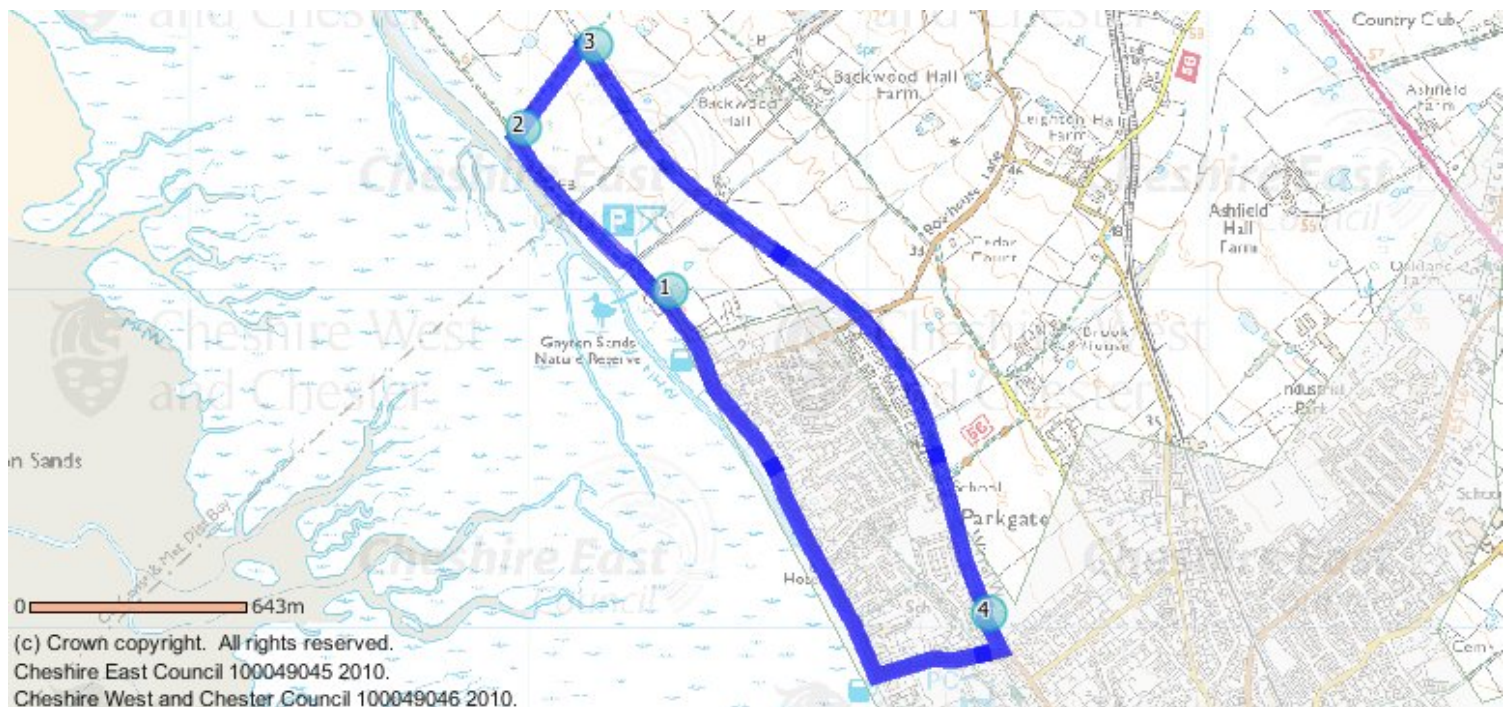


Parkgate

A fascinating, yet gentle walk, following the Parade, with several good pubs and cafes along the way.

Grade	Easy
Distance	5km/3 miles
Time	2 hours
Start	Old Baths car park, Parkgate
Map	OS Explorer 266
Terrain	Generally flat along good surfaces (short grass over golf course).
Barriers	2 kissing gates, no stiles.
Toilets	Several PHs and cafes along the way. Public toilets are also signed off the Parade.
Contact	Cheshire West and Chester Council Phoenix House Clough Road Winsford CW7 4BD



Route Details

Parkgate, with its tremendous views across the internationally important Dee Estuary towards the Welsh Hills, provides the setting for this fascinating, yet gentle walk.

The town was once a bustling port, but the ships are now a distant memory. The silting of the river has left a rich marsh which, at high tides during the winter months, provides some of the most spectacular bird watching in the North West of England.

At that time of year, the marsh is home to thousands of waders and wildfowl, which in turn attract peregrine falcon, merlin, hen harrier and short eared owl.

This walk follows the line of the old sea wall, with its vista across the estuary. It then moves inland using the route of a disused railway line, now rich in wild flowers and butterflies.

Finally the walk returns along Parkgate's Parade with its pubs, restaurants and shops selling home-made dairy ice cream.

Directions

Start at the Old Baths car park, North Parade.

1. Follow the path along the sea wall. Continue along the edge of the golf course to the sandstone rock.
2. Turn right across the golf course and keep to the path between the blue posts. Go through the kissing gate, across the bridlepath and turn right onto the Wirral Way.
3. Follow the Wirral Way for about 2km, passing under two brick bridges and over a wooden bridge.
4. Turn right through the gap in the trees onto a cobbled path at the old station.
5. Go through the gate and turn left down the road. At Station Road turn right, following it to the promenade and back to the car park.