

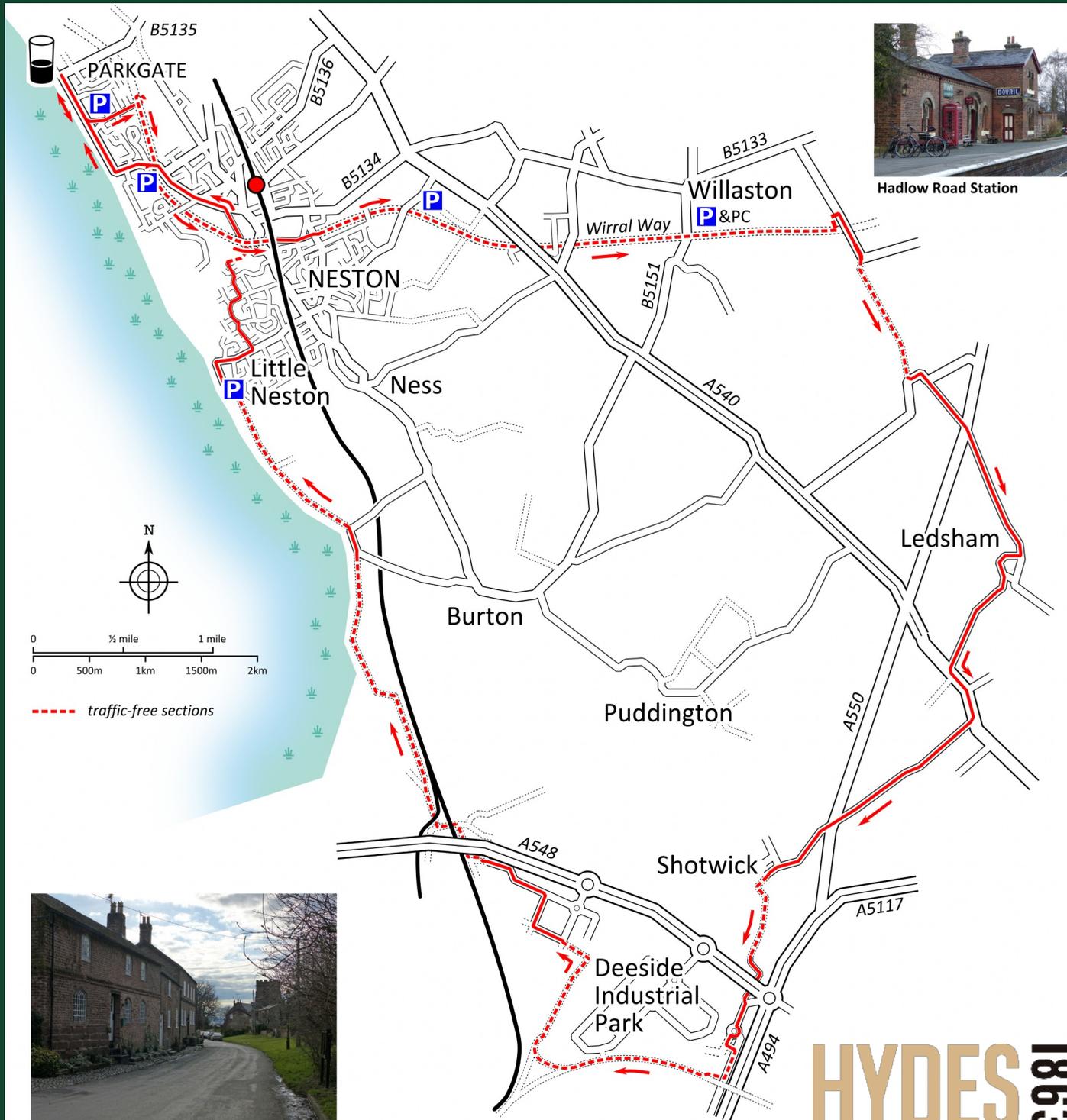


Deeside circular

19 miles: Moderate

Mountain bike/hybrid recommended

- 1 Ride along the Parade for 600 yards then turn left into School Lane.
- 2 Turn left and pass under the Wirral Way footbridge, turning immediately left and left again to cross the bridge. After ¼ mile, bear left and descend to a gate. Turn right then left to rejoin the Wirral Way.
- 3 After ¼ mile, pass under a bridge and continue until you cross two bridges then pass under a viaduct.
- 4 Follow the road ahead to Mellock Lane; cross and rejoin the Wirral Way.
- 5 Follow the Way for 1 mile, then pass under the A540.
- 6 Rejoin the Wirral Way through the gate on the left. Cross a road and pass the old station, then at the next overbridge leave the Wirral Way, turning right over the bridge.
- 7 When the road bends left, turn right onto a bridleway (NCR 56) and pass Oaks Farm.
- 8 Turn left at the road, then shortly right (Ledsham Hall Lane). Cross the A550 and join Ledsham Lane opposite.
- 9 After a mile, turn right (signposted Ledsham). Ride through the village, ignoring a left turn, and continue for ½ mile to the A540. Turn left and cycle along to The Yacht Inn.
- 10 Turn right into Shotwick Lane and follow it for a mile to the A550. Cross carefully and follow the lane opposite to Shotwick village.
- 11 Beyond the church, join a bridleway, crossing a stream, and follow it to its end.
- 12 Pass under the main road and turn right on the B5441. Beyond a mini-roundabout take the first left, then turn right along the pavement cycle-lane to a bridge, where you turn right onto the Chester Railway Path.
- 13 Ignore the first turning, and bear right at a fork, then turn right at a sign reading Zone/Parth 3 & 4 and Neston (NCR 568). Follow the cycle path past a solar farm then left to the road.
- 14 Continue on NCR 568 through Deeside Industrial Park. At the end beyond the Toyota entrance, turn right. At a T-junction, turn left.
- 15 When the adjacent road starts to climb, turn right onto the pavement and follow the cycle path below the wall. Turn right under the road, then left and under a railway bridge, then right again under a second railway line.
- 16 Turn right before the entrance to the rifle range and follow the trail alongside the railway. Cross a boardwalk and pass below the low quarried cliffs of Burton Point.
- 17 Follow the track out to a public road; turn left.
- 18 When the road bends right, keep straight on. Pass a couple of buildings and continue to Little Neston.
- 19 Beyond the pub turn right, away from the estuary.
- 20 Take the second left (Homecrofts), then turn left at a T-junction.
- 21 Just before a parade of shops, turn left into Allans Meadow, then left into Flint Drive. At the end, bear right on a metalled cycleway.
- 22 At a road, turn left to pass under the low former railway bridge and cycle past the church. Turn right onto Parkgate Road then left past the Library.
- 23 Bear left to cross the Wirral Way and continue to the end of the parade in Parkgate.
- 24 Turn right here, and cycle along the front to return to the Boathouse.



Hadlow Road Station



Shotwick village

THREE WALKS AND A RIDE FROM The Boat House



Parkgate, Cheshire

Parkgate stroll (2 miles)

Enjoy views over the Dee marshes, sample the Wirral Way, and explore Parkgate village.

Gayton and Parkgate (4 miles)

Estuary-side walking and a pleasant hillside return with good views.

Wirral Way & the Old Quays (4½ miles)

Echoes of the past with former railway lines and disused quaysides alongside the Dee.

Deeside circular (19 miles)

A partly traffic-free route on former railway lines, estuarine cycle-paths and quiet lanes.



Parkgate was formerly an important ferry port, where passengers (including Lady Hamilton, and George Frideric Handel) once embarked for Ireland. It also enjoyed popularity in the 18th century as a resort.



The **Wirral Way** follows the former branch line from Hooton to West Kirby, which closed in 1962.



Denhall Old Quay was the site of a busy port in the 16th century, but the silting up of the Dee estuary saw it fall into disuse. It now provides a useful vantage point for observing the saltmarshes and their birdlife.

For a longer walk of around **7 miles**, follow the **Gayton and Parkgate** route as far as step **14**, then turn left onto the Wirral Way and follow the **Wirral Way and the Old Quays** route from step **4** onwards. Allow 4 hours.

Parkgate stroll (2 miles: Very easy)

Allow 1–1½ hours. Level, surfaced paths and roads throughout.

- 1** From the front door, turn left along the road to Old Baths car park.
- 2** Follow the tarmac path beyond the car park, then turn right up a hedged path.
- 3** Cross the old railway bridge and turn immediately right onto the Wirral Way.
- 4** Follow the Way for ¼ mile (passing under Boathouse Lane after 600 yards).
- 5** Before a footbridge over a road, turn left off the Way, then turn right under the bridge.
- 6** Pass the primary school (on your left) and Moorfield Drive, Hawthorn Road and Bowring Drive (to your right), then turn left into a metalled path between gardens on the left.
- 7** Follow this dead straight path (the Ropewalk, so-called because ropes were once manufactured here) past a children's play area. At the end you meet a road.
- 8** Walk out to the main road, where you turn right.
- 9** Walk past the cricket ground and down to The Parade.
- 10** Turn right and walk along the Parade to return to the Boathouse.

Gayton and Parkgate

4 miles: Fairly easy

May be muddy in places after rain; one minor climb along a road without verges. Allow 2 hours.

- 1** From the front door, turn left to Old Baths car park.
- 2** Follow the path beyond the car park and, ignoring a track to the right, continue alongside the estuary.
- 3** Ignore a footpath across the golf course on your right, keeping to the path along the saltmarsh edge. When you meet Cottage Lane, go down the steps and follow the road uphill, away from the estuary.
- 4** Cross the Wirral Way and keep on up past Lillyfield and Long Meadow on your left, and Heswall Golf Course on your right.
- 5** Turn right at a T-junction, then immediately right again into the cobbled Gayton Farm Road.
- 6** Bear right and left on the main track through the houses, then descend past an old well on the left.
- 7** Keep left of a gate into the golf course, along a farm track.
- 8** When this track bears right onto the golf course, take a narrow footpath along a belt of trees on your left.
- 9** This path skirts the golf course to a gate, beyond which cross a field and descend to bridge a stream beyond a second gate.
- 10** Follow the path uphill beyond to meet a driveway.
- 11** Walk past Backwood Hall on your right and follow the drive out to a road.
- 12** Cross over and follow the unsurfaced road (Wood Lane) opposite.
- 13** Keep straight on at the junction with Brook Lane, then shortly afterwards turn right onto an obvious footpath by a litter bin.
- 14** Walk down to the Wirral Way.
- 15** Pass under the footbridge and walk past the primary school (on your left).
- 16** Follow the road until you meet The Parade.
- 17** Turn right to return to the Boathouse.

Wirral Way and the Old Quays

4½ miles: Moderate

Some paths may be very wet underfoot after rain. Allow 3–4 hours, less if omitting the optional extension to Little Neston.

- 1** From the corner, walk up Boathouse Lane, away from the estuary.
- 2** Take the steps on the left down to the Wirral Way, turning right under the bridge.
- 3** Follow the Way for ¼ mile, crossing a footbridge over a road partway along.
- 4** At a fork, turn right down a cobbled path.
- 5** On emerging into Springcroft, walk out to the main road and climb the steps opposite next to a World War II pill box and rejoin the Wirral Way beyond.
- 6** Pass under a road bridge, then after 250 yards turn right on a footpath signposted to Old Quay.
- 7** At the road, turn left and pass a house.
- 8** When the road bends right, take the track straight on.
- 9** Ignore a footpath on the left, then at the end of the hedged track bear right on an obvious path across the field to a footbridge.
- 10** Follow the path beyond to the scant remains of Neston Old Quay.
- 11** (If omitting the diversion to the more substantial remains of Denhall Quay, turn right and skip to step 14.) Otherwise, cross the stone stile on your left and follow the obvious path alongside the estuary.
- 12** When you meet a road, continue past the Harp Inn to view the remains of Denhall Quay.
- 13** Turn and retrace your steps to the footbridge at Neston Old Quay.
- 14** Cross the footbridge and then a second over a larger stream, and then a third, before bearing left to a kissing gate.
- 15** Turn right and follow a sometimes muddy path alongside an extensive reedbed, with intermittent boardwalks and a gappy hedge and fence on the right.
- 16** At the boundary of a property, turn right alongside a fence to reach the road.
- 17** Turn left into Manorial Road South.
- 18** At the end of the road, a short footpath leads to the continuation of the road.
- 19** When the road bends right, take a footpath on the left, which leads between houses and emerges on the estuary, before skirting the gardens to meet the Parade.
- 20** Cross over and follow the Parade, with the estuary on your left, back to the Boathouse.

The Boathouse at Parkgate

Situated on the RSPB nature reserve, the Boathouse is a haven for nature watchers and food lovers alike. With magnificent views of the Dee Estuary, it's no surprise that Parkgate has a reputation as somewhere to eat whilst enjoying the beautiful British coastline.

THE BOAT HOUSE
1 The Parade, Parkgate, Neston, Merseyside CH64 6RN
 Tel: 01513 364187
 Website: www.theboathouseparkgate.co.uk

OPEN: Mon–Sat: 11am–11pm
Sunday: 11am–10.30pm
FOOD SERVED: Mon–Sat: 12 noon–9.30pm
Sunday: 12 noon–9pm



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