

Hilbre Island – terrain classification

Adaptation for local conditions (Spring/Summer)

Hilbre Island should be classed as Terrain One for the reason highlighted below:

9.12.7.2

Terrain One

Terrain One describes terrain which meets all of criteria (a) and (b) and (c) and (d):

1. *is below 800 metres but more than 500 metres above sea level*

OR

is more than 30 minutes but less than three hours travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as a farm) or another means of calling help (such as a telephone box).

2. *has no steep slopes or rocky terrain, where a slip may result in a fall (routes or areas where the average person would need to regularly use their hands at least for balance if not for actual progress. This does not stop people from using their hands as an aid to confidence.)*
3. *is not a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic.*
4. *is not Terrain Two*

However, after consulting with HQ (Safety) we are able to classify it as Terrain zero so long as there is a robust risk assessment which identifies the additional risks i.e., the restriction of the tides, and hence more than 30 minutes to a road where an ambulance could access etc. Additionally, only access the area when the RNLI are present to further reduce the risks. You might consider the time of day and when the tides are most favourable for you and your groups to access the Island to avoid any issues with daylight hours.

During the summer season the RNLI place lifeguards by the Middle Island with a 4 x 4 or a quad bike. However, they are only available at certain times typically:

West Kirby Beach Lifeguard patrol dates 2025*

Easter School Holiday 05 April - 21 April

Weekends and Bank Holidays Only 26 April - 18 May

Daily 24 May - 07 September

Weekends Only 13 September - 28 September

Patrol times 10am - 6pm

Please remember - No Flags = No Lifeguards

This means that any trips planned outside of the above dates or during the evenings must have terrain one permit holders.

There is only one safe route to access the islands and the map below shows that.



Please be aware of the rocky nature of the environment and ensure adequate supervision, especially by the old lifeboat station with the iron ladder. Also note that the wave cut platform rocks are slippery and adequate footwear is required.

