







IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE VIKINGS



A walk through the field boundaries of Thornton Hough to Neston, Raby and beyond.

Distance:	5.4 Miles
Time:	Approx 3 Hours
Start / End:	Neston Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JF
Car Park:	Neston Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JF
Bus Stop:	Raby Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral CH63 1JP
Railway:	Nearest - Brimstage Road, Heswall CH60 1XQ

Directions

-  **Start:**
From the Thornton Hough car park turn left and walk toward the Thornton Hall Hotel & Spa. Walk past and keep going until you come to The Red Fox Hotel.
-  **Footpath toward Raby:**
Across from the Red Fox you will see a public footpath sign. Follow this sign through the turnstyle and onto the field footpath. Continue on this path until you reach Upper Raby Road.
- Upper Raby Road:**
Turn left onto Upper Raby Road toward Raby. Before the Wheatsheaf turn right onto the Farm Road. On this corner there is another footpath that you will take.
-  **Footpath:**
The footpath continues along the farm track until it branches to the right. Follow this footpath until it connects to the new path on the left.
As you progress up this path you will see the raised banks on both side but especially on the right.
-  **Half way:**
Turn round when you want to and follow the path back to the main road. You will see the Wheatsheaf directly opposite. (A good spot for a break and a meal or drink).
- Thornton Road:**
Turning right out of the Wheatsheaf you join the main road where you turn left for a short while till you meet the Thornton Hough road on the right. Follow this road to All Saints Parish Church. From here turn left across the fields back to your starting point.



Walk on Film

You can see this walk on a beautiful film by Vinnie Camilleri on our Youtube channel, in the WSF filming section.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQy9IRWYfQ1nUBcjb41mMGA>

Film stills by Vinnie Camilleri

History

The paths on the boundaries were used to traverse the land, so you did not walk on people fields and be accused of all sorts of things such as theft or trespass etc. The depth of the path in relation to the surrounding hedges shows that these township boundaries were very important. Thingwall was the Norse meeting place. Raby was 'the farmstead on the boundary.' This represented the boundary between the Norse and the Saxon enclaves. What we have been working out is how the people from here could have got to Thingwall using these field boundaries. The route here would also have gone further to Willaston and Chester.

Toward the half way point the paths edges become very tall, what was the purpose of making them so high at this point? This exploration allows us to understand how people traversed the land so many years ago.

