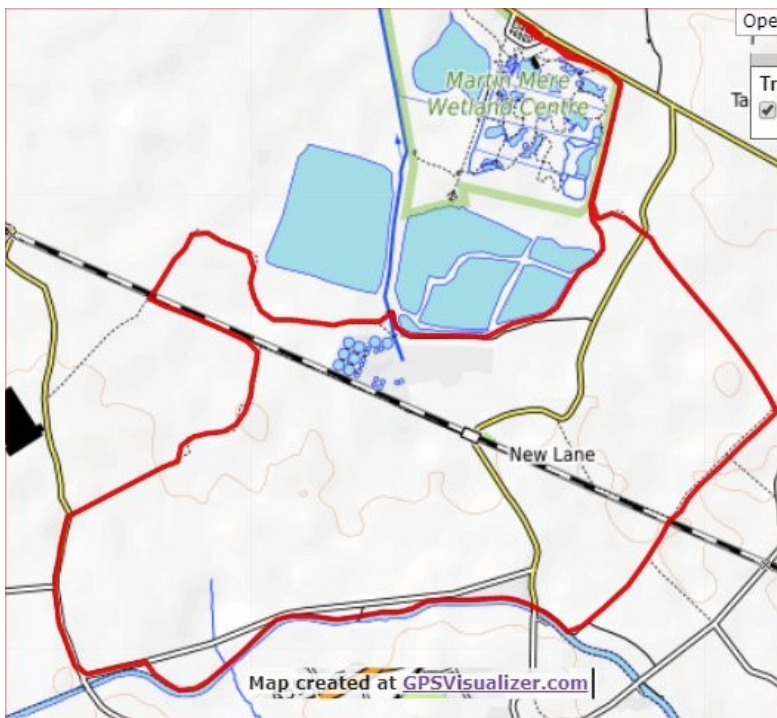


## Martin Mere, Martin Hall, Marsh Moss

A 5.5 mile, flat walk over farm tracks, fields and short road stretch. Multiple starting points and café's available. Bird hides though sightings very dependent on time of year.

Martin Mere is a large WWT site and this walk starts from its large car park. There are toilets available. Park anywhere in the car park though note there is a one way system and disabled parking is nearest the entrance.

The Martin Mere café is only accessible having paid entry fee. There is a Café ¼mile east of the car park and another half way around this walk. The walk can also be started at this second Café (The Farm, Burscough, L40 0RT, SD413130), or at a the Farmers Arms SD428125 L40 8JX)



*It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.*

*This description can be used/printed/shared for personal use, or to lead a walk but not for commercial use without the author's written consent. 2-June-2016*



**1: SD 428145** The start of the walk is from the car park through the coach park at the left of the entrance. There is a path that runs between the road and the high fence. Follow this until it turns right.



**2: SD 432143** Turn right to follow the fence until it again turns right where a number of paths merge at a number of gates.



**3: SD 431138** The path to the right beside the fence is no longer permitted to protect the wildlife. Go through the left gate and proceed left. Do **not** go through the second/right gate, that is your return path. Continue until you reach a gate leading to a road.



**4: SD 432138** Having passed through this gate you are at a road at a blind curve so take care. Cross to the other side and continue in the same direction with a small stream/drain on your left.

**5: SD 437132** At Monks farm turn right.. In winter tractors and flocks of geese on the fields, noisily making their presence felt, can turn the path into slippery mud. Continue towards a pair of trees and the railway crossing.



**6: SD 433128** Cross the styles on either side of the railway and continue in the same direction heading towards the canal.



**7: SD 430125** Turn right and head towards the bridge a little distance ahead.

Note the Farmer's Arms on the other side of the bridge – an alternative start point.



**8: SD 429126** Do not cross the bridge, but cross the road and follow the canal footpath on the other side. Continue beside the canal nearly a mile (1.6Km) to go under a bridge and turn up to the road. (OR near the end before the bridge a path to the right leads you onto a road. Turn left to T junction).





**9: SD 414124** As you come up onto the road turn left to pass in front of these grey/white houses.



**10: SD 414126** Walk along the pavement until you reach the end of the Martin Lane at Martin Inn, where the road turns left. This is a blind corner and you need to cross to the farm lane opposite.



**11: SD 414129** After 245 m you reach “The Farm” which has a tearoom and farm shop. This is almost halfway around the route so useful place for a break. (in bad weather there is a barn a little further on the right you might take shelter in – but return to the tearoom afterwards)



**12: SD 414129** Opposite the tearoom there is a footpath leading down the side of a fence. Follow this as it turns slightly right then left and follow the obvious path. (there are two parallel paths here, just keep to the right hand side one.)

**13: SD 418131** You will soon come to a wooden plank bridge. (if you've ended up on the left hand path you will come to the corner of a field – there is an opening in the fence back onto this path.) Cross the bridge and turn immediately left.



**14:** In a short distance there is a signpost to Martin Mere. Turn right and follow the obvious path.



**15: SD 419132** You will reach a wood. You can either go around it, or near the start of the wood is an opening and a number of vague paths leading through the wood. In poor weather it offers a convenient and slightly sheltered stopping place



**16: SD 420134** Leaving the wood the path continues until you reach the railway where a signpost will direct you left for Martin Mere to walk beside the railway.





**17: SD 417136** Another railway crossing is reached. Cross over and continue in the same direction as the crossing (north east).



**18: SD 418138** Soon you reach another signpost for Martin Mere. You turn right here and continue on the obvious path. There are regular signposts and small circular arrow markers guiding the way back to Martin Mere.



**19: SD 420137** At this point the older path is closed and you are directed through a gate and to the right. Continue to follow the obvious path watching for the plentiful signposts and signs as the path wanders right and left and passes a number of hides.



**20: SD 430138** In due course to return to pair of gates that you passed early on. Go through both gates and head in largely the same direction with the high fence on your left, towards the road. When the fence turns left, follow it back to the car park.

-----End of Walk-----

Eric Crichton

19-01-2016