

HOGGS HILL TO CABIN HILL TRAIL

This circular route is 3.4 miles (5.5Km) long and is fairly easy to walk. Some of the surfaces are unmade and can be quite rough. Cabin Hill nature reserve is a tranquil spot on the Sefton Coast and worth the walk; it's only a short walk to the beach from here too.

WALK - LEISURELY

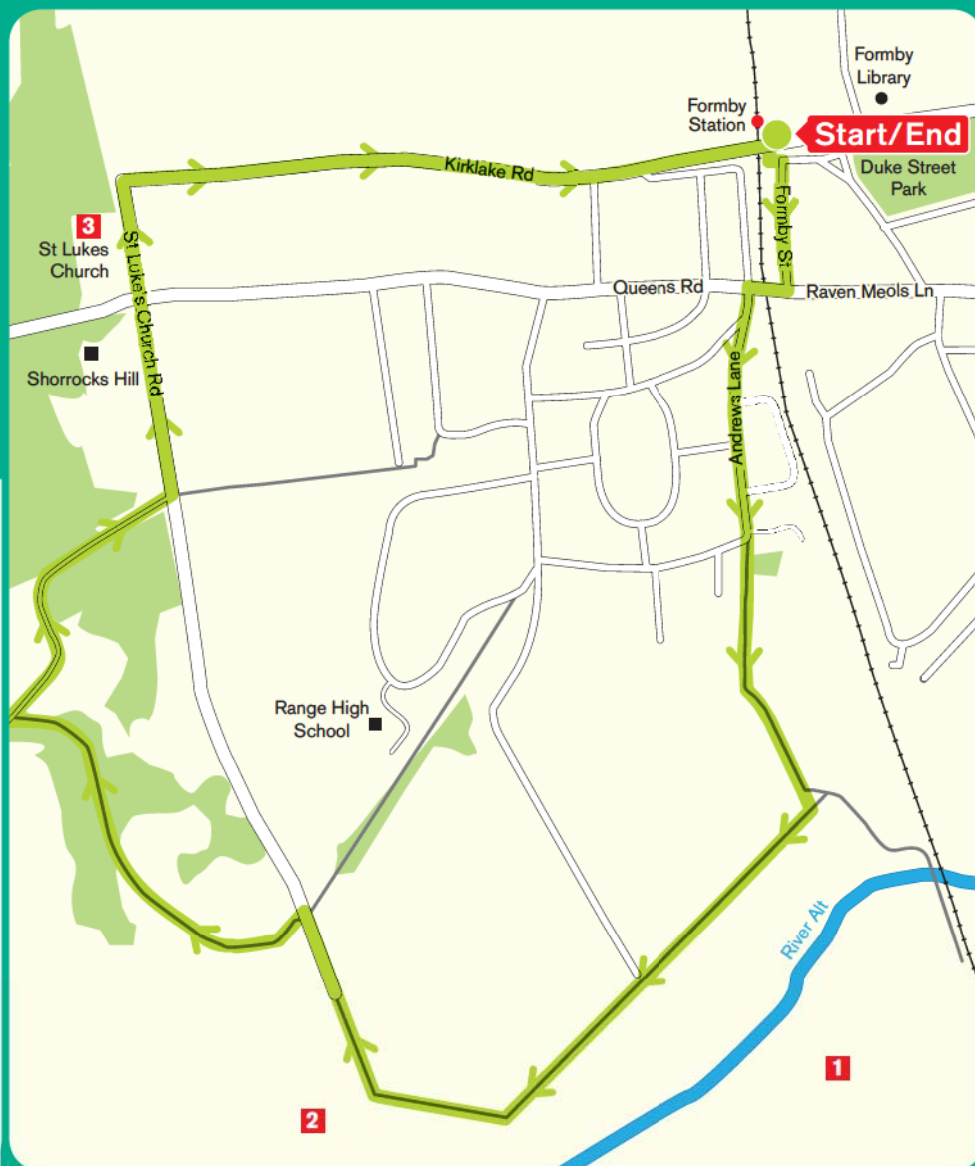
From Formby Railway Station main car park walk under the bridge and follow the road to the left. Turn right at the Railway public house and continue to the end of the road, turn right again and walk across the level crossing.

Turn left into Elson Road and keep left along Andrews Lane. At the end of Andrews Lane you will see a track in front of you, it continues straight on with a sign post to Hightown, walk along the track towards the houses where it changes into a dual use path for walkers and cyclists.

Continue along the path and look to the right you will see sand dunes and Cabin Hill National Nature Reserve (NNR) in the distance. Cabin Hill was the largest dune on this part of the Sefton Coast, and was used as a landmark by ships approaching Liverpool. The dune was removed by sand extraction which led to the creation of a flood bank in 1970 to protect the low lying land behind the dunes from stormy high tides. The flood bank inadvertently created slacks on either side of it and these have since become a home for wildlife.



Cabin Hill NNR Wildflower



Keypoints

Distance - 3.4 miles
(5.5km)

- 1 Altcar Rifle Range
- 2 Cabin Hill Nature Reserve
- 3 St Lukes Church

At the first opportunity turn right along Hoggs Hill path that runs alongside the perimeter fence of Altcar Rifle Range towards the coast. Continue along the path until you reach the Cabin Hill nature reserve, turn right along a wider track towards the back of Range High School; you will see the wind turbines just to the right. Turn left through the small gap created by the wooden posts to enter the nature reserve and continue along the path. On your right you will come to large open area with a well trodden route leading off the main path that goes diagonally across towards the woods, follow this path towards the sand dunes and trees, the path will bend to the right and take you into the woods.

Stay on the main path as you go into the woods, turn left then right through the trees

and on to Albert Road, an unmade road. Turn right on to Albert Road and follow the road as it winds left into Alexandra Road then right and left again towards the main road. Cross the junction onto St Luke's Church Road, you will walk past St. Lukes Church on your left.

St. Lukes Church is Grade II listed and replaced the original chapel that was destroyed by a sandstorm in 1739. It still has the 12th century font from the chapel which is evidence that the church sits on an ancient site. The church was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester in 1855 with the building completed in 1897.

Follow the road to the right onto Kirklake Road, this will lead you back to Formby Railway Station.