that feed along the shoreline particularly the 'peep' call of Oystercatchers.*

⑤ At the cliff top turn right and follow the cliff along and then keeping the hedges on your left. Aim for the National Trust sign in the far right hand corner of the field, past the pond and walk up the path to meet the Wirral Way. The first track is the cycle/bridle route but take the next left onto the footpath of the Wirral Way.

⑥ Here you can carry on up the Wirral Way to Thurstaston Visitor Centre, part of Wirral Country Park, returning the same way, (an extra mile in total).

or

⑦ Take the path to Dungeon Wood on the right, onto footpath 72. *'Dungeon' is Old English for wooded dell.*



Dungeon Wood

⑧ Follow the path until you see a small bridge on your left, cross it and walk up the steep steps, then bear right along the edge of the dell. Pass the waterfall on your right, the path then crosses the stream eventually meeting the path that runs between Thurstaston and Heswall.

⑨ Turn right and follow the path to Oldfield Farm, past the farm to Oldfield Road. *This area has great views over the Dee to Wales and is close to the highest point in Wirral.*


























⑩ Walk along Oldfield Road until you reach the entrance track to Heswall Dales on your right.

⑪ Walk down the track and follow it left. At the Rangers House keep left to the information board. Follow this permissive bridleway along its obvious course turning right and then ever downwards to the road known as Bushway, where you turn right along this short cul-de-sac.

⑫ Turn left at the end of Bushway onto Pipers Lane, then turn right into Delavor Road, over the bridge and follow the road round to the right. This is Banks Road, therefore follow it round to the left returning to the car park, the coast and Sheldrakes.

WALK 3 Heswall Dales & Fields map

Key

-  Suggested walk route
- Public Rights of Way:
 -  Footpath
 -  Bridleway
 -  Byway
- Permissive Routes:
 -  Footpath
 -  Bridleway
 -  Cyclepath and part of Wirral Circular
-  FP1 Public rights of way number
-  Railway station
-  Residential
-  Country parks/public open spaces
-  Rivers/streams
-  Accessible ponds
-  Bus stops
-  Car park
-  Public houses
-  Cafe
-  Toilets
-  Kiosk
-  Viewpoint
-  Information
-  Picnic site
-  Church
-  Wirral Circular Trail
-  Wirral Council boundary

