

# Lagan Meadows

## Points of interest

This site was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 2006 in recognition of its important wildlife habitats and biodiversity.

The meadow contains the source of Belfast's first piped water supply, a stream that still flows today. An earthen wall was built to form a reservoir. This is known as Lester's Dam.

Morelands Meadow is a tranquil island which was formed when the canal was cut to avoid the long river bend.

## 1.8 miles, 2.8 km, circular

Entering this park from the main entrance at Knightsbridge Park, take the gravel path to your right and continue on this path. The path which branches off to your left, takes you towards Lester's Dam. Continue along the main path which is very steep taking you through mature beech woodland. Straight ahead, you will come to steep steps and a slope. At the bottom of the steps, turn left onto the towpath. After a very short distance, take the bridge over the canal to your right, into Morelands Meadow. Immediately after the canal bridge, turn left and cross over the stile, keeping the River Lagan on your right. Follow the earth trodden track passing below a beautiful big oak tree. The grassland opens up ahead of you. Livestock occasionally graze the meadow, so keep dogs under control.

At the end of the meadow, you will pass a pond to the left. Cross over the stile,

keeping the river on your right. Continue along the narrow track with the canal on the left and the river on the right. Cross the wooden bridge on your left and once back on the towpath, turn right. Continue to keep the River Lagan on your right.

You will see a waymarker post ahead of you, showing a shortcut back to Lester's Dam. If you continue along the towpath and take the gravel path on your left passing the bench, this will take you back into Lagan Meadows. Straight ahead of you is a gate and a kissing gate (Sharman Road entrance). Turn left just before this, and continue on this path up and down the hills and around the meadows on your left. There are a number of stiles and a kissing gate on your left. You can enter and explore the meadows. There is a gateway right across the path. Continue through this and continue along the path. This will return you to the Knightsbridge Park entrance.

