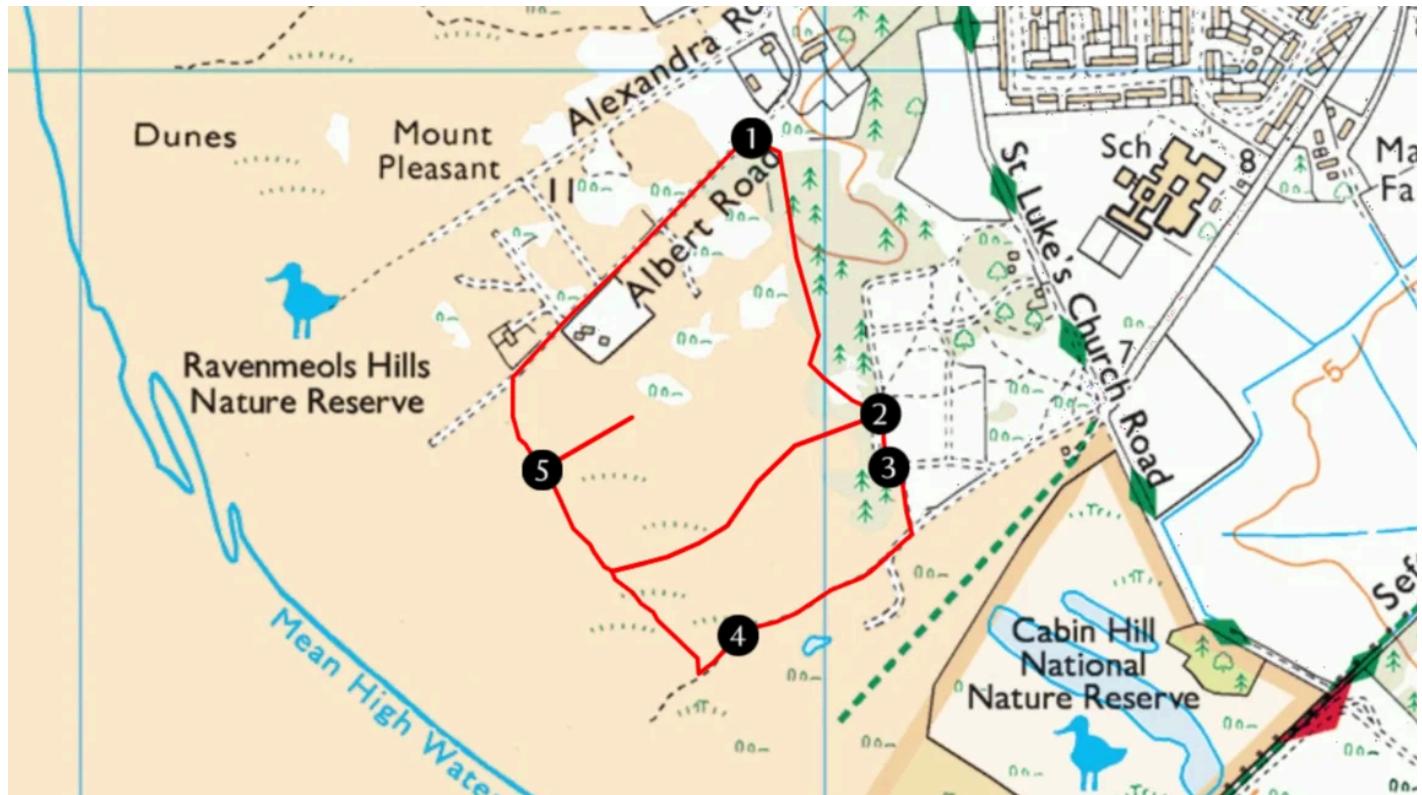


LIVERPOOL & LANCASHIRE

Devil's Hole Trail

Similar to the Lost Resort trail, this route was developed in partnership between Sefton Council and the Formby Civic Society and opened in 2016. The route continues south beyond Albert Road, and is aptly named after the huge, biodiverse wet slack which is a prominent feature on this part of the site.



Information

Address: L37 2EH

Activity: Walking

Moderate: The trail is largely unsurfaced, with the majority over dune grassland and bare sand. Gradients can reach 1:6 regularly and dune grassland vegetation can narrow the path to 60cm in places. 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: 1.5 (km: 2.4)

Duration: 1 hour

Terrain

The terrain is almost entirely bare sandy tracks, with some short sections on compacted stone roads.

The elevation gain varies greatly as the track undulates over fixed dune grassland for the majority of the route.

Total stages: 5

Start point: The trail can be started at the grid reference: SD 27895 05915. This is on Albert Road, Formby, L37 2EH. The trail can also be connected to the Lost Resort trail from either end of Albert Road.

1. Head south through the mature pine woodland for around 350m until you reach more open dune grassland, and as the western edge of the woodland becomes sparser, with some trees engulfed by the encroaching mobile sand dune.
2. Here the trail can take two directions. For the easier route, continue south along the eastern edge of the large sand dune, and then as the woodland ends, bend right to reach an interpretation board after about 100m. Alternatively, to see the Devil's Hole feature, head straight up the steep dune. Walk around the outside of the slack, then up and over the track on the opposite side of the blowout to regain the trail (step 4). Thank you for helping to protect all the wonderful wildlife around you by being mindful as you wander and not letting dogs into the water of any of the slacks around the site, as this is where rare natterjack toads breed.
3. After passing the interpretation board, continue heading south for around 100m until the route crosses another sandy track running north-east to south-west. Here, head south-west (right) and continue along this track for around 250m to reach another interpretation board. Between April and November please keep dogs on a lead in this area as there are cattle grazing to help restore the dune grasslands.
4. Continue south-west past the interpretation board, climbing the steep sandy track to gain the top of the rolling fixed dune grasslands. Follow the waymarkers as they traverse the top of these dunes heading north towards Albert Road. Between April and November please keep dogs on a lead in this area as there are cattle grazing to help restore the dune grasslands.
5. There is a short off-shoot of the trail which takes visitors to see the old Royal Observer Corps bunker, taking a right-hand turn about 150m south of Albert Road, for about 100m up the sand dune. After re-joining the main north-south trail, continue for around 200m to reach the western edge of Albert Road.

End point: After reaching the most western end of Albert Road, you can head inland for around 450m to get back to where you started (grid reference: SD 27895 05915). Otherwise, you can also pick up the Lost Resort trail here, heading north and then looping back to the original starting point for this route.
