

St. Bartholomew's Way

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Distance: 6½ kms (4 miles)
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Time: Allow 2 hours
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Start: From the Vernon Institute
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Terrain: Mostly flat but one steep earth bank ascent. Several stiles and kissing gates with surfaces a mixture of pavement, stoned track and pasture.
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Directions: Turn left and left again onto **Hermitage Road**, continue for 1.4 kms to a footpath on your right on a left hand bend just after **Aspen Grove**. Walk down to the old River Dee bank and then diagonally right across the field, then left over a footbridge and along the field edge to reach the footpath/cycleway.

This area is referred to locally as the 'Seven Hills', perhaps due to the number of embankment cuttings. There are plentiful areas of lovely wild flowers such as primrose and violet.

Cross the footpath/cycleway and continue along the edge of three fields to Church Farm on the **A548 Seal-and Road**. Cross with great care and turn right along the pavement heading for Sealand, then at the traffic lights turn right to reach **St. Bartholomew's Church**.

The road continues straight into Saughall but our walk continues by following the bridleway (**Green Lane East**) behind the church for 1km until, just after you have crossed the bridge over the footpath/cycleway, you can turn right over a stile. Take the path which follows the embankment back towards the old Dee bank, first crossing a metal footbridge and a field to a kissing gate onto **Marsh Lane**; walk right for 40 metres and then turn left up the old Dee bank to emerge at the corner of a field.

Bear diagonally right for a stile and footbridge (in the general direction of the Vernon Institute tower, which can be seen over the hedges) then diagonally across the next field to enter a lane leading out onto **Sea Hill Road**. Turn left for the Vernon Institute.

