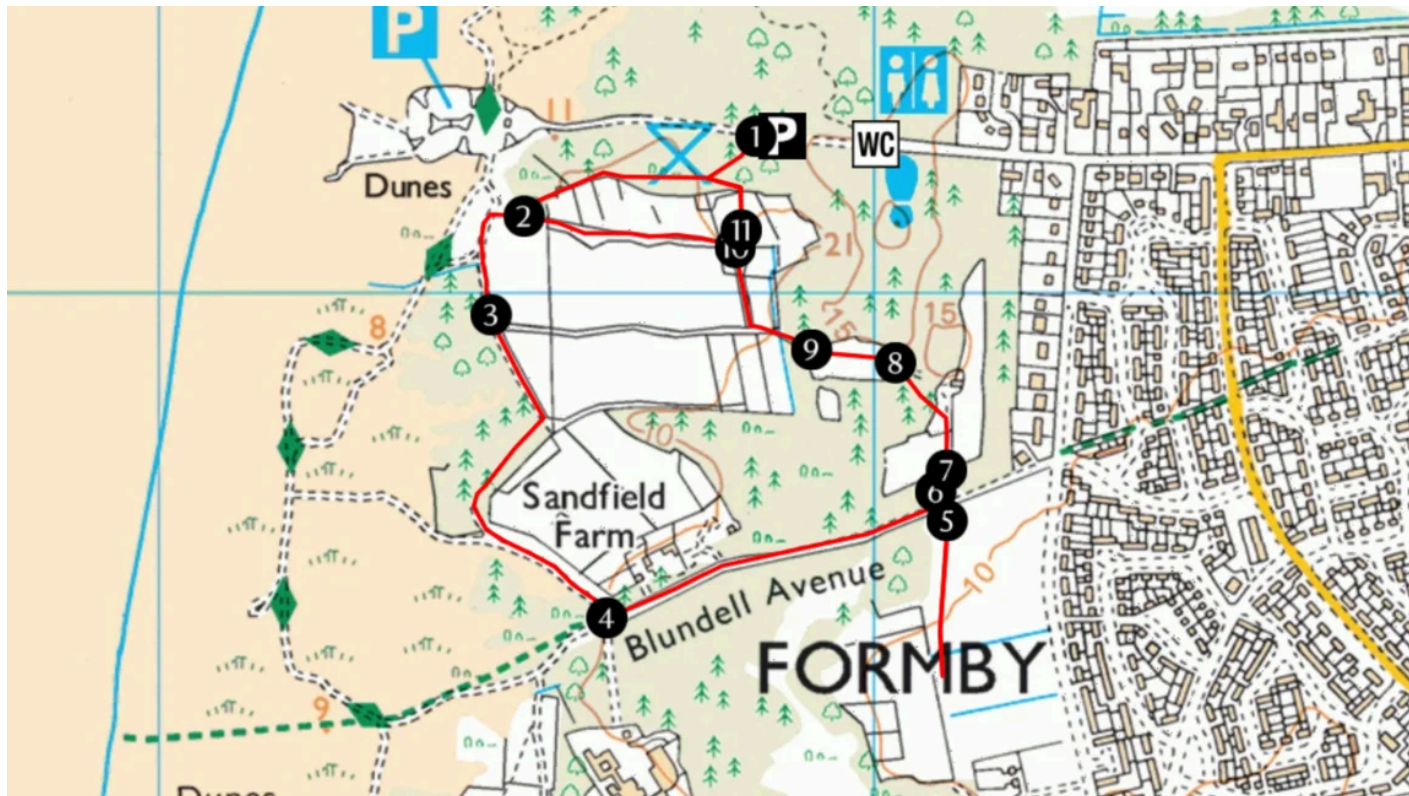


LIVERPOOL & LANCASHIRE

Formby Asparagus Trail

The Asparagus Trail was installed in 2015 to showcase the close connection the site has to growing asparagus at Formby, and how this once common practice has shaped the landscape here. The route takes you around old asparagus fields, as well as highlighting the few fields left in cultivation. There are picnic tables along the way, as well as shorter and longer routes to extend your walk.



Information

Address: L37 1LJ

Activity: Walking

Moderate: The majority of the trail is surfaced with either compacted stone, tarmac, or green plastic mesh, however some sections are bare sand and grass. For more information, please see the Terrain section, or take a look at our Accessibility Guide.

Dog friendly: Suitable for dogs under close control.

Full trail: Miles: 1.75 (km: 2.8)

Duration: 1.5 hours 90 mins

Terrain

The terrain of the asparagus trail varies greatly, with some sections only bare sand, others surfaced with stone, and many sections with green plastic mesh.

The route is generally flat, though a few sections have gradients up to 1:8.

Total stages: 11

Start point: National Trust Formby Victoria Road car park, Victoria Road, Formby, Merseyside, L37 1LJ. Grid reference: SD 27997 08208

1. To complete the trail in an anti-clockwise direction, head south-west down the stone footpath into the woodlands. The track here is steep (up to 1:8), with a compacted surface of up to 20mm stone size. The footpath is 3m wide for around 50m before the edging boards end and the cambered stone footpath leads you through the mature deciduous woodland. Parts of this woodland section can be muddy in winter and after heavy rainfall so take extra care if visiting during these times.
2. After leaving the woodland, turn right (west) and follow the stone footpath towards and then alongside the base of the sand dunes, heading south. The path surface is made up of up to 20mm size stones, though some sections can be covered in a thin layer of wind-blown sand due to being so close to the dunes.
3. Follow the pink waymarkers through the mature pine woodland and around the old asparagus field at Sandfield Farm. The surface is level and compacted stone, though the north-west corner of the asparagus field has a gradient of 1:8. After around 600m you will reach Blundell Avenue.
4. At the corner of Blundell Avenue, head left (east) along the road, taking care as it is used by pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and vehicles on a regular basis. Follow the road for around 500m.
5. To see a field still in cultivation, head south on to Larkhill Field, or skip to step 6. This field track is not surfaced, and is predominantly grassland, with some bare sandy patches. After around 200m, you reach a wooden kissing gate (maximum width 108cm). Head through the gate, and after another 30m you will reach the viewpoint and interpretation board about the asparagus field. Head back to Blundell Avenue to continue the trail.
6. Head north into the pine woodland from Blundell Avenue, roughly opposite the track down to Larkhill Field. The stone surface here is relatively level and leads quickly eastwards before straightening up and heading north again.

7. Continue north along the green plastic mesh surface for around 100m before the path bends to the left, up and over a steep historic dune that is now mature pine woodland, and into an open field. This latter part is not surfaced and has a gradient of 1:8.
8. Continue along the stone footpath heading west towards the far end of the field, with the surface changing again from stone to green plastic mesh. The mesh can be fairly undulating with some steep crossfalls, so take extra care if using or pushing a wheelchair or pram along here.
9. Continue along the footpath that leads from the western end of Wheels Field, through the scrubland and towards the large asparagus fields that you first spotted at step 2. From here, head north (right) along the eastern edge of the most northern asparagus field to meet the family picnic site.
10. To finish the trail, you can head west for around 300m along the green plastic mesh that runs along the northern side of the asparagus field to rejoin the trail at step 2. From here, return along the woodland path to the original starting point. However, you can also finish the asparagus trail by entering the family picnic site.
11. To complete the asparagus trail via the family picnic site, head north through the middle of the picnic site, which brings you out into the woodlands. From here, travel west across bare sand to meet the woodland footpath that you began the trail on and cut back up the slope to reach the starting point.

End point: Finish the trail at the Victoria Road information trailer in the woodland car park. Grid reference: SD 27997 08208
