

ARROWE PARK - PARKGATE CIRCULAR WALK



www.visitwirral.com/coast&countryside

Welcome

This 16 mile long circular trail is the end result of long, ongoing consultations with Robin Tutchings, Wirral Borough Council's Footpath Officer. The final selection of the paths to form this trail was also assisted by fellow Rambler, Claire Gill, who gave similar valued support when I was working to establish the *Clwydian Way* in 2000 and the *Alwen Trail* in 2006. However, in the Wirral our joint objective was to create a reasonably long walking trail that would take ramblers through some of the most attractive parts of the mid-Wirral peninsular and, at the same time, keep road-walking down to a minimum. We hope you like the varied route we have selected and enjoy your walk.

David Hollett, October 2012.



Cottages in Barnston Dip

Countryside code

From a gentle stroll or relaxing picnic to a long-distance walk or heart-pumping adventure, the countryside provides every opportunity for enjoyment and relaxation.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

If you follow the Countryside Code wherever you go, you will get the best enjoyment possible and you will help to protect the countryside now and for future generations.

Useful contacts

Wirral Public Rights of Way Office
t: 0151 606 2004
e: walking@wirral.gov.uk
www.visitwirral.com/walking

Wirral Cycling Office
t: 0151 606 2004
e: cycling@wirral.gov.uk
www.visitwirral.com/cycling

Parks & Countryside Manager
t: 0151 606 2004
www.wirral.gov.uk

Tourist Information
t: 0151 666 3188
www.visitwirral.com

Wirral Country Park, Thurstaston
t: 0151 648 4371
e: coastalpark@wirral.gov.uk

Eastham Country Park
t: 0151 327 1007




North Wirral Coastal Park
t: 0151 648 4371
e: coastalpark@wirral.gov.uk

Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve
t: 0151 334 9851

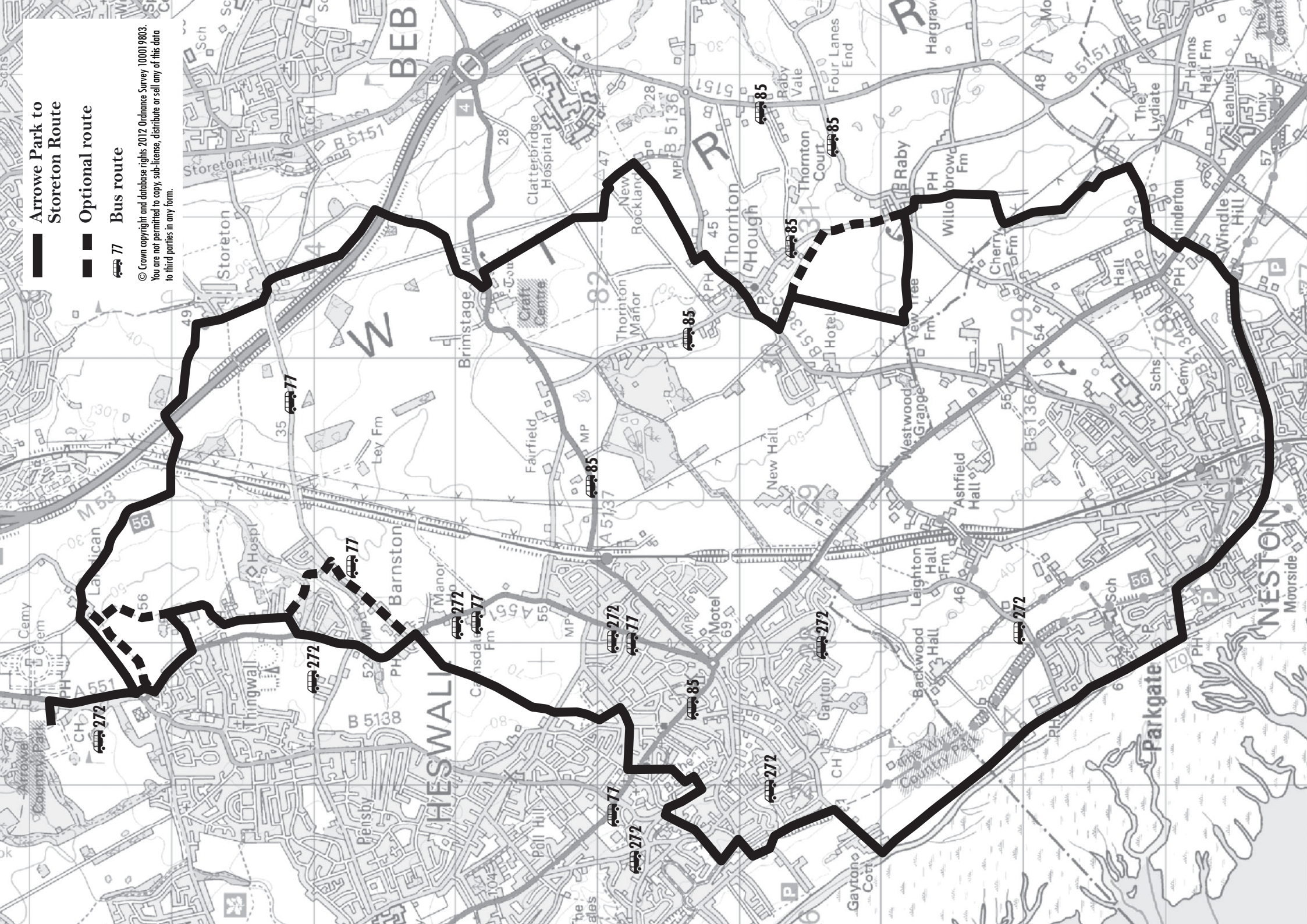
Travelwise
t: 0151 330 1253
e: info@LetsTravelWise.org
www.letstravelwise.org

Traveline
t: 0871 200 22 33
www.merseytravel.gov.uk
www.merseyferries.co.uk

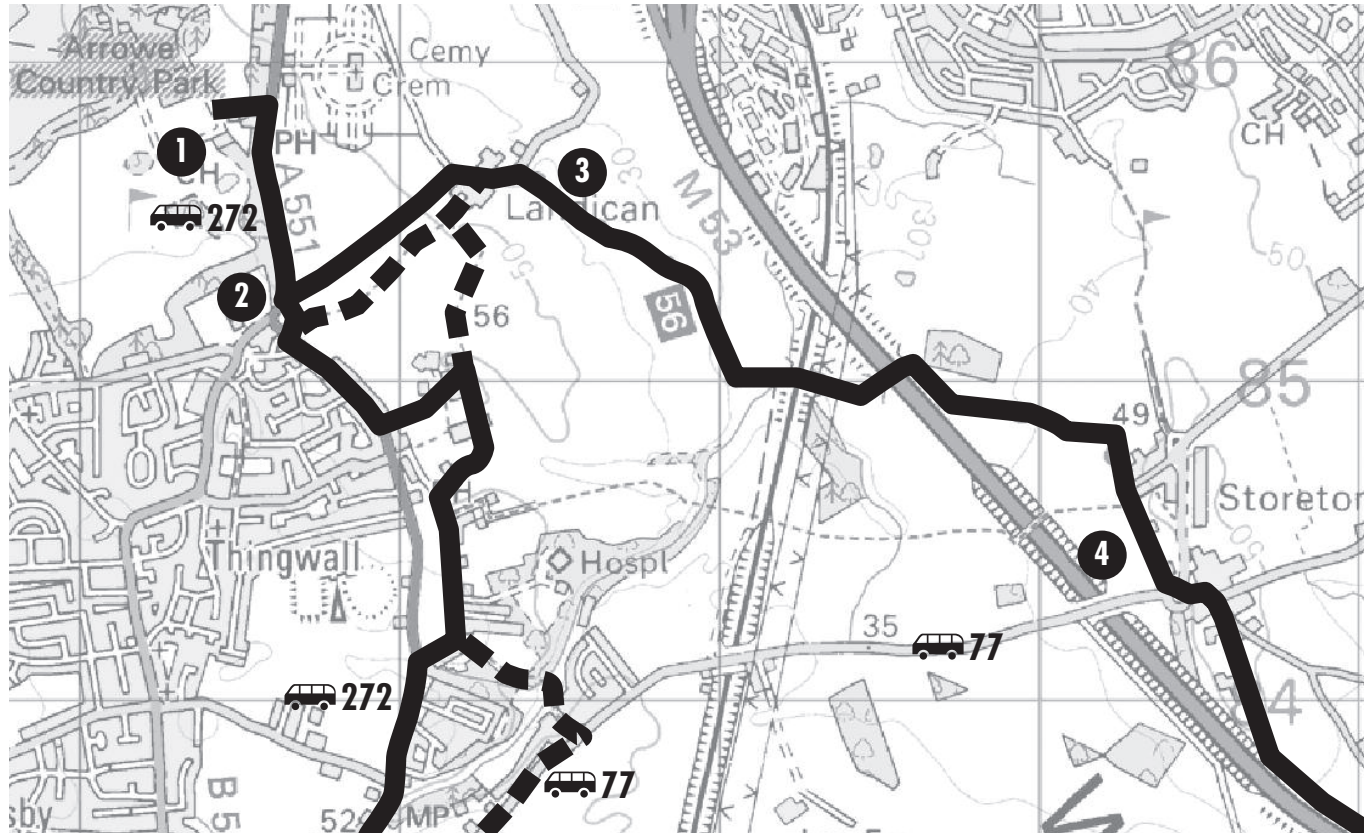
Travel Information		traveline public transport info	0871 200 22 33
OPEN 8AM TILL 8PM 7 DAYS A WEEK			
www.merseytravel.gov.uk			

-  Arrow Park to Storeton Route
-  Optional route
-  77 Bus route

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Arrowe Park - Storeton



Arrowe Park - Landican

- 1 From the main Arrowe Country Park car park off Arrowe Park Road that also doubles up as the Golf Club and Cherry Orchard car parks, exit out of the main entrance and turn right to go along the pavement of Arrowe Park Road with the fields on your left.
- 2 As you approach Thingwall Corner roundabout you can choose Option A: Turn left into Landican Road and walk along the grass verge into Landican Village to the point where the public footpath joins the road from the right. Option B: On the far side of the roundabout on the left is the stile and start on the public footpath. Enter the field keeping the hedge on your left, over the railway sleeper

'bridge', straight across the next field keeping to the left of the pond and then down to the track and exit into Landican Lane. Please note, this route can get very muddy where the footpath is shared with a large herd of cows! Follow the footpath past the farm on your right out onto Landican Lane.

Landican - Storeton

- 3 Continue along Landican Lane for about 200m and you will see route 56 national cycle network signs for this lovely well used bridleway that up to the Bidston - Wrexham Railway is an avenue of mature oak trees with all the wildlife that such habitats provide. The bridleway continues under the M53 and comes out in Storeton village.

Storeton - Thornton Hough

Storeton - Brimstage

④ At the end of Landican Lane, pass the T junction on the left and the footpath to Thingwall on the right. Continue to the end of the road. Negotiate the roundabout on the left to leave the roundabout by the 2nd exit, Red Hill Road. Take care: oncoming traffic without a pavement. Follow the road round to the right and take the public footpath down the track that veers right from the road towards Ivy Kennels and Cattery. At the end of the track enter the field and walk parallel to the M53. This path exits right onto Brimstage Lane, under the motorway and follow this single track road to Brimstage. Take care with oncoming traffic.

Brimstage - Thornton Hough

⑤ At the end of Brimstage Lane, cross over the main road. You can turn right and visit the Craft Centre with a variety of facilities. The route turns left and then immediate right onto the public footpath over the stiles and across the fields, across the Leverhulme access road, across the next field and turn left onto the bridleway that leads across another Leverhulme access road into Rocklands Lane. Soon on the left you will see Thomas's path that leads down to Clatterbridge, and opposite is the footpath that goes across more fields that exits onto Thornton Common Road. Cross the road, turn right and follow the pavement into the village of Thornton Hough.



Thornton Hough - Lees Lane, Neston

Thornton Hough - Raby

6 Pass 'The Store', 'The Seven Stars' Pub, the Village Post Office and onto The Village Cricket Green. Over the far side of the green there is a grass path over the stream and the permissive bridle-route to Raby. You can either turn left, follow the stream and then the path runs parallel to the road to Raby Village, or if you turn right, follow the fenced in path to where the path opens out into a field, go round the ponds to the public footpath. Turn left onto this lovely public right of way that leads to Raby Village.

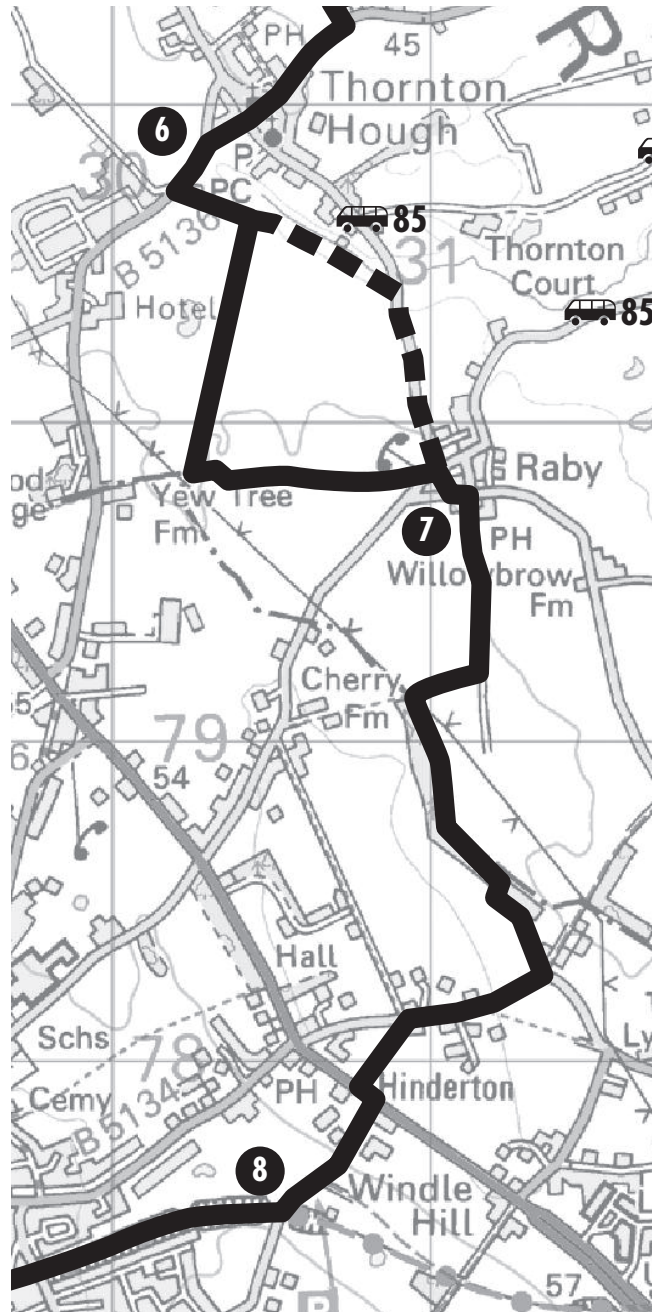
Both of the above routes bring you out by the phone box. Take the 2nd road on the right and pass The Wheatsheaf Inn on your left.



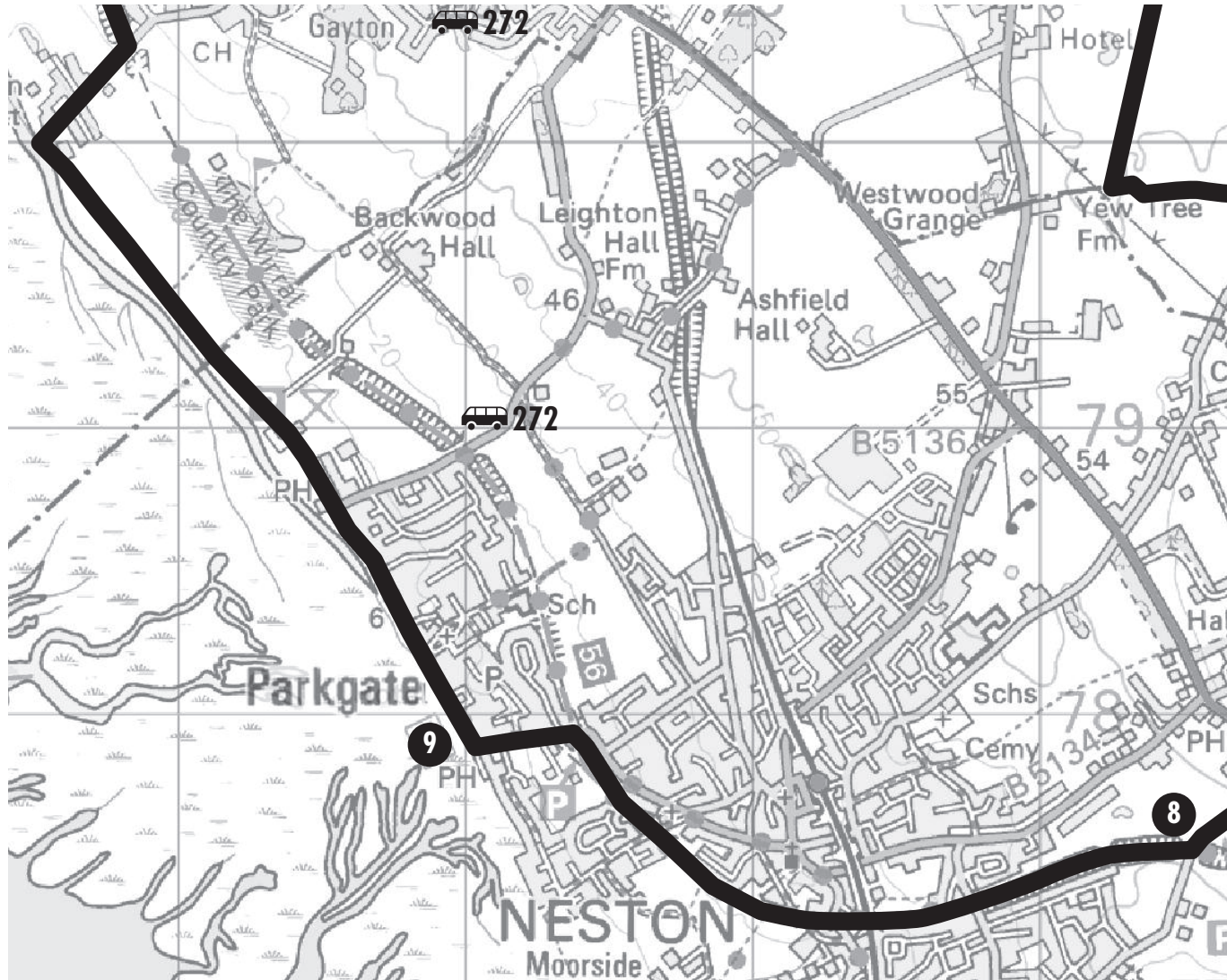
Raby - Wirral Country Park, The Wirral Way, Lees Lane Picnic Site, Neston East

7 With the Wheatsheaf Inn on your left, go to the end of the road and continue straight on down the often muddy farm lane/public right of way. After about a third of a mile take the footpath on the right then take the first path on the left which runs through a mature line of trees and a meadow until you reach 'Roselea' on Quarry Road. Turn right at this point.

Just after School Lane on the right, cross the road and take the footpath across the field to The Chester High Road. Cross over, turn left and immediate right into Lees Lane. Enter the car park on the left into Wirral Country Park and onto the Wirral Way. This is also part of the Wirral Circular Trail at this location.



Lees Lane, Neston - Parkgate & onto Gayton



Lees Lane Picnic Site, Wirral Country Park - Parkgate

⑧ From the Lees Lane picnic area turn right onto the Wirral Way towards Neston. Follow this until you reach the end of the track. At the junction with the main road where Bushell Road becomes Mellock Lane, cross over into Station Road.

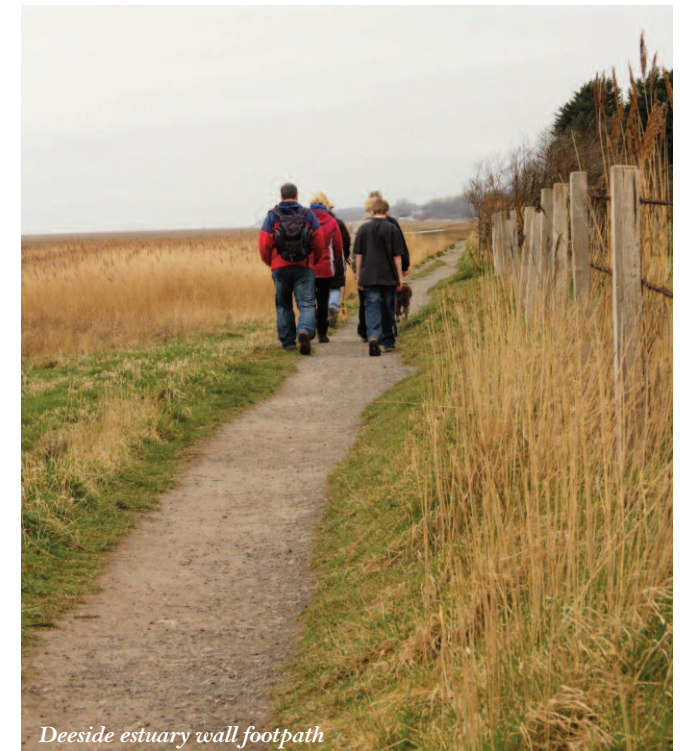
The Wirral Way follows Station Road for about half a mile keeping Stanney Fields Park on your right. Pass under the railway bridge and past the car park on your left and then turn immediately left onto the Wirral Way.

Cross over the Millennium Bridge and continue along the

Wirral Way. There are options to visit the Old Quay of Neston or explore the nearby town centre. When you get to the car park, turn left to Parkgate Parade.

Parkgate - Gayton

⑨ Continue along Parkgate Parade past the Boathouse restaurant on your left and through the car park and follow the path with the Dee Estuary on your left. *This is an excellent vantage point for bird-watching, especially at high tide.* Continue along the sea wall with Heswall Golf Course on your right and eventually you pass a tall beech hedge at the end of the path, go down the steps, turn right and walk up Cottage Lane. After the old railway bridge turn right and enter Wirral Country Park and turn right again under the old railway bridge and onto the Wirral Way towards Heswall.



Deeside estuary wall footpath

Gayton - Barnston via Heswall

Gayton - Heswall

⑩ Enter the Wirral Country Park/Wirral Way/Wirral Circular Trail from the Cottage Lane entrance and follow signs for Thurstaston. The Wirral Way comes out onto the road and continues on to Thurstaston. However this route turns right into Station Road and then left into Rectory Lane. After Rectory Close take public footpath 8 up through the Churchyard of St Peters Church. This comes out in Lower Heswall village. Go straight over into School Hill keeping The Black Horse Pub on your left.

Turn right into Brow Lane and then left up the bridle-path before the cottages. Turn right at the top into Dawstone Road and continue on the pavement. Just before the next road on the right which is Wall Rake, turn left up the steep track following the public footpath signs up onto The Beacons which is a less well known wooded open space with views across the Dee Estuary to North Wales. From the seat at the top of the steps, go diagonally across the open grassed space and follow the path across The Beacons to the car park and out into Beacon Lane, and down to where you can cross Telegraph Road at the light controlled Pedestrian Crossing. Continue into Briar Drive, forking right to Boundary Drive where you turn left and then right into Milner Road to the entrance of Whitfield Common at the fingerpost and the start of public footpath 62.

Heswall - Barnston

⑪ Follow the path keeping the children's play area on your left. Where the path splits into 3, take the path straight on through the woods, keeping the football pitches on your right and the tennis courts on your left. Stay on this path until you come out onto Whitfield Lane. Cross over and take the footpath to the right of Heswall Primary School signed for Barnston. Please follow this well signed route across the fields and over the stiles. This path can be quite muddy at times, but it does eventually lead you for a short distance into the Churchyard of Barnston Church. From the stone stile of the Churchyard, take either path to Barnston Road.



Barnston - Arrowe Park via Thingwall

Barnston - Thingwall

12 The route turns left to go along the narrow pavement of Barnston Road past the Fox and Hounds Pub. There is the alternative of crossing the Barnston Road almost opposite the Church and into Storeton Lane (this is a busy junction with no pavements for about 150m, so please be aware). The advantage of this route is that it does take you along Storeton Lane to just before The Barnstondale Centre where you take the public footpath down through the woods, over the river bridge and up to Holmwood Drive, where you turn right and then pass Murrayfield Hospital (Spire) on the right.

If you take the route past the Fox and Hounds, continue down through Barnston Dip, past Gills Lane on the left, along the wide grass verge on your left. Cross over Barnston Road at some point and turn right where you see the old black and white fingerpost into Holmwood Drive. Follow this road around past the entrance to Murrayfield Hospital (Spire).

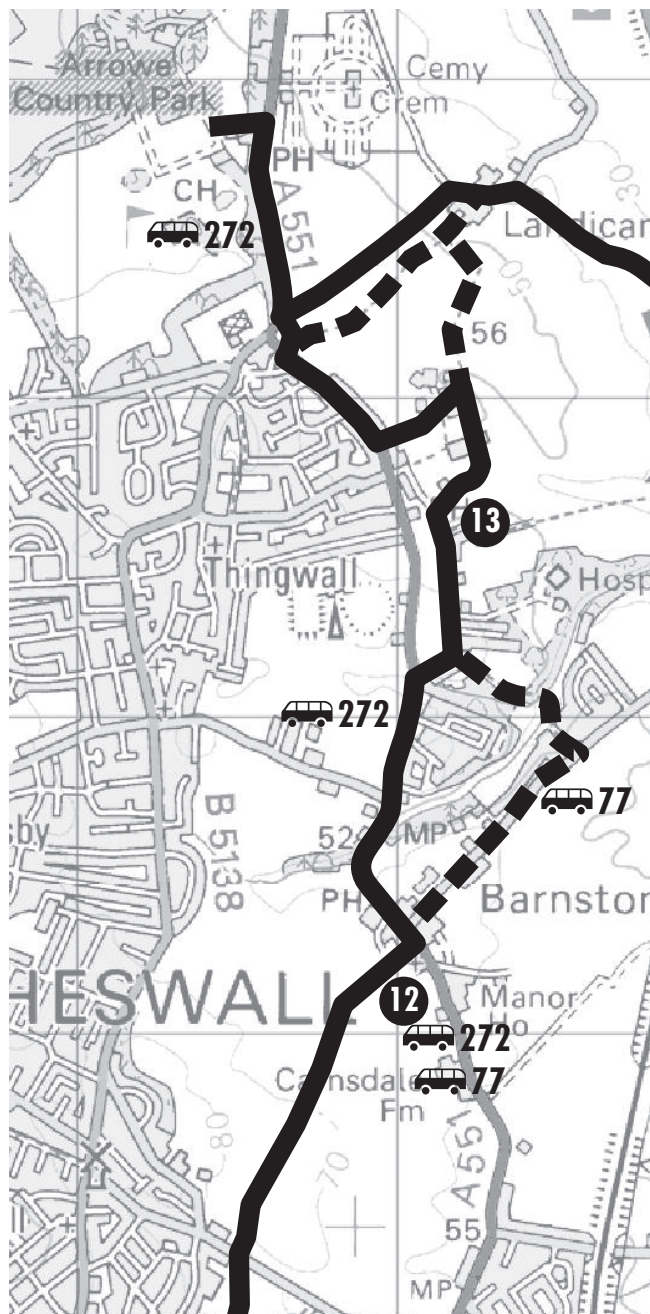
Go past the hospital entrance onto bridleway 15 which comes out into Lower Thingwall Lane and past the back of The Bassett Hound Pub.

Thingwall to Arrowe Park

13 The easy route is to turn right at the end of Lower Thingwall Lane, back onto Barnston Road which takes you straight to Thingwall Roundabout.

Or: just before Barnston Road take the public footpath, through the caravan storage park and follow the footpath across the fields. This path is very well worn in parts and can be quite muddy during wet weather periods. When you get to the Landican Farm, turn left across the fields, passing the pond on the left. Please note, this route can get very muddy where the footpath is shared with a large herd of cows! Follow the path across the fields up the road and exiting next to Thingwall Roundabout.

Continue along the right hand pavement of Arrowe Park Road and enter the main entrance of Arrowe Park on your left at the main light controlled junction.



Main points of interest

Arrowe Park

Ownership of much of the land in this area was at one time in the possession of the Trustees of Warrington Grammar School. However, in 1843 they sold it to John Ralph Shaw, whose uncle, John Shaw of Liverpool, was mayor of this town in 1794 and 1800. Like many other Liverpool merchants Shaw made his money in the slave trade, and he also operated as a privateer.

Arrowe Hall was built by John R. Shaw in 1835 and 1844. Arrowe Hall and Park were acquired by Lord Leverhulme in 1908, who subsequently sold the estate to Birkenhead Corporation in 1929.

From 30 July to 12 August 1929 the famous World Scout Jamboree was stage at Arrowe Park. Fifty thousand scouts attended and notwithstanding constant rain, 300,000 visitors paid for admission.



Arrowe Park entrance

Landican Village

In 1085 Landican was recorded in the Domesday Book as Landechne. The hamlet was a township in Woodchurch Parish of the Wirral Hundred. It was added to Birkenhead Civil Parish in 1933. The population stood at 45 in 1801, 57 in 1851, 71 in 1901 and just 20 in 2001.

Storeton Village

Storeton village and the surrounding area was in the hands of the Stanley family until 1848 when it was sold to Sir Thomas Brocklebank owner of the famous Brocklebank Line of Liverpool. Brocklebank's mid-Wirral estate consisted of about 1,171 acres, many houses and cottages and the famous Storeton quarries. The Brocklebank family sold the estate in various lots at a notable auction held in 1911.

Brimstage Village

The main historic feature of Brimstage village is the Hall, once the residence of the Troutbeck family. It has a tower attached to it which is the only remains of an ancient fortified hall in Wirral. Today, Brimstage Hall Courtyard is composed of a large square of farm buildings tastefully converted into a series of shops and a cafe.

Thornton Hough

In 1850 the village of Thornton Hough was sold in portions to Lord Mostyn. Other changes in ownership then took place that led to the model estate village we see today being developed in two stages. First, by Joseph Hirst and secondly by William Hesketh Lever (Later Lord Leverhulme).



Thornton Hough village

Neston Collieries

The wealthy Stanley family opened the first colliery in the area, called Ness, it was worked by men from Wales and other mining areas. Soon after work began at Ness a second mine was opened in neighbouring Little Neston. Fierce competition then broke out between the enterprises, industrial sabotage becoming a regular feature in the lives of the local miners. Both mines closed in 1855 but when a railway line reached Neston in 1874 Neston colliery reopened and production then continued until 1927.



Ness Botanic Gardens

Ness Botanic Gardens

The famous Ness gardens were established in 1898 by Arthur Gilpin Bulley. The family wealth was founded on importing American cotton. Arthur Bulley's life, however, was shaped by his passionate interest in plants. Over the years he was responsible for introducing a great number of plant species from abroad. Arthur Bulley's daughter, Agnes Lois Bulley (1901-1995) subsequently donated Ness Gardens to the University of Liverpool. They are open to the public throughout the year.

Main points of interest

Mostyn House School and Dr Sir Wilfred Grenfell

Doctor Sir Wilfred Grenfell was born at Mostyn House School on 28 February 1865. After training as a doctor and serving as a house surgeon in London he joined the Royal National Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen. In 1887 he founded the Labrador Medical Mission. Grenfell became world-famous in 1908 when he survived a dreadful night on an ice-floe by killing three of his husky dogs and wrapping himself in their skins. Subsequently he erected a memorial to these dogs in the Mostyn House Chapel. Wilfred Grenfell then saw service in the Great War with the Harvard Surgical Unit.

Heswall

In 1801 the population of Heswall was recorded at 169 and in 1841 it stood at 398. The population then rose rapidly, mainly due to the construction of two separate railway lines. These developments induced many wealthy Liverpool merchants to build their mansions on the attractive wooded slopes of Heswall, overlooking the Dee estuary and the mountains of North Wales.

Others soon followed this lead which resulted in the rapid development of the town until the once separate villages of Gayton and Pensby became linked through large-scale housing developments.



St Peters Church, Heswall



Barnston Dip

Barnston

The Domesday Book of 1066 states that the village of Barnston then consisted mainly of a manor house and two mills. There seems to have been a pub on the site of the present Fox & Hounds since at least the sixteenth century although it has changed names several times over the years.

The Barnstondale Centre

In the 1890s many day-trippers from Liverpool and Birkenhead made their way to the pleasure grounds in Barnston Dell where the shady nooks, little glades and refreshment facilities were appreciated by all these visitors.

In the first decades of the 20th century further developments took place, when a giant slide, complete with coconut mats, swings, slot machines and other amusement facilities were put in place. The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 resulted in the closure of these leisure facilities.

In 1948 changes took place when it began to be used as a Holiday Centre. It was subsequently acquired by the Merseyside Youth Association. Then, in 1988, a generous benefactor saved the place from a housing development. The Centre, and its 15 acres of grounds then became

“The Barnstondale Centre’ with the commendable aim of giving holidays to children from socially deprived inner-city areas.

The Alwen & Thingwall reservoirs

Early in the 20th century Robert McAlpine & Sons won the contract to build the Alwen reservoir in Denbighshire. They also won the contract to build the covered Cross Hill reservoir at Thingwall, and very substantial parts of the connecting pipe-line. The first stone of the Alwen dam was laid on 3rd October 1911, by Alderman Henry Bloor, Chairman of Birkenhead’s Water Committee.

The Alwen Trail

In 2006 this seven mile long walking trail round Birkenhead’s Alwen reservoir was formally opened. In this area this trail links up with the ten mile long Brenig Trail, the fourteen mile long Two Lakes Trail, and the one hundred and twenty two mile long Clwydian Way.

Cross Hill, Thingwall

Wirral has a very notable Viking heritage. The two most outstanding geographical features concerning this heritage are Thor’s Stone at Thurstaston and the Viking Parliament that was held on Cross Hill, Thingwall.



Cross Hill, Thingwall