

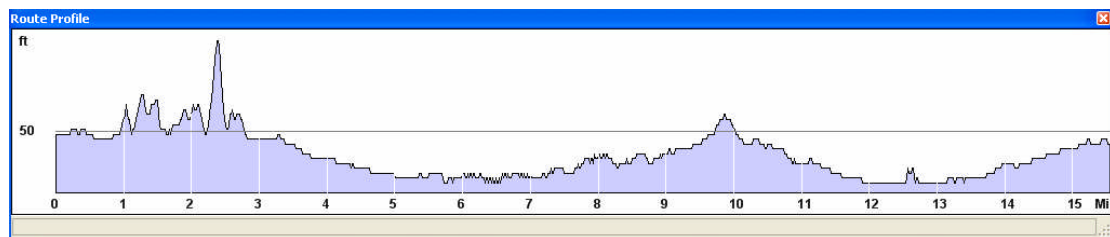
Ainsdale Circular (Augmented)

The Rideabout route¹ is not circular it is a noose. The augmented ride is circular and augmented by a N-S ride through Ainsdale Woods (NNR) to Freshfield then across to the Cheshire Lines down to Downholland (Scarbrick Arms) then returns to Freshfield (Freshfield Hotel) and trains to home.

Route:

[..\..\Merseyside inc Wirral\Trails & Tribulations\Cycling\Augmented Ormskirk Circular_map.jpg](#)

Ups & Downs



Route Card

¹ Insert link to Rideabout

1 Ainsdale Station	SD 311 122
2 Pinfold Lane - Coastal footpath	SD 306 111
3 Access (N) to Ainsdale Woods	SD 303 114
4 West End Lodge	SD 303 112
5 Fisherman's Path -L	SD 289 093
6 Level Crossing	SD 292 091
7 Bridleway to Brewery lane	SD 291 088
8 Sixteen Acre Lane	SD 296 088
9 Eight Acre Lane	SD 299 087
10 Broad Lane	SD 305 089
11 Sixpenny Lane - R	SD 319 099
12 Access CL R from Sixpenny Lane	SD 323 094
13 Downholland Brook	SD 326 086
14 Downholland Brook	SD 326 086
15 CL Moss Bridge	SD 329 083
16 Wood Lane	SD 349 061
17 Flatman's Lane - L	SD 352 060
18 Black-a-Moor Lane	SD 362 067
19 Scarisbrick Arms divert for Lunch	SD 364 068
20 Black-a-Moor Lane	SD 362 067
21 Old Lane	SD 355 072
22 CL Moss Bridge	SD 329 083
23 CL Moss Bridge	SD 329 083
24 Downholland Brook	SD 326 086
25 Access CL R from Sixpenny Lane	SD 323 094
26 Access to Cheshire Lines R	SD 325 101
27 A565	SD 312 106
28 A565	SD 312 106
29 Station	SD 311 122

Planned Route: NB content in “ “ extracted from Rideabout with additional information added.

Start: Ainsdale Merseyrail Railway Station

Finish: Ainsdale Merseyrail Railway Station

Ride Time: 3 hours Distance: 18 miles

Traffic: There is moderate traffic on the first mile of route and low levels experienced on the roads between Gore House Farm and Downholland Moss². Otherwise the route is traffic free.

Places of Interest

Riding through Downholland Moss³ The main feature of the ride is the rich “moss” farmland through which you pass⁴ where arable crops have been grown for local markets throughout the ages. It is often possible to see flocks of geese or other birds gathering on these fields before taking flight to some distant land. In many respects it feels like the Netherlands; it is after all the lowlands of the North West.

The Cheshire Lines Cycle Path was developed by Sustrans, a charity that campaigns for sustainable transport, in association with Sefton and West Lancashire Councils. It links with the old Liverpool Loop Line Path⁵ as part of the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT). Sustrans has launched a campaign to establish a national network of cycle routes with about 5,000 miles already developed and in use, including this section*.

² The route skirting Freshfield has moderate (no) traffic.

³ <http://www.lbap.org.uk/bap/habitat/mossland.htm> and

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/landscape/landscapefullstrat/charea16.asp>

⁴ <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/landscape/landscapefullstrat/charea16.asp>,

⁵ See MerseyTravel Rideabout 1

Ainsdale When in Ainsdale it is worth locking up the cycles to explore the Ainsdale National Nature Reserve and Ainsdale Hills local nature reserve on foot⁶ as both feature dunes and woodland.

The Ride

1 Leave Ainsdale Merseyrail Station and turn into Shore Road and go immediately right into Chesterfield Road. It is safer to simply wheel your cycle into Chesterfield Road. At the end beside Chesterfield Close you proceed ahead under the road bridge. Emerge into Bridge End Drive and go right along Easedale Drive and then keep right into Kendal Way.

2 You reach a junction with Pinfold Lane. ... Cross over to a path and turn ...” right and over the bridge. Immediately after the bridge cross the Coastal Road (Careful; it is a test track for F1) and follow the cycle track through Ainsdale National Nature Reserve (Ainsdale/ the Woods). The cycle path through the Woods requires, allegedly, a permit from Natural England (<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>). The track through the Woods ends at a junction with Fisherman’s Path turn L across Formby Golf Club’s course (looking out for IFO’s) to the railway and cross the level crossing

3. Turn right along the bridleway by the side of the line to a byway open to to all (open byway) traffic⁷ to Brewery Lane. Cycle along Brewer Lane⁸, then Sixteen Acre Lane and Eight Acre Lane then Broad Lane to the A565. Cross the road (a dual race track) where Broad Lane continues then at Southport Old Road either dog-left LtR to the end of Broad Lane and another open byway across the Cheshire Lines track bed. At a T either L/R leads back to the official Route⁹. as recommended by Sefton council turn R down The Old Road to a T (with an open byway straight ahead), turn L into North Moss Lane to join the Cheshire Lines and the official route at its start.

⁶ This augmented route takes the only cycle path through the Ainsdale Woods to Freshfield, before skirting Freshfield and across the Moss to the start of the Cheshire Lines Path. The Sefton Cycling Project Team’s Cycling back to Health programme has taken a route along the Coast from Crosby & Blundellsands or Hall Lane stations to the Dunes Leisure Centre, Southport. This runs through Ainsdale woods “the harder way”.

⁷ See the Sefton Cycle Map

⁸ At the end of Brewery Lane there is a livery stables and some riders seem to gallop the next section. It is possible to cycle through on tracks made by other cyclists; semi slick of MB tyres are recommended.

⁹ **Beware rabbits!**

4 Ride through perfectly flat countryside across Downholland Moss. Cross Downholland Brook and then the path becomes a metalled road running alongside a major drainage channel. You will pass under a road and then come to a junction with another old track bed; a rail line that at one time ran into Southport¹⁰.

5 Keep ahead to ride beneath the B5195 and to the left of a waterworks. In approximately half a mile you reach a semi circular small parking area. This is where you turn left along a track to pass Gore House Farm. Go left into Acres Lane. It winds to a junction with the B5195, appropriately known as Flatman's Lane. Turn right along this.

6 Pass a farm on the left¹¹ and another on the right. The road bends sharply right to rise up to the Scarisbrick Arms at Downholland Cross, a public house that stands by the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. Divert R here to the Scarisbrick Arms¹² for lunch.

7 After lunch, turn right back down Black-a-Moor Lane straight past the bend (Altcar Lane) turn along BaM Lane, which continues as " a narrower lane signposted to Haskayne. The road bends right then you turn left. This quiet lane links up with another.¹³ Keep ahead and follow this road as it rises up over the Cheshire Lines Path. Rather than turn L back on the CL continue straight on along Downholland Moss Lane to the A565.

8 Cross the Road into Formby and ride a short distance along Moss side the R into Deansgate Lane. At the crossroads turn L onto Southport Road. As the road bears to the left turn R at the apex onto Paradise Lane. Turn L onto Wrigley's Lane, R onto Green Lane then L into Massam's Lane and the

¹⁰ I remember reading some time ago that Southport had, once, 4 termini and 18 stations.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southport_railway_station.

¹¹ Farmer Ted's <http://www.farmerteds.com/>

¹² http://www.beerinthevening.com/pubs/s/13/13538/Scarisbrick_Arms/Downholland for brief details and other pubs in the vicinity.

See

¹³ Links with School Lane. Take the first right after the school into Old Lane that turns into Moss Lane that "rises above the CLP at Moss Bridge.

Freshfield Hotel¹⁴. After refreshment, take the lane on the right the L into Argameols. At the T, R and the station is just ahead.

Friday, July 13, 2007

The CL is not a social ride.

¹⁴ <http://www.pub-explorer.com/merseyside/pub/freshfieldhotelformby.htm>