



West Kirby Lake & Epic Views Trail

Take in all the sights and sounds on this circular, step free waterside walk from the train station. Expect epic views and beach vibes.

Distance 3.1 kilometers / 1.9 miles

Duration 50 minutes



Wildlife



Wheel friendly



Water feature



Public loos

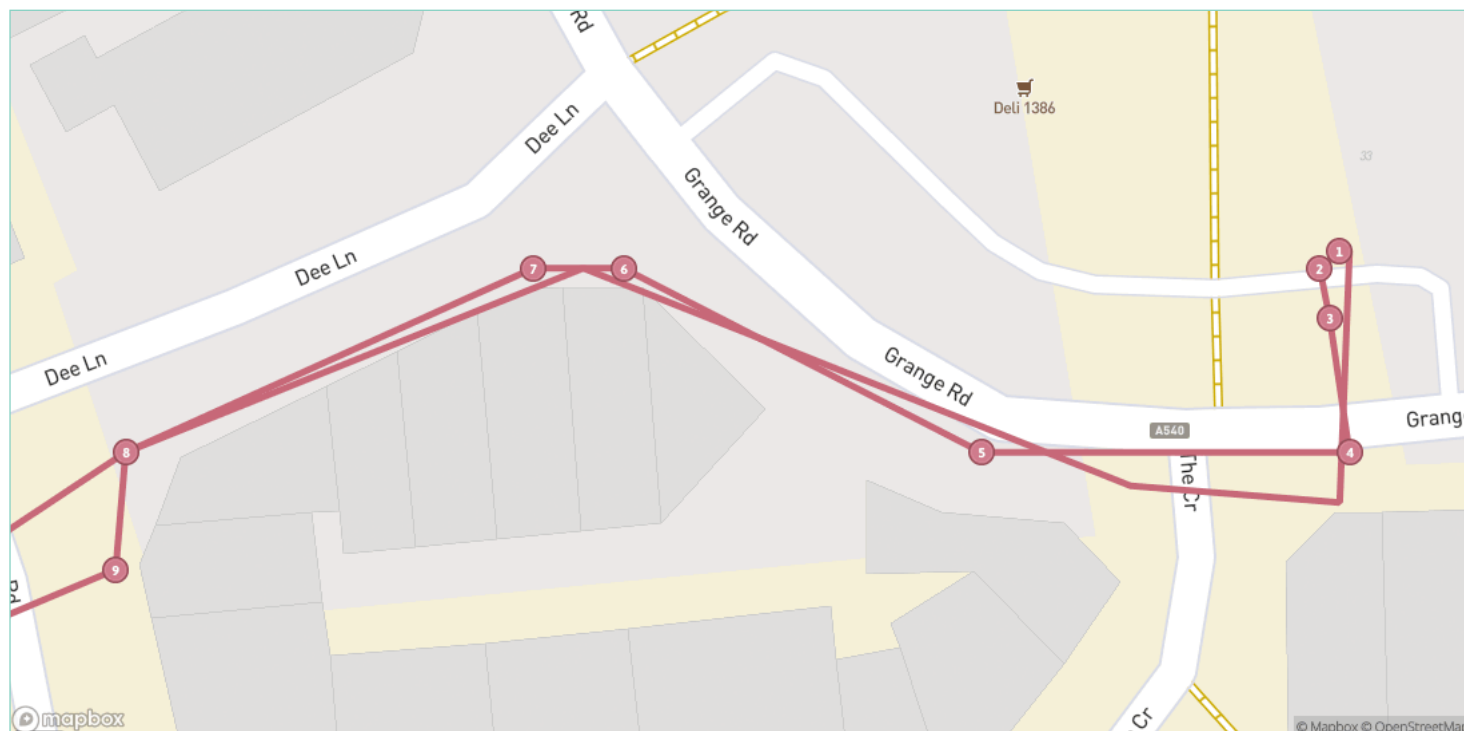


Refreshments



Public transport





Step 1: Start your walk at West Kirby Merseyrail train station. Exit onto Grange Road.

Step 2: Use the dropped kerb to cross the lay-by.

Step 3: Use the pelican crossing to cross over Grange Road towards the shops and turn right.

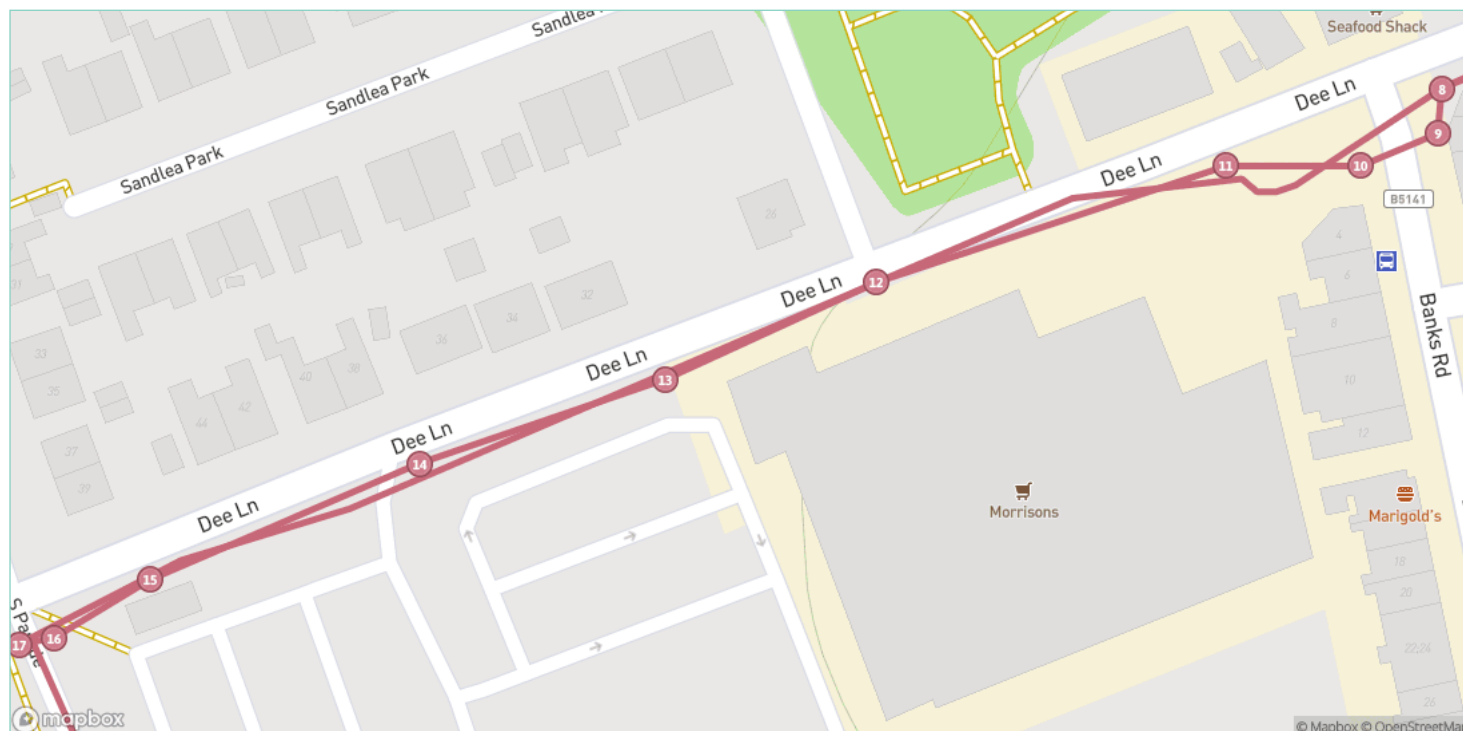
Step 4: Continue right and use the dropped kerb to cross over The Crescent.

Step 5: Follow the pavement around the shops towards the tall redbrick building.

Step 6: The prominent and ornate redbrick Grade II listed building is the former site of the Bank of Liverpool. It was built in 1897 in the Baroque style and served the community as various banks for over 100 years!

Step 7: At the corner, follow the pavement to your left.

Step 8: Curve around the pavement to get to the safe crossing point.



Step 9: Use the tactile dropped kerb to cross over Banks Road.

Step 10: Curve around to your right to follow the pavement. Keep to the left of it. You're heading towards Morrisons.

Step 11: Continue along the pavement.

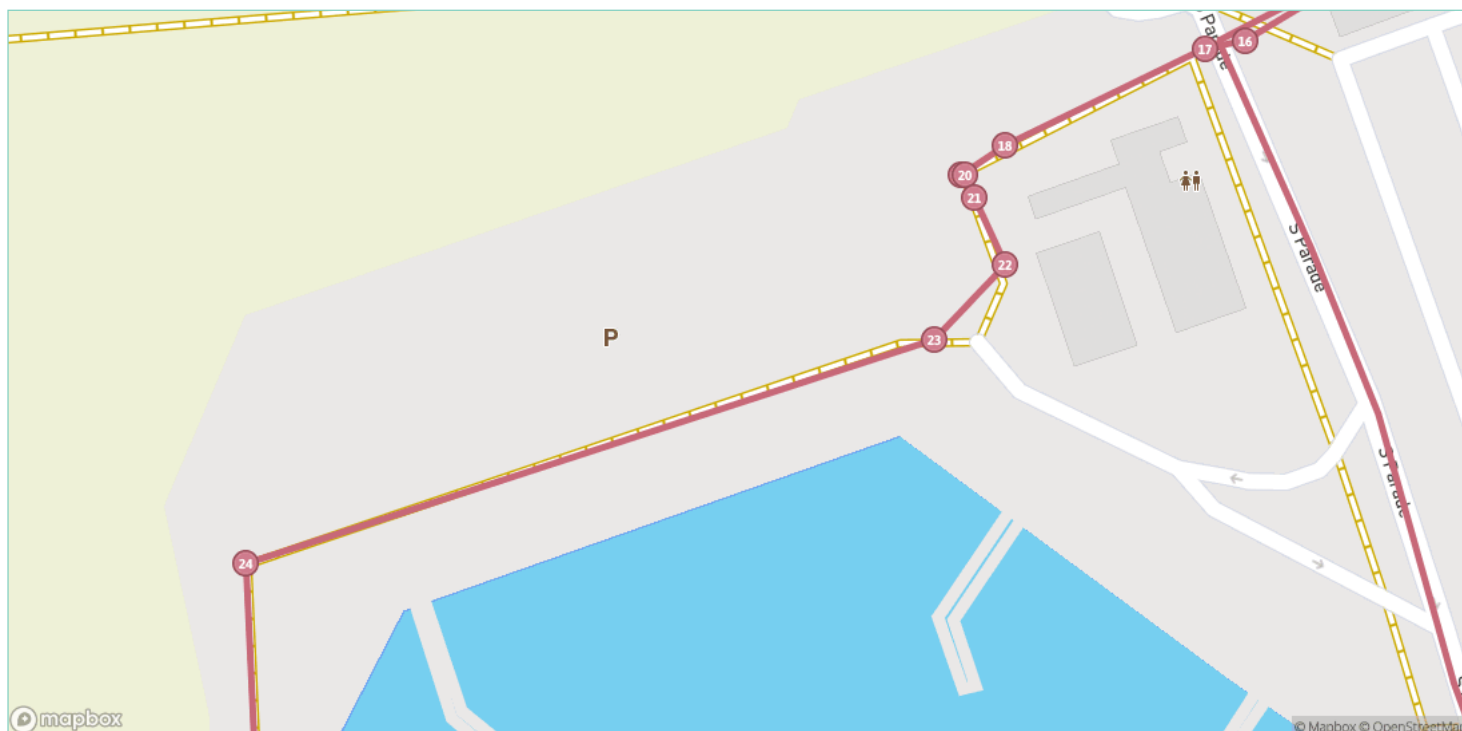
Step 12: Wind your way around the right hand side of Morrisons. Your heading towards the sounds of the seaside.

Step 13: Carry on past the Morrisons car park.

Step 14: Carefully cross over the car park entrance and exit using the dropped kerb.

Step 15: Make your way past the ice cream parlour towards South Parade.

Step 16: Cross over South Parade using the dropped kerb. Be careful of your footing as the sand drift can be a little slippery.



Step 17: Follow the path alongside the ice cream shop to make your way to the gap in the yellow wall.

Step 18: Head through the gap and turn left to go down the ramp.

Step 19: Looking to your right, as you go down the ramp, you can see Hilbre Island in the distance.

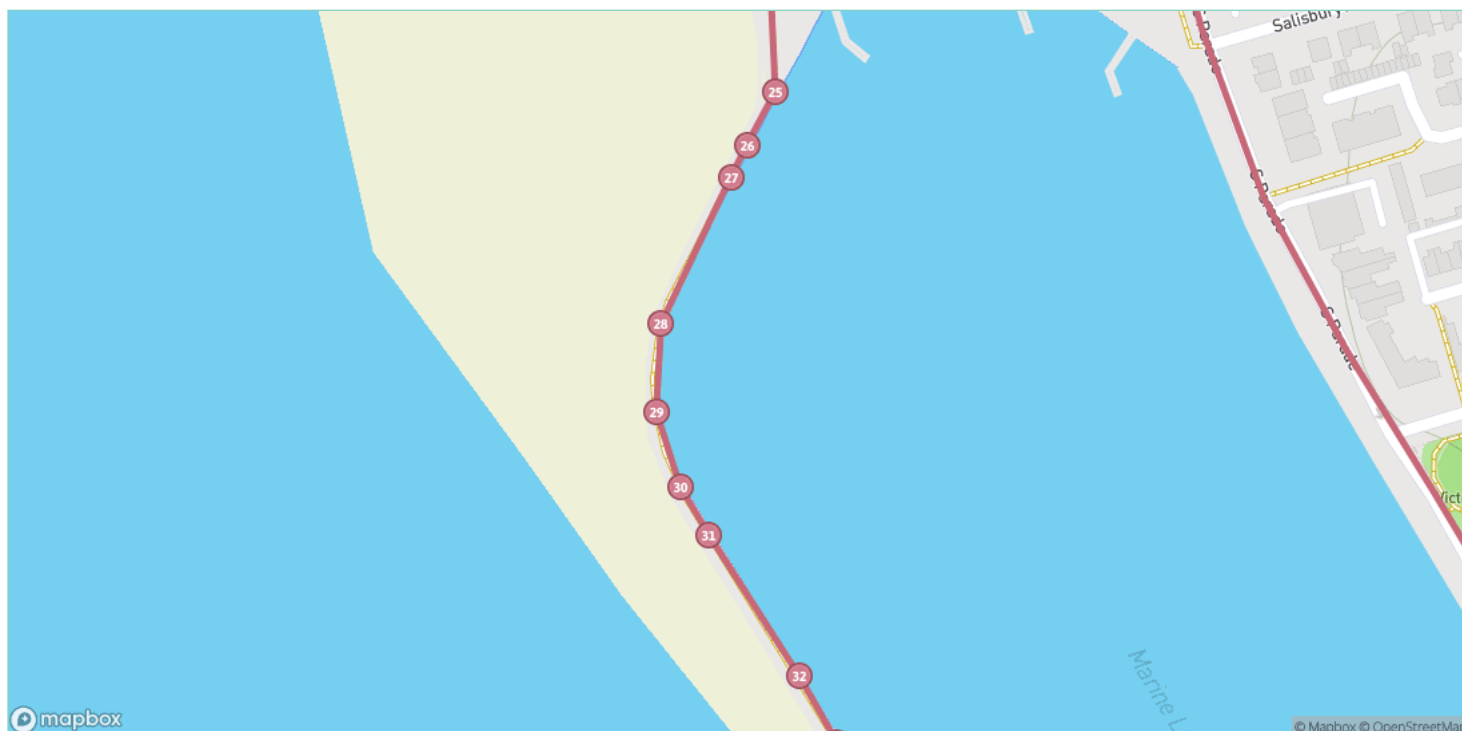
Step 20: Hilbre Island is a small, uninhabited tidal nature reserve. There are three islands, which also include the Middle Eye and the Small Eye. These islands are home to a colony of grey Atlantic seals and many migrating birds.

Step 21: Follow the ramp down to the edge of the lake.

Step 22: Turn right to make your way through the car park. You'll see lots of people getting their boats and wind surfing gear ready for the lake.

Step 23: Continue through the car park towards the horizon.

Step 24: At the end of the car park, turn to your left to join the lake path.



Step 25: You'll get a close up view of the adventurous water sports from the water sports centre on the lake.

Step 26: Continue along the path.

Step 27: Looking to your right as you walk the path, you will see the mountains of Wales in the distance. You can even see Snowdonia!

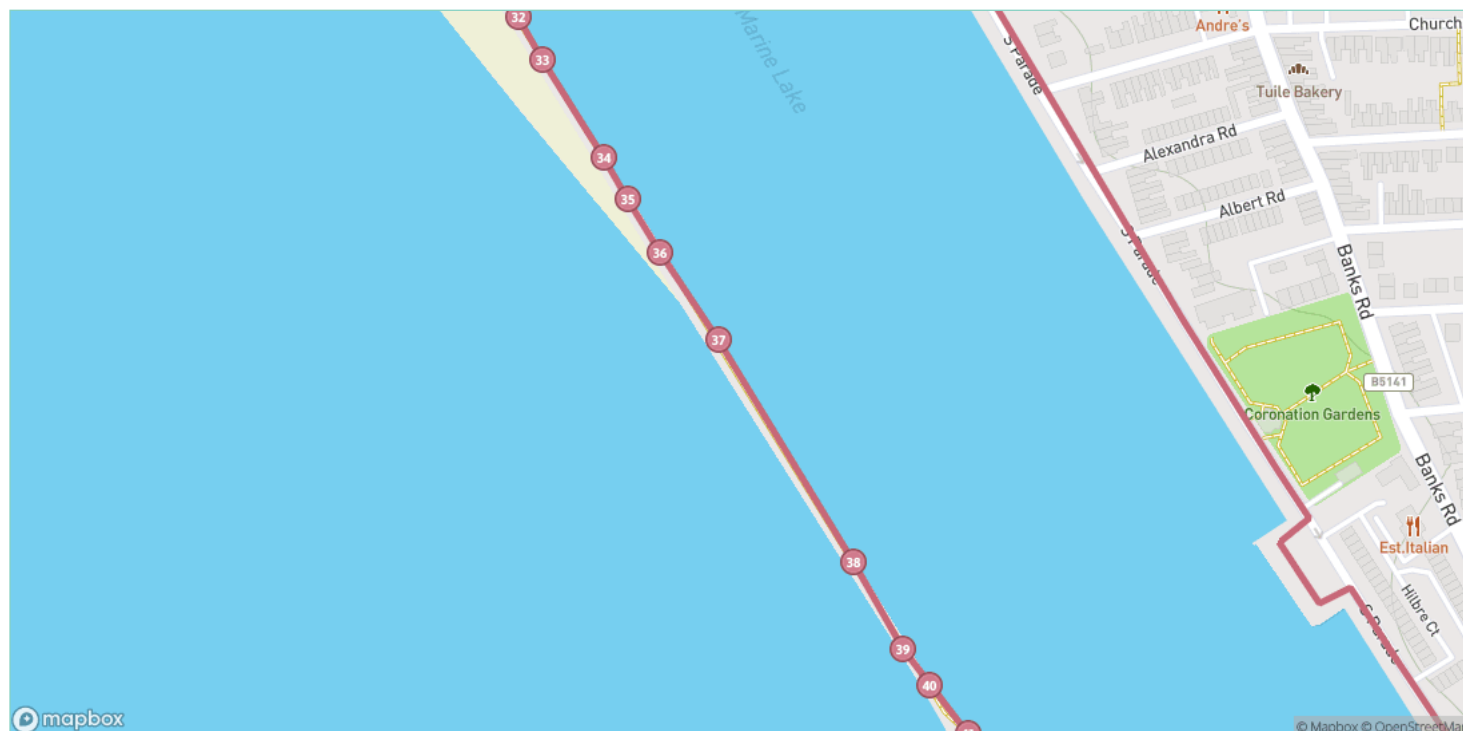
Step 28: Continue along the path as it curves around the lake.

Step 29: The original boating lake was built in 1899. After a significant leak in 1985, it was rebuilt and the lake widened.

Step 30: The posts that look like lamps are actually groyne markers. They help with navigation through the Dee Estuary and local slipways.

Step 31: Did you know there are more than 50 different species of gull? The most common at the seaside is called the Herring Gull.

Step 32: There are annual boating and competitive racing events held at the boating lake. The estuary winds are great for speed!



Step 33: Continue along the path.

Step 34: Take a moment to look down at the beach to see what you can spot. Sometimes you can spot crabs in the water pools.

Step 35: The boating lake is 5 feet deep and covers 52 acres. That's a pretty large man-made lake.

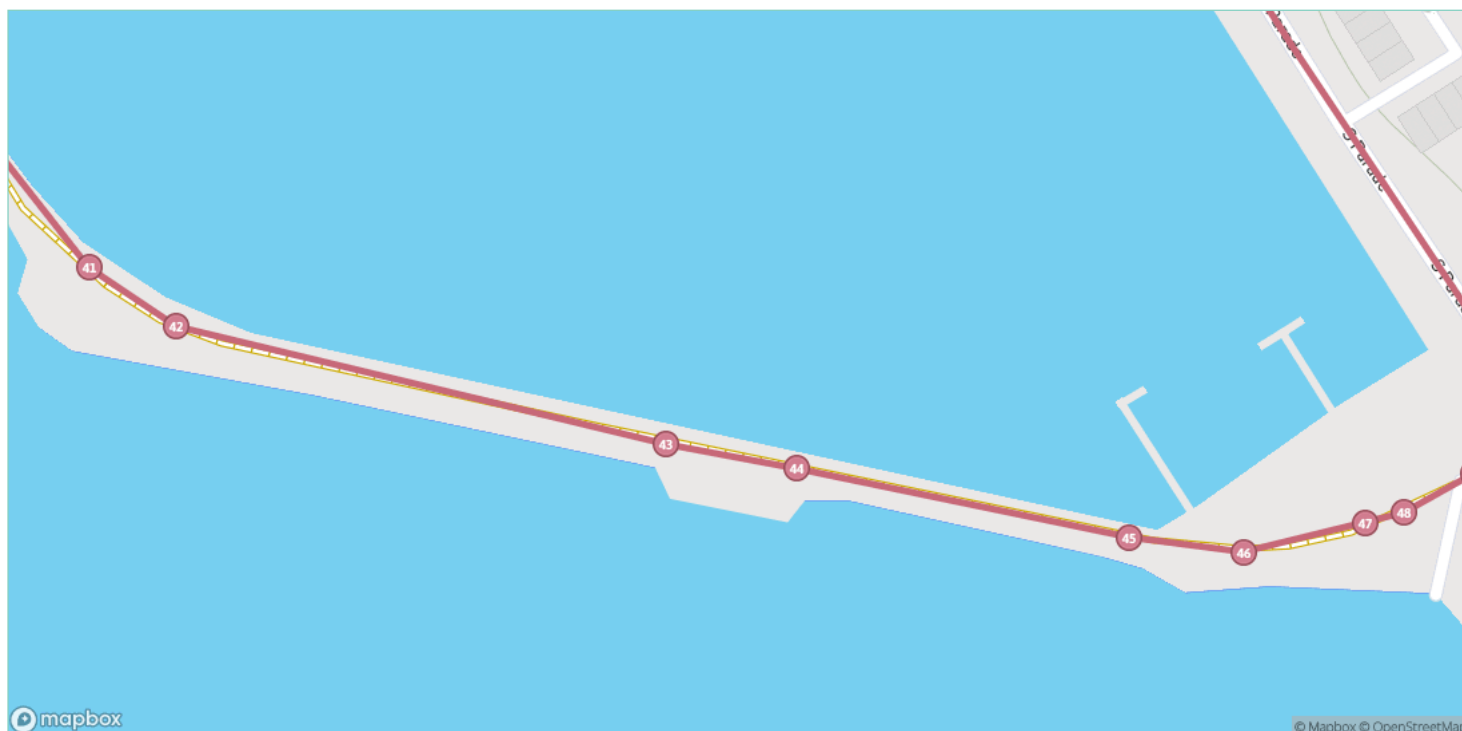
Step 36: As well as Snowdonia, you can also see the Clywidian Mountain Range, the Great Orme and parts of Anglesey.

Step 37: Keep an eye out below your feet to see what creatures also live in the salt water lake.

Step 38: There are lots of mussel shells decorating the rocks in the area.

Step 39: When the tide is out, you'll see the boats sitting jauntily on the sand.

Step 40: The sea tide makes some beautiful patterns and makes tempting spots for birds to fish and bathe.



Step 41: Carry on around the lake.

Step 42: Continue along the lake path back towards South Parade.

Step 43: Soon you'll spot a small pier with another groyne marker to help the boats navigate in the estuary.

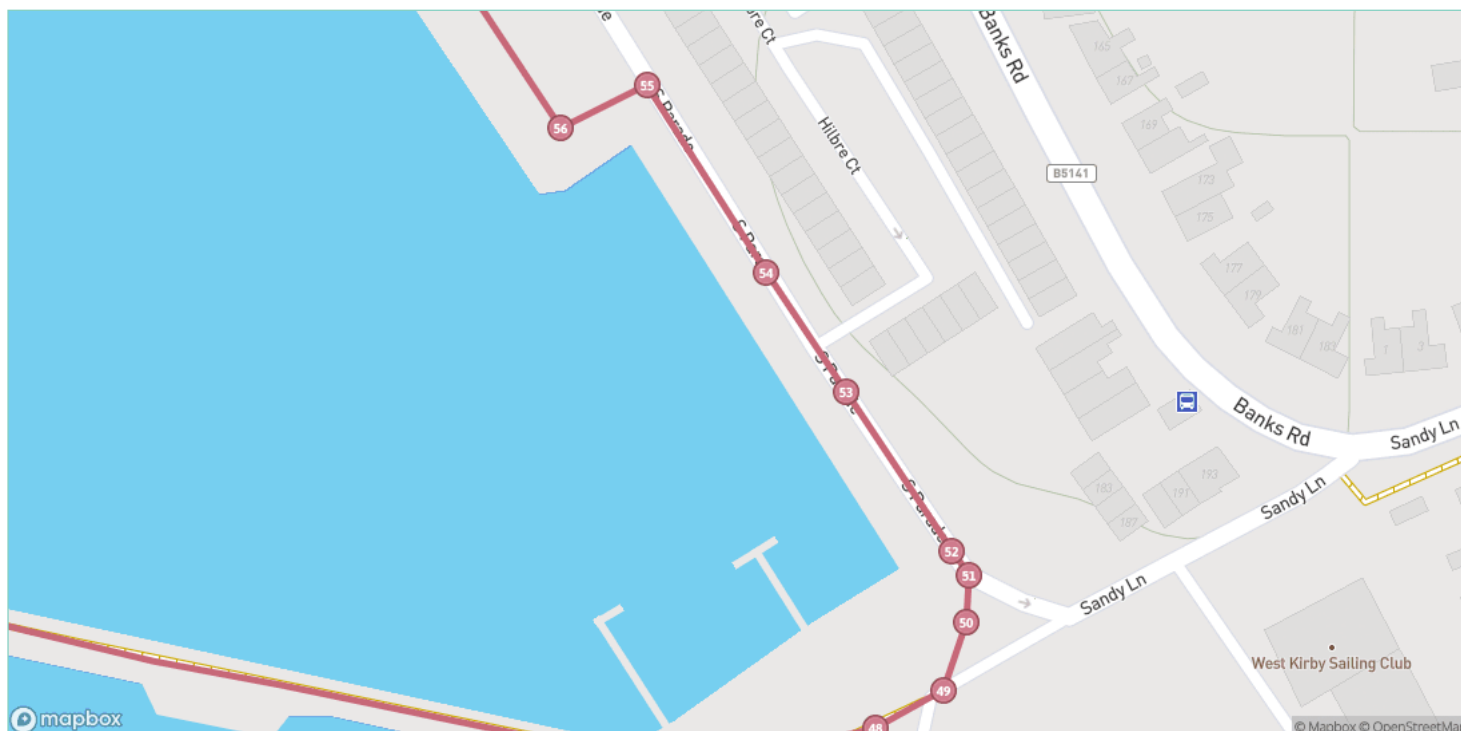
Step 44: Carry on back along the main path.

Step 45: To the right, you can see the beach and cliffs heading towards Caldy, the Wirral Way and the King Charles III England Coast Path.

Step 46: Carry on to join the wider path and make your way towards the boat yard.

Step 47: Keep to the left to rejoin the pavement at the small ramp.

Step 48: Stop to listen to the sounds of the boat ropes and chains making their own kind of seaside music.



Step 49: Follow the path towards the yellow wall.

Step 50: Turn left to rejoin the promenade path along the side the lake.

Step 51: Look down to see which plants are making the area their home. They have to be hardy to survive in the windy conditions.

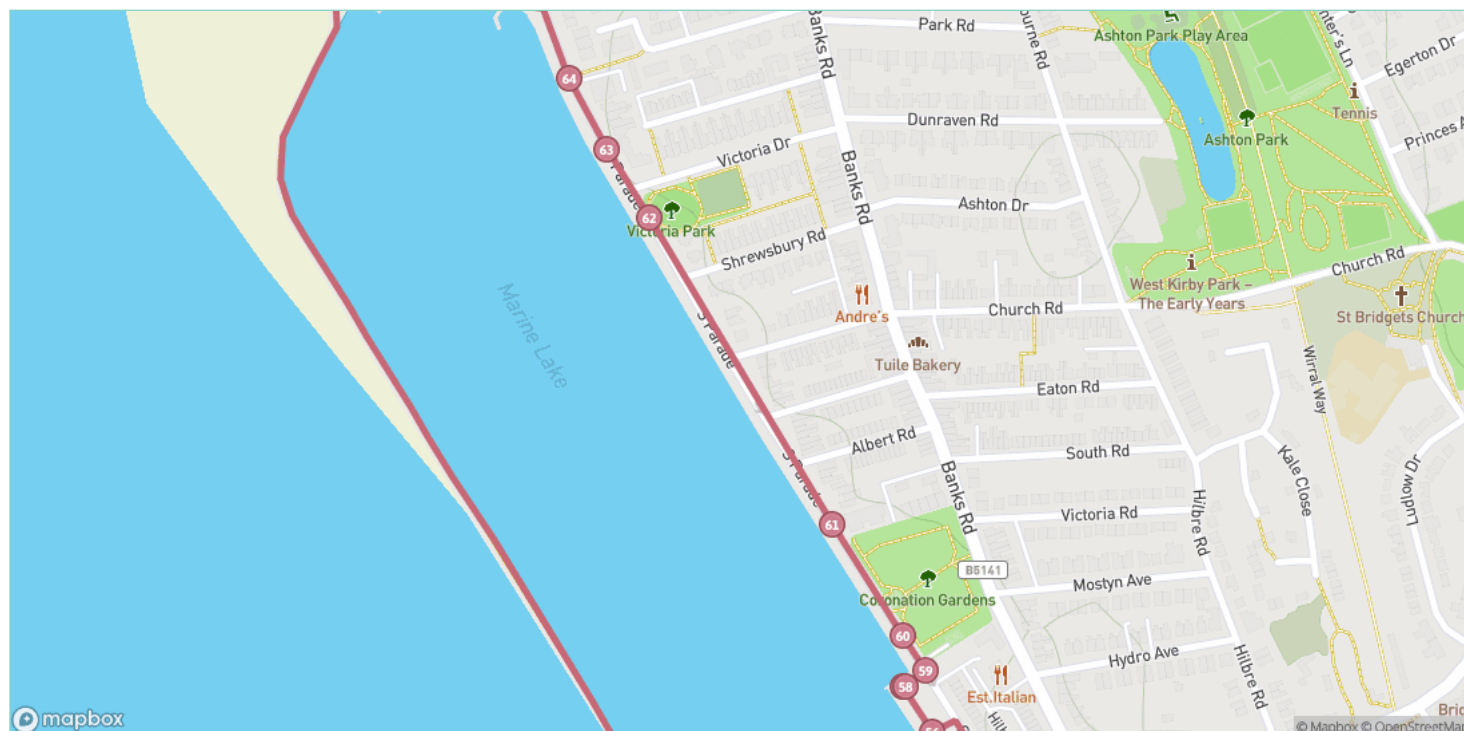
Step 52: The wobbly wall with benches has an important job. It's part of the sea defence for when the tide is very high.

Step 53: It was designed in the alternative convex and concave segments to absorb and break the energy of the wave rather than repelling it straight back. It also creates a lovely place to sit and enjoy the view.

Step 54: Look out for the wiggly lines on the pavement to see if you recognise the creatures depicted on the ground.

Step 55: Turn left to head onto the square.

Step 56: Here you can find out more about the features of the lake. Turn to your right and make your way to the next information board in the square.



Step 57: You can learn more about the birds and wildlife that make West Kirby boating lake and beach their home.

Step 64: Take a moment to watch the windsurfers whooshing around on the lake. It's impressive how they manage to handle the winds so well!

Step 58: Turn so your back is facing the sign, and walk back up to the promenade.

Step 59: Turn left to rejoin the main path.

Step 60: There are plenty more paving tiles depicting birds, animals and creatures to spot along the route.

Step 61: Carry on along the path.

Step 62: If you have some spare coins, it's worth using the telescope to check out the Welsh mountains.

Step 63: Listen out for the birds. Look up and you might get quite the show as they fly into the wind high above your head. Continue ahead.



Step 65: Head towards the shelter.

Step 66: Go through the entrance to your right and make your way back to the main pavement.

Step 67: Cross over to make your way to the buildings.

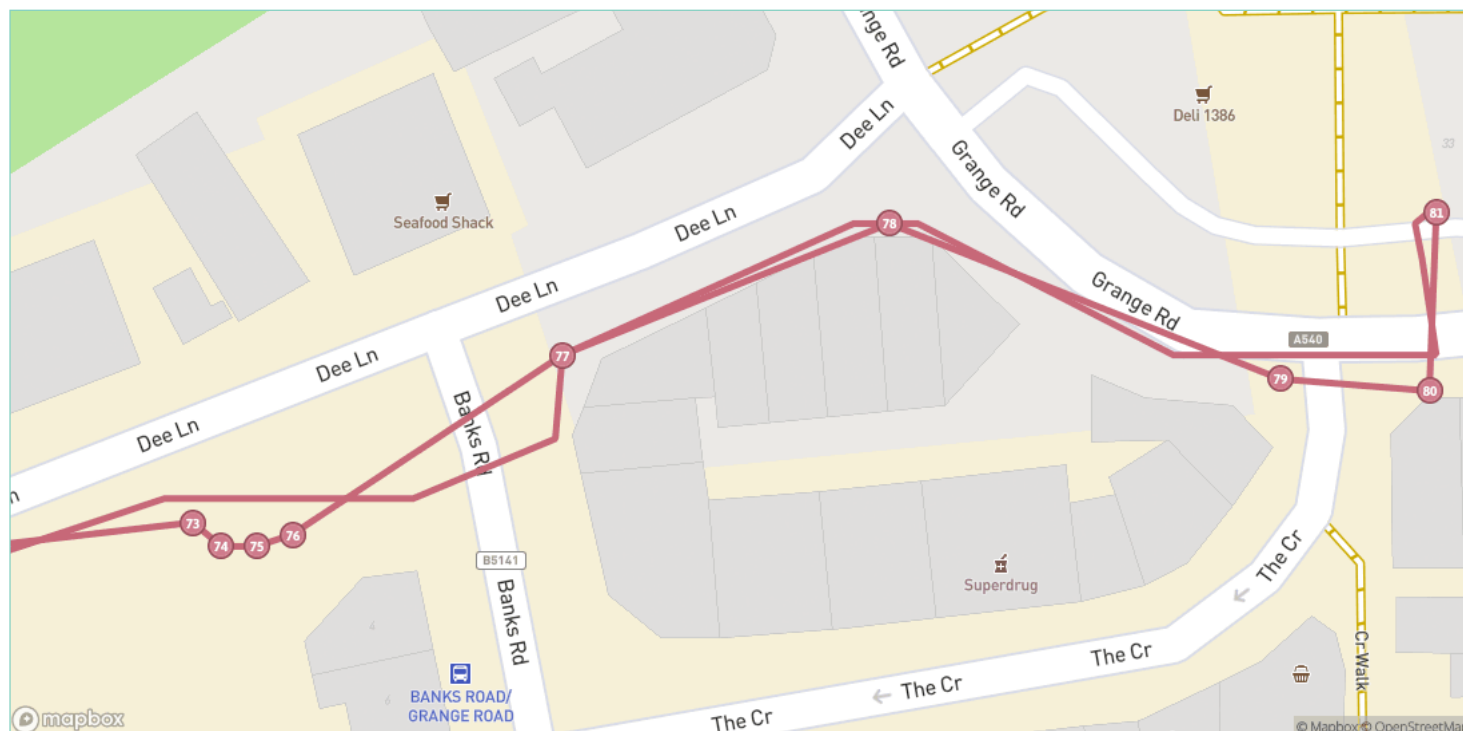
Step 68: Just beyond this building are the public toilets.

Step 69: Cross over South Parade at the dropped kerb, being aware of the slippery sand drift.

Step 70: Rejoin the pavement and head up towards Morrisons. We're now heading back to the station where the walk started.

Step 71: Cross over the car park entrance using the dropped kerb then continue ahead.

Step 72: Carry on towards the village.



Step 73: Take a quick detour into the small garden to your right. This is beautifully maintained and planted by volunteers for West Kirby in Bloom.

Step 74: It creates a lovely space away from traffic to relax and take in the sounds and sights.

Step 75: Check out the beautiful flowers thriving there.

Step 76: Return to the pavement and cross over Banks Road at the tactile dropped kerb.

Step 77: Follow the pavement to your left towards the old Bank of Liverpool building again.

Step 78: Curve around the back following the line of the pavement.

Step 79: Cross over The Crescent using the dropped kerb.

Step 80: Use the pelican crossing to cross over Grange Road to make your way back to the Merseyrail station.

Step 81: You're back at West Kirby train station. We hope you enjoyed this jaunt! Why not try another one of our walks again soon?