

Ayres NNR Nature Discovery Trail

Follow the Trail markers to discover some of the special areas of this National Nature Reserve – there is a map overleaf.

When the Manx Wildlife Trust Nature Discovery Centre is open, you might like to hire a Nature Discovery rucksack – use the contents to help you find out even more about nature! Here are some suggestions but you can use them anywhere on the Trail:

1. **Beach and dunes – special plants.** Use the magnifying glass to look closely at the plants. Are the leaves different to your garden plants – they may be thick and waxy for protection from salty air.
2. **Tower – birds.** Enjoy the fabulous view and use the binoculars. What are the birds doing – are there seals in the water?
3. **Wooden stobs – lizards.** Our only reptile is shy so stay still and quiet and use the binoculars to look down the row of stobs – it needs to be a warm day, perfect for sunbathing lizards!
4. **Old sand pit – flowers.** Sniff them – are they scented? Can you see any insects sipping on nectar? Use your bug box to take a closer look but be very gentle!
5. **Rabbit warren.** You'll probably see rabbit poo rather than rabbits.
6. **Standing stone – heathland birds.** Scan the tops of bushes with your binoculars or listen for calls to help you locate birds.
7. **Gorse and wet area – birds.** Gorse smells a bit like coconut but watch out for spines. You may see different kinds of birds here.
8. **Scrub – birds.** Look out for bugs and butterflies too.
9. **Pine tree car park – birds.** Don't forget to use the notebook to record your finds – if you don't know the names of things – make one up!
10. **Notice Board – what have you seen?** We hope you saw some of the plants and animals but remember that Nature changes with the seasons and the weather.



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Sea-sandwort



Oystercatcher



**Marram grass is spikey—
mind your eyes!**



Pyramidal orchid



Restharrow



Burnet rose



**Green tiger beetle
on lichen**



Skylark



Fox moth caterpillar



Six-spot burnet moth



Cinnabar moth caterpillars



Common blue butterfly



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1,740m (1 mile)



DEFA

Scale 1:3,339



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