

## 7

# FROM COAST TO COUNTRYSIDE

This lengthy walk takes us right across the borough and is generally level throughout. The route can be shortened by taking the shortcut highlighted on the map. The public footpaths are mostly unsurfaced and can be muddy in winter. The route has been designed to start and finish at a railway station making it easier to walk one way and return home by public transport.

WALK - CHALLENGING

Starting at Hall Road railway station there is an opportunity to first turn right onto Hall Road West and follow the road for half a mile to reach the coast. Here you can see the famous art installation 'Another Place' by Antony Gormley, also known as the iron men. Retrace your steps back to the station to start the walk.

Exit the station and turn left, follow the road for half a mile passing through Blundellsands, an area named in honour of the Blundell Family from Ince Blundell and Little Crosby.

Follow the road around to the right (or go straight ahead onto the byway, Dibb Lane, if taking the short cut and follow the dotted line on the map) to pass through the village of Little Crosby. The Well Cross, enclosed in 1857, is located at the site of the old village green and opposite is a memorial to Francis Nicholas Blundell, the local squire, erected by the villagers. The Little Crosby museum is open most of the year.

The cottages beyond the Well Cross are 17th century; the last building on the right is the old smithy, built in 1713.

Keeping the park wall on your left, a cross set into the wall indicates the position of the old village cross which was swallowed up by enclosure into the parkland in the early 19th century.

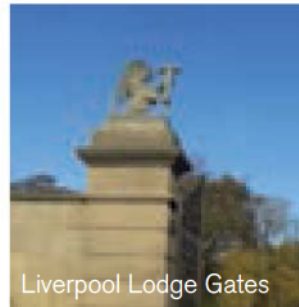
At the end of the wall are the Liverpool Lodge Gates, topped by the rampant lions from the Blundells of Crosby's family crest. Turn left here, through the metal kissing gate, onto a public footpath that follows the wall to reach Virgins Lane at another kissing gate. Pass through this gate and turn right, walk ahead and turn left into Brook Road and then right into Ince Road. Cross the A565 at the traffic lights and follow Green Lane.

You are now in Thornton, one of the oldest villages in Sefton. Just along Green Lane are the Grade II listed stocks and sundial.

Cross over here and walk along Holgate which is directly opposite, continue ahead until you cross Broom's Cross Road at a traffic light controlled crossing. After crossing



Crosby Park Wall



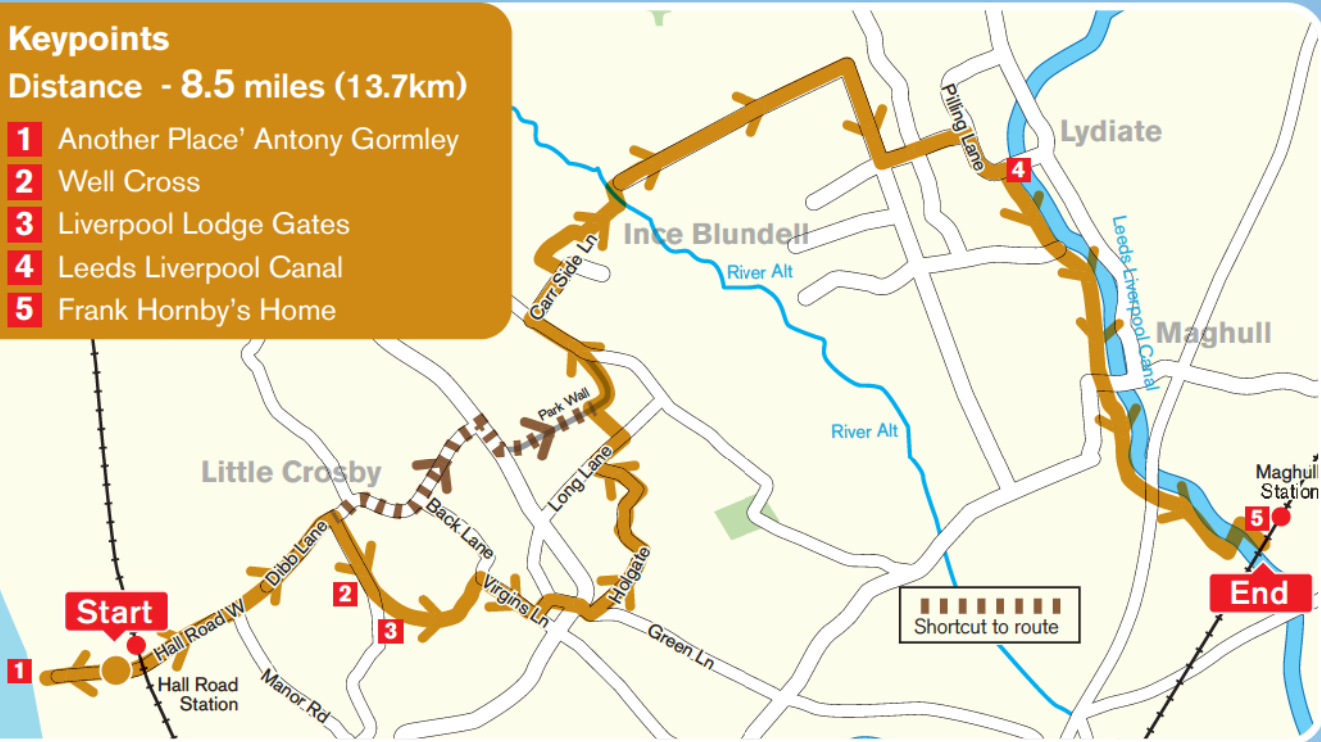
Liverpool Lodge Gates



## Keypoints

Distance - 8.5 miles (13.7km)

- 1 Another Place' Antony Gormley
- 2 Well Cross
- 3 Liverpool Lodge Gates
- 4 Leeds Liverpool Canal
- 5 Frank Hornby's Home



the road turn left and after a short while the remains of 'Brooms Cross' are reached, one of a number of wayside crosses on an ancient corpse way from Hightown to Sefton Church.

After a short distance the byway bends to the right and after a further 382yds (350m) turn left onto a footpath leading to Long Lane. Turn right at Long Lane to reach a footpath sign on the left after 275yds (250m). Follow the wooded footpath, Little Lane, crossing Hunts Brook to reach Park Wall Road.

Turn right onto Park Wall Road and continue to its junction with Carr Side Lane. Walk along Carr Side Lane, passing Carr Side Farm to follow the waymarked footpath to Baines Bridge and cross the River Alt. Cross the bridge, then go straight ahead for 1.25miles (2km) along a farm track called Maghull Hey Cop. This takes us

to the Trans Pennine Trail that runs along the trackbed of the former Cheshire Lines Railway.

Turn right along the Trans Pennine Trail and continue for 130yds (120m), passing straight through a car park, until you reach the track of Cabin Lane. At the end of the lane turn left and then just ahead turn right along the public footpath to Pilling Lane. Walk ahead up Pilling Lane until you reach Lydiate Bridge over the Leeds Liverpool Canal, here you access the towpath on the right and head south towards Maghull.

Keep on the towpath until reaching Drapers Bridge, this metal footbridge is crossed to gain access to Rutherford Road. At the end of the road turn right into Station Road, passing Frank Hornby's former home, complete with Blue Plaque, to reach Maghull railway station.

From the station you can return to your start point via Sandhills railway station, or make your way home.



'Another Place' - by Antony Gormley