



North Ayrshire

START/FINISH:
Fairlie Railway Station

Kaim Hill

This circular route offers outstanding views of the Firth of Clyde – on a clear day the views to Great Cumbrae, Wee Cumbrae, Arran and Ailsa Craig, make it well worth the walk to the summit. Whatever the weather there are fascinating Neolithic rock markings and remains of an old millstone quarry.

Initially on gravel path but ends up on open moor and mud tracks. Burn and fence crossings required. Boggy conditions underfoot on moor. Map and compass required.



5.9 miles / 9.5 km Allow 3-4hrs +

strenuous



More information

Fairlie Castle is a roofless tower castle built in 1521, it overlooks the steep and wooded Fairlie Glen.

Kaim Hill Quarry produced excellent quality millstones. A product that was sent all over Britain and exported to the West Indies, America and Australia from the early 18th century.

Cup and Ring Markings may have been a form of prehistoric art although their original significance is still unknown. The cup marks with rings, similar to ripples on water can be seen on a slab of rock.

Birds: Keep a look out for birds such as hen harrier, raven, buzzard and skylark that are likely to be spotted in and around the moorland landscape.

Vegetation: thyme, tormentil, cotton grass, bog asphodel and sphagnum moss.

NB Map and compass skills are essential as low cloud cover can envelop rapidly.

ALTERNATIVE START: This route can also be walked from the Dalry Moor road. Park in layby to the east of Glenside Woods.



The Route

OS Map 1:25000 Explorer 341 or 1:50000 Landranger 63

- Starting at Fairlie Railway station take the footpath north out of the car park turn to the right to pass in front of the cottage going into the woods to follow the path to Fairlie Castle [204 549].
- Continue on the gravel track. Take the opportunity to visit the Water of Fairlie Glen Falls before continuing on the path out of the woods.
- Walk 1.4km alongside Fairlie Burn and follow fence to summit of Lairdside Hill [231 542].
- Walk west, cross the fence and head towards grouse butts curving round to make your way up to the trig point on Kaim Hill (387m) [228 534].

- Descending from Kaim Hill it is worth the slight detour to see the old quarry [220 532]. Be careful to avoid the rocky outcrops.
- Follow beaten path to Black Hill [215 531] and then take the track south to Glenside Wood [214 526] before turning north onto Diamond Hill [213 539] to see the stone cup and ring marks.
- Make way to Fairlie Glen and cross footbridge. Follow track and path down past the castle back to train station.

