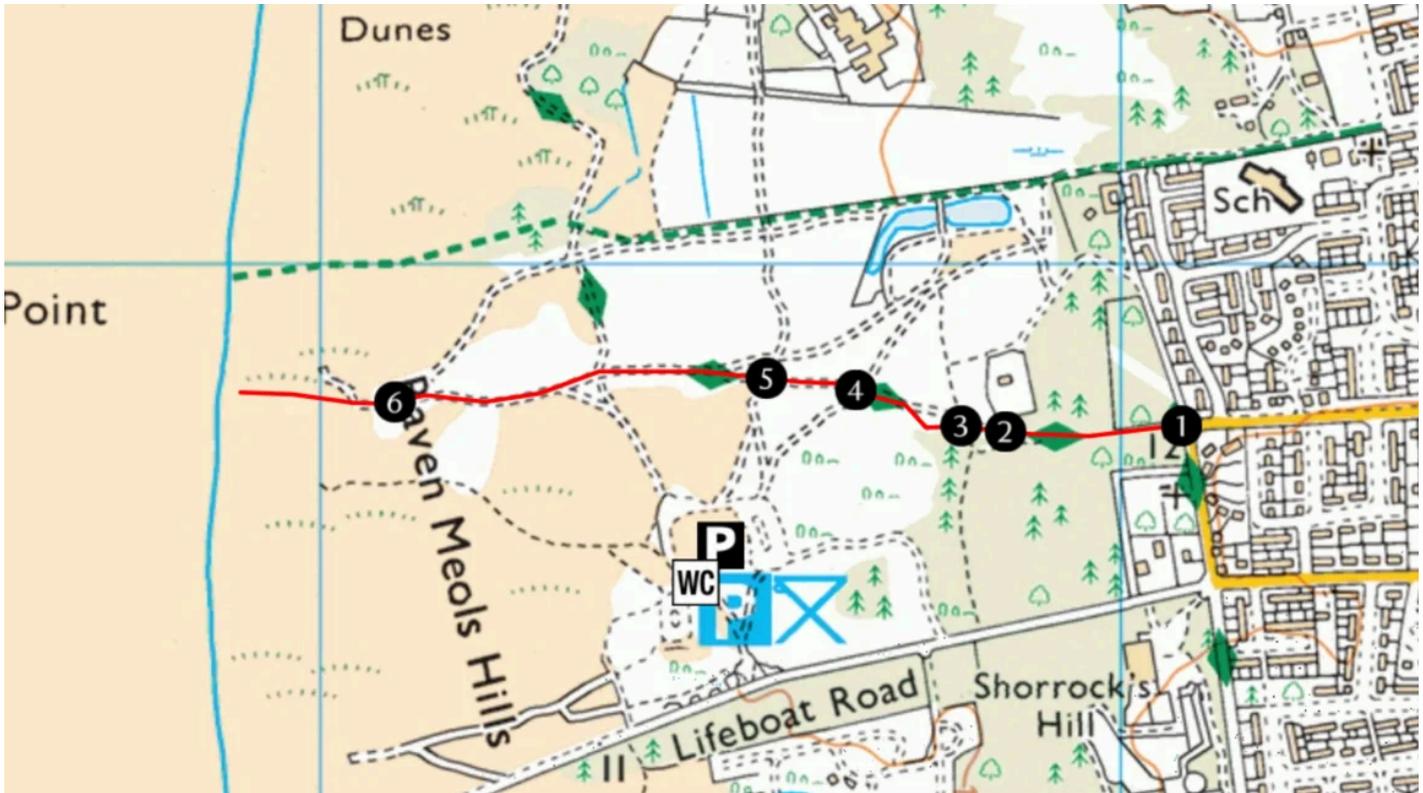


LIVERPOOL & LANCASHIRE

Kirklake Path

The quickest route to the beach from Formby train station, this 0.6 mile linear route takes you through mature pine woodland, across dune grassland and over mobile sand dunes to reach the beautiful Formby coastline, and all without having to cross any roads or go via the car parks.



Information

Address: L37 2DF

Activity: Walking

Moderate

Dog friendly: Suitable for dogs under close control.

Full trail: Miles: 0.6 (km: 0.96)

Duration: 0.5 hour 30 mins

Terrain

The majority of the footpath is surfaced with compacted stone (up to 40mm) but the last 500m is almost entirely bare sand so can make accessing the beach difficult. The gradients are also steep and in a few places are around 1:6.

The elevation drops steeply at the switchback not far from Kirklake Corner, then rises more gently on the opposite side. The final sand dune is steep however, and rises significantly (around 10m) before dropping again to reach the coastline.

Total stages: 6

Start point: Kirklake Corner entrance to National Trust Formby. The nearest post code is L37 2DF and the grid reference is SD 28080 06793.

1. Head west through the gap in the wooden fence (maximum gap is 113cm) and follow the compacted stone surfaced footpath (maximum stone size is 20mm) for around 200m.
2. Continue heading west, down the switchbacks to the bottom of the slope. The gradient here is 1:6, and the crossfall in places can also be very steep so take extra care and use the wooden handrail.
3. At the bottom of the slope, take the path immediately opposite to continue heading west towards the beach. The surfaced footpath leads you up a gentler slope than that which you've just come down but is still fairly steep, around 1:8.
4. After reaching the brow of the hill, the path leads directly west further still, for around another 200m until it meets a 4-way crossroads. Here you can head north towards Victoria Road and south towards Lifeboat Road car park.
5. At the 4-way junction, go straight over, continuing west for another 350m before the stone surface starts to give way to sand completely. During this stretch, sections of the existing stone footpath have been worn away by the strong coastal winds and have exposed the bare sand beneath.
6. As the stone surface finally gives way completely to the sand dunes, continue west for the last 200m to reach the beach. The gradient here is steep, around 1:6, and the surface is entirely bare sand.

End point: Having come down the final sand dune, you have reached the end of Kirklake Path – the beach (grid reference: SD 27016 06825)! For an easier return journey, head south for around 100m and come back along the beach boardwalk path, which takes you to Lifeboat Road car park.