

# Newark Bay to the Point of Ayre

A 2km (return) linear coastal walk including a sandy beach, low rocky shore & cliffs



The sandy beach of Newark Bay and the low rocky shore towards Aikerskaill are frequented by wading birds, particularly during spring and autumn migrations and in the winter. Purple sandpiper, sanderling, dunlin, turnstone and ringed plover are commonly seen. In summer you are likely to see eider duck and shelduck just offshore, often with large numbers of ducklings following the adults.

Newark Bay is also the site of a Norse Age cemetery, where the skeleton of a medieval seafaring Norseman was excavated.

Wandering along the tideline you can find shells such as limpets and trough shells; while on the rocky shore turning over stones and seaweed reveals hidden shore crabs and sandhoppers. Flounders,

dabs and plaice live in the sandy bottom of the bay. The beach is backed by low sand dunes, which protect the farmland further inland from inundation by sand during winter



Waders

storms. Marram and lyme grass grow on the dunes, holding the sand grains together with a network of roots. The Point of Ayre is a fine vantage point for sea watching. Unusual birds such as Pomarine Skuas and Iceland Gulls have been spotted offshore in autumn and winter, as well as porpoises and even whales. The point is also unusual in terms of its geology with a 7m thick layer of basalt lava.

Out to sea there is a good view of the islands of Copinsay and the Horse of Copinsay. Copinsay is an RSPB reserve with good populations of breeding sea birds, such as fulmar, kittiwakes, guillemots and razorbills. Puffins can be seen on the adjacent holms.

WEST MAINLAND



Marram Grass



Porpoise