

# Killyfole Lough Nature Trail



Look out for **Merlin**  
our mischievous  
moorhen throughout  
the booklet!



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

# Hi There!

My name is Ollie the Otter and welcome to Killyfole Lough. This is a peaceful place to learn and play, with lots of history and biodiversity to discover!



## History about Killyfole Lough

Killyfole Lough is a freshwater lake popular for walking and fishing. It was dammed in the 1960's as a reservoir to provide clean drinking water for families in this area. There was also a working corn mill which relied on the water as a source of power to grind the corn into flour. There is early evidence of a Crannóg settlement located in the centre of Killyfole Lough. A Crannóg is a man-made island usually created from timber, mud and stone. The settlers would have accessed the Crannóg by boat or a man-made bridge.

## Instructions on how to use the booklet:

- ➡ Follow the map to find the 7 stops
- ➡ At each stop you will find a post with a raised image and fun facts about biodiversity 'wildlife' in this area
- ➡ Match the content in the booklet to the information post you are at
- ➡ Firmly hold the framed pages provided in the booklet over the raised image
- ➡ Use a colouring pencil or crayon to rub over the top to reveal your picture
- ➡ Make sure you don't miss any stops or activities!

## What is Biodiversity?

The variety of plants and animals on earth or in one certain area such as here at Killyfole Lough, both in the water and on land.

Remember to bring your colouring pencils or crayons



My name is: .....

My favourite animal is: .....

My favourite plant is : .....

Today's date is: .....

I'm here today with: my school/ my family/ my friend/ other

.....



Bat Sign

Ivy Sign

Meadow Sign

Willow Sign

Pike Sign



Otter Sign

Wood Sorrel Sign



# 1. Common Carder Bumblebee



Use the wooden frames to  
trace your image at each stop

Meet my friend Cora  
the common carder  
bumblebee.






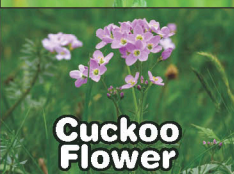




# Common carder bumblebee...

- Are one of Ireland's most common bumblebees
- Queen bee wakes up from a deep sleep 'hibernation' in early spring
- Queen bees need large amounts of nectar and pollen to rebuild their colony 'family' for the season ahead
- Is fluffy and tend to be a brown-orangey colour
- Has a long tongue to reach the nectar within the flower
- Can normally be spotted nesting in cavities, old bird nests and mossy banks
- Needs to visit a flower 5 times before it produces fruit or seed

How many different plants can you see in the meadow at Killyfole?

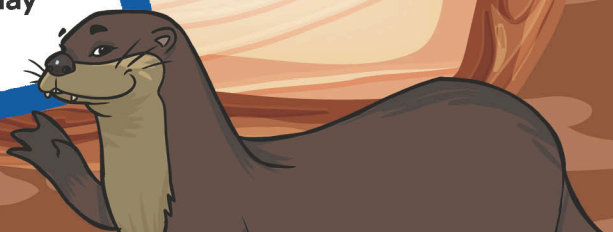
Flower	Tally	Total
 <b>Buttercup</b>		
 <b>Oxeye Daisy</b>		
 <b>Spotted Orchid</b>		
 <b>Red Clover</b>		
 <b>Knapweed</b>		
 <b>Cuckoo Flower</b>		

# 2. Otter Track

(*Lutra lutra*)



Look out for my footprints in the soil,  
mud and in winter...the snow! You may  
also find my lunch I left behind!  
(Fish remains).



# Otter...

Animal footprints have been found all over the world, going back as far as the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Wow!

- ➡ Have five fingers and toes just like you, however theirs are webbed to help them swim and hunt
- ➡ Can have up to 4 babies which are called pups in the spring
- ➡ They feed mostly on fish, frogs, snails, crayfish and large beetles



## Find signs of other animals e.g.

- bird feathers
- animal hair
- scat (poo)

**Keep note of your findings!**

# 3. Wood Sorrel

(*Oxalis acetosella*)



Trefoil means that a plant has three rounded leaves.





# Wood sorrel...

- ➡ Leaves and flowers close at night!
- ➡ Leaves look like clover leaves but have an open white flower with thin purple veins
- ➡ Provide important nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators
- ➡ Are found on the floor of ancient woodlands (very old woodlands)



**Activity:** Fill in the blanks of this poem below. There are some words to help you.

Poem

The wood sorrel fairies are here

to .....

Listen for them when you .....

and .....

Their heads bow down in the .....

of.....

And in the .....,

they smile when the sun is .....



Here are few words to help you on your way.

- Stay
- Laugh
- Bright
- Day
- Dark
- Night
- Play

# 4. Pike

(*Esox lucius*)

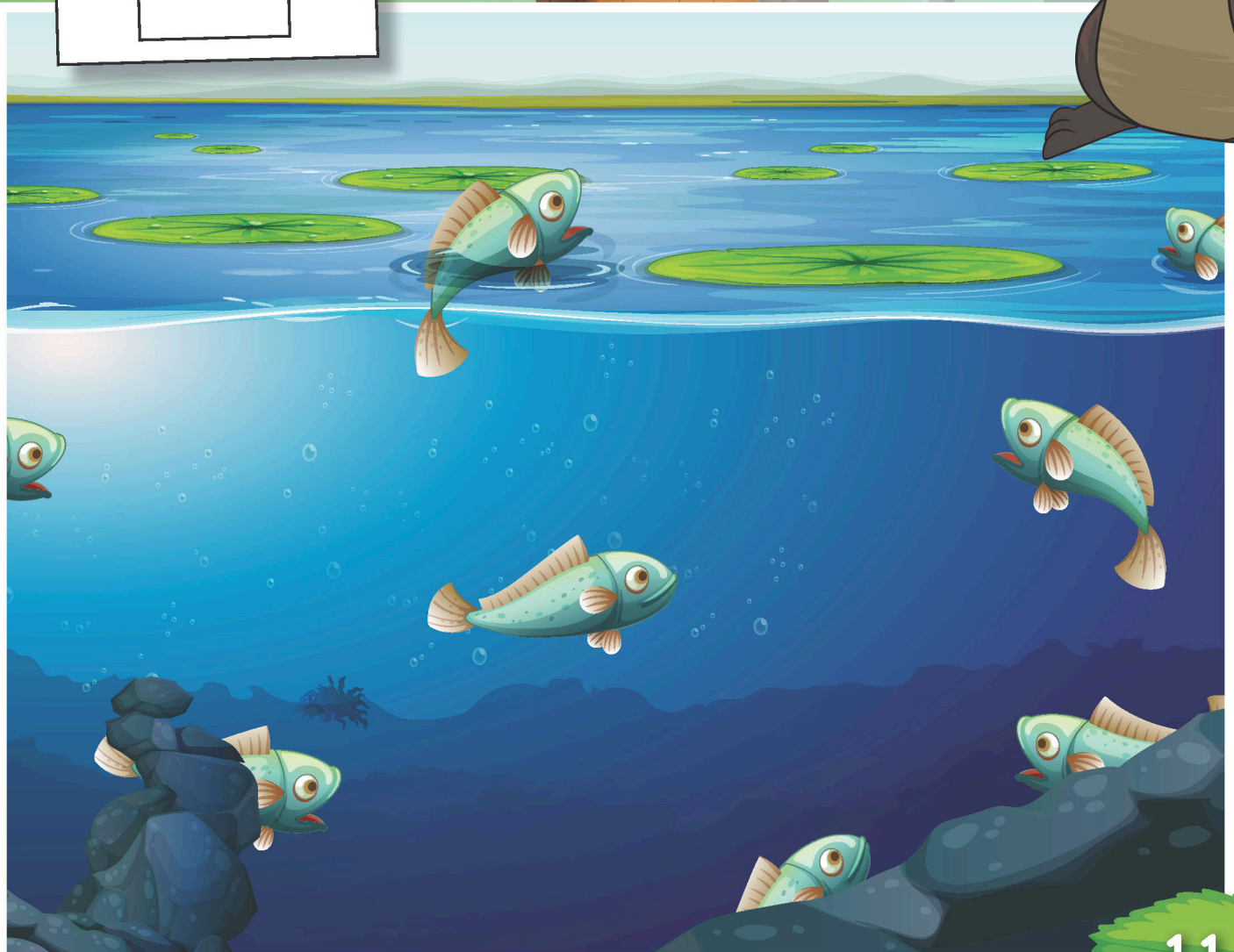


# Pike...

- Are long, slender freshwater fish with a narrow head, large eyes and a flattened snout
- Are found in slow flowing water which have a lot of vegetation to hide in while they hunt!
- Produces up to 500,000 eggs between March and May
- Can live up to 10-25 years, weighing up to 35 kg (77lbs).  
This is the same weight as a young deer

Can you help me count how many of my fish friends are hiding?

Number  
of Fish hiding



# 5. Whiskered Bats

(*Myotis mystacinus*)

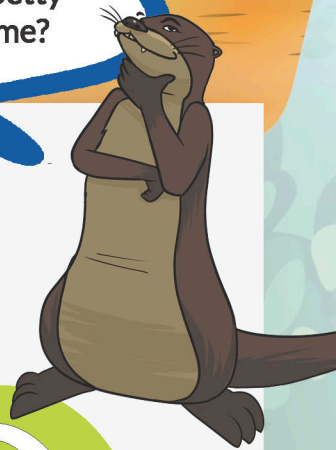




# Whiskered Bats...

- Are a nocturnal 'Come out at night' mammal, 'warm blooded like you'
- Use echolocation (sound waves e.g. clicks and squeaks) to hunt and find their way in the dark
- Frequently use hedgerows, woodland edges or water corridors to find their way
- Mainly feed on flying insects especially moths and midges.  
Can eat up to 3000 midges a night. Wow!
- Find shelter in cool dark locations during the day, known as a roost
- Hibernate through winter

Can you help my friend Betty the Bat find her way home?



# 6. Ivy

(*Hedera helix*)



A habitat is the natural home to wildlife, the place where you are most likely to find them.



# Ivy...

- When thick provides habitat 'home' for many wildlife species including birds, bats, small mammals and insects
- Provides a vital source of food, for birds and over 70 types of pollinators in late autumn and winter through its flowers and berries
- Produce yellowish green flowers appearing in small, dome-shaped clusters known as umbels
- Has stems with special hairs which help it stick as it climbs
- Is evergreen. This means it keeps its leaves all year

## Activity

Complete the  
Ivy Leaf!



# 7. Goat Willow

(*Salix caprea*)





# Activity:

Circle the trees that are native to Northern Ireland.



Lime



Horse Chestnut



Common Oak



Acacia



Maple



Birch



Willow



Aspen



Beech



Irish Yew



Holly



Sycamore

## Goat Willow...

- Is a native tree to Ireland
- Can grow as tall as 10 metres, which is taller than a male giraffe!
- Can live up to 300 years
- Bark is a grey-brown colour with oval shaped leaves
- Flowers are called catkins which appear in early spring providing a vital source of food for pollinators such as bees
- Can lower their branches to the ground, to produce a new plant



6 metres

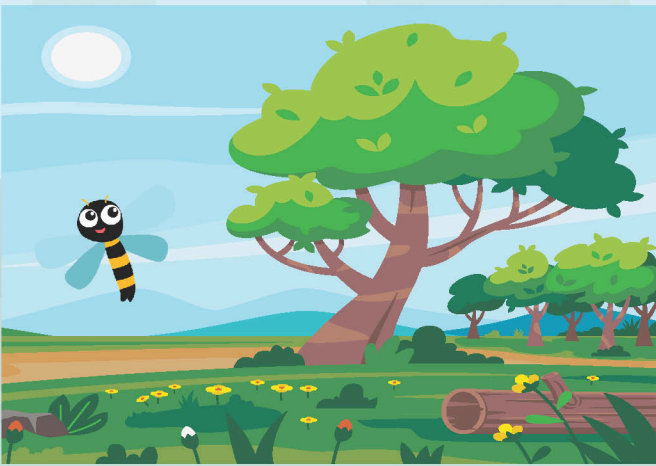
Answers: Willow, Irish Yew, Holly, Common Oak, Birch,



# Across the seasons with Activity

Throughout the year there are regular changes occurring to the weather which leads to changes to our local biodiversity. These changes are divided into four seasons which are spring, summer, autumn and winter.

## Spring



## Summer



## Autumn



## Winter



Deciduous trees lose their leaves to save energy for the winter.

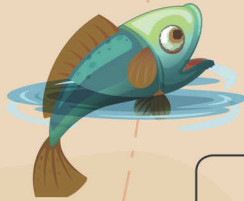


# Things I saw today....

a wriggly worm



swan



fish



spider



bumblebee



fluttering butterfly



robin



ladybug



dog



beautiful flowers



a baby sapling



caterpillar



puddles



fox



animal tracks

an angler



# Word Search

B	I	O	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y
P	O	B	T	K	R	W	I	L	L	O	W
O	L	O	B	R	V	R	O	O	S	T	Q
L	I	F	O	O	T	P	R	I	N	T	Y
L	O	U	G	H	V	E	I	S	I	E	H
I	D	B	J	E	D	N	R	K	I	R	M
N	I	W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E	T	Y
A	N	G	Q	E	T	U	O	S	S	F	H
T	K	X	S	E	A	S	O	N	I	T	Y
I	V	N	D	Q	M	O	O	R	H	E	N
O	W	R	Y	I	A	D	G	H	K	Z	C
N	I	O	D	E	C	I	D	U	O	U	S

The 12 Hidden words are:

- Biodiversity
- Otter
- Willow
- Pollination
- Footprint
- Pike
- Lough
- Season
- Roost
- Wildlife
- Deciduous
- Moorhen

# True or False

How many can you get right! Why not also challenge your family and friends with these questions after you've had a go and know all the answers!

1. Goat Willow twigs are hairy first before becoming smooth
2. One out of every three mouthfuls of our food depends on pollinators
3. Ivy steals nutrients from the trees it climbs
4. Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded regions in Europe with only 8.7% woodland cover, compared to the European average of 37%
5. There are no animals in Northern Ireland that go into hibernation

If you turn your book upside down and you'll find the answers!



## Joke

Why is grass so dangerous?  
**Because it has so many blades in it...**

What runs but never goes out of breath?  
**A river...**

How did the tree get lost?  
**It took the wrong root...**

Why did the tree leave the bank?  
**Because it joined a new branch...**

Answers: 1. True 2. True  
3. False - Has its own root system for absorbing nutrients  
4. True 5. False - Hedgehogs & Bats

# Arts & Crafts



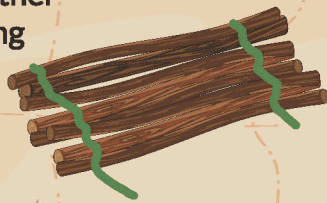
Please play responsibly and only take what you need for the activities to protect our habitat.

## Twig Raft

1. Collect some twigs that are about the same length



2. Place them in a line and secure them together using the string (or long grass)



You will need:

- Twigs
- Long grass or string
- Fallen petals
- Leaves

3. Choose another straight stick and slot it into the base. This is the mast.

4. Make a sail from petals or leaves and attach it to the mast



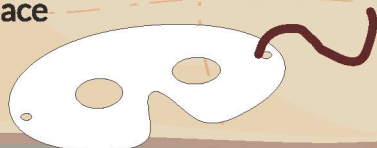
## Leaf Mask



1. Cut the card into a mask shape and cut out eye holes

2. Using the hole punch, make two holes on either side of the mask

3. Measure out two lengths of ribbon that are long enough to tie around your head. Pop them through the holes and tie them in place



You will need:

- Card
- Hole punch
- Ribbon, wool or string
- Leaves
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paintbrush

4. Cut the stems off the leaves and use the paintbrush to cover them in glue

5. Stick each leaf to your mask



# For more fun check out...

Here are other links where you will find lots more fun facts and activities to continue your adventures.



Our Biodiversity Bitesize webpage to find out more on:

- Bees
- Butterflies and Moths
- Flowers

Bitesize Biodiversity – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council ([fermanaghomagh.com](http://fermanaghomagh.com))

The Woodland Trust webpage for:

- Activities
- How to plant Trees
- Drawing a tree planting plan
- Watch Trees grow through the years

Tree Tools for Schools  
– Woodland Trust



RSPB to find the following:

- Information on bird species
- Wildlife Surveys
- Making Bird Feeders
- Arts and crafts
- And lots of fun activities

Fun Activities for Kids |  
Fun & Learning  
- The RSPB





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No  
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