

## 4

# FORMBY & FRESHIELDS

This route can be done in 2 parts or joined together to form a longer route. The first section takes you out to the coast to enjoy the wonderful vistas over the Mersey Estuary and Irish Sea, this section is 3 miles (5km) long. The second section takes you inland through Formby and over the bypass to enjoy the countryside, it is approximately 4.25 miles (6.8km) long.

WALK - LEISURELY

Exit Freshfield station and turn left, carefully walk along the road next to the car park heading straight along Montagu Road, pass through a gap next to a gate and continue along the track running alongside the railway line.

Cross the railway and continue into Formby Golf Course along Fishermans Path. On reaching a gate continue straight ahead for around half a mile before turning left onto the Sefton Coastal Path. Walk along this path through the woods before emerging at a clearing with the path guiding you to the right and up some sand dunes. On a clear day once on top of the dunes you will have an excellent view of the Irish Sea, the Welsh Mountains in the distance and both the Sefton and the Wirral Coastlines.

Continue to follow the Coastal path through the dunes and around to the edge of Cornerstones Woods, with its distinctive lilac route markers and musical pipes, follow this path through the pinewoods, which are frequented by the Red Squirrel.

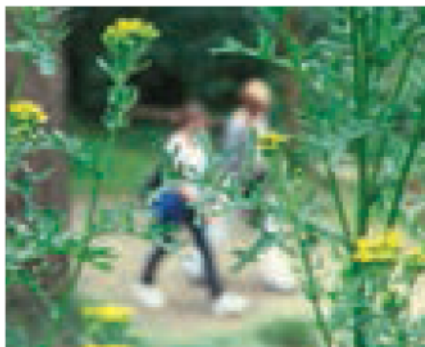
This leads to the National Trust reserve car park, (where toilet facilities are available at the entrance). Leave the reserve walking straight ahead and continue down Victoria Road for around half a mile before arriving back at Freshfield Station.

To walk the second section cross the road and turn right into Freshfield Road, before turning left into Grange Lane. The distinctive buildings on the right are Tower House and Tower Grange, claimed to incorporate part of a 13th century monastic grange that belonged to Whalley Abbey.

At Gores Lane turn right passing the early 18th century thatched cottage and take the footpath on the left which skirts the cricket pitch to reach Cricket Path. At the end of Cricket Path turn right and then left along another footpath running alongside St Peters Church. Turn right along Paradise Lane and reach the junction of Ryeground Lane and Southport Road. Carry on ahead and at the right hand bend, carry straight on into New



Red Squirrel



Woodland Walk



Sefton Coastal Path

## Keypoints

Distance - 7.25 miles (11.7km)

- 1 Formby Beach
- 2 Formby Point (Red Squirrel Reserve)



Road before turning left into Clifton Road.

Follow the footpath through the park up to the passageway exit onto Deansgate Lane, turn right and then left at the road junction into Moss Side.

Cross the road and at the footpath sign, just past number 22 Moss Side, turn right to enter the playing fields and follow the footpath along the field edge until it meets Mittens Lane. Turn left and cross the Formby Bypass with care, to rejoin Mittens Lane on the other side.

Go through the kissing gate and follow a waymarked path across the field, over several stiles until Moss Side is reached again. Continue across Moss Side into Little Hey Lane, bear right to pass the golf centre on the left and follow the track into Pasture

Lane, which you follow for about 500 metres.

At the end carry straight ahead into Southport Old Road to a crossroads near a kennels and cattery, turn left along Eight Acre Lane and at the end carefully recross the Formby Bypass to rejoin the track on the opposite side. Follow this track, marked as a bridleway, to where it ends at Paradise Lane.

Turn right and then left along the path towards Little Brewery Lane. Then continue on Brewery Lane to its bend with West Lane and go straight across to the path ahead and follow until you reach the railway line.

Turn left down Montagu Road to complete the walk and return to Freshfield Railway Station.