

Additional points for the longer route and other points of interest nearby

A. FRESHFIELD STATION AND THOMAS FRESH'S HOUSE

Thomas Fresh helped establish asparagus cultivation in the fields of Formby, fertilised by waste transported from the inner city of Liverpool. The train station is named after his asparagus fields.



B. NATIONAL TRUST AND VICTORIA ROAD

Victoria Road in Formby was the home of **John Moores**, founder of John Moores University. At the bottom of Victoria Road is access to Formby Beach and the **National Trust Squirrel Reserve**.

C. LARKHILL FIELDS - FORMBY ASPARAGUS TRAIL

Formby asparagus farms of the 1920s and 1930s regularly supplied the likes of Harrods, Covent Garden and the transatlantic ocean liners including Cunard's ill-fated Titanic.

D. ST LUKE'S CHURCH

St Luke's Church has a wealth of history and heritage including the Rose Window which depicts local flowers and fauna. The oldest grave dates from 1666, but the mysterious Godstone could be much older than that.

E. LIFEBOAT ROAD

Formby is home to the first lifeboat station in the world thought to have been built in 1776. You can still see the remains of the 1809 rebuild at the end of **Lifeboat Road** leading onto Formby Beach.

F. FORMBY TRAIN STATION AND THE RAILWAY PUB

Formby and Altcar station opened in 1848 and the Railway Pub is the oldest existing pub in Formby dating back to 1854.

G. DOVE CENTRE

Originally established as a charity by local churches in 1982, the **Dove Trust** now functions as a fully independent youth club and community centre.

H. FORMBY LIBRARY

Formby Library is a five-minute walk from Formby Railway Station, situated opposite Duke Street Park.

I. DUKE STREET PARK

Duke Street Park was gifted to the public in 1935 by Dr. A.B. Sykes. The doctor purchased the land so that it would remain a public space. In January 1959, **Jim Rourke** took his nine-year-old son Frank for a kickabout here. When other boys joined in **Formby Juniors Football Club** was born.



J. FORMBY METHODIST CHURCH

Formby Methodist Church celebrated its 150th anniversary of serving the community in 2024.



K. CROSS HOUSE INN AND CROSS GREEN

The original Cross House Inn was a small cottage dating back to at least 1679. Cross Green hosted fairs and markets including the Formby Fair which dates back to the 14th Century. The sandstone cross replaced the former wooden cross in 1879.



The Hearts of Gold Formby Community Heritage Trail is part of the Sefton at 50 Hearts of Gold Heritage Lottery Project which celebrates Sefton's 50th anniversary and highlights Sefton's special people, places, memories and events from the last 50 years and beyond.

The trail was created by fantastic local volunteers and Sefton CVS. Look out for wooden hearts with QR codes along the route telling you about that point and providing links to further information. The wooden hearts were crafted by Sefton-based wood sculptor, **Simon Archer**.

To find out about our other Community Heritage Trails in Netherton and Bootle scan the QR code or visit:

<https://seftoncvcs.my.canva.site/hearts-of-gold-sefton-at-50>



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Hearts of Gold FORMBY COMMUNITY HERITAGE TRAIL



Shorter Route Distance: 2.2 miles
Time: Approximately 40 minutes

Longer Route Distance: 4.5 miles
Time: Approximately 90 minutes



1. Formby Pool

Our trail begins at the award-winning Formby Pool. The founder of Formby Pool Trust **Alan Roberts** campaigned and fundraised tirelessly for over 30 years to see Formby Pool become a reality in 2007.



2. Quality Shop and Woodies, Formby Heritage Centre – The Attic

In 2023 **Imagine Formby** and **Formby Civic Society** opened **The Attic** above Woodies wine bar. In the 1960s and 1970s, it was a sweet shop called **The Quality Shop**. Local artist **Eric Gerrard** and his family lived where The Attic is today and his son **Stephen Gerrard** is well-known in the community for his songwriting and singing.



3. Derbyshires

Derbyshires is a family-run business established in 1886 and is a survivor of Chapel Lane from the latter 19th Century and still a much-loved local shop.



4. Formby War Memorial

Formby War Memorial is located by the roundabout at the corner of Three Tuns Lane.



5. Old School House

The **Old School House** is Formby's first school house and the original was built in 1659. In more recent years it has been a balti house and a bar.



6. Our Lady of Compassion Church

Our Lady of Compassion Church celebrated its milestone 160th anniversary in 2024 with a series of community activities and events over the year.



7. Police Station

Formby Police Station opened on 13th October 1894. In 1994, local Formby police constable called **Dougie Knight** held a centenary celebration for the Police Station. A 12-page booklet was published which was illustrated by **Dougie** with a poem written by Formby's very own award-winning historian, poet and author **Joan Rimmer**.



8. Gild Hall

The **Gild Hall** was originally called the Queen's Jubilee Hall and used as a billet for troops during World War I and World War II. It is at the heart of the community and people have many fond memories of attending family functions and special events here.



9. Grapes Hotel

The Grapes Hotel is a Victorian pub. Built in 1880, the original structure included assembly rooms and a bowling green. Many pubs in Formby had bowling greens where the car parks are today.



10. Embassy Building

Built in 1928 as a roller-skating rink In 1932 it became a cinema and for a number of years housed an ice-rink.



11. St Peter's Church

Historic **St Peter's Church** was built in 1746 and is a Grade II listed building located at the centre of the Green Lane conservation area in the heart of the local community. Local artist **Muriel Sibley** painted and sketched the church many times and left hundreds of beautiful sketches and paintings of Formby to **Formby Civic Society** in 1993.



12. Formby Cricket, Hockey and Squash Club

Formby Cricket Club was established at its historic site in **Cricket Path** in 1865 and Formby Hockey Club has a history stretching back to 1902.



13. Freshfield Bowling Club

The club is commonly known as **Tin Tab**, a reference to the origins of the clubhouse, formerly a Tin Tabernacle Church and adapted as a clubhouse by the bowling club when it was formed in 1894.



14. Formby School of Dancing and Performing Arts

Back in the 1970's, '**Mrs B**' started to run the Formby School of Dancing until the 1990's when daughter Hayley and her husband Alistair took over the running of the school. Thousands of children have danced and performed here for nearly 50 years.



15. Formby Lawn Tennis Club

Formby Lawn Tennis Club has links going right back to the late 19th century. The club was where legendary Wimbledon Umpire **Alan Mills** learned to play tennis and became County Champion. He went on to umpire the famous John McEnroe match in 1983. He was made OBE in 1996, then CBE following his retirement in 2005.



16. Platinum Jubilee Park

Formby Parish Council and local ward councillors developed this park to promote health and wellbeing by providing an open, re-wilded green space for community enjoyment.



17. Formby Little Theatre

In 1947 a group of individuals calling themselves 'The Fellowship Players' put on a production of Terence Rattigan's 'Flare path' in Holy Trinity Church Hall. This was the beginning of **Formby Little Theatre**.



18. 1st Formby Scouts

The oldest scout group in Formby is **1st Formby** who have run continuously since they were formed in 1909, just one year after 'Scouting for Boys' was published and the formation of scout groups all over the country.



19. Holy Trinity Church and Formby Village Tennis and Sports Club

Holy Trinity Church was built in the early 1890s in central Formby and many people still fondly refer to it as 'The Church in the Village'. The history of **Formby Village Tennis and Sports Club** goes back to 1891 when the vicar of the Church, Rev. John Brooke Richardson, began a bible class for men on a Friday evening followed by games.



20. Formby Luncheon Club

The **Formby Luncheon Club** began in 1965 as a weekly lunch club for people over 60. The club's purpose is to reduce social isolation among the elderly. It is open every Christmas Day to provide lunch served by fantastic local volunteers.

