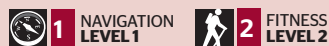


• Distance 8km/5 miles • Time 2-4hrs • Type Coastal countryside



## Plan your walk



**WHERE:** A circular walk along the Wirral coast, visiting Heswall Dales and Fields inland.

**START/END:** Banks Road car park, Heswall (SJ255815).

**TERRAIN:** This is a coastal walk that goes in land with full details in the route information.

**MAPS:** OS Explorer 266; Landranger 108.

**GETTING THERE:** Local buses from Chester and Liverpool stop in Lower Heswall. Heswall mainline railway has regular services between Wrexham and Birkenhead. Car parking at the start/finish is free.

**EATING & DRINKING:** Sheldrakes Restaurant at the start/finish point (☎ 0151 342 1556, sheldrakesrestaurant.co.uk).

**SLEEPING:** Premier Inn Wirral (☎ 08701 977 274, www.premierinn.com).

**VISITOR INFORMATION:** Thurstaston Visitor Centre – part of The Wirral Country Park (☎ 0151 648 4371, www.visitwirral.com).



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?

**1. START** From the car park (SJ255815), walk up Banks Road with Sheldrakes Restaurant and the coast behind you. When Banks Road bends to the R, turn L into Broad Lane.

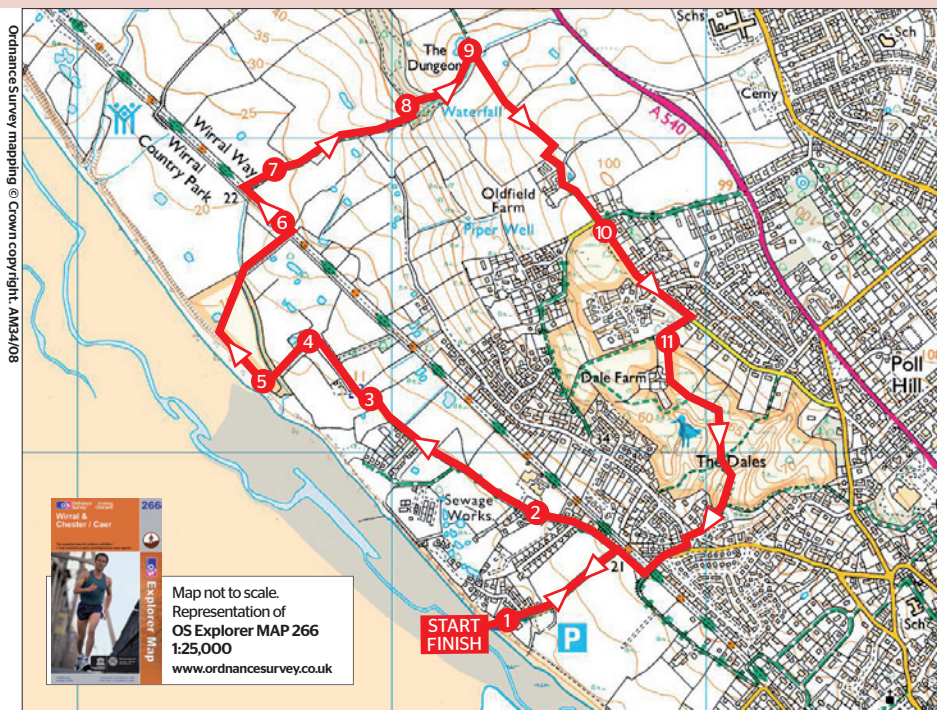
**2.** Continue along Broad Lane. Look out for wildlife in the hedgerows and a variety of trees, wildflowers and birds. When you see Target Road on the L you can, as an alternative, follow this bridleway to the beach (sometimes difficult at very high tides). From there, follow

the beach a short distance north to the stream and then climb up the steps to point 5.

**3.** If 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 L and go through a kissing gate, then a pinch gap onto Heswall Fields. This area is owned by the National Trust, and a great place to picnic 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 R and follow the cliff along and then keeping the hedges on your L. Aim for the National Trust sign in the far R-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 the next L will take you onto the



## Continued...

**GUIDEBOOKS:** *Walk and Cycle Trails* leaflets are available by contacting the Rights Of Way Officer for Wirral (☎ 0151 606 2480, walking@wirral.gov.uk).

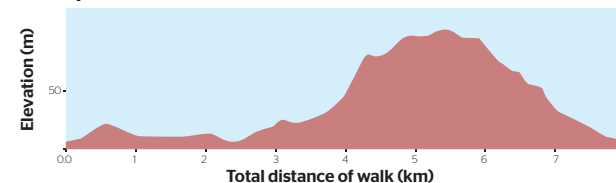
**LOCAL RAMBLERS AREA/ GROUP:** Alnwick Ramblers (☎ 01670 763006, www.ra-area.org.uk/northumbria).

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 R, onto footpath 72. 'Dungeon' is Old English for wooded dell.

## Steepest of walk



**8.** Follow the path until you see a small bridge on your L. Cross it and walk up the steep steps, then bear R along the edge of the dell. Pass the waterfall on your R, then follow the path across the stream to meet the path that runs between Thurstaston and Heswall.

**9.** Turn R 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 R.

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

**12.** Turn L at the end of Bushway onto Pipers Lane, then turn R into Delavor Road, over the bridge and follow the road round to the R. This is Banks Road, which bends around to the L returning to the car park and the coast.

*Route devised by Robin Tutchings*



Route and gradient profile created using Anquet Maps v06. Download more maps from [www.Anquet.co.uk](http://www.Anquet.co.uk)