

## Al's Autumnal Walk

I have suggested this local walk as I have done it many times and enjoy the changing panorama of the River Mersey. As it is quite a rural walk it gives you the opportunity to see an array of sea birds and other wildlife along the banks of the River Mersey. A perfect Autumnal walk.

A roundtrip from St Mary's Church on Church Road.

Walk from here back towards the village and take the first right onto Withins Way. A path will be seen almost immediately ahead through a barrier, taking a pot-holed track between hedges with fields either side. Where it bends right, keep ahead on a narrower path down to the shore to reach a kissing-gate with a signpost beside it, and follow the way it points - to the right. This is the Mersey Way, a 22-mile trail which runs from Rixton near Warrington to Garston. Hale Marsh is to the left with an abundance of wildlife to witness. The path follows the shore. The shore path will take you to the decommissioned Hale Head Lighthouse. Cross the lane, through another kissing-gate, staying on the shore path, keeping forward and heading for The Childe of Hale.

Continue on the same course beside the estuary before turning your back on the estuary and turn right on a metalled road with the perimeter fence of the airport over to the left. Walk along Dungeon Lane to its junction with Hale Road and stay on Hale Road until you arrive back in the heart of the village.

