

Main route ●●●●●▶
Alternative route ●●●●●▶

12. TAMBOURINE COTTAGES - COMMONSIDE

From the school turn left on to Central Drive noting Commonsides Farm in the corner and then left along Commonsides. Down towards the Post Office, on the right-hand side, is a row of cottages with cobble walls, built c. 1860. The former fishermen's cottages were named after a horse, Tambourine, which belonged to local landowners, the Cliftons. Sadly several young men from Commonsides died at sea when the St Anne's lifeboat Laura Janet went down with all hands in the Mexico disaster of 1886.



13. ANSDELL LIBRARY

Ansdell Library, opposite Tambourine Cottages, stands on the original site of St. Paul's Anglican Mission Church. At the time, it was the only place of worship in the community.

For a number of years the site was a recreation area and garden. The library was designed to be sympathetic to the local architecture and opened in 1990.

14. ANSDELL POST OFFICE (ANSDELL TELEGRAPH OFFICE)

Close by is Ansdell Post Office which opened in 1898, and is now the longest serving post office in its original building in the local area.

Our Ansdell Heritage Trail ends here and we hope that you have enjoyed and appreciated the various architectural, community and historic features which create the unique character of Ansdell.

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Ansdell in Bloom (www.ansdellinbloom.com)

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Further Information

Maps of the Area

- OS Explorer 286 Blackpool & Preston
- OS Landranger 102 Preston & Blackpool
- www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

An hourly train service runs between Preston and St. Annes. For more details go to:

Web: www.northernrailway.co.uk

www.nationalrail.co.uk

Tel: 08457 484950

A short film under the banner of Explore Lancashire By Rail includes part of this walk and can be viewed on

<https://youtu.be/bC7CtK2ZJJO>

For information on local attractions, events, places of interest and accommodation please contact:

Web: www.visitlythamstannes.co.uk

www.southfyldeinccrp.co.uk

Tel: 01253 725610



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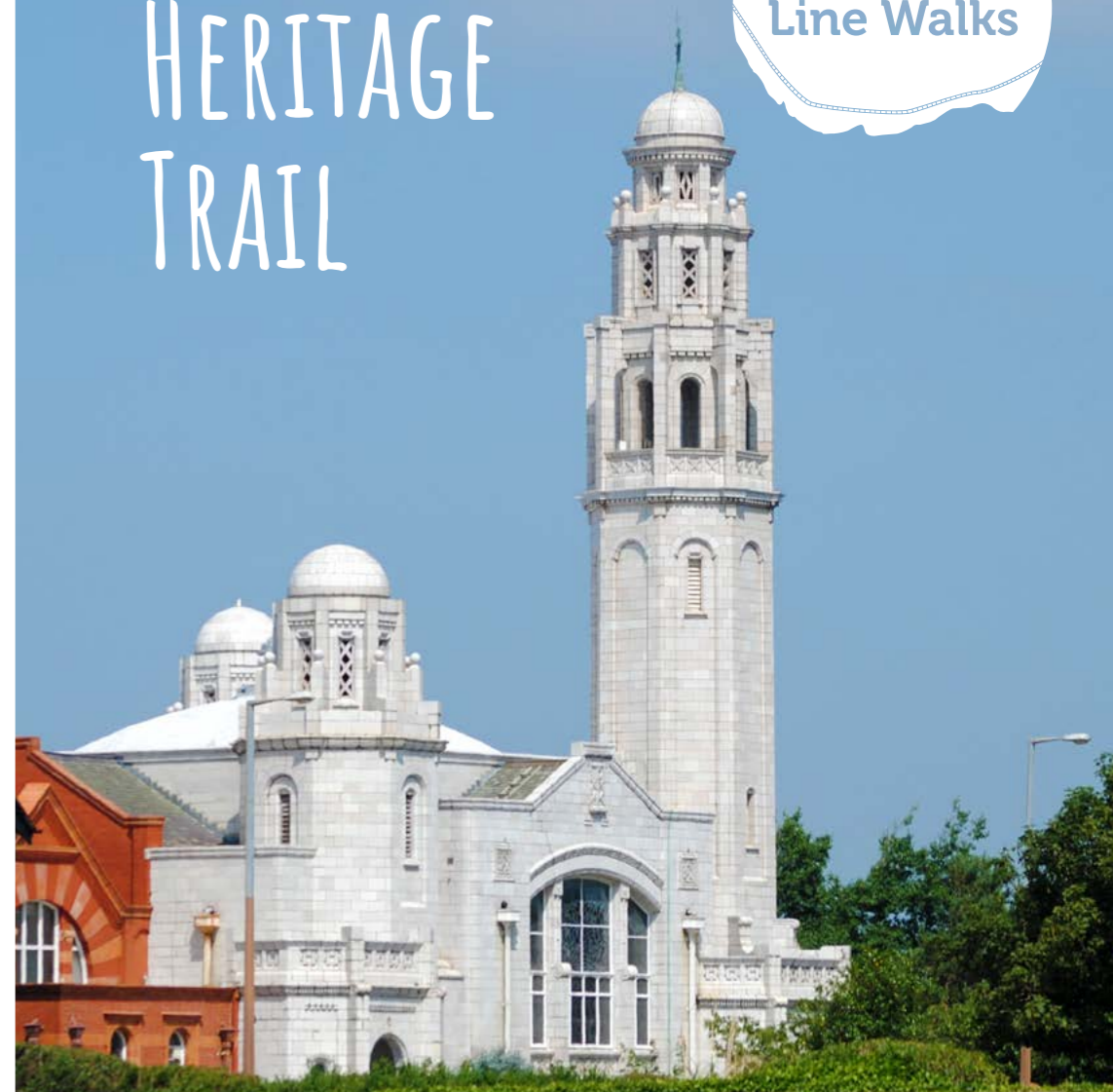
This is the fourth leaflet in a series produced by the South Fylde Line CRP. The leaflets can be downloaded from the CRL website at:

communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/the-south-fylde-line

Walk 4

South Fylde
Line Walks

ANSDELL HERITAGE TRAIL

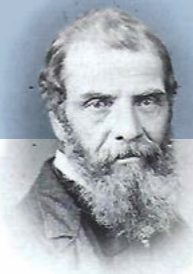


Approx. 1.5 miles / 2.4 km and level throughout

ANSDALL HERITAGE TRAIL –

Ansdell is the only area in the country to be named after an artist - **Richard Ansdell RA**. It began as a 17th century straggle of cottages and farms along Commonsides Lane and developed towards the end of the 19th century as people came to populate the coastal areas around the railway in the Edwardian era. This history and variety is illustrated in our Heritage Trail. All churches (and other buildings) are worth a look inside when possible. We hope you enjoy it!

Alternative route: For those unable to manage the footbridge, there is an alternative route (orange on map) which takes you back to Windsor Road; turn right to Woodlands Road (turn right again) and right into Rossall Road, down to the Well Church (8 on the map).



Richard Ansdell,
c. 1870 (public domain).

WOODLANDS ROAD

The trail begins at Ansdell Institute in Woodlands Road. This area was built after the construction of the railway bridge with shops appearing on each side of the slope from 1903 – 1905. Woodlands Road is the main thoroughfare. It crosses Commonsides Lane, an ancient route from Lytham to Blackpool.

1. ANSDALL INSTITUTE

The foundation stone for the Institute was laid in 1909 by Violet Clifton of Lytham Hall. It was built for the people of Ansdell to provide 'educational and cultural development' and offered a library, reading room, billiard room and classrooms.

With the Institute at your back, head right over the bridge where you will find the entrance to the railway station.

2. ANSDALL AND FAIRHAVEN STATION (1903)

The station was built to accommodate Ansdell's rapid expansion. It had an entrance building on the bridge and housed a lift where the stairs to the platforms are now. The main office and a number of other buildings were demolished in 1972. There are excellent views over the 9th hole of Royal Lytham and St. Annes golf course and the information board on the platform has a number of photographs showing the original buildings.



3. THE WOODLANDS ROAD BANKS

At the beginning of the 20th century there were a number of banks in Ansdell. Today five of those buildings remain:

a) Lancaster Banking Company (1904): 43 Woodlands Road - note the fine stone carved heads on the building;

b) Martins Bank (1906): 58 Woodlands Road (opposite Ansdell Institute);

Granny's Bay

c) Union of Manchester Bank (1910): 61 Woodlands Road. (Around the corner from the bank and a few yards down Kingsway there is an early example of a motor repair garage and showrooms dating to 1912);



4. ANSDALL AND FAIRHAVEN TRAM SHELTER

Continue down Woodlands Road to Clifton Drive, passing by the fine stone Fairhaven Methodist Church and cross Clifton Drive at the crossing. The tram shelter here was built in 1923 by local builders John Heap and Sons to serve the tramway between Lytham and Blackpool (1895 - 1936). The original gas trams were replaced by electric versions in 1903.

If you'd like to explore further follow Marine Drive to Granny's Bay (thought to be named after Lady Clifton from Lytham Hall, who visited the spot with her grand-children) and visit Fairhaven Lake with its many attractions, boats and wildlife.

Continue east on Clifton Drive towards the traffic lights.



5. THE WHITE CHURCH - GRADE 2*

The White Church was originally a congregational church built in the Byzantine style at a cost of £12,000 - it opened in 1912. The church features superb stained glass windows by Abbott and Co. of Lancaster. The exterior is made of ceramo blocks, giving it its local name, the White Church.

At the traffic lights cross over Clifton Drive into Ansdell Road South and behind the cobble walls is Starr Hills.



6. STARR HILLS

Starr Hills was Richard Ansdell's former home. He was a Liverpool artist whose patron was James Eden of Fairlawn, Lytham. Ansdell stayed with Eden on several occasions painting animals and taking inspiration from the local landscape. In 1861 Ansdell built the villa and studio on Clifton Drive called Starr Hills, which was then amongst sand dunes. Ansdell and his family used the house as a residence until the construction of the Lytham to Blackpool railway began. The railway passed within yards of the house and the train stop was called 'Ansdell's Halt', later to become the first, original, Ansdell station around 1878. During World War 1 the house was used as a hospital and is now a care home.



8. ANSDALL ROAD NORTH

Crossing the footbridge and going directly ahead you are now on Ansdell Road North which was the original road from Lytham Hall to Granny's Bay.

At the junction with Rossall Road there is an Edwardian pillar box.

To your right is the Grade 2 listed Well Church (formerly the Ansdell Baptist Church) which was opened in 1909, and is built in the Arts and Crafts perpendicular style. Beyond the church is a cobble wall defining the former boundary of the Lytham Hall parkland. Turn left from the church into Commonsides.



7. THE FOOTBRIDGE

Having viewed the blue plaque on Starr Hills lodge, commemorating Richard Ansdell, continue down the road to the converted chapel on the corner and cross to the railway footbridge. Here you'll find the last remaining building from the original Ansdell station - circa 1878 and on the building an information board showing images from Ansdell Station (Ansdell's Halt).



9. COMMONSIDE AND CHURCH FARM HOUSE

On the right hand side along Commonsides is Church Farm House. Built in the local vernacular style using cobbles from the beach, some parts date back to the 1980s, with later phases added in the 19th century. The farm buildings were to the right of the property and were used as a dairy and for cheese making. Two cheese presses and the low building in which they were used remain. Note the finial on the porch of the house that was put in place to ward off witches from landing on the building. Continue along Commonsides to Woodlands Road and then turn right down to St. Joseph's Catholic church.



10. ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY - GRADE 2

St. Joseph's Church and the attached presbytery are Grade 2 listed and were designed by Pugin and Pugin in the Gothic decorated style. Built in Yorkshire sandstone the church is of particular architectural interest, the interior of the church being wonderfully light and airy. The funding for the church came from James and Roger Taylor, Catholic priests from a local farming family.

Opposite St. Joseph's is The Blossoms pub/restaurant. According to local folklore the site of the building was originally a small field which was home to a donkey - called Blossom.



11. ANSDALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Follow Ripon Road down as far as Lansdowne Road; turn left and Ansdell Primary School is on your right. The school was opened as a local authority junior and infant school in 1907 with forty-six scholars (in 2018 it had two hundred and forty five pupils) and was originally called Commonsides Lane Council School. The first headmistress was Miss A. Irvin who remained in the post for the next twenty-six years and between 1907 and 2010 it had only five head teachers. At the corner of Lansdowne Road and Central Drive you'll find another Edward VII pillar box.