

Mesolithic Loop

9km
Moderate

Mix of bog roads,
green pathways

- A** Car Park/Birdhide
- B** Crossroads
- C** Offaly Way
- D** T Junction
- E** Mesolithic Site
- F** Standing Timbers



Map not to scale. OSI permit 2003/07CCMA.
Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained on this mapguide is accurate, no responsibility will be accepted by the promoters for any errors or inaccuracies contained therein.



Trailhead	Birdhide Carpark, Lough Boora Parklands, Offaly
Services	Kilcormac (6km)
Dist/Time	9km/2hrs-2hr 30mins
Difficulty	Moderate
Terrain	Mix of bog roads and sandy tracks
To Suit	Medium levels of fitness
Min. Gear	Trekking boots, snack, fluid



Directions to Trailhead

From the town of Kilcormac (on the N52 between Tullamore and Birr), take the N52 following the signposts for Tullamore. As you leave the town turn left after crossing the bridge over the Silver River. Follow the riverside roadway for 300m to reach a T-junction where you turn right. After 6km the trailhead is on your left opposite a wooden birdhide.

Note: The trailhead is signposted from Kilcormac.

A-B. Start from the **Car Park opposite the Birdhide** on Cycle Path Road. The trailhead is marked by a mapboard. Walk along the tarred road in the direction of Kilcormac - there is a galvanized shed in the distance. Continue for 400m to reach a **crossroads** where the Farmlands Loop (green arrows) goes left. You continue straight here - following the red arrow.

B-C. After 200m, on a slight bend in the road and after a sign for Boora Parklands, you veer to the right onto a sandy bog roadway. After another 200m, turn left at a T-junction and continue to follow the roadway to reach a sharp right bend where you join the long-distance **Offaly Way** (marked with yellow arrows and trekking man logo). Keep right here.

C-D. Follow the meandering roadway - bounded by trees on your left and a Partridge Farm on your right. After 1.5km you enter a coniferous plantation and arrive at a **T-junction** on top of an embankment. Turn left here.

D-E. After only 100m turn right at the edge of forestry, and follow the sandy roadway past a long, narrow, lake on your left. Eventually you reach a T-junction where you turn right and, after 100m, arrive at the **Mesolithic Site** (on your right).

E-F. Leaving the Mesolithic Site, continue to follow the sandy roadway past two bends and then a long straight section through forestry. At the end of the forestry, exit through a wooden gateway and reach a multi-junction of roadways and tracks - the large stone Boora Pyramid looms on your left. Continue straight on here, keeping the **'standing timbers'** on your right and on to the top of the embankment.

F-A. From the top of the embankment you will see the birdhide which marks the **trailhead** from where you started. Enjoy the stroll home!

www.laois.ie/walking www.offaly.ie/walking



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority



ISBN 0-9535841-5-1



9 780953 584154

This project is funded by the Irish government and part-financed by the European Union Structural Funds under the National Development Plan 2000-2006