

Formby Accessibility Guide

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Available formats:

- Standard print (available online, and printed copies on request)
- Large print ([click here](#), 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
June 2026

Table of Contents

(If viewing online, please click on a title to jump to that section)

Key Information	4
Dogs at Formby	4
Understanding and Using our Guide.....	4
Gradients.....	4
Crossfall	5
Surfaces	5
Arrival & Parking Facilities	6
By Public Transport	6
Freshfield Train Station.....	6
Formby Train Station	6
By Foot.....	8
Victoria Road Entrance.....	8
Blundell Avenue.....	9
Wicks Lane.....	10
Kirklake Corner.....	12
Lifeboat Road	12
Range Lane.....	14
By Car	15
Victoria Road Car Park.....	16
Lifeboat Road Car Park	19
By Coach or Minibus.....	21
Horse Boxes and Trailers	21
Toilets.....	22
Victoria Road Car Park.....	22
Lifeboat Road Car Park	24
Off-site Toilet Facilities	26
Getting Around	27
Sand Wheelchairs	27

Cycling.....	28
Horses	29
Swimming.....	29
Natural Play Areas	31
Cornerstone Play Trail	31
Kirklake Play Trail.....	31
Catering.....	33
Retail.....	33
Seating Areas.....	34
Cornerstone Picnic Site	34
Victoria Road Car Park.....	35
Victoria Road Woodland Picnic Area	36
Family Picnic Site	37
Wicks Lake Picnic Site.....	39
Lifeboat Road Bay 1	40
Lifeboat Road Bay 3	40
Footpaths and Waymarked Trails.....	42
Asparagus Trail	44
Sefton Coastal Path.....	45
Public Bridleway	48
Kirklake Path	50
Beach Boardwalk Path	51
Lost Resort Trail	55
Devils Hole Trail	56
Summary of Footpaths and Waymarked Trails	58

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 originally collected in summer 2023 and then revised during this edition, 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 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.

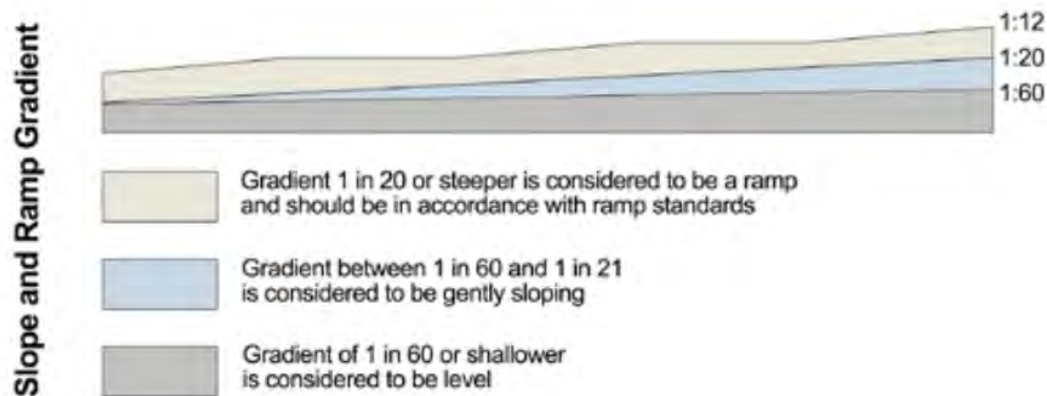


Diagram showing the difference in slope and ramp gradients. Taken from Disability Sport Northern Ireland's "Accessible Outdoor Places Design Guidelines 2021". [Guide-5-Accessible-Outdoor-Places-Design-Guidelines.pdf](https://dsni.co.uk/Guide-5-Accessible-Outdoor-Places-Design-Guidelines.pdf) (dsni.co.uk)

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 site via Victoria Road, 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

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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 10mm maximum stone size) provides access for pedestrians along the southern side of the road.
- This path rises gently (1:18) towards the toilet block and for the most part is at least 2.5m wide. At the property entrance there are a couple of wooden posts to restrict vehicle access, with the narrowest gap between them 155cm



Width restriction at Victoria Road footpath 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 2m for around 50m until the track widens to 3m. Its narrowest point is by the kiosk and is around 145cm wide.

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.
- The field gate is usually closed and locked to prevent unauthorised vehicle access, so access is through a 170cm gap between the gate and a wooden post.



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). Short wooden posts prevent cars parking here but maintain a gap of 2m wide.



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

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



Entrance to site via Kirklake Corner, looking west

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

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- 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 badly potholed.



Track leading to Range Lane entrance, looking west

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- 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 sunny days. We therefore strongly recommend that visitors use public transport on these days or consider visiting on a different day.
- When the car park is full, we close it and unfortunately cannot prioritise Blue Badge holders.
- For those wanting to access the beach on 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: [Ainsdale Beach \(sefton.gov.uk\)](http://sefton.gov.uk)
- Brown highways signs direct visitors to either 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 car park.
- The road is tarmacked and has several speed bumps along it to slow down traffic, as well as a pedestrian crossing opposite the toilets, and on entering the car park.
- The exit to the car park has one-way flow plates to control traffic on busy days. The flow plates require a vehicle ground clearance of at least 12cm.



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

- Two pay and display machines can be found in this car park, adjacent to the welcome team base, in the south-west corner of the car park.
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is in operation in this car park.
- Up-to-date prices can be found on our website.
- Blue badge holders and members park for free.
- No coaches or horse boxes/trailers are allowed to park at this car park. For alternative parking please use Lifeboat Road (see below).
- There are around 240 marked car parking spaces available in the car park. The surface of the spaces is made up of compacted gravel retained within a rigid plastic grid.



Victoria Road car park entrance, looking north

- There are 10 accessible car parking spaces in the car park for Blue Badge holders only. They are located on the south side of the car park, on both the left- and right-hand side as you enter and are clearly signposted and marked.
- The closest accessible parking space is located around 40m from the toilet block at Victoria Road.



Accessible parking spaces in Victoria Road 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 12cm.



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 its narrowest is 107cm wide.
- Three pay and display machines can be found in this car park: one in each of the three main parking bays.
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is in operation in this car park.
- 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 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, 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, out of term time, or 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, 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 portable toilets at the Lifeboat Road car park.
- The toilets at Lifeboat Road car park are only open for a specified period during the day and are usually closed by 4pm.
- 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 foot, on the right-hand side of the road (north), roughly 200m from the entrance.
- They are around 40m east of the car park, along a firm tarmacked surface.
- The slope down to the toilets is 1:14 on a concrete surface.



Toilets at Victoria Road car park, looking north

- The male toilets consist of 1 urinal trough and 1 cubicle, with 3 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 6 cubicles, with 4 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

- A 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 85cm when fully open.
- The floor space inside the room is limited to 188cm x 140cm.
- There is a sink and one automatic hand drier.
- As you enter the toilet, the sink is straight ahead, with the soap dispenser immediately above the sink.
- The automatic hand drier is on the wall immediately on your right as you enter.
- 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 same side, on the wall. There is an adjustable rail on the left-hand side of the toilet when seated on it.
- 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.

Lifeboat Road Car Park

- The toilets at this car park are temporary portable toilets. There are up to 10 standard portable toilets and 1 with accessible features, and the number of standard portable toilets increases over the summer period.



Toilets at Lifeboat Road car park

- The distance between the door frame and the inside door of the portable toilet with accessible features is 79cm. The usable floor space inside the toilet is limited to 80cm by 80cm.



Portable toilet 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 toilet 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.

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- 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 stone. Firm plastic mesh has been fixed over the top of the stone, from the edge of the tarmacked road to the toilets.



Plastic mesh that connects the tarmac to the portable toilet with accessible features

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 paths, bridleways, and rights of way.

Sand Wheelchairs

- Five sand wheelchairs are available for loan free of charge from either Victoria Road or Lifeboat Road car park.
- Enquiries about booking sand wheelchairs can be made either by emailing the general Formby 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.
- 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.



Sand wheelchairs that are available to hire for free.

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 by the pay and display machines at Victoria Road car park, where there is enough room for at least 8 cycles.



Cycle racks at Victoria Road car park

- Cycle racks can be found by the toilets at Lifeboat Road car park, where there is enough room for at least 14 cycles.



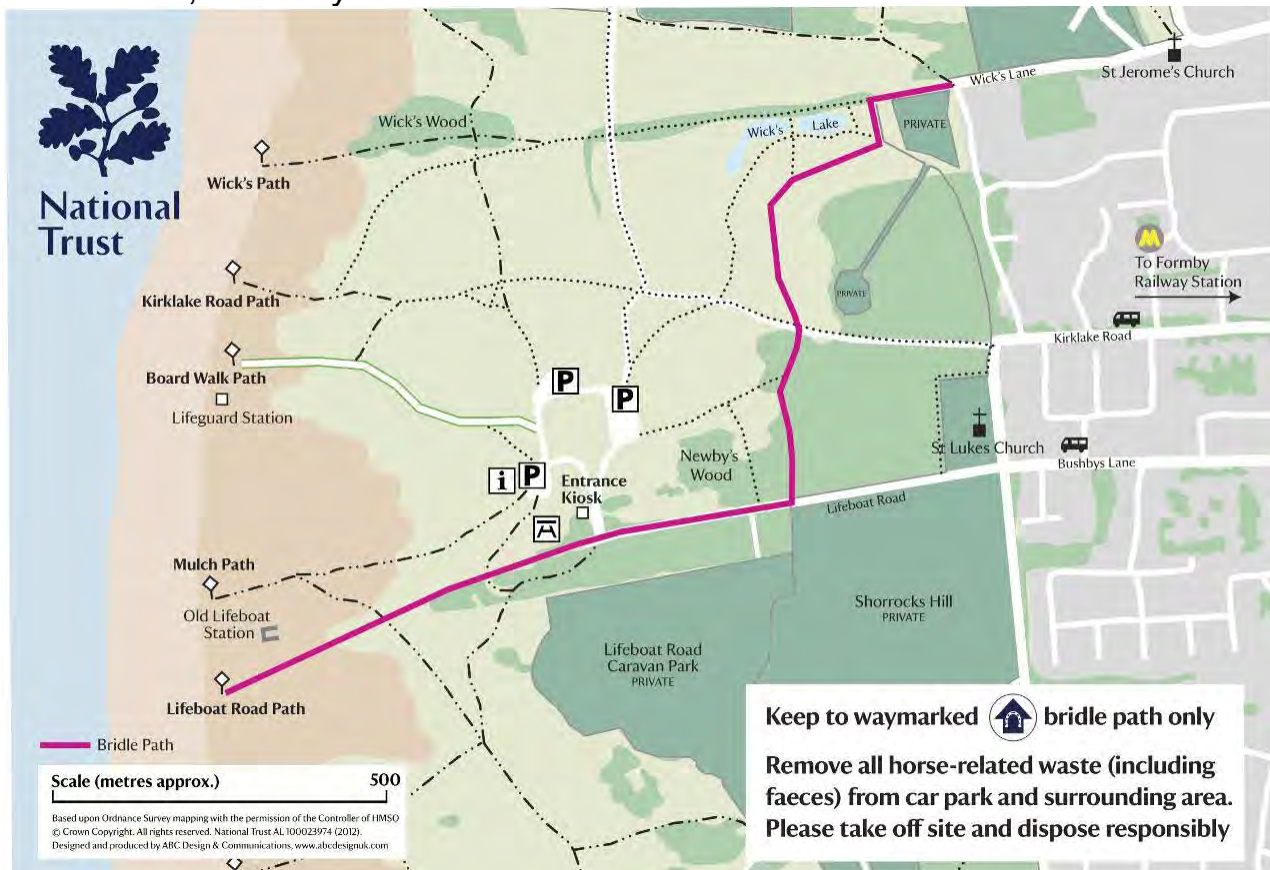
Cycle racks at Lifeboat Road car park

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- 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](#)
- 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



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more details about when the hut is staffed, please see the link below:

<https://rnli.org/find-my-nearest/lifeguarded-beaches/formby-beach>

Natural Play Areas

- There are two natural play areas at National Trust Formby, one north of Victoria Road car park, and another near to St. Luke's Church and Lifeboat Road.
- They consist of timber stumps and balance beams designed to encourage natural play and help with dexterity and balance for young children.
- All users of the natural play areas do so at their own risk.

Cornerstone Play Trail

- This play trail is located around 200m north of Victoria Road car park, along the path to the beach. The route is circular and made up of stumps and balance beams.
- There is also a natural xylophone made from logs at this area, about 20m eastwards of where the trail is.



Cornerstone Play Trail looking south (left) and natural xylophone (right)

Kirklake Play Trail

- This play area can be accessed from the footpath that runs behind St. Luke's Church, either heading north from Lifeboat Road, or south from Kirklake Path.
- The area is within a fenced plantation and access to this is through a pedestrian gate (gap is 123cm wide). Once within the plantation, the surface is uneven and unsurfaced. The play trail begins about 20m west of the gate.



Pedestrian gate that leads into area where the Kirklake Play Trail is, looking west

- Similar to Cornerstone Play Trail, it uses timber stumps and balance beams, but also has other features such as hurdles, tunnels, a slide, and other play activities for young children to enjoy, all from timber felled or fallen at Formby.



Kirklake Play Trail, looking north towards the upper tier of the trail

Catering

- There are no permanent catering facilities at either Victoria Road or Lifeboat Road car park, though seasonal coffee vans are on site most days of the week at both car parks.
- Additionally, ice cream vans can often be found at both car parks, where cold drinks, snacks and ice creams can be purchased.
- The coffee vans and 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 vans.

Retail

- There is no indoor National Trust shop on site, but the Welcome team do stock a small number of pin badges and other merchandise during opening hours.

Seating Areas

- There are 7 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 about 200m from Victoria Road car park, down a 1:8 slope.



Ramp down to cornerstone picnic site, looking west

Victoria Road Car Park

- This picnic area has 4 picnic tables, 1 of which has extended ends to facilitate a wheelchair user on either side. These ends extend out by 50cm and are 80cm from ground level to the underside of the table.
- The picnic area can be accessed from the firm tarmacked path leading south from the car park, with the accessible table situated on a stone pad (up to 10mm).
- All the other smaller picnic tables are situated amongst the young pine trees in this area and do not have a formal path to connect them.



Accessible picnic table on stone pad, looking north-east

Victoria Road Woodland Picnic Area

- South of Victoria Road car park, and west of the concessions and bins, are 4 wooden picnic tables.



Seating area by Victoria Road woodlands, 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.

Family Picnic Site

- This area has 5 wooden picnic tables, 2 of which are inside a fenced area designed to keep dogs out. One of these two picnic tables has a 90cm gap to accommodate wheelchair users.
- The picnic tables are on bare sand and grass, between 2 and 15m away from the stone footpath (up to 10mm) that runs through the middle of the picnic site.



Stone path across the Family picnic site, looking south

- It is located about 75m south of the Victoria Road woodland picnic site, though access from here 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 Victoria Road woodland picnic site, looking south-west

- The best, closest access from Victoria Road car park is to enter the woodlands south of Victoria Road toilets then head west down the slope. 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 dog-free picnic site, you must enter through a wooden pedestrian gate, which is 125cm wide.



Wooden boardwalk entrance to Family picnic site, looking west

- Alternatively, access to the picnic site can be gained from its southern entrance by following the asparagus trail (see Footpaths and Waymarked Trails below) westwards towards the beach. After leaving

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the woodlands head back east past the old asparagus field along the stone footpath (up to 10mm) and green plastic mesh path, which forms part of the asparagus trail. Access to the picnic area can then be gained from the southern end.



Southern entrance to Family picnic site, looking north

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

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- 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

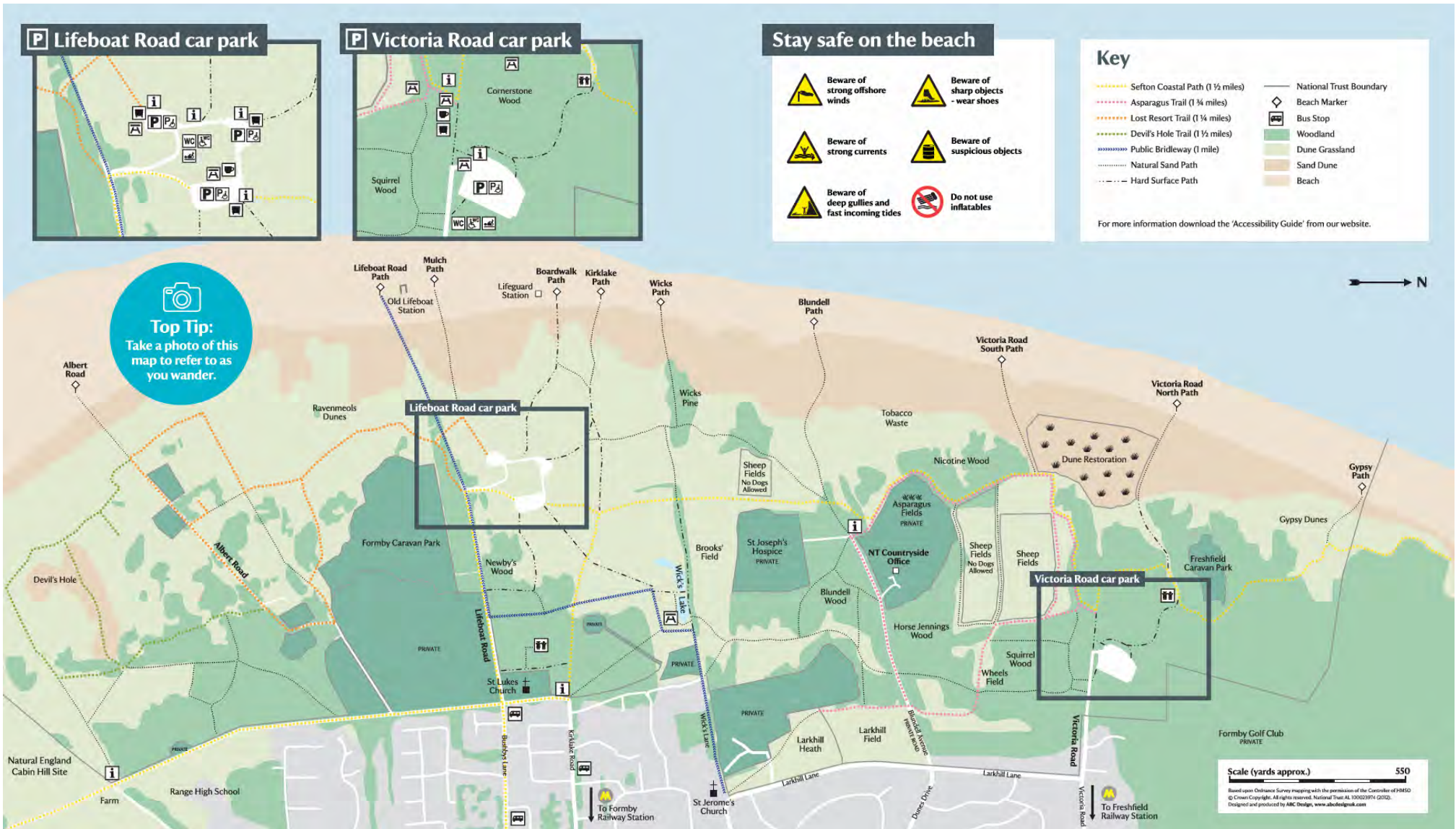
- There are 7 wooden picnic tables near bay 3 and can be found on the western side of the bay, at least 5m from the edge of the tarmacked car park, along level but undulating grass.



Seating area by bay 3 at Lifeboat Road, looking south

Footpaths and Waymarked Trails

- A site map can be downloaded from our website (see [Map](#)) showing the main footpaths, bridleway, and other waymarked trails across National Trust Formby. This map is shown below.
- There are also 9 maps across site marked with information icons on the map as well as large maps with the Welcome Team. These are located at entrance points to site to help orientate visitors.
- 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 check out our website or get in touch with us via email or phone.



National Trust Formby site map

Asparagus Trail

- This roughly 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile 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 grassland, and the small connection north of the Family Picnic Site is bare sand (see Seating Areas above).
- Most of the trail is flat, however there are a couple of sections where the gradient is up to 1:8. These are immediately as you begin the trail, heading south from Victoria Road, 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 11 bench seats along the trail, with the maximum distance between two being 300m.
- There are information panels along the route with text, images and embossed text providing information suitable for children.
- There is a kissing gate at Larkhill Heath with a maximum gap of 108cm.
- Pink waymarkers with asparagus spears mark the trail on wooden posts. They look like this:



Sefton Coastal Path

- The Sefton Coastal Path leads right through the site from north to south, crossing a variety of habitat, and over a variety of path surfaces.
- The 1 ½ mile 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 from Victoria Road (see above), before veering south-west before the trail meets Blundell Avenue, and then heading due south for around 800m along a

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wide, straight and level compacted stone surface across the dune grassland.

- About 150m before reaching Lifeboat Road car park, the path forks at the junction with Kirklake Path, with pedestrians recommended to head east towards St. Luke's Church Road.
- For cyclists, and 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).
- Cyclists can then exit Lifeboat Road car park, heading eastwards on Lifeboat Road, to continue along Bushby's Lane and continue the rest of the path.



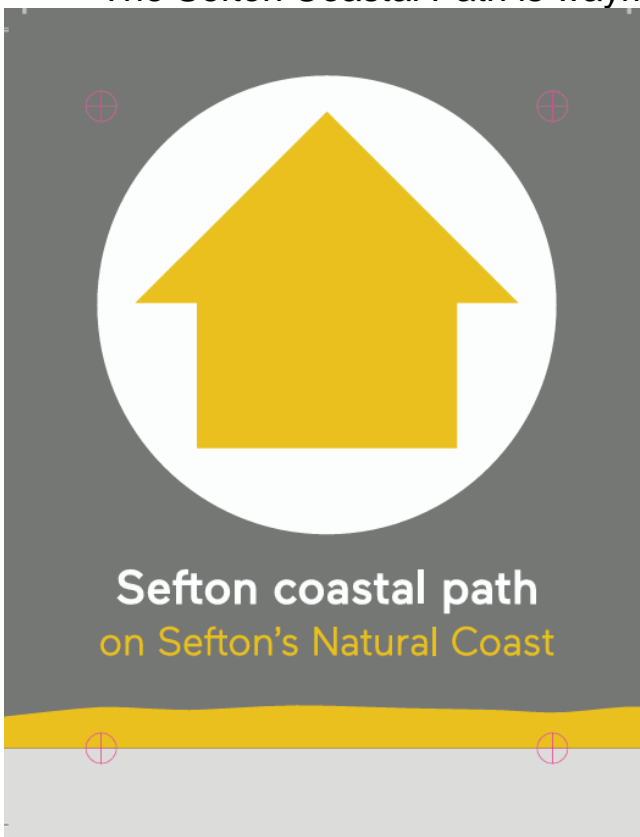
Slope up coastal path from Kirklake Path to Lifeboat Road, looking south

- For pedestrians, the Sefton Coastal Path, from Kirklake Corner, heads south along St. Luke's Church Road, and continues until it re-joins National Trust Formby land, 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.
- The Sefton Coastal Path is waymarked with the following signs:



Public Bridleway

- This is the only designated public bridleway on site, and at its northernmost point, joins National Trust 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 a section of compacted stone (up to 10mm) from Wicks Lake to Kirklake Path.
- The bridleway then continues south along more compacted earth, until you reach the tarmacked Lifeboat Road, where it heads west all the way to 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 2.2m tall, marked with blue arrows as seen here:



Kirklake Path

- This ½ mile 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 Coastal Path junction is compacted 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 Coastal Path. The gradient for the switchback is up to 1:6 in places and includes a wooden handrail on either side.



Path and revetment with handrail on Kirklake Path, looking west

- After leaving the Sefton Coastal 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 3 bench seats adjacent to the footpath: one in the woodlands, shortly after entering National Trust land from Kirklake Corner, one next to the footpath as you reach the open dune grassland, and one around 200m from the junction with the Sefton Coastal Path.

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.

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- The width of the boardwalk is 2.1m at its narrowest, 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.
- Staff and volunteers regularly clear the boardwalk of sand every month, 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 four benches along the path to the beach, with the greatest distance between them around 125m.



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 1 ¼ mile 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.
- The waymarkers for the trail look like this:



Devils Hole Trail

- Also installed in 2016, this route takes in the dune grassland south of Albert Road.
- The roughly 1 ½ mile circular route allows visitors the opportunity to explore Devils Hole, a huge sand blow-out thought to have been created by 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

- The waymarkers for the trail look like this:



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>Asparagus Trail</i>	<i>Sefton Coastal Path</i>	<i>Public Bridleway</i>	<i>Kirklake Path</i>
<i>Barriers</i>	Mud, sand and roots. Kissing gate at Larkhill Heath	Sand, roots and potholes. Horse stile near Range Lane	Mud, sand and roots	Sand and roots
<i>Surface</i>	Compacted stone (up to 20mm), plastic mesh, loose sand, and tarmac	Compacted stone (up to 40mm), loose sand, and compacted earth	Compacted stone (up to 20mm), compacted earth, loose sand, and tarmac	Compacted stone (up to 40mm) and loose sand
<i>Width</i>	Mainly 2.5m	Mainly 2.5m	Mainly 1.4m	Mainly 2.1m
<i>Width restrictions</i>	108cm gap at kissing gate	48cm gap by horse stile	100cm on Wicks Lane	113cm at Kirklake Corner entrance
<i>Resting points</i>	11 benches on route. Maximum distance of 300m between	9 benches on route. Maximum distance of 300m between	5 benches on route. Maximum distance of 450m between	3 benches on route. Maximum distance of 350m between
<i>Gradient</i>	Maximum gradient of 1:8	Maximum gradient of 1:9	Maximum gradient of 1:6	Maximum gradient of 1:6
<i>Crossfall</i>	Maximum gradient of 1:7. Largely level	Maximum gradient of 1:8. Largely level	Largely level but surface material varies greatly	Maximum gradient of 1:10. Largely level
<i>Surface breaks</i>	Sections where mesh meet stone in places cause surface breaks up to 10mm	No surface breaks	No surface breaks	No surface breaks
<i>Height clearance</i>	Over 2.4m	Over 2.4m	Up to 2m	Over 2.4m



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<i>Distance</i>	1 ¾ mile circular route with a shorter loop or easy return option available	1 ½ mile linear route from Victoria Road to Lifeboat Road, with shorter loops or easy returns available	1-mile linear route from Wicks Lane to beach, with no shorter loops or easy return options	½ mile linear route. Easy return and shorter loops possible
<i>Clarity</i>	No consistent path edging. Posts with waymarkers direct visitors	No consistent path edging. Posts with waymarkers direct visitors	No path edging. Posts with waymarkers direct visitors	Path edging present until route reaches mobile dune habitat. No waymarkers

Footpaths and Waymarked Trails

	Footpaths and Waymarked Trails		
Features	<i>Beach Boardwalk Path</i>	<i>Lost Resort Trail</i>	<i>Devils Hole Trail</i>
<i>Barriers</i>	Sand	Sand and roots	Sand and roots
<i>Surface</i>	Compacted stone (up to 20mm) and wooden boardwalk	Loose sand and compacted earth	Loose sand and compacted earth
<i>Width</i>	Mainly 2.1m	Between 60cm and 2m	Between 60cm and 2m
<i>Width restrictions</i>	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 on route. Maximum distance of 125m between	5 benches on route. Maximum distance of 1km	3 benches on route. Maximum distance of 1km
<i>Gradient</i>	Maximum gradient of 1:6	Maximum gradient of 1:7	Maximum gradient of 1:6
<i>Crossfall</i>	Maximum gradient of 1:90. Largely level	Consistently uneven	Consistently uneven
<i>Surface breaks</i>	Up to 35mm gap between wooden boardwalk planks	No surface breaks	No surface breaks
<i>Height clearance</i>	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>	500m linear route with no shorter loops or easy return options	1 ¼ mile circular route with no shorter loops or easy return options	1 ½ mile circular route with no shorter loops or easy return options
<i>Clarity</i>	Path edging on boardwalk but none on stone section. No waymarkers	No path edging. Posts with waymarkers direct visitors	No path edging. Posts with waymarkers direct visitors