



KINNEGO MEADOW TRAIL

Kinnego Meadow Trail

Distance approximately 1½ miles (2.1km)

WALKING GUIDE

This is a long trail from the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre to Kinnego Marina, a distance of approximately 1½ miles (one way).



Following the butterfly symbol on the marker posts this walk takes you through a variety of habitats following the shoreline of Lough Neagh. Much of the route is on land which was submerged before the water levels of the Lough were lowered.

1. As you leave the Discovery Centre keep left along the edge of the car park to the grass path. Kinnego Bay, a natural inlet of the Lough, is on your left. Follow the grass path, joining the surfaced path leading to Kinnego Hide, from here you can see across Kinnego Bay and the South eastern part of Lough Neagh. The reedbeds to either side of the hide are an important nesting site for many species of water bird; these include, Coot, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Great Crested Grebe, Pochard, Tufted Duck and Little Grebe.



2. Returning to the path keep left passing through an area of Alder woodland. Look out for Long Tailed Tits and Tree Creepers amongst the trees as they search for seeds and insects. The Art Space building is at the end of this path and is used by resident artists and other groups, working on crafts such as willow weaving, sculpture, or pottery.

3. Rejoin the path at the far side of the Art Space and proceed along the path bordering Kinnego Meadows. These wet meadows support many species of flowers, grasses and sedges, all species associated with unimproved grassland. The meadows are at their best in the summer months when the flowering plants are in bloom. Cattle graze these areas from late summer through to winter removing rank grasses and opening up the vegetation for the flowering plants.

4. Many of the plants are important to butterflies and their caterpillars. Cuckoo Flower attracts the Orange-Tip butterfly and the Meadow Brown and the Small Heath feed on a range of meadow flowers. Whilst their caterpillars feed on the leaves and grasses. The hedges either side of the paths provide nesting and sheltering sites for many woodland birds. The fruits produced by shrubs such as



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5. The steep slope to the right is the former shoreline of Lough Neagh. The water of the Lough would have reached this level prior to the 1850's. In order to prevent land surrounding Lough Neagh from becoming flooded the water level of the Lough was lowered on three occasions, with the last being in the 1960's. On reaching the end of this path take a short detour to Waterside Hide to observe the birds of Kinnego Bay. Continue across the path and car park to join the surfaced path.

6. Waterside House is the home of Craigavon Museum Services housing the Philip B. Wilson Library. Here you can research an extensive collection of local interest books, as well as Quaker and Methodist book collections. The outbuilding contains a small exhibition which changes on a regular basis.

7. Rejoin the path at the back of Waterside House and continue towards the Marina passing the linear pond. This pond is home to many species of aquatic plant and numerous aquatic insects. Look out for dragonflies and damselflies on the warmer summer days. Occasionally Moorhens are seen on the open water.

8. Before heading to Kinnego Marina you may wish to make a short detour and continue with care along the breakwater to observe the magnificent views over Kinnego Bay and Lough Neagh.

9. Follow the path along the edge of the Marina. Alder trees flourish in this area and seeds found within their cones are eaten by Chaffinches and Siskins. Look out for Long Tailed Tits along this section of path, they are characterised by their slightly pink appearance and very long tail.

10. With 100 berths Kinnego is a busy marina, but it is still home to a range of waterfowl such as Mallards, Coots, Moorhens and Mute Swan. Grey Herons and Black Headed Gulls are also commonly seen in this area.

A longer walk could incorporate the Kinnego Pond Trail and part of the Old shoreline trail returning to the Discovery Centre. This would increase the distance to approximately 4 miles.

For further information please telephone or e-mail us.

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OXFORD ISLAND



OXFORD ISLAND

LOUGH NEAGH DISCOVERY CENTRE

the place to start your visit.

Welcome to Oxford Island National Nature Reserve! As you can see, Oxford Island is actually a peninsula full of woodlands, wildflower meadows, wildlife ponds and reedbeds. These are managed by the Conservation Service for wildlife and for you, the visitor, to enjoy.

Every season brings something different to the Nature Reserve – wintering wildfowl, spring woodland wildflowers, summer butterflies and dragonflies, and autumn seeds and berries. Make sure you come back to see it all!

CLOSET BAY

1

DISCOVERY HIDE

Good view across bay. Mute Swans, Coot and Mallard

2

KINNEGO HIDE

Our best hide with great views of the reedbeds. Great Crested Grebes, Little Grebe and a range of ducks

KINNEGO BAY

WATERSIDE HIDE

Sheltered corner of the bay. Tufted ducks, Goldeneye and some Teal in winter

ARTSPACE

4

KINNEGO MEADOWS

Colourful vetches, Trefoils and Meadowsweet attract butterflies – Common Blues and Wood Whites

CLOSET RIVER

3

5

6

7

9

8

10

6


WATERSIDE HOUSE

MARINA SHORE BASED FACILITIES

Gallery Café, Harbour Masters Office and toilets.

KINNEGO MARINA

Trail Key

 Kinnego Meadow trail


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