

Formby Access Statement

National Trust
Formby Countryside Office
Blundell Avenue
Freshfield
Formby
Liverpool L37 1PH
T: 01704 878591
E: Formby@nationaltrust.org.uk

Visitor Entrances

Victoria Road Car Park

Victoria Road,
Freshfield,
Formby
Liverpool
L37 1LJ

Lifeboat Road Car Park

Lifeboat Road,
Formby,
Liverpool
L37 2EB

Introduction

1. 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 sandy dunes against a backdrop of green pine plantations. There are way-marked trails though the woodlands, some of which have slopes. Tree roots and stumps may be present especially at path edges
2. All dogs are welcome, including assistance dogs. Dog walking is a popular activity and we welcome responsible dog owners. We ask that dogs are kept on a lead near to vulnerable wildlife such as on the Red Squirrel Walk or on the tide line where we have many feeding wading birds especially in the winter. We also ask that dog owners ensure that they pick up after their dog, bins are provided throughout the site that can be used for depositing dog waste.

3. NB: **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 in order to alert National Trust staff. Up to date opening hours can be found on our website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/formby>

Arrival & Parking Facilities

Follow brown signs (with the National Trust oak leaf logo) to Formby Point or Formby Lifeboat Road from the roundabouts on the Formby By-pass (A565). Smaller brown signs with the oak leaf logo help navigation through Formby to both locations.

Victoria Road Entrance (L37 1LJ)

At this entrance there is one vehicular access road leading through the pine woodland to the car park and beach access. There is one footpath alongside the access road. This is not paved – tree roots and sometimes mud will be present. There is no defined footpath through the main car park. The surface of the main car park is usually sandy and can be rutted. This car park contains speed bumps and one-way flow plates, which require a vehicle-ground clearance of at least 11cm.

There are three payment machines in the car park, one in the woodland and two at the beach. It costs £7.50 to park, or free for National Trust members (please obtain free ticket from the machine). Blue badge holders also park for free – please clearly display your blue badge in the windscreen of your vehicle. If you require any assistance, uniformed staff and volunteers are on duty throughout open hours in the car parks.

Car parking at squirrel woodland area, Victoria Road

55 spaces are available alongside the vehicular access road. Twelve accessible spaces are available on the south side of the road and are clearly signed. The parking bays are not delineated on the ground.

Paths lead off to trails through woodland and open fields. On the paths and trails there are some slopes of 1 in 12 leading to more level terrain away from the access road.

Car parking at beach car park, Victoria Road

250 spaces are available although these are not delineated on the ground. Four accessible parking spaces are available on the south side of the car park and are clearly signed.



Undefined paths leading on to the beach are steep and are soft sand underfoot. Two other tracks one to the north and one to the south of the car park are surfaced with stone although both are affected by sand blow from time to time.

Lifeboat Road Entrance (L37 1LJ)

At this entrance there is one vehicular access road leading to the car park. There is no footpath alongside this road. Lifeboat road car park consists of three tarmacked but unmarked parking areas. These are marked as Bay One, Bay Two and Bay Three. This car park contains speed bumps and one-way flow plates, which require a vehicle-ground clearance of at least 11cm.

There are three payment machines in the car park, one in each of parking bay. It costs £7.50 to park, or free for National Trust members (please obtain free ticket from the machine). Blue badge holders also park for free – please clearly display your blue badge in the windscreen of your vehicle. If you require any assistance, uniformed staff and volunteers are on duty throughout open hours in the car parks.

Car parking at Lifeboat Road

250 spaces available, although these are not delineated on the ground. There are four accessible parking spaces locate in bay two of the car park and are clearly signed.

There are three marked pathways to the beach. The marked path to the beach located in the west of bay is surfaced with stone and leads to a boardwalk over the dunes and on to the beach front, although can be affected by sand blow. Two other marked pathways one to the south of bay one and the west of bay three are surfaced with stone although become undefined, steep and soft underfoot over the sand dunes. There is a public bridle path at Lifeboat Road with access to the beach for horses via the Lifeboat Road path only.

Access information is available from the visitor welcome kiosk and information trailer during weekends and school holiday periods. Staff are also available to provide direction and information.

Assistance dogs

All dogs are welcome at Formby including assistance dogs. Dog walking is a popular activity and we welcome responsible dog owners. We ask that dogs are kept on a lead near to vulnerable wildlife such as on the Red Squirrel Walk or on the tide line where we have many feeding wading birds especially in the

winter. We also ask that dog owners ensure that they pick up after their dog, bins are provided throughout the site that can be used for depositing dog waste.

Beach access

Access on and off the beach is difficult at Formby due to soft and shifting sand. It is no longer possible to maintain boardwalks from the Victoria road entrance due to the rapid rate of change.

At Lifeboat Road, a marked path to the beach located in the west of bay is surfaced with stone and leads to a boardwalk over the dunes although access can be affected by sand blow across the boardwalk. It is not always possible to gain access on to the beach due to the soft sand at the base of the dunes.

Sand Wheelchair

A sand wheelchair is available for loan free of charge. This wheelchair has large, soft tyres that allow it to be pushed over the sand dunes and along sandy paths without sinking. The wheelchair cannot be self-manoeuvred and usually requires a minimum of 2 people to push. Please telephone for more details or to enquire about availability.

WCs

There are permanent toilet facilities at the Victoria road entrance and temporary port-a-loos at the Lifeboat Road Car Park.

Victoria Road

The wheelchair accessible toilet is located to the side of the Victoria access road in the Squirrel Wood area, approximately 60 metres from the entrance to the site. Toilets are approx. 700 metres from the beach.

NB this toilet does not have an emergency alarm.

Access to the accessible toilet at Victoria Road requires a RADAR key. Please ask to borrow a RADAR key at the welcome kiosk if you do not have your own.

- The door to the accessible toilet at Victoria road is 98cm wide. The room itself measures 1.47m x 2.5m.
- The toilet 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. The wheelchair would be on the left of the toilet.
- There is a baby change facility 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

Currently there is an accessible port-a-loo at the Lifeboat Road car park.

- The width of the door to the port-a-loo measures 84cm
- The toilet 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. The wheelchair would be on the left of the toilet.
- The port-a-loo is lit with daylight
- There is a hand gel sanitiser but no running water

Outdoors

A welcome leaflet includes a map showing the main access routes with general access information. This is obtained from the welcome kiosk or the information trailer at Victoria Road and the entrance to Lifeboat Road Car Park.

Red Squirrel Walk

Access paths guide the visitor through the pine wood. The path surface is stone with compacted earth and there is a short section of wooden boardwalk. There are no steps along the walk. There are slopes with gradients of 1:12. Tree roots and stumps may be present especially at path edges. Mud may be present depending on weather conditions. There are 2 bench seats along the walk.

Cornerstone Walk

This $\frac{3}{4}$ mile circular route passes through the woodlands and into the open dune landscape. The surface is stone but can become muddy in places in the woodland areas with some tree roots present. Once the path enters the dune area there can be sand blown on to the surface of the path. There are slopes with gradients of 1:12. There are three benches along the route, two directly next to the path in the woodland area and one a short distance from the path in the dune area.

Formby Asparagus Trail

A leaflet provides details of an accessible circular walk, available from the welcome kiosk or the information trailer.

A sign displaying a large version of the trail map is available at the start of the trail. A large print version of the map is available on request from the welcome kiosk or the information trailer.



Paths are constructed either of stone, compacted earth or grass mesh. Mud or sand may be present depending on weather conditions. There are slopes with gradients of 1:12 at the start of the trail.

There are six bench seats either on or within a short distance of the walk. There are also accessible picnic benches at the start of the trail and also a short distance along the trail between the woodland and grassland areas. Tactile wooden carvings and sculptures are placed along the trail. There are information panels along the route with text, images and embossed text providing information suitable for children.

Slopes with gradients of 1:12 are found on a number of paths in the woodland area. The paths are then on relatively level ground through woodlands and fields.

There are **no steps** along the main trails but tree roots and stumps may be present at path edges along the woodland trails.

There are **bench seats** along the accessible trails.

Catering

Ice Cream Van and Coffee Truck

Cold drinks, snacks and ice cream are available to buy from the ice cream van which parks in the Squirrel Wood area all year round. A second van is available in the main car park during the summer months. The ice cream van counter height is 1320cm.

Hot drinks, sandwiches and cakes are available to buy from the coffee truck which parks in the squirrel wood area all year round

NB: ice cream vans and coffee trucks are not run by the National Trust.

There is no indoor tearoom.

Staff will assist visitors as required with purchases from the ice cream van and coffee truck.

There are no induction loops at either concession.

Picnic Areas

There are four picnic areas on site, two of which have accessible wooden picnic tables. One of these picnic areas is adjacent to the main access road and woodland car park at Victoria Road.

The other accessible picnic areas is the family picnic site, located a short distance from the car park at Victoria Road. This is fenced to provide a safe,



defined area for children to picnic. Please see the map on site or ask a member of staff for directions.

Retail

There is no indoor National Trust shop on site but the information trailer at Victoria Road and outdoor tables at Lifeboat Road have a small stock of pocket money items, buckets and spades, hats and outdoor equipment including blankets and reusable mugs.

Staff will assist visitors with purchases as required but there is no induction loop available.

Contact details for more information

T: 01704 878591 – office staffed part time.

E: formby@nationaltrust.org.uk

Date: January 2020