

The impact of sand extraction at Formby Point, Merseyside

Historical report on research in local authority records and other archival sources

prepared for Sefton Council as part of the project 'The impact of sand extraction at Formby Point, Merseyside', supported through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund: Application TAL0183

by

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**THE IMPACT OF SAND EXTRACTION AT FORMBY POINT,
MERSEYSIDE**

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1. This report is based primarily upon the minutes of the Formby Urban District Council, which was created in 1905 and in 1974 became part of the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton. Unfortunately the records of the Urban District Council records are divided. The Lancashire Record Office in Preston holds the council minutes, committee minutes and some other material from 1905 to the late 1920s/early 1930s, together with predecessor authorities before 1905. At Southport Library there is a full series of official signed council and committee minutes covering the period 1927-1974 inclusive. As far as can be ascertained, there are no records other than the formal minutes for any period later than the mid-1930s. The likelihood is that all (or at best most) such material was destroyed on local government reorganisation in March 1974. The most serious problem is therefore that any internal reports which were produced by the Urban District Council, together with maps and plans relating to planning applications, appear irretrievably lost. A specific instance can be quoted: in February 1952 the engineer & surveyor to Formby Urban District Council prepared a survey of mineral workings in the urban district, and it was decided that a copy of this should be forwarded to the County Council, but no evidence of this report (or the map which probably accompanied it) can be found among the records of either authority (FUDC TPP&HC 4 Feb 1952, 664).

2. Furthermore, the most useful alternative source for researching the mineral workings in Formby Urban District would in normal circumstances be the records, including minutes and reports, of the Divisional Planning Committee no.8 of Lancashire County Council, but unfortunately these have also not survived and thus the substitute evidence is missing as well. It is therefore difficult to reconstruct in precise detail the planning history of sand-winning at Formby and, in particular, well nigh impossible to identify the exact location and boundaries of the sites which were the subject of planning applications.

3. Some other sources have been useful. In Liverpool Record Office are the papers of the Weld Blundell family (the erstwhile Ince Blundell Estate). These include two files of letters and other items relating to the sandhills and foreshore at Formby and Ainsdale, together with some photographic material and post-1945 reports. As part of the research a miscellany of other potentially relevant sources was searched (listed at the end of this report) but nothing relevant was found.
4. The surviving records have been carefully searched and all entries relating to sand (either in terms of its extraction, or in the context of subjects such as coastal erosion) have been either transcribed or photocopied. The extracted information is given in full in notes which follow this report, and the photocopies of relevant documents or entries in council minutes are included as Appendices 1-9.
5. Until the passing of the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, which included specific powers and obligations on the part of the owners and potential developers of mineral workings, and also upon local authorities in relation to approval or refusal, the planning controls upon sand-working were extremely limited. In essence, the position before the late 1940s was that working sand upon private land was largely outside any official control, and was simply a matter for negotiation between the landowner and any contractor or company involved. Provided that it did not impinge upon other interests, or cause a public nuisance, it could be carried out without limitation. This means that documentary evidence is entirely a matter of chance. Although it is clear that sand-working was being carried on at Formby in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and on a considerable scale, it is very difficult to find specific evidence for its location, or for the terms of working or the quantities extracted, or for what purpose. It is even difficult to determine which parties were involved, and the papers of local landowning families are largely silent upon the subject until after the Second World War.
6. Although the minutes of Formby UDC were searched from 1905 onwards, there is no reference to sand-working until the beginning of 1928, when the

Council's Rating Committee discussed the financial assessment of the sandhills. This was required because sand was being worked on the estate owned by Jonathan Formby, increasing the potential rateable value of the sandhills themselves. It was resolved that these should be valued at £200 per annum. No information is given in this first entry about the nature or location of the working (other than its being on the Formby estate) or of the contractor or destination of the material which was removed (FUDC Rating 25 Jan 1928, 872). However, Jonathan Formby objected to the proposed valuation and in February 1928 it was reported (FUDC Rating 15 Feb 1928, 962) that the estate had licensed two separate areas for sand-working, and the contractors were, respectively, Messrs. Woodward & Son and Messrs. Jones & Son. This is the first reference to Woodward's, who remained the major operatives in the Formby sand industry until the 1970s. The estate successfully argued that the two contractors should pay the rating, not the landowner.

7. Identifying the location remains problematic, but a hint of one place where working was in progress is given in 1931, when the Health and Highways Committee resolved that the police be informed of the dangerous speed with which sand wagons were being driven along Andrews Lane (FUDC H&HC 22 Jun 1931, 255). This also indicates that the sand was being removed in road vehicles and, indeed, there is no suggestion anywhere in the minutes from 1927 to 1974 that any other method of transport was used. While sand may possibly have been conveyed within the workings by tramway, it seems certain (from the negative evidence) that this was not part of any wider practice. It is significant that the minutes of the committees which dealt with highway matters never refer to tramway crossings, which would almost certainly otherwise have been mentioned.

8. In the late 1920s, for the first time, the Urban District Council began to note issues relating to the ownership of the shore and coast, and coastal protection. The shifting shore and dune belt caused some concern, although at this stage the Council lacked any statutory power to intervene. In the autumn of 1929 the question of purchasing the foreshore was mentioned (FUDC GPC 2 Sep 1929, 495), negotiations continued through to the autumn of 1930 before petering

out, and in the early spring of 1931 the first reference was made to the damaging effects of storms and unusually high tides (FUDC C-in-C 2 Feb 1931, 670). The period of stormy weather apparently continued, for in autumn 1932 Lifeboat Road was blocked by blown sand at its shore end, and Mr J.W. Stevens offered to remove the sand. The Council declined and instead offered the contract by tender to local hauliers. In December 1933 the road had again become blocked, and removal of the sand was once more authorised. The Formby estate objected, claiming that the sand was its property, but although the Council rejected that claim (FUDC H&HC 19 Sep 1932, 488; GPC 4 Dec 1933, 762; GPC 2 Jul 1934, 282) it appears that the Formby estate began working this area on a larger scale from that time onwards.

9. By May 1936 the workings at the western end of Lifeboat Road near the foreshore were of a considerable size and problems had arisen. In that month a delegation from the Urban District Council inspected the site and found that the road itself had been largely obliterated; fences had fallen down; and new groins had been constructed across the end of the road to trap sand. It was recommended that the estate and the Council should negotiate a fixed boundary to the road (FUDC H&HC 18 May 1936, 133). The problem of Lifeboat Road remained, and it is evident that the estate continued to claim rights over the sand. On the outbreak of war in September 1939 Jonathan Formby most unpatriotically protested when the Council began removing sand 'from the bottom of Lifeboat Road for the purpose of filling sandbags' (FUDC GPC 4 Sep 1939, 469), but the Council stood firm, on legal advice. In March 1940 Formby submitted a claim for damages under the 1939 Defence Compensation Act (FUDC GPC 4 Mar 1940, 852).
10. For the remainder of the Second World War there is no further reference in the minutes to sand-working, but substantial areas of the sandhills and the foreshore were requisitioned for military purposes. The evidence suggests that all excavations were suspended in consequence. In February 1946, however, the question of rating was again raised, this time in relation to the sand-workings operated by the Formby Sand Co. Ltd., the clerk to the council being

instructed to ascertain the tonnage which had been removed (FUDC Valuation 15 Feb 1946, 702).

11. No more was heard of this, but during 1946-1949 the main subject of debate, which generated extensive local controversy, was the proposal by the War Department that the sandhills and foreshore should remain in military occupation. The Urban District Council, backed by many local organisations and individuals, was strongly opposed to a permanent military presence, and argued repeatedly that derequisitioning should proceed at the earliest possible date. Accompanying this argument were renewed suggestions that the Council should purchase the entire foreshore. Negotiations with the three interested parties (the Duchy of Lancaster, the Ince Blundell Estate and the Formby Estate) were conducted during 1949-1950, the main opposition coming from the Ince Blundell Estate which argued that as the line of the foreshore was not fixed it was legally impossible to arrange a sale (FUDC H&HC 26 Sep 1949, 262). The negotiations eventually foundered, but the argument over military occupation was eventually won. The foreshore north of Albert Road was derequisitioned in October 1951 and all the remainder by February 1958.
12. By now the powers and obligations enshrined in the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act were in operation. Mineral consents were in principle the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council, via its Divisional Planning Committee (DPC) no.8, but the county exercised its powers under the 1947 Act to delegate the decision-making in normal circumstances to the Urban District Council, subject to the supervision of the DPC. As a result, Formby UDC began to make decisions on individual applications to win sand, its policy being gradually influenced by growing concerns over the environmental impact and, more importantly in the first decade, the potentially damaging effects of sand-winning upon coastal defences. The serious concerns about erosion and flooding, first voiced in the 1930s, now became a matter of major public interest. Local residents were increasingly alarmed by the loss of the sandhills along the foreshore and by the specific examples of erosion which occurred in the mid-1950s, when a series of major storms led to extensive coastal retreat.

13. This formed the background to planning decisions and it is clear that there was a growing reluctance to authorise sand-winning except under strict controls. The Council also clamped down upon smaller-scale unauthorised removal of sand by private individuals. By the mid-1950s these various concerns were beginning to crystallise in formal proposals to give statutory protection to the coast, and to move towards designation of a national nature reserve in the Formby-Ainsdale dune belt, an idea first formally raised in 1955. All of these processes met with opposition from the landowners, who objected to the limitation of their powers and, because of its financial implications, to the potential ending of sand extraction. For example, in September 1955 the Weld Blundell estate wrote letters to interested parties objecting to the Nature Conservancy Council's proposal for a nature reserve at Ainsdale, on the grounds that 'they have not fully grasped the fact that there might be the possibility of future development of the area for building purposes or for sand winning at some date in the future' (LivRO 920 WBL 8/4: see appendix 2).

14. There were at least eighteen applications to work sand, or cases of unauthorised removal, between 1949 and 1959 inclusive (see table 1). Of these, eight involved H. Woodward and Sons, two were applications by the Southport Sand Co. Ltd., and two concerned Mr G.T. Dacre of Seabank House. The absence of plans or of original documentation for the individual applications makes it impossible to establish the exact boundaries of the sites in question, and in the Council and committee minutes only imprecise descriptions are given. The applications are summarised in the accompanying table and they suggest that the main focus of working at this time was in the Albert Road area, where H. Woodward conducted extensive operations throughout the 1950s. There was smaller scale sand removal in Lifeboat Road, partly for scavenging (that is, the removal of windblown sand blocking the road itself). The unauthorised removal of sand was probably a hangover from the pre-war position when no permission was required. Private individuals continued to assume that such removal was permissible, and the Council became correspondingly more vigilant not only in identifying such cases but also in threatening action if permission was not obtained. The long-running

Seabank House case (1952-1955) was particularly troublesome because the excavation site was infilled with ‘materials of a noxious nature ... which gave rise to smell’ (FUDC TPP&HC 22 Feb 1954, 669).

15. The scale of the sand removal is very difficult to quantify, but a report in the *Formby Times* (12 April 1952: appendix 3) suggested that coastal erosion was greatly exacerbated by sand-winning and that together they presented an imminent threat. If, it was argued, high tides broke through the coastal belt of dunes the sea would flood towards the town. The article implied that there had been a moratorium on sandworking (the duration of this being unspecified) but that an agreement had just been signed (presumably with the landowner) whereby Woodward’s were to be permitted to remove 200,000 tons of sand over a six-year period, between the southern boundary of the Urban District and Lifeboat Road. This appears to relate to the planning permissions granted by the Urban District Council for the Albert Road area in May 1952, giving at least some indication of the very large scale of the undertaking then implemented. It was at this point that the first serious proposals to prevent all future sand-winning seem to have been made, although the realisation of this aim took another fifteen years. The link between sand-winning and erosion and flood danger was, however, very clearly highlighted and henceforth the Urban District Council took careful note of this in its decisions on individual applications.

16. This newspaper article also gives the only apparently reliable statement of the purpose of the sand extraction: ‘Iron and steel foundries which have dealt with Formby contractors for sand over the last 20 years, are now known to be placing orders for sand in Blackpool and Rhyl’. There is little other direct evidence, although it is clear that Pilkington’s of St Helens were working sand at Ainsdale with their own contractors in the same period (LivRO 920 WBL 8/4 letters 1955-1959: 4a-d). The implication is that a substantial proportion of the sand from Formby was destined for specialised industrial use, though some instances of removal for fill or construction can be identified. In February 1953, for example, 1000 tons of sand were removed from Lifeboat Road for use in the new cemetery at St. Luke’s, Formby.

- 17 At this stage the conditions attached to approvals were mainly concerned with the depth of excavation. In June 1949 Woodward's applied to remove sand at an unspecified site (probably in Albert Road) and the Urban District Council imposed a limit: 'no sand shall be removed below a level of 36ft. above ordnance datum'. The DPC modified this, identifying individual sand dunes on a plan which no longer survives and allowing a further twelve feet depth of working, to a level of 21-24ft. OD (FUDC TPP&HC 1 Jun 1949, 78). Similarly, approval of Woodward's application in May 1952 for sand-winning at an unspecified site (almost certainly Albert Road) included a limit of 29 feet OD along a 30 yards depth of the site close to the boundary, and 25 feet OD for the remainder. At this time excavation by an unknown contractor (probably the Southport Sand Co. Ltd.) was in progress at Range Lane without planning permission. This had seemingly breached the sandhills behind the shore, and it was stated that if retrospective approval were to be granted the developer must build up a 23 foot-high sand barrier, 10 yards deep, to fill the breach; must plant it with stargrass; and must not excavate to a depth lower than 25 feet OD (FUDC TPP&HC 26 May 1952, 56 and 58; TPP&HC 30 Jun 1952, 134). Conditions such as these were normally upheld by the DPC.
18. In landscape history terms, the implication of these approvals, with their limits on excavation depth, is that (always supposing that the planning conditions were adhered to) the 1950s workings only involved the removal of the upper levels of the sandhills, rather than deep excavation to sea level. That might in turn suggest that the known deep 'quarries' predated the Second World War and were part of the earlier uncontrolled and unregulated phase of working.
19. During the 1950s the landowners and the Urban District Council were aware of the potential significance of tree-planting as a landscape element and also as a factor in reducing erosion. In 1952, for example, the Ince Blundell estate was concerned with further planting, and sought the advice of Dr. R.A. Shaw of Liverpool University. He suggested that Corsican pine was the most successful species but emphasised the considerable difficulties in ensuring that planting would be effective—not least, the hazards of insect infestation and

the physical labour involved in levelling dunes and stabilising the sand before tree-planting could take place (letter 11 March 1952, appendix 5). In 1934 a brief report had been produced by an unknown author, discussing planting history (LivRO 920 WBL 8/5 see appendix 6), and in 1955 J.M. Browne and M. Crooke prepared a very detailed (though unpublished) report on the ecology of the Formby and Ainsdale sandhills, focusing particularly on the plantations (LivRO 920 WBL 8/5: appendix 7).

20. The first refusal of planning permission which can be identified concerned the application in February 1952 (by the Southport Sand Co. Ltd.) to remove sand from 'near the southern boundary of the Urban District'. That certainly means Cabin Hill, as it is known that the Company was working there before and after this date. The refusal was on the grounds that only 4-5 feet of sand could be taken from these lower sandhills if the limit of 25 feet OD was to be maintained. This 'statistical' approach can be contrasted with another refusal, by the same applicant for the same area, some four years later in October 1956. In that instance the application was rejected by the County Council because 'further removal of sand from the area ... would be detrimental to the amenity of the area and would give rise to the risk of inundation by the sea' (FUDC TPP&HC 29 Oct 1956, 410). A series of very graphic photographs in the Weld Blundell collection at Liverpool Record Office demonstrates the reason for this heightened concern. The pictures, dating from March 1954 and January 1956, show the urgent remedial work on the sandhills along the central and southern sections of the Formby shore, and the great extent of erosion which had taken place in March 1954 and the autumn of 1955 (LivRO 920 WLB 8/5: see appendix 8).
21. During the late 1950s the likelihood of refusal of permission therefore increased, especially in the new context of the 1958 Formby Coast Protection Order. In May 1958, for example, the application by Messrs. Woodward to work sand on the north side of Albert Road was rejected because 'the belt of coastal sand dunes ... forms a protective barrier against coast erosion by reason chiefly of the mass of sand to be moved by the sea, and as the site proposed lies within this belt the working of sand would contribute to the risk

of flooding and erosion of the low lying hinterland' (FUDC TPP&HC 28 May 1958, 53). Further inland, on the eastern edge of the sandhills, working was more likely to be permitted: in November 1958 Woodward's were allowed to continue working another 10,000 tons at their existing site, and in January 1959 extension of the workings at Asparagus Cottage was approved subject to limits on the size of active working; the infilling with topsoil and back waste of any excavations below 25 feet OD, and protection of the amenity of the locality.

22. Woodward's argued strongly against the presumption that sand-winning was detrimental to the coastal protection policy, suggesting that the Albert Road area was beyond the zone which was likely to be affected by erosion, but R. Kay Gresswell, in his 1958 report, highlighted the problem which would potentially result from lowering the overall height of the sand. He had concluded that a dune height of, say, 25 feet OD was only 7 feet above the height of the beach at its maximum, meaning that only that upper layer would be effective in erosion protection and citing the dramatic erosion rates encountered in East Anglia during the 1953 tidal surge (Kay Gresswell 1958 report, paras.22-28). The Ministry of Housing and Local Government rejected these representations in confirming the order, though somewhat reducing the geographical area subject to the order and leaving a substantial area for sand-winning (MHLG 1958: LivRO 920 WBL 8/4 copy of letter: appendix 9a+b). The landowners at this point began to consider other forms of development, including asparagus growing, further tree-planting, and caravan sites, none of which was really satisfactory, and it is noteworthy that in 1961 Weld and Weld, the solicitors acting for the Weld (Ince) Blundell estate, objected to further sand-winning in the vicinity of the Ainsdale boundary because it would interfere with their existing programme of tree-planting (LivRO 920 WLB: letter 5 Jun 1961: appendix 10a+b)
23. There were many other planning considerations which determined policy towards the dunes, and a range of potential or actual uses. For example, in October 1962 the British Nicotine Company applied for permission to tip organic tobacco waste at Victoria Road, in a former sandworking area. This

was approved, subject to the condition that the height of the tipped material should not exceed 10 feet above the surrounding area (FUDC Planning 22 Oct 1962, 482) and that the approval would run for two years and then be renewable. In 1964 the renewal was approved, to run for ten years subject to careful controls on landscaping and height (FUDC Planning 31 Aug 1964, 365), but in 1973, when the tipping was again to be renewed, the Council expressed very strong opposition to its continuation (FUDC Planning 29 Oct 1973, 371). Earlier, in the 1950s, there had been considerable interest in the potential of the area as an oilfield. The existence of small oil and gas reserves beneath this stretch of the Lancashire coast had been known for some time, but serious exploration took place in 1949-1952, with drilling and test explosions in the Larkhill Lane area (see for example FUDC TPP&HC 6 Mar 1950, 710; GPC 9 Oct 1950, 420; TPP&HC 9 Jan 1952, 616; TPP&HC 26 May 1952, 57).

24. Throughout this period, too, the project for building a permanent military barracks complex at Harington Road caused major debate. The barracks were constructed but were very soon made redundant and the area was redeveloped for housing. The impact of military exercises on the sandhills was also considered a significant threat: in 1953 there was serious concern that the creation of breaches in the coastal belt to allow tracked vehicles to reach the shore was posing a flood threat (FUDC TPP&HC 27 Apr 1953, 1080). The extent of coastal erosion was sometimes quantified in the Council minutes, as in December 1955 when it was suggested by the Ince Blundell Estate that between 1927 and 1955 some 700 feet had been lost at the end of Victoria Road and 600 feet at the end of Wicks Lane, an average of 33-39 feet per annum (FUDC TPP&HC 5 Dec 1955, 566)
25. The 1960s saw the Urban District Council attempting to enforce a much more restrictive regime. At least thirteen applications were made between 1960 and 1969 inclusive, and of these the Urban District Council and County Council refused eight, while imposing considerably tighter limitations and conditions upon those that were approved. The 1958 Coast Protection Order was now reinforced with a range of formal planning policies towards landscape,

amenity and ecological conservation, so that sand-winning fell into increasing disfavour. This brought a significant degree of conflict, because it inevitably meant that the economic assets of landowners, and the businesses of the contractors, were jeopardised.

26. The main geographical area where approval for working was sought was between Lifeboat Road and Wicks Lane, where Woodward's wanted to make major extensions to the existing worked area. In July 1964 the firm applied for permission to work here, and also at Cabin Hill and Range Lane. All three applications were refused by the Urban District Council, the first on the grounds of coastal protection and flood prevention; the second for that same reason and also because it was a site of major scientific interest and a nature reserve, within the green belt; and the third because of damage to visual amenity. In January 1965 a pair of revised applications was made for two halves of the Lifeboat Road and Wicks Lane site, and was these were again refused on amenity and conservation grounds.

27. In April 1965 Woodward's gave notice of appeal against refusal, and in February 1966, to the astonishment and dismay of the Urban District Council, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government upheld the appeal and granted conditional approval. In the opinion of the Urban District and County Councils this contradicted a range of existing key planning policies, including the 1958 Coast Protection Order, the Green Belt, and the designation of the area as a nature reserve and area of landscape importance. The Urban District Council made urgent representations, and in its response to the Lancashire County Council Coastal Survey Report of May 1966 for the first time stated categorically that 'sand working within the [proposed] Coastal Park should be discontinued'. Woodward's submitted detailed plans in June 1966 and the Council deferred decision on the grounds that the proposal was unsatisfactory, arguing that only 7 feet depth should be removed and that the site should be graded to the level of Wicks Lane and the existing boundaries (rather than terminating in a 'cliff' edge). The Ministry refused to reopen discussion about the principle of the application, though it accepted the Council's conditions regarding the depth and grading of the workings, and excavation of the Wicks

Lane/Lifeboat Road site therefore went ahead following formal approval in February 1967.

28. This was, however, the last significant new working anywhere in the Formby sandhills. In February 1970, when the whole issue of coastal protection and amenity were being discussed at length by Formby UDC, Lancashire County Council and adjacent local authorities and interested parties, the Urban District Council stated very firmly that 'the Minister of housing and Local Government be informed that the Council deplore the granting of planning permission in 1966 for commercial sand-winning on land between Wicks Lane and Lifeboat Road on appeal against the Council's refusal of permission, and trust that in the light of the present reports the Minister will support the Council in the refusal of any future application to remove sand in the coastal and back-coastal areas'. The Council was also strongly opposed to dredging of sand and gravel offshore in Liverpool Bay, arguing that this had a potentially very damaging effect upon the Formby coastline. After 1967 there were no further applications for the removal of sand from within the Urban District, and no evidence that sand-working continued, apart from the completion of the Wicks Lane/Lifeboat Road site, with the exception of unauthorised small scale removal from the Pinetree caravan site in 1970 (FUDC Planning 16 Nov 1970, 618).

| date | committee | applicant | location | decision |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1 June 1949 | TPP&H | H Woodward | unstated | approved by DPC with conditions |
| 9 May 1951 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | Albert Road | approved with conditions |
| 3 December 1951 | TPP&H | G.T. Dacre | Seabank House | unauthorised removal |
| 25 February 1952 | H&H | W. Kellett | Lifeboat Road | scavenging approved |
| 10 March 1952 | TPP&H | G.T. Dacre | Seabank House | approved |
| 26 May 1952 | TPP&H | unknown | Range Lane area | unauthorised removal |
| 26 May 1952 | TPP&H | H Woodward | [Albert Road] | approved with conditions |
| 30 June 1952 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | Albert Road | approved with conditions |
| 27 October 1952 | TPP&H | Southport Sand Co | 'southern boundary of UDC' | refused |
| 2 February 1953 | H&H | Shorrocks Hill Trustees | Lifeboat Road [for use at St Luke's Cemetery] | 1000 tons, approved |
| 23 February 1953 | TPP&H | unknown | foreshore, Jubilee Rd | complaints about removal |
| 29 October 1956 | TPP&H | Southport Sand Co | Cabin Hill | refused |
| 6 January 1958 | TPP&H | H.S. Hutchinson | Pinetree Café, Victoria Road | unauthorised removal, now ceased |
| 6 January 1958 | TPP&HC | unknown | south of Lifeboat Road | unauthorised removal: application ordered |
| 28 May 1958 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | north side of Albert Road | refused |
| 10 November 1958 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | existing workings | 10,000 tons: approved with conditions |
| 26 January 1959 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | south of Asparagus Cottage | approved with conditions |
| 26 January 1959 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | existing workings | time extension [ref. 10 November 1958] |
| 29 February 1960 | TPP&H | Southport Sand Co. | Cabin Hill | refused |
| 29 February 1960 | TPP&H | Southport Sand Co. | Cabin Hill | refused |
| 5 September 1960 | Planning | unknown | Ainsdale (Southport CB) | no objection but conditions suggested |
| 6 February 1961 | Planning | H.S. Hutchinson | Pinetree caravan site | unauthorised removal: action threatened |
| 10 September 1962 | Planning | H. Woodward | Range Lane | approved with conditions |
| 13 July 1964 | Planning | H. Woodward | Cabin Hill | refused |
| 13 July 1964 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road, Wicks Lane | refused |
| 13 July 1964 | Planning | H. Woodward | Range Lane | refused |
| 4 January 1965 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road, Wicks Lane | refused [appeal lodged/partially upheld] |
| 4 January 1965 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road, Wicks Lane | refused [appeal lodged/partially upheld] |
| 4 January 1965 | Planning | William Rainford Ltd | Victoria Road/Larkhill Lane | refused |
| 6 June 1966 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road/Wicks Lane | deferred: conditions proposed |
| 6 February 1967 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road/Wicks Lane | approved |
| 16 November 1970 | Planning | H. Woodward | Pinetree caravan site | unauthorised removal: action threatened |

Table 1: summary of planning applications for sand-winning, and instances of unauthorised removal: Formnby UD 1947-1974

FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes 1927-1974 (Southport Library)

All text in italics is a paraphrase or précis of original; reference figures in brackets indicate the number of the resolution passed by the Council in each instance.

vol.no. details

50.1

(872) Rating Committee (25 January 1928)

‘The Clerk submitted correspondence with the Clerk to the Assessment Committee with reference to the proposed assessment of Sandhills which are being worked at Formby.

It was resolved that the owner of the Sandhills, Mr. Jonathan Formby, be assessed on the workings for the purpose of the Supplemental Valuation List referred to above in the sum of a gross value of £200 per annum and that the Clerk do notify the Clerk to the Assessment Committee that it is the desire of the Council that Mr. Young be requested to make a valuation of this property for the New Valuation List’.

Rating Committee (15 February 1928)

(962) ‘SUPPLEMENTAL VALUATION LIST—The Clerk submitted correspondence with Mr. Jonathan Formby relative to the Assessment on Sandhills Workings at Formby. After consideration of the matter it was resolved that in view of the fact that Mr. Formby had stated in writing that exclusive rights of two separate areas had been given by license to the two Contractors, Messrs. Woodward & Son and Messrs. Jones & Son, a new supplemental valuation list be prepared assessing Messrs. Woodward & Son and Messrs. Jones & Son on the two workings’.

50.3

(495) General Purposes Committee (2 September 1929)

proposal that Formby Urban District Council might negotiate acquisition of the foreshore rights

50.4

(194) Housing and Town Planning Committee (26 May 1930)

report that letter had been received from the Ince Blundell Estates regarding the erection of temporary buildings for smallholders for asparagus and poultry-farming, on land west of the railway line between Wicks Lane and the Ainsdale boundary; Council reply that this is scheduled as a residential area

but that they will approve the proposal subject to twelve months' notice being given

(670) Council in Committee (2 February 1931)

report on negotiations regarding the acquisition of the foreshore; reference to the effects of tides and storms on the coastline

50.5

(255) Health and Highways Committee (22 June 1931)

'The Clerk be instructed to again draw the attention of the Police Authorities to the speed at which sand wagons are driven along the roads in this vicinity' [*i.e. Andrews Lane*]

50.6

(488) Health and Highways Committee (19 September 1932)

'Lifeboat Road—The Surveyor submitted a letter from Mr. J.W. Stevens offering to remove the sand which is blocking the road at the shore end of Lifeboat Road provided the Council will give him the sole right of removal.

It was resolved that tenders from local haulage contractors be invited stating terms for the removal of the sand with sole right for a period of twelve months'.

50.7

(762) General Purposes Committee (4 December 1933)

reference to the accumulation of drift sand at Lifeboat Road and approval that its disposal should be arranged by the Chairman of the Health and Highways Committee and the Council Surveyor

50.8

(180) General Purposes Committee (4 June 1934)

reported that Mr Jonathan Formby 'rated in respect of certain sandhills workings, had returned the Demand Notes denying liability therefore'; the Clerk had taken consultation and via Counsel was of the opinion that Mr Formby was liable, rather than the contractors

General Purposes Committee (2 July 1934)

(282) *Lifeboat Road: correspondence reported with Mr Jonathan Formby regarding the blown sand in Lifeboat Road: he is to be informed that the Council will continue to remove the sand from the road as and when it is necessary to do so*

- (283) *Sandhills Workings: correspondence reported but not detailed; agree to take proceedings to recover the unpaid rate assessments*

50.9

- (611) Housing and Town Planning Committee (28 October 1935)

report from Councillor Robinson that he had attended a conference organised by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and referred there to 'the fine belt of pinewoods and sandhills' at Formby

50.10

- (133) Health and Highways Committee (18 May 1936)

report on sand excavations close to shore on Lifeboat Road: see appendix 1/1a+b

50.11

- (989) General Purposes Committee (7 March 1938)

a plan of a beach hut which was proposed to be erected 'near the disused sand quarry off Lifeboat Road' was considered

50.13

- (469) General Purposes Committee (4 September 1939)

Letter from Mr Jonathan Formby—The Consulting Solicitor read a letter from Mr. Jonathan Formby regarding the action of the Council in taking sand from the bottom of Lifeboat Road for the purpose of filling sandbags.

General Purposes Committee (4 October 1939)

- (507) Lifeboat Road—Removal of Sand: The Solicitor reported on correspondence with Mr Jonathan Formby's solicitors regarding the taking of sand in Lifeboat road.

It was resolved that the report be received and the Consulting Solicitor be authorised to obtain Counsel's opinion regarding the Council's position in the matter and that no action other than this be taken in the matter at present.

It was further resolved that the Consulting Solicitor be thanked for his strong and successful line of action in this matter.

- (852) General Purposes Committee (4 March 1940)

Removal of Sand—Lifeboat Road: Read, a letter from Mr. Jonathan Formby's Solicitors, together with a report by the Consulting Solicitor on the opinion of

Counsel with regard to Lifeboat Road in respect of a claim made by Mr. Formby's Solicitors under the Compensation Defence Act, 1939.

It was resolved that the letter and report be received and that the Consulting Solicitor be instructed to request Mr. Formby's Solicitors to submit a plan indicating the exact piece of land referred to in the claims.

50.19

(702) Valuation Sub-Committee (15 February 1946)

Assessment of Sandpits, Formby Sand Co. Ltd.: The Return submitted by the Formby Sand Co. Ltd. under the provisions of the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, in respect of the year ended 31st March 1945, was submitted.

It was resolved that the Clerk be instructed to communicate with the Formby Sand Co. Ltd. and endeavour to obtain confirmation of the tonnage of sand removed.

50.20

(601) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (25 November 1946)

Foreshore and Sandhills: reported that letters had been received from fourteen organisations, mainly concerned with natural history, civic societies etc, supporting the Council's objections to the requisitioning of the Formby foreshore by the military authorities

(649) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (9 December 1946)

report that a request for a meeting had been made to the military authorities

50.21

(255) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (23 June 1947)

reference to receipt of a letter from the Ministry of Town and Country Planning regarding the War Department's land requirements on the Formby foreshore and sandhills; the committee express their opposition to the possible permanent retention of the Harington barracks

(290) General Purposes Committee (7 July 1947)

reference to a meeting to discuss military requirements, held at Formby 3 July [other references to this at meetings of Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee 14 July 1947, 17 November 1947, 19 January 1948 and 16 February 1948][a public local enquiry was scheduled for 30 September 1948 but was subsequently postponed indefinitely]

50.22

- (132) Health and Highways Committee (24 May 1948)

report on the dangerous condition of the gun post at the bottom of Victoria Road and request for its immediate removal by the military

50.23

- (78) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (1 June 1949)

letters about the granting of planning permission to Messrs. H. Woodward & Sons, including conditions: see appendix 1/2

- (262) Health and Highways Committee (26 September 1949)

The Clerk had contacted the Duchy of Lancaster, Ince Blundell Estates, and Mr. J.L. Formby, with a view to opening negotiations for the ownership of the foreshore to be transferred to Formby Urban District Council; the Ince Blundell Estates had argued that the transfer was not feasible because continuing coastal erosion meant that 'unless they were prepared to sell to some fixed line, they would, in fact, be trying to negotiate the sale of a moving line'; the committee determined to defer the proposal.

- (619) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (6 February 1950)

further consideration of the possible acquisition of the foreshore: the Duchy had agreed to sell all its interest for £50, but the Ince Blundell Estates continued to reject the idea, which was again deferred.

- (710) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (6 March 1950)

report of letters and discussion about drilling for oil in Larkhill Lane area: see appendix 1/3

50.24

- (420) General Purposes Committee (9 October 1950)

report on problems caused by oil-drilling operations at Larkhill Lane: see appendix 1/4

- (483) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (6 November 1950)

report on discussions about future military land requirements in the area and the long-term need or otherwise for Harington Barracks; includes references to asparagus-growing: see appendix 1/5a+b

(670) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (5 February 1951)

detailed report on future of Harington Barracks including reference to possible alternative (rejected) site at Range Lane: see appendix 1/6

(904) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (9 May 1951)

[planning application] '8/2/196—Removal of wind blown sand and erection of a temporary canteen and tool store south east of Albert Road, Formby Shore, for Messrs. H. Woodward & Son. Ltd.

Resolved That the Divisional Planning Committee be informed that this Council recommend that the application be approved subject to a condition being attached giving an ordnance datum level below which sand must not be removed'

50.25

(326) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (1 October 1951)

report that an order had been received derequisitioning the foreshore north of Albert Road: see appendix 1/7

(327) *report on coast erosion at Formby Point: see appendix 1/7*

(428) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (5 November 1951)

report on services land requirements for weekend training: see appendix 1/8

(430) *note relating to inspection of sandhills 18 November 1951: see appendix 1/9*

(431) *report on letter from Paul Rathbone of Sandhill Cottage, concerning tank exercises and urging Council to take steps to prevent destruction of sandhills by removal of sand: see appendix 1/9*

(521) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (3 December 1951)

report on unauthorised development including sand-winning at Seabank House, Albert Road: see appendix 1/10

(613) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (9 January 1952)

note regarding report of clerk on sandhills development (no details given) see appendix 1/11

(614) *note regarding coast erosion and future policy to be adopted (no details given) see appendix 1/11*

(615) *brief note regarding unauthorised development at Seabank House: see appendix 1/11*

(616) *brief report that planning permission for oil-drilling had been given by County Council: see appendix 1/11*

(664) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (4 February 1952)

report on control of mineral workings and instruction from Divisional Planning Officer that a list of all such workings must be drawn up: see appendix 1/12

(723) Health and Highways Committee (25 February 1952)

report regarding the removal of sand from Lifeboat Road and adjacent strip of land on north side: see appendix 1/13

(none) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (10 March 1952)

details of planning application by Mr Dacre of Seabank House for sand-winning (report of approval by Divisional Planning Committee and conditions set): see appendix 1/14

(870) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (7 April 1952)

detailed report on proposals for Harington Barracks, and conditions proposed for planning permission: see appendix 1/15

50.26

(56) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (26 May 1952)

detailed report on sand-winning in Range Lane area, undertaken without planning permission; and of conditions which should be imposed [refers to breach in dune belt behind foreshore]: see appendix 1/16a

(57) *report on oil-drilling and firing procedures: see appendix 1/16b*

(58) *report on planning permission for sand-winning by Messrs. Woodward in Shorrocks Hill/Formby Estate area, with details of conditions imposed: see appendix 1/16b-c*

(66) Health and Highways Committee (4 June 1952)

report regarding land at Shorrocks Hill (proposed as a cemetery) which was being used for asparagus-growing: see appendix 1/17

(134) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (30 June 1952)

application for planning permission by Messrs. Woodward for sand-winning: approved by Divisional Planning Committee subject to conditions listed: see appendix 1/18

(346) Health and Highways Committee (6 October 1952)

‘Sand excavation—Seabank House, Albert Road: The Engineer & Surveyor referred to planning permission granted to Mr. Dacre to carry out excavation of sand at Seabank House, Albert Road, and stated that this work had now encroached onto a highway known as Lord Street, and also that Mr. Dacre had planted a beech hedge along Albert Road which also appeared to encroach upon the highway’

(400) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (27 October 1952)

report on refusal of permission (by Divisional Planning Committee) for sand-winning by Southport Sand Co. Ltd. close to southern boundary of district: see appendix 1/19

(571) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (5 January 1953)

detailed report on tree-planting on the sandhills in Shorrocks Hill/Trap Lane area and references to sand-working by Southport Sand Co. Ltd. ‘for the last 20 years’: see appendix 1/20

(832) Health and Highways Committee (2 February 1953)

report on possible extension of St Luke’s Cemetery and removal of sand for this project: see appendix 1/21

(907) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (23 February 1953)

report on land needed for military training purposes and use of the foreshore by tanks: see appendix 1/22

(908) *report on danger of flooding consequent upon removal of sand, and request to County Council to convene a meeting to discuss this matter: see appendix 1/22*

(1078) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (27 April 1953)

grant of planning permission for oil-drilling in St Luke’s Church Road, Andrews Lane and Lifeboat Road, with conditions noted: see appendix 1/23a

(1080) *report on the issues raised by the removal of sand from the foreshore at Formby, including letter from County Council stating that ‘the position regarding this question was satisfactory’ and that a meeting was not required; also noting Council’s own position in these matters: see appendix 1/23a*

(1082) *report on proposals for coastguard station in Albert Road/Alexandra Road: see appendix 1/23b*

50.27

- (480) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (30 November 1953)

report on correspondence regarding the protection of the sandhills at Altcar Rifle Range, and possible re-establishment of dunes to fill existing gaps: see appendix 1/24

- (669) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (22 February 1954)

noted that Mr. Dacre of Seabank House, Albert Road, had not complied with the planning consent as 'materials of a noxious nature and which give rise to smell have been deposited in the excavation caused by sand removal at Seabank House'

- (754) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (29 March 1954)

letter from Trustees of Trap Hill Estate regarding planting of Corsican pines in Lifeboat Road area: see appendix 1/25

50.28

- (563) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (31 January 1955)

[and 564] brief notes on the Coast Protection Act 1949, and the report of the Departmental Committee on Coastal Flooding: see appendix 1/26

- (732) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (28 March 1955)

'The Clerk be instructed to write to Mr. Dacre (Seabank House) expressing the Council's extreme dissatisfaction with the manner in which the excavation is being filled in and requesting him to expedite the work and also to exercise greater supervision in regard to the general condition and appearance of the site'

- 50.29 Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (5 December 1955)

- (566) *report of correspondence with Ince Blundell Estate regarding loss of foreshore because of erosion [giving some statistics] and asking what Council will do about this: see appendix 1/27*

- (731) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (27 February 1956)

brief report on proposed nature reserve at Ainsdale and Freshfield, stating that Council have no objection to the boundaries extending to Victoria Road: see appendix 1/28

- (732) *note on coast protection conference: see appendix 1/28*

50.30

- (410) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (29 October 1956)

report on County Planning Committee's refusal of consent for sand-winning at Cabin Hill for Southport Sand Co. Ltd: see appendix 1/29

50.31

- (233) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (26 August 1957)

brief report on relationship between sand-winning and coast protection: see appendix 1/30

- (257) Health and Highways Committee (2 September 1957)

report on access roads to the foreshore and parking in Lifeboat Road: see appendix 1/31

- (583) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (6 January 1958)

resolve to approve and seal the Formby Coast Protection Order, 1958

- (584) *brief note of sand removal south of Lifeboat Road: see appendix 1/32*

- (585) *brief note of sand removal in Victoria Road area: see appendix 1/32*

- (679) Health and Highways Committee (3 February 1958)

reported that the final sections of the foreshore had now been derequisitioned

50.32

- (53) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (28 May 1958)

note of refusal of permission for sand-winning by Messrs. Woodward on north side of Albert Road, with reasons: see appendix 1/33

- (350) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (29 September 1958)

report on sand-winning in the context of the Coast Protection Order due to be approved shortly: note of letter on this subject from Messrs. Woodward: see appendix 1/34

- (439) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (27 October 1958)

reported that the Minister of Housing and Local Government had confirmed the Formby Coast Protection Order, 1958

(492) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (10 November 1958)

note of permission granted to Messrs Woodward to continue to remove sand from existing workings: see appendix 1/35

(676) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (26 January 1959)

detailed report on granting of permission for sand-winning in vicinity of Asparagus Cottage for Messrs. Woodward, with full inventory of conditions attached to approval: see appendix 1/36a+b

(694) *note of permission granted to Messrs Woodward to remove sand from existing workings but requiring them to put in new application for planning consent: see appendix 1/37*

50.33

(756) Town Planning, Parks and Housing Committee (29 February 1960)

refusal of licence for removal of sand at Cabin Hill: see appendix 1/38

(771) *report of refusal of consent for [same?] application to win sand at Cabin Hill, with reason for refusal: see appendix 1/39*

50.34

(264) Planning Committee (5 September 1960)

report on application for sand-winning at West End Farm, Ainsdale (Southport CB): giving suggestions to Southport CBC for conditions to be attached to permission: see appendix 1/40

(647) Planning Committee (6 February 1961)

brief report on removal of sand from Pinetree Caravan Site: see appendix 1/41

50.36

(356) Planning Committee (10 September 1962)

approval for application to win sand at Range Lane for Messrs. Woodward, with details of five conditions attached to the permission: see appendix 1/42a+b

(482) Planning Committee (22 October 1962)

[planning application no.] 8/2/1783: Proposed tipping of tobacco waste on land south of Victoria Road, Formby, for the British Nicotine Co. Ltd.
Resolved: That the Divisional Planning Officer be informed that the Council raise no objection to the foregoing application subject to reasonable limitation

of height, which it is suggested should not exceed 10ft. above the general level of the site.

(751) Planning Committee (14 January 1963)

planning application no.8/2/1783 [tipping of tobacco waste]: reported that the County Council's Planning and Development Committee had imposed the following conditions in consenting to the application: (1) The use of the tip as proposed shall be discontinued not later than 31st December 1964; (2) The height of tipped material shall not exceed 10' 0"

50.24

(52) Planning Committee (27 May 1963)

detailed report on issues connected with coastal erosion and the question of the future coastline in the Crosby-Formby area: see appendix 1/43

50.38

(176) General Purposes Committee (29 June 1964)

report regarding the dredging activities going on in Liverpool Bay, including note from R.K. Gresswell that this would be unlikely to harm the Formby coast: see appendix 1/44

(221) Planning Committee (13 July 1964)

Refusal of planning permission for sand-winning at Cabin Hill for Messrs. Woodward, with reason for refusal: see appendix 1/45a+b

(222) *Refusal of planning permission for sand-winning at Lifeboat Road/Wicks Lane for Messrs. Woodward, with reasons (4) for refusal: see appendix 1/45b*

(223) *Refusal of planning permission for sand-winning at Range Lane, for Messrs. Woodward, with reason for refusal: see appendix 1/45b*

(365) Planning Committee (31 August 1964)

note on letter from Ministry of Housing and Local Government regarding the approval (on appeal) for tipping of tobacco waste at Victoria Road and listing conditions for approval: see appendix 1/46

(839) Planning Committee (4 January 1965)

refusal of planning permission for sand-winning at Wicks Lane and Lifeboat Road for Messrs. Woodward, and reasons (2) for refusal: see appendix 1/47

(840) *refusal of planning permission for sand-winning at Wicks Lane and Lifeboat Road (part 2) for Messrs. Woodward, and reasons (2) for refusal: see appendix 1/47*

(1141) Planning Committee (5 April 1965)

notice of appeal against refusal of the two applications to win sand at Wicks Lane and Lifeboat Road, by Messrs. Woodward: see appendix 1/48a

(1142) *report on the planning issues relating to the preservation of the foreshore and the sandhills area, with note of the guidance from the Ministry, and the role of the County Council: see appendix 1/48a+b*

(1152) *refusal of planning permission for sand-winning at Victoria Road - Larkhill Lane – Blundell Avenue for Messrs. Rainford: see appendix 1/49*

(1275) General Purposes Committee (17 May 1965)

report on the preservation of the foreshore, with suggestions about possible membership of a committee to consider the issue: see appendix 1/50

50.39

(220) Planning Committee (19 July 1965)

report on the plans by Lancashire County Council to undertake detailed coastal surveys covering the stretch between Southport and Bootle, with brief details of work in progress: see appendix 1/51

(826) Health and Highways Committee (17 January 1966)

report following letter from local resident regarding coastal erosion and flood risk; includes explanation of current position of surveys and other initiatives: see appendix 1/52

(898) Planning Committee (14 February 1966)

report that Ministry of Housing and Local Government had conditionally upheld appeal of Messrs. Woodward relating to permission to win sand between Wicks Lane and Lifeboat Road; propose approach to Minister with Lancashire County Council: see appendix 1/53

(963) Health and Highways Committee (7 March 1966)

report on coastal erosion and noting in resolution that the recent decision by the Minister to uphold an appeal against refusal to win sand was inconsistent with Ministry's guidance on coastal defence: see appendix 1/54

(1205) Planning Committee (11 May 1966)

report on the Lancashire Coastal Survey and comments on the intention of the National Trust to acquire land; the proposals for new roads; car parking; services; and future land uses: see appendix 1/55a+b

50.40

(76) Planning Committee (6 June 1966)

[and 77] deferral of decision on application by Messrs Woodward for sand-winning at Lifeboat Road and Wicks Lane, and notes on proposed condition: see appendix 1/56

(196) Planning Committee (18 July 1966)

report of letter from County Council concerning possible joint delegation to Minister about sand-winning; and about legal disputes between Formby UDC and Messrs. Woodward: see appendix 1/57

(235) Planning Committee [special meeting of] (25 July 1966)

Approval of draft letter to be sent to Ministry of Housing and Local Government regarding sand-winning by Messrs. Woodward between Wicks Lane and Lifeboat Lane: see appendix 1/58

(498) Planning Committee (10 October 1966)

report of letter from Ministry saying that the matter of the approval for sand-winning was closed; that a representative of the Ministry would visit the site and discuss the issues concerned; and that these matters could be considered in the context of the proposed Amending Order for the 1958 Formby Coast Protection Order: see appendix 1/59a+b

(652) Urban District Council (14 November 1966)

motion debated, supporting National Trust plans and rejecting those of Lancashire County Council (with strong objection to the road, parking and development proposals in the latter): the motion lost by 3 votes to 10: see appendix 1/60a+b

(940) Planning Committee (6 February 1967)

recommend that the 1958 Order be revised with extended area marked on map [no map included]: see appendix 1/61

(941) *approval of application by Messrs. Woodward to work sand between Lifeboat Lane and Wicks Lane, following letter from Minister giving instructions on this matter; but note that the Ministry position appears contradictory: see appendix 1/61a+b*

50.41

- (60) Planning Committee (5 June 1967)

appointment of Foreshore Advisory Committee: no records appear to survive from the meetings or the work of this committee: see appendix 1/62

50.43

- (984) Planning Committee (25 February 1970)

report on the problems of coast protection, erosion and flooding, and discussion of reports and conferences; includes statement deploring the grant of planning permission in 1966 and hoping that Ministry will henceforth support Council in refusing such applications: see appendix 1/63a+b

- (1063) Planning Committee (6 April 1970)

Dredging in Liverpool Bay: express strong opposition to grant of license for removal of up to 500,000 tons of sand and gravel annually: see appendix 1/64

50.44

- (600) Planning Committee (16 November 1970)

report on possible development, including secondary school, in Range Lane area: see appendix 1/65

- (603) *report on coast protection in south-west Lancashire, noting the extreme cost of 'hard' solutions and possible use of dumping sand, and other 'natural' processes: see appendix 1/66a-b*

- (604) *dredging in Liverpool Bay: Ministry rejects Council's claim that dredging may harm coastline, and approves licence: see appendix 1/66b*

- (605) *note re the construction of 'inland barrier bank' at Raven Meols for the river authority: see appendix 1/66b*

- (618) *report of unauthorised removal of sand by Messrs. Woodward from Pinetree Caravan Site: see appendix 1/66*

- (1057) Highways and Parks Committee (19 April 1971)

Sub-Committee had met landowners re the Formby shore, and report notes ownership issues, use of land for e.g. caravan sites, and other matters: see appendix 1/67

50.45

(209) Policy Committee (12 July 1971)

consider Dr Parker's report on coastal erosion and need to establish more clearly the source of sand as well as effects of constructing a sea wall: see appendix 1/68

(939) Planning Committee (27 March 1972)

dredging in Liverpool Bay: further licenses had been granted, and Council express their deep concern at the impact that this will have on coastal erosion: see appendix 1/69

50.46

(70) Planning Committee (5 June 1972)

dredging in Liverpool Bay: report of Ministry's reply to Council's objections as to the granting of licences: see appendix 1/70

50.47

(371) Planning Committee (29 October 1973)

strong opposition to the continued spreading of tobacco waste and feel that British Nicotine Co. should be pressed to reclaim the land: see appendix 1/71

DOCUMENTS SEARCHED

Formby Urban District Council minutes held at Southport Library (Local Studies Section)
[all bound typewritten or printed volumes: no other records are held]

50.01 6 Apr 1927 – 4 Apr 1928
50.02 16 Apr 1928 – 3 Apr 1929
50.03 16 Apr 1929 – 9 Apr 1930
50.04 16 Apr 1930 – 8 Apr 1931
50.05 16 Apr 1931 – 6 Apr 1932
50.06 18 Apr 1932 – 3 Apr 1933
50.07 18 Apr 1933 – 4 Apr 1934
50.08 16 Apr 1934 – 3 Apr 1935
50.09 15 Apr 1935 – 8 Apr 1936
50.10 15 Apr 1936 – 7 Apr 1937
50.11 15 Apr 1937 – 4 Apr 1938
50.12 20 Apr 1938 – 5 Apr 1939
50.13 17 Apr 1939 – 1 Apr 1940
50.14 15 Apr 1940 – 7 Apr 1941
50.15 16 Apr 1941 – 8 Apr 1942
50.16 5 Apr 1942 – 5 Apr 1943
50.17 19 Apr 1943 – 3 Apr 1944
50.18 17 Apr 1944 – 9 Apr 1945
50.19 16 Apr 1945 – 8 Apr 1946
50.20 15 Apr 1946 – 2 Apr 1947
50.21 21 Apr 1947 – 5 Apr 1948
50.22 22 Apr 1948 – 9 May 1949
50.23 23 May 1949 – 8 May 1950
50.25 22 May 1950 – 16 May 1951
50.26 21 May 1951 – 16 May 1952
50.27 20 May 1952 – 11 May 1953
50.28 20 May 1953 – 10 May 1954
50.29 24 May 1954 – 11 May 1955
50.30 23 May 1955 – 14 May 1956
50.31 23 May 1956 – 13 May 1957
50.32 20 May 1957 – 12 May 1958
50.33 21 May 1958 – 11 May 1959
50.34 20 May 1959 – 11 May 1960
50.35 23 May 1960 – 15 May 1961
50.36 23 May 1961 – 14 May 1962
50.36 21 May 1962 – 13 May 1963
50.37 20 May 1963 – 19 May 1964
50.38 25 May 1964 – 17 May 1965
50.39 24 May 1965 – 16 May 1966
50.40 23 May 1966 – 15 May 1967
50.41 22 May 1967 – 12 May 1968
50.42 20 May 1968 – 1 May 1969
50.43 20 May 1969 – 11 May 1970
50.44 20 May 1970 – 12 May 1971
50.45 24 May 1971 – 1 May 1972
50.46 22 May 1972 – 7 May 1973
50.47 21 May 1973 – 18 May 1974

Liverpool Record Office

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 720 KIR 1666 | map of proposed housing development/building scheme in Formby 1924 |
| 720 KIR 1667 | documents relating to Formby Urban District Council town planning scheme 1923-1924 |
| 720 KIR 1668 | documents relating to proposed sale of Formby foreshore 1930 |
| 920 WBL 2/6 | Formby court leet book 1883-1901 |
| 920 WBL 2/8 | 1896 report on the assets of the manors of [inc] Formby, with references to foreshore, fisheries and rights of wreck |
| 920 WBL 4/6 | leasing of warrens in Formby, circa 1800 |
| 920 WBL 10/27 | 1878 plan of 'Freshfield on Sea' showing proposed pier and property of Land and Building Company, with tramway from Freshfield Station |
| 920 WBL 8/4 | file of papers on nature reserve at Ainsdale, Kay Gresswell's 1958 report and other material concerning the sandhills and coastal erosion |
| 920 WBL 8/5 | file of papers on the sandhills, erosion and foreshore at Formby, including notes on planting and ecological material (1934); report on ecology of the sandhills at Formby and Ainsdale by Browne and Crooke (1955); newspaper cuttings and photographs |

Lancashire Record Office

Formby Urban District Council records:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| UDFo 2/4/4 | council minutes 1917-1923 |
| UDFo 2/4/5 | council minutes 1923-1927 |
| UDFo 2/13/1 | Town Planning Committee minutes 1916-1927 |

other records:

| | |
|------------|--|
| PDL 43 | deposited plan of Formby Light Railway proposal 1915 |
| PLD | divisional planning committee catalogues |
| DDWw 3/9/1 | Formby manor court books and call papers (11843-1904) |
| RDWL 10 | West Lancashire Rural District Council: Formby Parochial Committee minute book 1895-1905 |
| RDWL 33/1 | West Lancashire Rural District Council: map of 1924 Formby UDC area town planning scheme |
| DP 415/2 | 1942 Luftwaffe reconnaissance photographs of Woodvale aerodrome |

Alan G. Crosby MA DPhil FRHistS

November 2007

| date | committee | applicant | location | decision |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1 June 1949 | TPP&H | H Woodward | unstated | approved by DPC with conditions |
| 9 May 1951 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | Albert Road | approved with conditions |
| 3 December 1951 | TPP&H | G.T. Dacre | Seabank House | unauthorised removal |
| 25 February 1952 | H&H | W. Kellett | Lifeboat Road | scavenging approved |
| 10 March 1952 | TPP&H | G.T. Dacre | Seabank House | approved |
| 26 May 1952 | TPP&H | unknown | Range Lane area | unauthorised removal |
| 26 May 1952 | TPP&H | H Woodward | [Albert Road] | approved with conditions |
| 30 June 1952 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | Albert Road | approved with conditions |
| 27 October 1952 | TPP&H | Southport Sand Co | 'southern boundary of UDC' | refused |
| 2 February 1953 | H&H | Shorrocks Hill Trustees | Lifeboat Road [for use at St Luke's Cemetery] | 1000 tons, approved |
| 23 February 1953 | TPP&H | unknown | foreshore, Jubilee Rd | complaints about removal |
| 29 October 1956 | TPP&H | Southport Sand Co | Cabin Hill | refused |
| 6 January 1958 | TPP&H | H.S. Hutchinson | Pinetree Café, Victoria Road | unauthorised removal, now ceased |
| 6 January 1958 | TPP&HC | unknown | south of Lifeboat Road | unauthorised removal: application ordered |
| 28 May 1958 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | north side of Albert Road | refused |
| 10 November 1958 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | existing workings | 10,000 tons: approved with conditions |
| 26 January 1959 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | south of Asparagus Cottage | approved with conditions |
| 26 January 1959 | TPP&H | H. Woodward | existing workings | time extension [ref. 10 November 1958] |
| 29 February 1960 | TPP&H | Southport Sand Co. | Cabin Hill | refused |
| 29 February 1960 | TPP&H | Southport Sand Co. | Cabin Hill | refused |
| 5 September 1960 | Planning | unknown | Ainsdale (Southport CB) | no objection but conditions suggested |
| 6 February 1961 | Planning | H.S. Hutchinson | Pinetree caravan site | unauthorised removal: action threatened |
| 10 September 1962 | Planning | H. Woodward | Range Lane | approved with conditions |
| 13 July 1964 | Planning | H. Woodward | Cabin Hill | refused |
| 13 July 1964 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road, Wicks | refused |

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | Lane | |
| 13 July 1964 | Planning | H. Woodward | Range Lane | refused |
| 4 January 1965 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road, Wicks Lane | refused [appeal lodged/partially upheld] |
| 4 January 1965 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road, Wicks Lane | refused [appeal lodged/partially upheld] |
| 4 January 1965 | Planning | William Rainford Ltd | Victoria Road/Larkhill Lane | refused |
| 6 June 1966 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road/Wicks Lane | deferred: conditions proposed |
| 6 February 1967 | Planning | H. Woodward | Lifeboat Road/Wicks Lane | approved |
| 16 November 1970 | Planning | H. Woodward | Pinetree caravan site | unauthorised removal: action threatened |

Table 1: summary of planning applications for sand-winning, and instances of unauthorised removal: Formby UD 1947-1974