

Formby Access Statement

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

Visitor Entrance – vehicles and pedestrians.

Victoria Road,
Freshfield,
Formby
Liverpool L37 1LJ.
See above for telephone and email.

Introduction

1. Formby is part of the Sefton Coast where the terrain is generally sandy. There is one vehicular access road leading through the pine woodland to the main 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. There are a number of paths throughout the site that have various terrains, please see below for details.
2. **Car Parking –**
Squirrel Wood area - 55 spaces are available alongside the vehicular access road. 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.
Main Car Park – there are around 300 spaces although these are not delineated on the ground. 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.

3. **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 hours visitors can also contact our welcome kiosk on 01704 876962 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>
4. **Assistance dogs** are welcome at Formby. 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.
5. **Access on and off the beach** is difficult at Formby due to soft and shifting sand. It is no longer possible to maintain boardwalks in this area due to the rapid rate of change.
6. **Sand Wheelchair** – we do have a sand wheelchair that 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.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. Follow brown signs (with the National Trust oak leaf logo) to Formby Point from the roundabout at the north end of the Formby By-pass (A565). Smaller brown signs with the oak leaf logo help navigation through Formby from the south.
2. There are 12 designated spaces for disabled visitors with most being available along the road side parking in the Squirrel Wood area. The closest available parking to the toilet building is approximately 50 metres away.
3. The car park surfaces including the disabled parking areas are made of crushed stone. The main car park can be sandy and rutted.
4. Short term parking is available for approximately 4 vehicles close to the toilets. This is because the toilets are located some 700 metres from the main car park.
5. Access information is available from a visitor welcome kiosk on arrival and also from an information trailer during weekends and school holiday periods.

WCs

1. The **wheelchair access toilet** is located to the side of the 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.**
2. Access to the wheelchair accessible toilet requires a RADAR key. Please ask to borrow a spare RADAR key at the welcome kiosk.
3. The door to the wheelchair access toilet is 98cm wide. The toilet room itself measures 1.47m x 2.5m.
4. The wheelchair access 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.
5. There is a baby change facility but no Changing Places facility and no hoist.
6. The area is lit with fluorescent light which is motion activated. There is no natural daylight.
7. There is a sink and one automatic hand drier.

Outdoors

1. 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.
2. **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.
3. **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 3 benches along the route, 2 directly next to the path in the woodland area and one a short distance from the path in the dune area.
4. **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 6 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.

5. **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.
6. There are **no steps** along the main trails but tree roots and stumps may be present at path edges along the woodland trails.
7. **Picnic area** - Pedestrian gates are located at the entrances to the family picnic site which is fenced to provide a safe defined area for children to picnic.
8. There are **bench seats** along the accessible trails.

Catering

1. Hot and cold drinks, snacks and ice cream are available to buy at the **ice cream van** which parks in the Squirrel Wood area all year round with a second van in the main car park during the summer months. The ice cream van counter height is 1320cm. **NB: There is no indoor tearoom.**
2. Staff will assist visitors as required with purchases from the ice cream van.
3. There is no induction loop.
4. There are **3 picnic areas** on site with **accessible wooden picnic tables**. One of these picnic areas is adjacent to the main access road and woodland car park. The other 2 picnic areas are located within 100 metres from the access road and are accessed via paths that have a 1:12 slope.

Retail

1. **There is no shop on site.**
2. The information trailer has a small stock of 'pocket money' type items e.g. small toy red squirrels
3. Staff will assist visitors as required with retail purchases.

Contact details for more information

T: 01704 878591 – office staffed part time.

E: formby@nationaltrust.org.uk

Date: December 2016