

LOCKDOWN WALK 4

***A Riverside Walk, from Oxton via Birkenhead Park, taking in Woodside, Morpeth and Egerton Docks and Four Bridges 6.5 miles 10.5 kms
(For a shorter walk park at Woodside and do the circular walk round the docks 2.5 miles 4 kms)***

An interesting walk with good views of The Mersey and Liverpool, which includes history and industrial archaeology as well as major modern infrastructure developments, regeneration sites and much recent tree planting.

Leave Oxton Village via Palm Hill. Cross Shrewsbury Road and continue down Palm Grove. Turn right down Charlesville, left down Caroline Place, right down Devonshire Road and left down Slatey Road. Enjoy looking at the Villas as you go.

Turn left onto Park Road South. Cross by the traffic lights and enter Birkenhead Park on your right. Turn right onto Park Drive and keep going until you come to the Grand Arch.

Exit the Park via the Grand Arch, cross Park Road North, noting the former Laird School of Art Building, and continue down Vittoria Street until you reach Price Street.

Turn right down Price Street to Hamilton Square. Admire Hamilton Square as you cross it and continue down Hamilton Street, passing Hamilton Square Station on your left, to Woodside Ferry. Note all the interesting 19th century buildings as you go including the entrance to the old Lairage on your left.

Turn left to walk along the river (it will be on your right) and follow the Wirral Circular Trail.

As you walk you will pass three pieces of information: one on the origins of The Birkenhead Drill (Women and Children First), a second on Operation Frankton and The Cockleshell Heroes, and the third on The Thetis Submarine Disaster. You will also pass one of the beautiful Vent Towers for the Mersey Tunnel.

Continue round the Morpeth Dock Inlet, closed off from the actual dock, with the modern odourless sewage works on your left. Then follow the path through shrubs and trees to the 1.00 o'clock gun. Note in passing, as you go round the Morpeth Dock Inlet the safety compliant Fast Moving Water Railings exclusively designed for the Merseyside Development Corporation (MDC) by Ainsley Gommon Architects (AGA). Note too that the planting, designed by AGA for the MDC in the 1980's, is still extant even though it has **never** been maintained.

Turn left soon after you reach the 1.00 o'clock Gun and walk down the right hand side of Morpeth Dock, to Egerton Wharfe with its Bascule Bridge. As you cross Egerton Wharfe you will notice the caged remains of machinery that worked the sluice between Morpeth and Egerton Docks.

Continue down the right side of Egerton Dock with views of Egerton House opposite and the Mast on Tower Road ahead of you. The back of The Kingsgate Contact Company is on your right.

At the top of the dock turn right on to Tower Road (*or across Kingsgate's car park if Tower Road is still a building site*) and walk up to the new red Bascule Bridge over the entrance to the current working docks, noting all the recent tree planting and newly paved footpaths.

Cross to the other side of Tower Road and retrace your steps passing the ruined Hydraulic Tower and a new Wirral Met College Building on your right. Keep going until you come to 3 red panels of Art Works showing the history of Birkenhead.

Cross back over Tower Road.

Head back to the river. Turn right down Tower Wharf (the front of the Kingsgate Building will be on your right).

At the little roundabout turn left into Morpeth Wharf. You will have the Stena Belfast Ferry Lorry Park on your left and new businesses on your right.

When you reach the Mersey turn right along the cycle/footpath and then, keeping the Mersey on your left, walk on to the Vent Tower. Turn Right down Pacific Road, bemoaning the loss of the Arts Centre which was on your right, but admiring the renovated railway building ahead.

Turn right up Shore Road following the tram tracks until you come to Canning Street. Turn right and continue until you see the sign to Wirral's Transport Museum.

Turn left here up Taylor Street.

Turn right along Cleveland Street, left down Park Street, right up Price Street, left down Vittoria Street, cross Park Road North and enter Birkenhead Park through the Grand Arch.

Turn right down Park Drive. Pass the Visitors' Centre, on you right, designed by AGA. Leave Birkenhead South Park by the gates.

Turn left and walk up Ashville Road, between the South and North Parks. Edward Kemp Community Garden is on your left just before Just before the roundabout. Turn left here onto Park Road West.

Cross Park Road West, then Egerton Road, before turning right into Palm Grove.

Continue along Palm Grove then turn left down Grosvenor Road and right on to Slatey Road. Pass the gate into Callister Gardens on your right and The Williamson Art Gallery on your left. Cross Balls Road, continue up Bessborough Road, turn right into Christchurch Road and back to the centre of Oxtan Village.



The Vent Tower, Morpeth Dock and the One O'Clock Gun

Three of the Tower Road Art Works

