

# Welcome to the Woodland Trust and Carnmoney Hill



WTP/John Bragg

If you want to help us in our work here at Carnmoney Hill or just want to find out more about what we do, please telephone 028 9127 5787 or visit our website at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or [www.wt-woods.org.uk/carmoneyhill](http://www.wt-woods.org.uk/carmoneyhill)

Our work at Carnmoney Hill is supported by:



## How to find Carnmoney Hill

### From Belfast

From the M2, proceed onto the M5. At the end of the M5 you will see a roundabout; follow the sign for Carrickfergus. At the next roundabout take the first left, signed to Glengormley. This is Station Road. Proceed straight ahead to the mini roundabout. Go straight ahead at this roundabout onto the O'Neill Road. Travel uphill, and take the first right turn into Knockenagh Avenue. A short distance ahead, you will see the entrance to Carnmoney Hill on the left hand side. Park at the lay-by.

### Public transport:

Number 64A Metro Bus from Belfast City to O'Neill Road; number 2D/E/F Metro Bus from Shore Road, Belfast to Doagh Road. Telephone Translink on 028 9066 6630 for times.



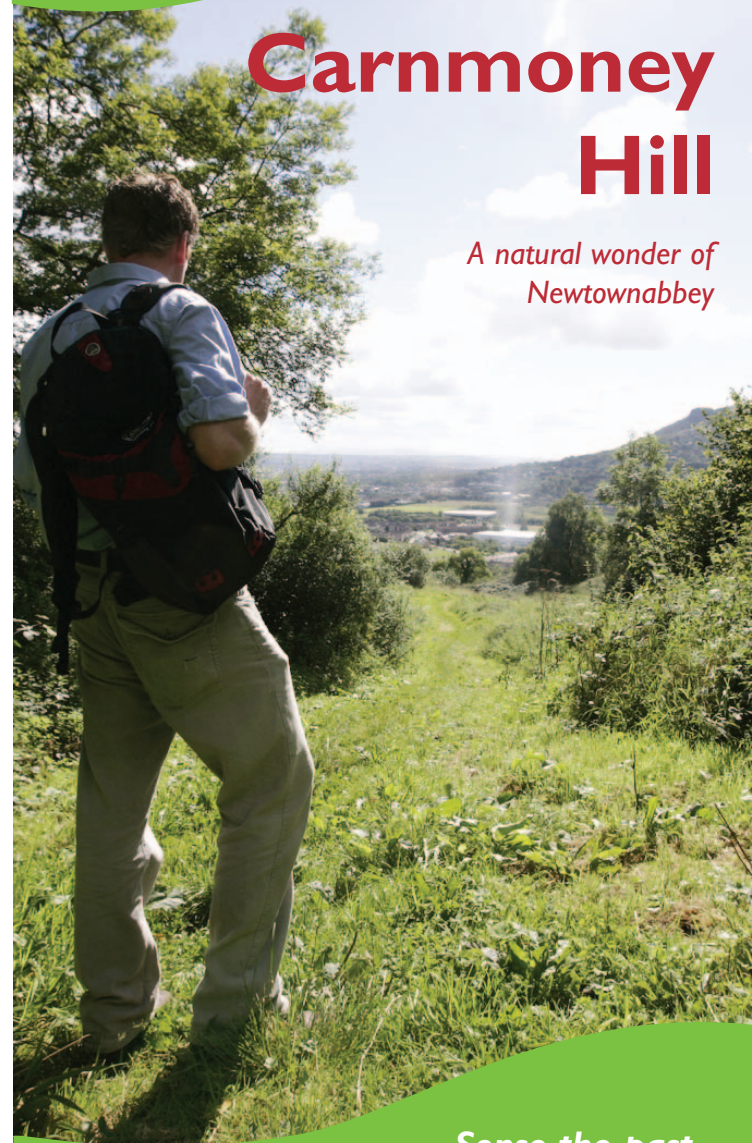
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Front cover: Press Eye



# Carmmoney Hill

*A natural wonder of Newtownabbey*



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*Sense the past  
Enjoy the present  
Ensure the future*

## Sense the past

Carnmoney Hill is one of a chain of hills, steeped in history and folklore, which watch over Belfast City. The name Carnmoney gives us a clue to its history; it's from the Irish Carn Monaidh, meaning 'cairn of the bog'. There may have been a cairn, or stone-pile, on the hilltop, which could place man's influence on Carnmoney Hill as far back as the Bronze Age, two thousand years ago. Two Souterrains (man-made underground tunnels) have also been found on the Hill. These were probably used as escape routes from Vikings and other raiders.



Restored Victorian well: WTPL/Brian Poote

A prehistoric rath or fortified settlement, known as Dunanney, provides evidence of human habitation on the Hill some 1,200 years ago. In ancient times, fairs and festivals were held at Dunanney, with its wonderful views over Belfast Lough. And in 1556 the Earl of Sussex, Lord Deputy to Elizabeth I, camped with his troops while he held meetings with local chieftains.

## Enjoy the present

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. In over 30 years we have grown from a tiny organisation into one that now manages over 1,000 woods throughout the UK.

In 2003, the Woodland Trust and Newtownabbey Borough Council formed a special partnership to ensure that Carnmoney Hill and its mix of habitats would be conserved for generations to come.

This green oasis of grassland, wetland and woodland is a honey-pot for wildlife, which includes the long-eared owl, sparrowhawk and Irish hare. The Trust has planted over 57,000 native trees; in time to come the young trees will bolster the fragments of irreplaceable ancient woodland, providing an extended habitat for the Hill's wild inhabitants.

It is a Hill for all seasons, providing year-round enjoyment for both local people and visitors. There are several walking routes for you to explore, as shown inside this leaflet.



WTPL/Rosanna Ballentine

## Ensure the future

Carnmoney Hill is a 'green lung' for the people of Newtownabbey. Thanks to a cocktail of supporters, the future of the Hill is secure under the care of the Woodland Trust. It is a living legacy for our future generations.



WTPL/Michael Cooper

In 2006, much to the delight of local people, Carnmoney Hill reached new heights when it was declared a Local Nature Reserve, recognising its importance in terms of wildlife. Local Nature Reserves are declared by local authorities to protect sites of local importance for nature conservation, education and amenity.

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*A natural wonder of Newtownabbey*



Belfast Hills Partnership

45 minutes

## Lower woodland walk

A 45 minute walk through ancient woodland to a viewpoint overlooking Belfast Lough. This is a cross-country walk with some steep inclines; stout footwear needed.



WTPL/Rosanna Balleidine

15 minutes

## Gentle stroll

Enjoy a 15 minute saunter around the foot of this ancient green monument. 800 metres of pathway will lead you on a gentle stroll through a recently transformed area of land, just off Knockenagh Avenue. Works have included the creation of a pond and island, and landscaping of the surrounding grassland area.



Press Eye



2 hours

## Hilltop walk

A walk, lasting approximately two hours, will lead you up to and along the top of the Hill. Enjoy panoramic views of Belfast City, Belfast Lough and North Down. This is a cross-country walk with very steep inclines; stout footwear needed.