



Wirral's Wonderful Waders

Every autumn and winter, wading birds in their thousands come to the Dee Estuary and the coast of North Wirral to feed on the rich diversity of food to be found on and around the mud and sand of the estuary and the beaches. The different lengths and shapes of their bills are used for different types of food, most of them feed on molluscs and worms in the mud.

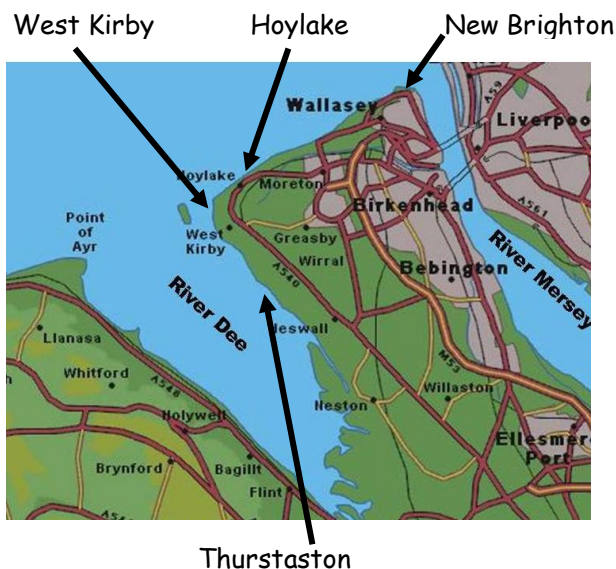
Because of the birds, the Dee Estuary and North Wirral coast have been designated internationally important *Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)*.



At times of high water, the birds are forced to retreat to the top of the beaches where they roost, waiting for the tide to go out. If they are forced to fly, they use up their energy reserves, which in the winter cold can be dangerous for them if they have to fly too much.

Where to see Wirral's Wonderful Waders

Throughout the winter months waders can be found on the beaches all around Wirral's coastline. Four places you can easily see waders, dependent on the state of the tide, are shown below.



At all four points, at the right state of the tide, the birds can easily be seen from promenades or public footpaths without disturbing the birds.

Please avoid disturbing Wirral's Wonderful Waders

Roosting wading birds are particularly vulnerable to disturbance from walkers, dogs and horses.

Please stay away from roosting birds on the beach and please keep your dogs under control, to avoid sights such as this -



... and please help us by encouraging other beach users not to disturb the birds on the beaches.