

Castle Way

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Distance: 3½ kms (2 miles)
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Time: Allow 1½ hours
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Start: From the Vernon Institute
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Terrain: mostly flat but with some steep earth slopes which can be slippery when wet. Several stiles and kissing gates, earth surfaces in woodland, otherwise over cattle pasture.
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Directions: Cross the road and walk up Shotwick House driveway to the right of the Greyhound Inn. At the ornamental gates to the private grounds of the house, keep left along the narrow footpath

Go through the kissing gate and walk across the field towards a kissing gate opposite; turn left at the path junction towards Dingle Wood. Follow the path through the wood beside the gully as far as the top of the old Dee bank with views out across the fields to the Dee estuary.

Turn right here and descend to a footbridge. Cross the brook and ascend the bank stairway to follow the path as it twists through the wood. Ahead, another bridge crosses over a small ravine.

At the far end of the wood cross over another gully by means of a broad stone bridge and bear left.

To your delight, you will emerge onto the site of Shotwick Castle, though all that remains now are the castle earthworks. Follow the hedgeline on the right to exit the site to the right through a kissing gate and move up very gently rising ground through fields alongside the hedgerow to reach a fingerpost after two fields; turn right and descend along the hedgeline then across the field to Pigeon Wood. Turn right into the wood and follow the path to a footbridge, then alongside the brook to the junction that leads back past Shotwick House.

