





# WVSF IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE VIKINGS

**A walk from Leasowe Bay car park, past Leasowe salt marshes & lighthouse to Meols beach**

**Distance:** 3.7 Miles  
**Time:** Approx 1 Hour 20 Mins.  
**Start:** Leasowe Bay, Wallasey CH45 8LW  
**End:** Meols Beach, Meols, Wirral CH47 7AU  
**Car Park:** Leasowe Bay, Wallasey CH45 8LW

## Directions

-  **Start:**  
From the Gun Site Meadow car park for the Leasowe Bay Car park head towards the embankment path and walk toward the Leasowe embankment past Leasowe Golf Club.
-  **Embankment footpath:**  
Follow the embankment footpath toward the Leasowe salt marsh & Leasowe Castle
-  **Embankment footpath:**  
Walking on the high ground past the North Wirral Coastal Park to Leasowe Lighthouse.
-  **Embankment footpath:**  
Follow the embankment footpath to the end at Meols Beach

## History

The paths on which you are walking are very different today. 1000 years ago the sea was supposed to be a mile further out in places.

We start off by the remains of the Antediluvian Forest at Leasowe which had survived till the 1950's when a storm destroyed them.

The North Wirral Coastal Park, includes public open space, common land, natural foreshore and sand-dunes. A part is of special scientific interest with diverse plants and animals. It sits between Dove Point in Meols, and the Kings Parade in New Brighton. The history of the site goes back at least 5000 years to when the area, including the foreshore, was heavily forested. The remains of this coastal forestland are known as the 'submerged forest' and can be seen at Dove Point, Meols, between the slipway and the groyne.

The original Leasowe Castle was built in 1593 by Ferdinando, the 5th Earl of Derby. In the following year he was awarded with the Manor of Wallasey, and in 1594 became the Mayor of Liverpool. The original purpose of the building is not known but it is likely to have been built in connection with sporting activities, possibly as a viewing area for the famous Wallasey races, the forerunners of the Derby race.

Leasowe lighthouse was built in 1763 by The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company to guide shipping safely to the Port of Liverpool and is the oldest lighthouse built from bricks in the United Kingdom. The lighthouse became obsolete and was closed in 1908. The last lighthouse keeper was a Mrs. Williams, the only known female lighthouse keeper of the period.

