

Formby Accessibility Guide

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- Large print (click here <https://bit.ly/3rGmOM8>, and printed copies on request)

This guide aims to provide clear, useful information to help people know more about what to expect when travelling to and exploring National Trust Formby, particularly for those with additional needs.

It has been developed in partnership with the Formby Access Support Group, to help identify key information that should be included, and to ensure that the guide is accessible for all site visitors. We would like to acknowledge the support of the Formby Access Support Group in helping us to revise our existing Accessibility Guide and thank them for their patience and expert input throughout.

We endeavour to comprehensively review this guide every two years; however, if you have suggestions about how we can improve it, please get in touch via our email or phone using the details above.

Thank you and we hope you find this guide useful in helping to plan your visit to this special place.

National Trust Formby
September 2023

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Key Information

- Formby is part of the Sefton Coast where the terrain is generally sandy. The property is a landscape sculpted by wind and tides. It has shifting sands which create an ever-changing landscape of golden sand dunes against a backdrop of green pine plantations.
- All the information provided below was collected during our most recent revision of this guide (summer 2023), therefore please bear this in mind when considering visiting during the winter months, when challenges such as mud and standing water are more likely, particularly on our woodland trails.
- Mobile phone reception is poor for some networks in parts of the coastal area. In a medical emergency, **visitors are asked to telephone 999**.
- During opening times, visitors can also contact staff on 01704 878591 to reach National Trust staff. Up to date opening hours can be found on our website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/formby>

Dogs at Formby

- Dog walking is a popular activity, and we welcome all responsible dog owners. We ask that dogs are kept on a lead near to vulnerable wildlife such as on the tide line where we have many feeding and roosting wading birds and waterfowl, especially in the winter.
- We also ask that dog owners ensure that they pick up after their dog. Large bins are provided at both car parks that can be used for depositing dog waste; however, we kindly ask that you take your rubbish home with you.

Understanding and Using our Guide

- To help users of this document navigate it easily, you can left-click on any of the headings in the Table of Contents, to take you straight to that section.
- Some terms or expressions used in this guide may need further explanation. We have detailed some of these below to aid users of this guide with understanding what they mean for their visit.

Gradients

- A gradient of 1:60 or less is considered level, while a gradient between 1:60 and 1:20 is considered gently sloping.
- A gradient steeper than 1:20 is considered a ramp.

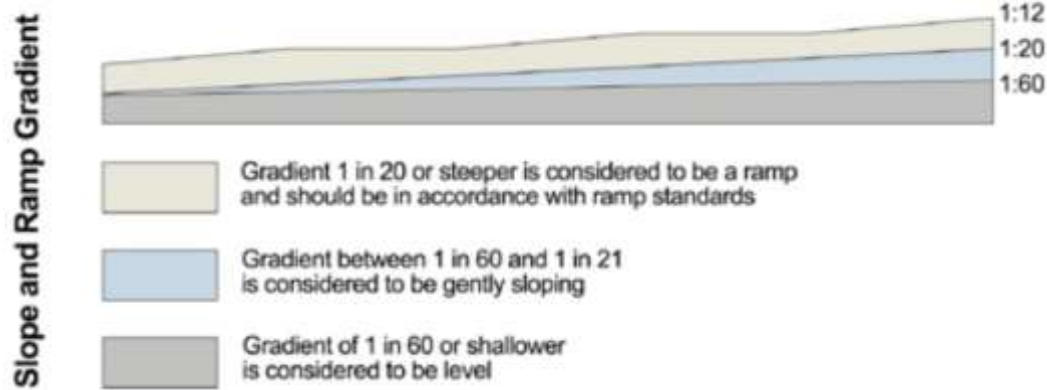


Diagram showing the difference in slope and ramp gradients. Taken from Disability Sport Northern Ireland's "Accessible Outdoor Places Design Guidelines 2021". [Guide-5-Accessible-Outdoor-Places-Design-Guidelines.pdf \(dsni.co.uk\)](https://dsni.co.uk/Guide-5-Accessible-Outdoor-Places-Design-Guidelines.pdf)

Crossfall

- Crossfall or camber describes the steepness of the gradient across the width of the path, perpendicular to the direction of travel.
- Paths, steps and ramps should have a slight crossfall to shed water, however crossfalls present difficulties for wheelchair users and people with visual impairments.

Surfaces

- Most surfaced routes at Formby are made up of compacted stone. In this guide we have described the surface by the maximum stone size you are most likely to find on the surface.
- For example, even if a path has some sections which have a maximum stone size of only 10mm, but other areas where the stone size is much larger (up to 40mm), the larger of the two numbers has been provided.
- Paths with a surface made up of larger stones are harder wearing but much less accessible, in particular for wheelchair users.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

By Public Transport

- National Trust Formby is only a short walk from two well connected train stations: Formby, and Freshfield. Services to these stations run regularly between Southport and Liverpool, at which you can connect to national rail services.
- There are six different Formby circular bus routes which connect to both Formby and Freshfield railway stations. These are called F1 to F6 and details can be found for each on the Arriva website:
<https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/north-west>
- Parts of routes F3, F4, F5, and F6 stop close to some of the entrances described below in the section 'By Foot'.

Freshfield Train Station ([Freshfield train station | timetable | ticket prices & facilities \(merseyrail.org\)](#))

- To access National Trust Formby from Freshfield train station, head west out of the station and along Victoria Road for around 1km until you reach the entrance to Victoria Road Car Park.



Entrance to Victoria Road Car Park, looking west

Formby Train Station ([Formby train station | timetable | ticket prices & facilities \(merseyrail.org\)](#))

- To access National Trust Formby from Formby train station, head west out of the station and along Kirklake Road for around 1km until you reach the end of Kirklake Road, as the road bends south and becomes St. Luke's Church Road. At this corner, there is a narrow entrance into the woodlands (see Kirklake Corner below).



Entrance to site via Kirklake Corner, looking west

- Access can also be gained along Lifeboat Road by continuing south along St. Luke's Church Road, and then veering west after 200m when you reach the 5-way junction. There are no hard surfaced paths that run alongside the road however, so caution must be taken when walking along the road for vehicles, cyclists, and horse-riders.



Lifeboat Road, looking west from St. Luke's Church Road

By Foot

There are several points at which you can access National Trust Formby by foot. Here we will detail some of the most used routes for people accessing the site from the eastern property boundary and the town of Formby.

Victoria Road Entrance

- A stone footpath (up to 40mm maximum stone size) provides access for pedestrians along the southern side of the road.
- This path rises gently (1:20) towards the toilet block, and can get quite muddy in the winter.



Path from entrance kiosk to woodland car park, looking west

- For the most part the footpath is at least 2.5m wide. At the property entrance is it 295cm wide.



Path from Victoria Road entrance, looking west

- After the small kiosk, wooden posts separate the footpath from the adjacent road, but caution must still be taken when walking along this path for vehicles. The width of the footpath is 130cm wide for around 50m until the track widens substantially.

Blundell Avenue

- A tarmacked road provides access to the woodlands north and south of Blundell Avenue, as well as to the public footpath that enters site as the road bends towards St. Josephs Hospice.



Entrance to site via Blundell Avenue corner, looking west

- No parking is allowed on this road at any time due to the need for emergency vehicle access to the hospice at the end of the road.
- Various entrances to the woodlands north and south of Blundell Avenue can be gained, though only the Asparagus Trail entrance (around 150m west of the eastern end of Blundell Avenue) is compacted stone (up to 20mm).



Entrance to site via Blundell Avenue, looking north

Wicks Lane

- Pedestrian access can be gained by walking along the bridleway at the southern end of Larkhill Lane through either a wooden pedestrian gate (180cm wide) or a metal a-frame (36cm wide at the top, 151cm from the ground).



Entrance to bridleway off Larkhill Lane, looking west

- After around 300m, the bridleway can be joined by a short 5m tarmac path connecting it to Spruce Way and has a gradient of 1:14.



Path to connect with bridleway from Spruce Way, looking north

- Continuing west along the bridleway, the National Trust Formby property boundary is met 10m from the junction with Spruce Way.



Bridleway, just after Spruce Way connection, looking west

- The surface of the bridleway and the route on to site is compacted sand. There is a gradient of 1:11 as you enter the property boundary along the bridleway.

Kirklake Corner

- Entrance to the woodlands can be gained through the gap in the fence at the western end of Kirklake Road, as the road bends south and becomes St. Luke's Church Road.



Entrance to site via Kirklake Corner, looking west

- The gap in the fence is 113cm wide and the path is made of compacted stone (up to 20mm).

Lifeboat Road

- Access on foot can be gained by walking up Lifeboat Road from the 5-way junction at the western end of Bushby's Lane.



Lifeboat Road, looking west from St. Luke's Church Road

- This road leads to Lifeboat Road car park, as well as Formby Point Caravan Site, and is therefore fairly busy during winter, and particularly so in the summer months. Caution must therefore be taken at all times. This road is also regularly used by horse-riders and cyclists.
- After just over 100m from the eastern end of Lifeboat Road, entrance to the woods north of Lifeboat Road can be gained via a compacted stone footpath (up to 20mm). This entrance is 115cm wide, between two short wooden posts.



Entrance to site from Lifeboat Road, looking north

- Around 150m west of the above entrance, the bridleway meets Lifeboat Road, at which there is a 111cm gap between two short wooden posts.

Range Lane

- Access to National Trust Formby can be made through a narrow gap, 97cm wide, between a metal field gate and a wooden post.



Entrance to site from Range Lane, looking west

- The track leading up to this gate from Jubilee Road is compacted stone and is used regularly by the neighbouring farmer so is badly potholed.



Track leading to Range Lane entrance, looking west

- This entrance can also be reached from the south, near Cabin Hill National Nature Reserve, and connects to the Sefton Coast Path further east. The track is wide enough for a vehicle (2.5m) but gets narrower as it turns east. The track is made up of large, compacted stone.

By Car

- Both Victoria Road and Lifeboat Road car park have limited parking spaces, and fill up quickly on busy, sunny days. We therefore strongly recommend that visitors use public transport on these days or consider visiting on a different day.
- When the car parks are full, we close them and unfortunately cannot prioritise Blue Badge holders.
- For those wanting to access the beach on busy, sunny days, Ainsdale is only a few miles north of Formby and provides parking on the beach. Please check out Sefton Council's website for opening times and costs: [Beach Car Parking \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/beach-car-parking)
- Brown highways signs direct visitors to either the Victoria Road or Lifeboat Road car park from the roundabouts on the Formby by-pass (A565).
- To reach Victoria Road car park, follow brown signs to Formby Point with the National Trust oak leaf logo.



Brown tourism sign directing visitors to Victoria Road car park

- To reach Lifeboat Road car park, follow brown signs to Lifeboat Road Beach with the National Trust oak leaf logo.



Brown tourism sign directing visitors to Lifeboat Road car park

Victoria Road Car Park

Victoria Road,
Formby,
Merseyside
L37 1LJ

- There is one vehicular access road at this entrance, leading to the woodland car park, and further west the beach car park.
- The road is tarmacked until you reach the beach car park where it becomes compacted stone.



Entrance to Victoria Road beach car park, looking west

- The beach car park is amongst the mobile sand dune habitat, and there are often sandy areas so please drive with caution.
- Due to the proximity to the coast and harsh conditions, the beach car park can often become damaged and uneven so please drive slowly.
- The entrance to the Victoria Road car park has speed bumps and one-way flow plates to control traffic on busy days. The flow plates require a vehicle ground clearance of at least 11cm.



Flow plates at Victoria Road car park as you leave site, looking east

- Three pay and display machines can be found in this car park: one in the woodlands and two in the beach car park.
- Up-to-date prices can be found on our website.
- Blue badge holders and members park for free.
- No coaches, minibuses or horse boxes/trailers are allowed to park at this car park. For alternative parking please use Lifeboat Road (see below)
- There are around 55 unmarked car parking spaces available in the woodland car park. They are adjacent to the road, near to the parking machine.



Victoria Road woodland car parking bays, looking west

- There are around 10 unmarked accessible car parking spaces in the woodland car park for Blue Badge holders only. They are located immediately on the left-hand side as you enter the woodland car park, on the south side of the road, and are clearly signed.



Accessible parking bays at Victoria Road woodland car park, looking south

- The accessible spaces are on a slight slope (1:11) and on compacted sand and soil. They are located around 30m from the toilet block at Victoria Road.

- There are around 200 unmarked car parking spaces in the beach car park.
- There are 4 unmarked accessible car parking spaces available in the beach car park for Blue Badge holders only. They are in the south-west corner of the car park, though can often be waterlogged after wet weather.



Accessible parking bays at Victoria Road beach car park, looking south

Lifeboat Road Car Park

Lifeboat Road,
Formby,
Merseyside
L37 2EB

- There is one vehicular access road at this entrance, which can be gained by driving down Lifeboat Road. This road is narrow in places, so please drive carefully and considerately.
- The road to the Lifeboat Road car park entrance is tarmacked, as well as the car park itself, which consists of three large parking areas/bays.
- The entrance to the Lifeboat Road car park, and the car park itself, has speed bumps and one-way flow plates to control traffic on busy days. The flow plates require a vehicle ground clearance of at least 11cm.



Flow plates at Lifeboat Road car park as you leave site, looking south

- The entrance to the car park also has a yellow, metal gate and height barriers to help control traffic on busy days. When they are in use, vehicles taller than 2.3m must park elsewhere, depending on availability in the overflow parking area.



Entrance to Lifeboat Road car park, looking north

- When the gate is locked, visitors can access the site via a route to the east of the gate, that at it's narrowest is 107cm wide.
- Three pay and display machines can be found in this car park: one in each of the three parking bays.
- Up-to-date prices can be found on our website.
- Blue badge holders and members can park for free.
- Coaches, minibuses and horse boxes/trailers are allowed to park at this car park.
- There are around 250 marked car parking spaces available in the car park.
- There are 3 marked accessible car parking spaces in bay 1, 7 in bay 2, and 3 in bay 3, for Blue Badge holders only.



Accessible parking bays in bay 2 at Lifeboat Road, looking north-west

By Coach or Minibus

- Coaches and minibuses are only allowed at Lifeboat Road car park, not Victoria Road car park, including drop-off, and are subject to different prices.
- Coaches must park in bay 3 on arrival.
- It is also essential that both coaches and minibuses book their parking space, which can be done by filling out the online booking form on our website and emailing it to the Formby email address.
- Please see the website for more information about how to book, and for the most up-to-date prices for coaches and minibuses.
- Coaches cannot be booked for weekends and bank holidays.
- Lifeboat Road is narrow at points, with passing places, so please drive slowly and with caution, as pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders use this road regularly.

Horse Boxes and Trailers

- Horse boxes and trailer must park at Lifeboat Road car park, not Victoria Road car park, including drop-off, and are subject to different prices.
- They must park in bay 3, or as directed by a member of staff on a busy day.
- Lifeboat Road is narrow at points, with passing places, so please drive slowly and with caution, as pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders use this road regularly.

Toilets

- There are permanent toilet facilities at the Victoria Road car park and temporary port-a-loos at the Lifeboat Road car park.
- The toilets at Victoria Road and Lifeboat Road car park are only open for a specified period during the day and are usually closed by 5pm.
- Please see our website for the current opening times for our toilets and note that different opening times are employed during the winter months due to the reduction in daylight hours.

Victoria Road Car Park

- The toilets at this car park are located at the brow of the hill as you enter the site, on the right-hand side of the road (north), roughly 200m from the entrance.



Toilets at Victoria Road car park, looking north

- They are around 700m east of the beach car park, and around 30m north-east of the nearest accessible car parking space.
- The slope down to the toilets is 1:14 on a concrete surface.
- The male toilets consist of 5 urinals and 1 cubicle, with three hand-washing and drying machines. There is also a baby changing table and small bin for used nappies.



Male toilets at Victoria Road car park

- The female toilets consist of 5 cubicles, with three hand-washing and drying machines. There is also a baby changing table and small bin for used nappies.



Female toilets at Victoria Road car park

- The toilet with accessible features is located between the entrance to the male and female toilet and requires a RADAR key. The toilet can only be accessed with a RADAR key during the toilet opening hours. **This toilet does not have an emergency alarm.**



Toilet with accessible features at Victoria Road car park

- If you do not have your own RADAR key to access the toilet, the welcome staff have one you can borrow.
- The distance between the door frame and the inside door handle is 78cm when fully open. The floor space inside the room is limited to 188cm x 130cm.
- As you enter the toilet, the sink is straight ahead, with the hand drier and soap dispenser immediately above the sink, to the left and right respectively.
- The toilet is on the right-hand wall, facing into the room, and is right hand transfer i.e., the rail attached to the wall is on the right-hand side of the toilet when seated on it. Toilet roll is on the left-hand side of the toilet, on the wall.
- There is a baby changing table on the left-hand wall but no Changing Places facility and no hoist.
- The area is lit with fluorescent light which is motion activated. There is no natural daylight.
- There is a sink and one automatic hand drier.

Lifeboat Road Car Park

- The toilets at this car park are temporary port-a-loos. Currently, there are 8 standard port-a-loos, 1 urinal block, and 1 port-a-loo with accessible features.



Toilets at Lifeboat Road car park

- The distance between the door frame and the inside door of the port-a-loo with accessible features is 79cm. The floor space inside the toilet is limited to 132cm x 126cm.



Port-a-loo with accessible features at Lifeboat Road car park

- The toilet is left hand transfer i.e., the handrail attached to the wall is on the left-hand side of the toilet when seated on it.
- The port-a-loo is lit with daylight, and there are no electronic lights inside. **This toilet does not have an emergency alarm.**

- There is hand sanitiser available but no running water or automatic hand driers.
- The toilet area at Lifeboat Road car park is located around 100m from the car park entrance gates, on the western road that leads to bay 1.
- The toilet area sits on 40mm aggregate stone. Firm plastic mesh has been fixed over the top of the stone, from the edge of the tarmacked road to the port-a-loo.



Plastic mesh that connects the tarmac to the accessible port-a-loo

Off-site Toilet Facilities

- If visiting National Trust Formby outside of our toilet opening times, the nearest accessible toilet facilities can be found at either of the two local train stations (see details in By Public Transport section above).
- Formby town centre has no public toilets.

Getting Around

- Once on site, there are a variety of ways of getting around and exploring using our designated footpaths, cycle paths, bridleways, and rights of way.

Sand Wheelchairs

- Two sand wheelchairs are available for loan free of charge, one from each car park.
- Enquiries about booking sand wheelchairs can be made either by emailing the general email address or phoning the office (see first page of this document) and is recommended to avoid disappointment.
- Sand wheelchairs are lightweight and have large, soft tyres that allow it to be pushed over the sandier paths without sinking.
- Sand wheelchairs are very difficult to self-propel, and often require the assistance of at least one other person, if not two.
- Currently, they can be booked for either the morning (10am – 12pm) or the afternoon (1pm – 3pm).
- Please speak to a member of staff at the car park to enquire about booking a sand wheelchair, or to try one out.
- Prior to loaning the wheelchair, you will need to complete a brief disclaimer form and leave your contact details.



Both sand wheelchairs that are available, one at each car park

Cycling

- Please ride carefully and considerately and follow the Countryside Code (giving way to pedestrians and horse riders) as many different recreational users visit the site.
- Cycle racks can be found near the kiosk at Victoria Road car park, and by the yellow gates at the entrance to Lifeboat Road car park.

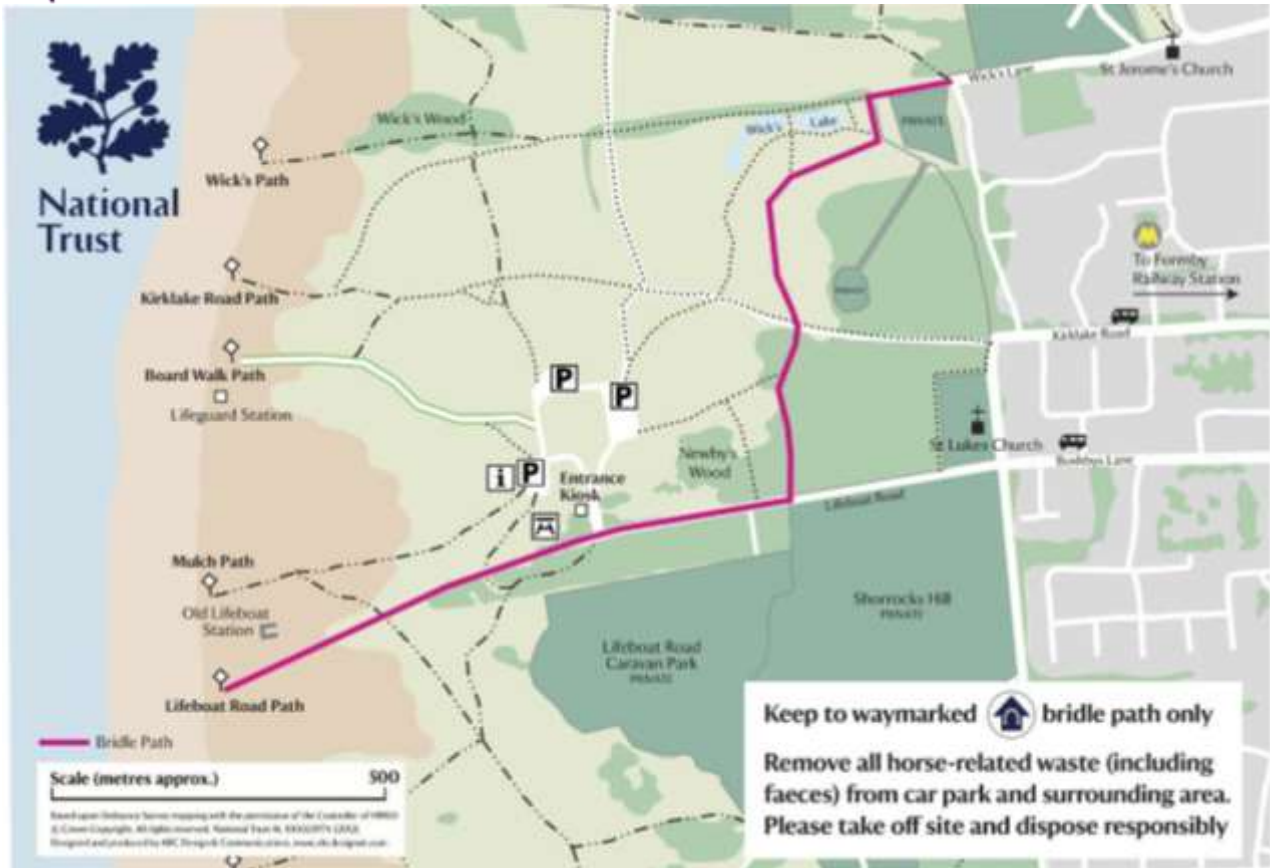


Cycle racks for Victoria Road (left) and Lifeboat Road (right) car parks

- For more information about the Countryside Code, please see the below link: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code

Horses

- There is one designated public bridleway on site, near to Lifeboat Road car park (see Footpaths and Waymarked Trails below). Please stick to the designated bridleway when visiting the site.
- A map of the bridleway is shown below.
- Details about this route, and for more information about horse riding at Formby, please see our website: [Riding your horse at Formby | Liverpool | National Trust](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/riding-your-horse-at-formby)
- Please ride carefully and considerately and follow the Countryside Code, as many different recreational users visit the site.



Bridleway map for National Trust Formby

Swimming

- The sea closest to Lifeboat Road car park has Designated Bathing Water Status, meaning that the water around this area is tested annually by the Environment Agency for pollutants, the results of which are available on the Environment Agency's website.
- The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) hut at the end of the boardwalk path is staffed every day during the summer holidays. For more details about when the hut is staffed, please see the link below: <https://rnli.org/find-my-nearest/lifeguarded-beaches/formby-beach>

Catering

- There are no permanent catering facilities at either Victoria Road or Lifeboat Road car park.
- Ice cream vans can often be found at either car park, where cold drinks, snacks and ice creams can be purchased. Usually, in the summer months, there is a van near to the toilets at Victoria Road, and in the beach car park at Victoria Road as well.
- The ice cream vans are not run by the National Trust.
- There are no induction loops at either concession, but staff and volunteers may be at hand to assist visitors wishing to purchase something from the ice cream vans.

Retail

- There is no indoor National Trust shop on site.

Seating Areas

- There are 8 picnic areas across the site, some with accessible tables, and some without.
- Often the picnic tables are located several metres away from the hard surface paths, and therefore require you to traverse over compacted soil or sand to reach them.
- Details for each picnic area are listed below.

Cornerstone Picnic Site

- This area has 4 wooden picnic tables, including 1 with an 86cm gap to accommodate wheelchair users.



Cornerstone picnic site, looking south

- The picnic tables are on compacted sand and soil surface, between 2m and 10m from the hard surfaced footpath.
- It is located on Cornerstone Path, about 100m from Victoria Road woodland car park, down a 1:8 slope.



Ramp down to cornerstone picnic site, looking west

Family Picnic Site

- This area has 7 wooden picnic tables, including 3 with a 90cm gap to accommodate wheelchair users.
- The picnic tables are on loose sand and grass, between 2 and 15m away from the wooden boardwalk that runs through the middle of the picnic site.



Boardwalk across the Family picnic site, looking south

- It is located about 75m south of the Victoria Road information trailer, though access from the trailer is difficult. A compacted stone (up to 20mm) slope, with a gradient 1:8, leads visitors south, into the woodlands, but the connecting path east to meet the picnic site entrance is bare sand.



Ramp down to woodland from information trailer, looking south-west

- The best, closest access from Victoria Road is to enter the woodlands south of Victoria Road from the information noticeboard then head west. This route is partially compacted stone but largely compacted soil and sand, until you reach the wooden boardwalk into the picnic site. To enter the picnic site, you must enter through the wooden pedestrian gate, which is up to 123.5cm wide.



Loose sand at entrance to Family picnic site, looking south

- Alternatively, access to the picnic site can be gained from it's southern entrance by following the path south from the Victoria Road beach car park towards the old asparagus field, then heading east along the green plastic mesh path, which forms part of the Asparagus Trail. Access to the picnic area is through a 207cm wide wooden pedestrian gate.



Southern entrance gate to Family picnic site, looking north

Victoria Road Trailer

- Adjacent to the Victoria Road information trailer and the woodland pay and display machine are 4 wooden picnic tables.



Seating area by Victoria Road trailer, looking south-west

- They are located at various locations on a slope, some at the top where it levels out, and another nearer the bottom where it is flatter and closer to the road.
- The slope is just compacted soil, with a gradient in places of 1:7.

Wicks Lake Picnic Site

- This area has 3 wooden picnic tables, located to the south-east corner of Wicks Lake.



Wicks Lake picnic area, looking north

- The picnic area can be located by taking the bridleway west along Wicks Lane, then accessing the area from the south. This route is largely compacted earth, not hard surfaced.
- It can also be accessed from the Sefton Coast Path, by heading east until you reach Wicks Lake, then walking around the lake. This route is hard surfaced in places but largely compacted earth.
- It is in a grassy area amongst some large trees, with the closest table about 1m away from the path.

Lifeboat Road Bay 1

- This area is located south of Lifeboat Road car park, bay 1 and has 3 wooden picnic tables.



Picnic area by bay 1 at Lifeboat Road, looking south-east

- The picnic tables are at least 8m from the edge of the tarmacked car park, down a grassy slope with a gradient of 1:13.

Lifeboat Road Bay 3

- There are 7 wooden picnic tables near bay 3 and can be found on the western side of the bay, at least 5m from the edge of the tarmacked car park, along level but undulating grass.



Seating area by bay 3 at Lifeboat Road, looking south

Squirrel Trail Picnic Site

- At this picnic site there is 1 picnic table, located around 15m west of the hard surfaced path that leads east of bay 3 into the woodlands, before veering south to connect up with Lifeboat Road.



Picnic table by Squirrel Trail, looking west

- They can also be accessed from the overflow car park field at Lifeboat Road, although the path is undulating and just compacted earth.

Lifeboat Road Overflow Car Park Field

- The large grassy overflow car parking field that is only open in the warmer months has 2 wooden picnic tables.



Picnic tables in Lifeboat Road overflow field, looking east

- One is in the fields most north-eastern corner, and another is mid-way along it's northern edge, where the field meets the woodland.

Footpaths and Waymarked Trails

- A welcome leaflet can be downloaded from our website, and obtained from a member of staff on site, showing the main footpaths, cycle trails, bridleway, and other waymarked trails across National Trust Formby
- Most trails described below are hard surfaced, predominately compacted stone, with most surfaces made up of stone size ranging from dust to 20mm or 40mm maximum.
- Details of the surface, stone size, gradients, and lengths are described below.
- There are no steps along the trails but tree roots and stumps may be present at path edges along the woodland trails.
- For further information about a specific trail, please get in touch with us via email or phone.

Cornerstone Walk

- This 1km circular route passes through the woodlands north of Victoria Road.
- The surface is compacted stone (up to 20mm largely, with some areas of more exposed larger stone) and can become quite muddy in places during wet weather.
- The route takes you past the Cornerstone Play Trail, an area designed for children to practice their balance on logs and stumps.



Play trail on Cornerstone Walk, looking south-west

- The start and end of the trail take you up or down a steep bank below the Victoria Road car park, with the slopes up to 1:8.



Ramp down to Cornerstone walk, looking west

- There are sections along the trail where the gradient of the path is up to 1:7.
- The only resting point along the route is at picnic area (see Cornerstone Picnic Site above).

Asparagus Trail

- This roughly 2.8km circular trail passes through woodland, dune grassland, and along roads, to provide visitors with an opportunity to see and learn about the history of asparagus growing at Formby.
- The footpaths are constructed of compacted stone (up to 20mm) or plastic mesh mainly, though the section that leads south from Blundell Avenue on to Larkhill Field is dune grassland, and the small connection north of the Family Picnic Site is bare sand (see Seating Areas above).
- A sign displaying a large version of the trail map is available at the start of the trail, by the Victoria Road information trailer.



Information board at the start of the Asparagus Trail by trailer

- The majority of the trail is flat, however there are a couple of sections whereby the gradient is up to 1:8. These are immediately as you begin the trail, heading south from Victoria Road car park, and as you pass the north-west corner of the asparagus field, near Nicotine Woods.



Slope from the north-west corner of the asparagus fields, looking south

- There are 6 bench seats along the trail, with the maximum distance between two being 800m. This is when the trail takes you along Blundell Avenue. Other than this large section, there are benches placed close to or adjacent to the path relatively regularly (around every 300m).
- Tactile wooden carvings and sculptures are placed along the trail.
- There are also information panels along the route with text, images and embossed text providing information suitable for children.
- Pink waymarkers with asparagus spears on waymark the trail on large wooden posts. They look like this:



Squirrel Walk

- This 500m circular route takes you through the woodlands where we used to feed red squirrels, and therefore it was likely that you would see them.
- However, due to the increased likelihood of transmitting squirrel pox, we do not feed red squirrels anymore, and you are therefore no more likely to see squirrels on this route than at any other parts of our woodland.
- Most of this path is made up of compacted earth, with a small section that is compacted stone (up to 20mm).
- The north-west and south-west corner of the route has a gradient in excess of 1:6.



Unsurfaced slope down Squirrel Walk, looking west

- There is 1 bench seat along the walk, located in the south-east corner.



Bench seat in the north-west corner of Squirrel Walk, looking west

Sefton Coast Path

- The Sefton Coast Path leads right through the site from north to south, crossing a variety of habitat, and over a variety of path surfaces.

- The 2km long section between Victoria Road and Lifeboat Road is described here as it is regularly used, is entirely compacted stone (up to 40mm) and connects both car parks.



Coastal path from Blundell Avenue to Lifeboat Road, looking south

- The route follows the western half of the Asparagus Trail (see above), before veering west when the trail meets Blundell Avenue, and then heading due south for around 800m along a wide, straight and level compacted stone surface across the dune grassland.
- About 150m before reaching Lifeboat Road car park, the Coast Path veers east, joining Kirklake Path (see below) towards Kirklake Corner.
- To reach Lifeboat Road car park from the junction with Kirklake Path, the track continues south, first sloping upwards, with a gradient of 1:9, then immediately slopes back down to its original height (gradient 1:12).



Slope up coastal path from Kirklake Path to Lifeboat Road, looking south

- The Sefton Coast Path, from Kirklake Corner, heads south along St. Luke's Church Road, and continues until it re-joins National Trust Formby land, just south of Asparagus Cottage, about 1km south of Kirklake Corner. At this point there is a horse stile, which is 15cm above ground level. Adjacent to the stile is a pedestrian gap that is 48cm wide.



Horse stile and pedestrian gap on Sefton Coast Path, looking south

- The track from here is unsurfaced, sandy and uneven, and on reaching the gate by Range Lane (see Arrival, By Foot above) after around

200m, heads off-site, continuing south towards Cabin Hill National Nature Reserve.

Public Bridleway

- This is the only designated public bridleway on site, and at its northernmost point, joins our land along Wicks Lane, just north of Spruce Way.



Entrance to site via public bridleway, looking west

- The public bridleway is largely compacted earth, with some loose, large aggregate making up the section of the path heading due south from Wicks Lake, until you reach Kirklake Path.
- The bridleway then continues south along more compacted earth, until you reach the tarmacked Lifeboat Road, whereby it heads west all the way towards the beach.
- The width of the bridleway from Wicks Lane to Lifeboat Road varies greatly, with some sections quite narrow (100cm), and other areas where the bridleway passes through open dune grassland.



Narrow section of public bridleway, looking west

- Please use caution if riding along the narrow sections, as other horse-riders, cyclists, or pedestrians may be coming in the other direction.
- As you pass the entrance to Lifeboat Road, the road becomes overtopped by the sand dunes, and the track becomes largely bare sand, with very steep slopes up to 1:6.



Bridleway turns into sand dune on Lifeboat Road, looking west

- The bridleway is signposted with wooden posts around 1.5m tall, marked with blue arrows as seen here:



Wicks Lake

- This short circular walk is only around 600m but is a popular area for visitors to see the birds that visit the lake.
- The route can be reached from the bridleway either from a steep slope heading upwards from the north-east corner of Wicks Lake, or from the south-east corner where the land is more level.



Path around Wicks Lake, looking north-west

- The lake can also be reached from the Sefton Coast Path, by heading east as the footpath crosses the boundary with Wicks Lane footpath.



Path from Sefton Coast Path to Wicks Lake, looking east

- The north and south entrances to the bridge, which traverses the middle of the lake, can be gained from the dune grassland too, though are in places very sandy and uneven, with no compacted hard surface.
- The route is largely compacted earth, though some old hard-surfaced path still exists below the sandy surface.
- It is relatively level all the way around, except for the south-west corner, whereby the route becomes quite sandy and with some slopes more than 1:6.



Path around the south-west corner of Wicks Lake, looking north-east

Kirklake Path

- This 1km route to the beach is popular with locals and visitors who come via public transport, as it is gained from Kirklake Corner (see Arrival, By Foot above) and avoids having to go through either car park.
- The route up to the Sefton Coast Path is hard-surfaced stone (mainly up to 20mm, with some worn areas exposing up to 40mm stone).
- The steepest surfaced section is the switchback path that takes you down to the public bridleway before the path journeys its way back up on to the dune grassland to meet the north-south section of the Sefton Coast Path. The gradient for the switchback is up to 1:6 in places and includes a wooden hand-rail on either side.



Path and revetment with handrail on Kirklake Path, looking west

- After leaving the Sefton Coast Path, heading west towards the beach, the route is compacted stone in places, though it quickly worsens as the dunes have scoured out large sections, removing the stone and exposing the underlying bare sand.



Sandy section of Kirklake Path, looking west

- The path leads all the way to the beach, with the stone footpath eventually giving way to the mobile dune habitat and becoming entirely bare sand.
- There are 2 bench seats adjacent to the footpath: one in the woodlands, shortly after entering the woodland from Kirklake Corner, and one next to the footpath as you reach the open dune grassland.

Beach Boardwalk Path

- This is the best route to the beach in terms of accessibility and begins between bays 1 and 2 at Lifeboat Road car park.



Start of boardwalk path from Lifeboat Road car park, looking west

- After leaving the tarmac, the first 300m is compacted stone (up to 20mm), over undulating terrain, with gradients no greater than 1:10.
- Once the path has traversed the dune grassland, it reaches the mobile dune habitat, whereby a 200m-long wooden boardwalk takes you gently up and over the dunes, before a sloping series of switchback turns brings you on to the beach, right next to the RNLI Lifeguard Hut.



Revetment and handrail on wooden boardwalk, looking west

- The gradient of the slope up the boardwalk is 1:22, with some short sections down to the switchback around 1:6.

- The width of the boardwalk is 2.1m at its widest, and there is a wooden handrail as the boardwalk reaches its highest point before heading westwards towards the sea.
- Wooden revetment keeps most of the sand immediately north and south of the boardwalk off the path; however, wind-blown sand can make certain sections of the path difficult to traverse across, particularly after dry, windy conditions.
- Volunteers regularly clear the boardwalk of sand every month during the year, usually on the last Friday of the month, and fortnightly during the summer months.



Volunteer clearing the boardwalk of sand, looking west

- The boardwalk ends as you reach the beach; however, during the summer months, extra roll-out planks are added to help visitors traverse the soft sand to reach firmer, wet sand. These are cleared alongside the boardwalk but can get sandy very quickly in dry, windy conditions.



Wind-blown sand on the roll-out boardwalk planks on the beach, looking east

- There are two benches along the path to the beach. The first is between 200 and 250m from Lifeboat Road car park, adjacent to the stone path, and the other is also adjacent to the stone path, just before the beginning of the boardwalk.



Bench near the start of the wooden boardwalk, looking south

Lost Resort Trail

- In 2016, the Formby Civic Society and Sefton Council (landowners of Ravenmeols Local Nature Reserve at the time) collaborated to install the Lost Resort and Devils Hole trail (see below).
- This roughly 2km circular route provides visitors with the opportunity to see and learn about the proposed resort of Formby-by-the-sea and discover what's left of the old promenade and history in this area.
- The route is predominantly on mobile sand dune and grassland habitat, with a small amount along Albert and Alexandra Road, both existing roads made up of compacted stone.



Unsurfaced, undulating path on Lost Resort trail, looking south

- The route is very uneven and undulating, with sections becoming narrow (up to 60cm) and often well-vegetated in the summer.
- Maps are available to download from our website, and some are available from staff at Lifeboat Road car park.

Devils Hole Trail

- Also installed in 2016, this route takes in the dune grassland south of Albert Road.
- The roughly 2.5km circular route allows visitors the opportunity to explore Devils Hole, a huge sand blow-out thought to have been created from a bomb during the second world war, and since enlarged through natural processes.
- The route also takes in the woodlands to the east of Devils Hole and joins the Lost Resort trail on Albert Road.
- Like the Lost Resort trail, the route is unsurfaced in most places, and covers uneven, sandy, and difficult terrain.



Unsurfaced, undulating path on Devils Hole trail, looking south

- Maps are available to download from our website, and some are available from staff at Lifeboat Road car park.

Summary of Footpaths and Waymarked Trails

- National Trust Formby is considered by many a moderately managed landscape, on the urban fringe, with many opportunities for recreation for the local community. According to the [Outdoor Accessibility Guide](#) created by Paths for All and The Sensory Trust, we should therefore aspire to a minimum standard of Zone B, employing a Least Restrictive Access approach.
- The table below details each of the criteria that the Outdoor Accessibility Guide applies to each zone, for each of our footpaths and waymarked trails.

	Footpaths and Waymarked Trails				
Features	<i>Cornerstone</i>	<i>Asparagus Trail</i>	<i>Squirrel Walk</i>	<i>Sefton Coast Path</i>	<i>Public Bridleway</i>
<i>Barriers</i>	Large stones, mud, sand and roots	Mud, sand and roots. Kissing gate at Larkhill Heath	Mud, sand and roots.	Sand, roots and potholes. Horse stile near Range Lane	Large stones, mud, sand and roots
<i>Surface</i>	Firm compacted stone (up to 40mm)	Compacted stone (up to 20mm), plastic mesh, loose sand, and tarmac	Compacted stone (up to 20mm) and compacted earth	Compacted stone (up to 40mm), loose sand, and compacted earth	Loose stone (up to 60mm), compacted earth, loose sand, and tarmac
<i>Width</i>	Mainly 3m	Mainly between 2 and 3m	Mainly 2.4m	Mainly 2.5m	Mainly 1.4m
<i>Width restrictions</i>	2.2m by slope near toilets	80cm near northern most asparagus field	140cm at eastern entrance from Victoria Road	140cm near Blundell Avenue	100cm on Wicks Lane
<i>Resting points</i>	Benches present at Cornerstone Picnic Site	6 benches on route. Maximum distance of 800m	One bench at south-east corner	8 benches on route. Maximum distance of 600m	3 benches on route. Maximum distance of 200m
<i>Gradient</i>	Maximum gradient of 1:7	Maximum gradient of 1:8	Maximum gradient of 1:6	Maximum gradient of 1:9	Maximum gradient of 1:6
<i>Crossfall</i>	Maximum gradient of 1:16. Largely level	Maximum gradient of 1:7. Largely level	Maximum gradient of 1:60. Largely level	Maximum gradient of 1:22. Largely level	Largely level but surface material varies greatly
<i>Surface breaks</i>	No surface breaks	Sections where mesh meet stone	No surface breaks	No surface breaks	No surface breaks

		in places cause surface breaks up to 10mm			
<i>Height clearance</i>	Over 2.4m	Over 2.4m	Over 2.4m	Over 2.4m	Up to 2m
<i>Distance</i>	1km circular route with no shorter loops or easy return options	2.8km circular route with a shorter loop or easy return option available	500m circular route with no shorter loops or easy return options	2km linear route from Victoria Road to Lifeboat Road, with shorter loops or easy returns available	1.7km linear route from Wicks Lane to beach, with n shorter loops or easy return options
<i>Clarity</i>	No consistent path edging or waymarkers	No consistent path edging. Posts with waymarkers direct visitors	No consistent path edging or waymarkers	No consistent path edging or waymarkers	No path edging. Posts with waymarkers direct visitors

	Footpaths and Waymarked Trails				
Features	<i>Wicks Lake</i>	<i>Kirklake Path</i>	<i>Beach Boardwalk Path</i>	<i>Lost Resort Trail</i>	<i>Devils Hole Trail</i>
<i>Barriers</i>	Sand, roots and potholes	Sand and roots	Sand	Sand and roots	Sand and roots
<i>Surface</i>	Compacted stone (up to 40mm), compacted earth and loose sand	Compacted stone (up to 40mm) and loose sand	Compacted stone (up to 20mm) and wooden boardwalk	Loose sand and compacted earth	Loose sand and compacted earth
<i>Width</i>	Mainly 180cm	Mainly 2.1m	Mainly 2.1m	Between 60cm and 2m	Between 60cm and 2m
<i>Width restrictions</i>	70cm at points where vegetation encroaches	113cm at Kirklake Corner entrance	150cm at entrance to path from car park	60cm at points where vegetation encroaches	60cm at points where vegetation encroaches
<i>Resting points</i>	4 benches, plus picnic tables. Maximum distance of 200m	2 benches on route. Maximum distance of 250m	2 benches on route. Maximum distance of 200m	1 bench around 450m from Lifeboat Road car park	No benches on route
<i>Gradient</i>	Maximum gradient of 1:6	Maximum gradient of 1:6	Maximum gradient of 1:6	Maximum gradient of 1:7	Maximum gradient of 1:6
<i>Crossfall</i>	Consistently uneven on western half. Largely level on eastern half	Maximum gradient of 1:10. Largely level	Maximum gradient of 1:90. Largely level	Consistently uneven	Consistently uneven
<i>Surface breaks</i>	Up to 30mm gap between wooden bridge planks	No surface breaks	Up to 40mm gap between wooden boardwalk planks	No surface breaks	No surface breaks

<i>Height clearance</i>	Mainly over 2.4m, though some sections restricted by vegetation on western half	Over 2.4m	Over 2.4m	Mainly over 2.4m, with some sections restricted to 1.8m by vegetation	Mainly over 2.4m, with some sections restricted to 1.8m by vegetation
<i>Distance</i>	600m circular route. Shorter loop possible by crossing bridge	1km linear route. Easy return and shorter loops possible	500m linear route with no shorter loops or easy return options	2km circular route with no shorter loops or easy return options	2.5km circular route with no shorter loops or easy return options
<i>Clarity</i>	No path edging or waymarkers	Path edging present until route reaches mobile dune habitat. No waymarkers	No path edging or waymarkers	No path edging. Posts with waymarkers direct visitors	No path edging. Posts with waymarkers direct visitors