

WALK 1 Irby & Thurstaston

This is a circular walk around the outskirts of Irby and the edge of Thurstaston Common, with an option to take in part of Arrowe Country Park. The more energetic of you can complete the route in about two hours while the more sedate may prefer a gentle all day amble.

Start: Thingwall Road, lay-by between Limbo Lane and Whaley Lane, Irby, CH61.

Distance: 3.5 miles with an option to extend the route for a further 2 miles. Allow 2-6 hours.

Parking: Parking is available on the service road which runs parallel to Thingwall Road and is across the road from Harrock Wood.

Buses and Trains: Bus stops are close to the start in Thingwall Road. Upton Railway Station is 2.5 miles away.

① From the lay-by, cross Thingwall Road over to the path into Harrock Wood, *an area owned by the National Trust*. Follow the path through the wood. At the gate at the end of the wood, turn right down the steps, cross the stream and up the sandstone steps. Head straight on towards Irby with the hedge on your right.



Harrock Wood

② Follow the fenced in path to the nursery into Thingwall Road and turn left. Continue through Irby Village, where there are numerous refreshment facilities.

③ At the end of Thingwall Road, cross over and take the footpath next to The Anchor pub. Keep close to the hedge on the right to the far right corner of the field. This leads out into Dawlish Road, then left up the track, follow the path round the stables, across the field keeping the pond on your left.

④ The path leads between the barn on the left and the houses on your right through the kissing gate. Cross over and turn right along Thurstaston Road. The Cottage Loaf pub is across the grassed area opposite.

⑤ Having continued along Thurstaston Road there is a bridlepath which runs alongside the road.

⑥ Pass the Daisy and Jake nursery on your left and take the footpath opposite you at the end of School Lane. Follow the path, keeping the stream on your right until the wooden bridge and the wooded area on your left (this is part of Thurstaston Common). Cross over the bridge through the kissing gate into Sandy Lane.

⑦ Turn left along the Sandy Lane bridleway. *This land is thought to be an ancient highway and the stones laid half-way up are thought to have been laid by Monks.*

⑧ At Mill Hill Road turn left and head up to the roundabout by the Irby Mill pub. Turn right into Arrowe Brook Lane, initially on the grass verge on your left (approximately for 5 minutes taking care on the narrow grass verge), then cross the road about 100 yds from roundabout. Continue to Limbo Lane Bridleway on your right.



Irby Mill pub

⑨ For a shorter walk take this path next to the house on the right which is known as Limbo Lane. This pleasant track takes you back to Thingwall Road and to your start/finish point.

⑩ Alternatively, if you would like a longer walk (a further 2 miles), continue along the grass verge of Arrowe Brook Lane past the Limbo Lane path. When you reach the public footpath on your right take this path and the right hand edge of the field. At the boundary with Arrowe Park.

⑪ Enter the woods, keeping right, and walk on the main path which runs along the western edge of Arrowe Country Park and continue to Thingwall Road. Turn right to return to your start/finish point.



View across the fields towards Limbo Lane, the bridleway within the trees.