

**Forty two WEST KIRBY – DEE ESTUARY**

Pick a nice day for an easy day out to enjoy sunshine, sea breezes, great views, sandy beaches, and a little gentle walking at this quiet seaside town. Bird watchers will presumably wish to go out to the Hilbre Islands.

Catch a train from Eccles to Liverpool Lime Street.

Alight at Liverpool Lime Street and descend lift, escalator or stairs to the Liverpool Underground. Go to the Wirral Line platform and board a West Kirby train.

At West Kirby (terminus) cross the road outside the station and go right then left down Dee Lane at the side of the Barclay's Bank.

Pass Morrison's on your left (Café available). Continue to the sea front. *Ahead of you is a splendid view of the Dee Estuary and North Wales hills behind. Slightly to the right you will see the Hilbre Islands in the estuary, and on the extreme right the old lighthouse.*

**To walk round the marina** – go along promenade to your left and then turn right to follow the lower sea wall round and back to your starting point.

**To visit any of the Hilbre Islands** - first check the tide tables and warnings on the notice board (you need at least 2hrs clear for the smallest island and 4hrs clear for the larger two).

If conditions are right then walk onto the beach and almost directly ahead to the smallest island known as "little eye". *The two larger islands are to the right of this (do not be tempted to walk direct to these).*

**To visit the larger Middle Eye** - walk directly to it from Little Eye.

**To visit Hilbre Island (the largest)** - go directly to it from Middle Eye. On Hilbre Island follow the road from the tip. It becomes a path. Ahead down below the cliff there are very slippery rocks – the best route I found to avoid most of these is along the right hand edge of the large pool to the left of the rocks. On this furthest part of the island the warden lives and there are the remains of an old lifeboat and coastguard station.

**To return to West Kirby you must retrace your steps via each island** – do not attempt to go in a straight line there.

At West Kirby go back up Dee Lane and right onto the main road. *There is a* 69

*very attractive Wetherspoon's – the Dee Hotel 150yads further ahead.*

Cross the road to the station and catch an underground train to Liverpool Lime Street.

Ascend to the mainline station to catch the return train to Eccles.

CLASSIFICATION:     **To the marina:** SHORT, A DODDLE.  
                          **To Little Eye:** SHORT, EASY.  
                          **To Middle Eye:** MEDIUM LENGTH, EASY. **To Hilbre Island:** MODERATELY LONG AND A MEDIUM CHALLENGE (*ONE SHORT STEEP UP AND ONE STEEP DOWN AND ROCKS THAT WILL BE SLIPPERY WHEN WET*)  
                          SANDY BEACHES, MARINA, GREAT VIEWS, SHOPS, BIRDWATCHING, CAFES, PUB.  
                          RAIL FARE: category three.

Maps:                OS 1:50 000 sheet 108