

Points of Interest on the Trail

1 Collennan Quarry

The freestone obtained here was used for local buildings. This type of grey stone can be seen in the houses at Welbeck Crescent and South Beach, Troon.

2 Collennan Reservoir

Originally supplying water for Troon, this reservoir was replaced in 1960's by a direct pipeline from Loch Bheadan in the Galloway Forest Park. It is now used by the Troon Fishing Club. BEWARE OF ANGLERS BACK-CASTING

3 Hallyards Whinstone Quarry

This whinstone quarry was opened during the Second World War by Hillhouse Quarries. At the end of the war it closed to be reopened in 1966 by Gavin Lawrie Ltd. The crusher produces stone for road making and concrete.

4 Dundonald Wood

The trail crosses through the picturesque Aught and Dundonald Woods. The canopy is dominated by elm and ash trees plus larch. Since 1975 Dundonald Wood has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is a designated Ancient Woodland.

5 Merkland Loch

Below Hallyards Quarry is Merkland Loch. This is now virtually overgrown but was once used by the local people for curling. The Dundonald Curling Club was founded in 1820. There was a strong rivalry between the Symington and Dundonald Curling Clubs.

6 Dundonald Castle & Visitors Centre

The Castle is a fortified tower house built for King Robert I on his accession to the throne of Scotland in 1371 and it was used as a royal residence by the early Stuart kings for the next 150 years. It was said to be Robert II's favourite residence and it was here that he died in 1390. The Visitor Centre is open during the summer season. Car parking is available all year round.

Wildlife

The woods are home to several species of birds including buzzards. Roe deer are regularly sighted. Coleoptera, a rare species of beetle, and other uncommon invertebrates are to be found among the fungi and decaying wood.

South Beach, Troon

The Smugglers' Trail

The Smugglers' Trail leads from the Main Street, Loans through the Glen and up Dundonald Hill to the Castle and Village of Dundonald. The trail crosses ancient woodland and enjoys stunning views over the Firth of Clyde. This historic route has been in regular use from early times including by those famous smugglers.

An easy to moderate woodland walk the incline sharpens to 1:6 in places. The walk takes about 1 hour. Sensible footwear is advised.

OS Map: Explorer Active Map sheets 326 (Ayr & Troon) and 333 (Kilmarnock & Irvine)

The Outdoor Access Code

When you are in the outdoors:

- take responsibility for your own actions;
- respect the interests of other people;
- care for the environment

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The Smugglers' Trail

Loans - Dundonald, Ayrshire



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