

# Dunrod Hill Walk

## Opening Hours

Visitor Centre Café April – September  
Weekends only 10.00 – 1500  
Ranger Service – daily\* 1000 – 1530  
Toilets - Open daily\* 1000 – 1530

\*except Christmas Day and New years day  
Please note Rangers may be working on site and visitor centre may be closed. If you require access as part of a group visit it is advised to call and check ahead of time.

## Address

Greenock Cut Visitor Centre  
Cornalees Bridge  
Near Inverkip  
PA16 9LX

01475 529 543 or email  
rangers.Cut@clydemuirshiel.co.uk

## Scottish Outdoor Access Code

The principals are:

1. Respect the interests of others
2. Care for the environment
3. Take responsibility for your own actions
4. Please keep dogs under proper control

## Wildlife Watching

On the moorland in springtime, birds to listen for include Cuckoo and Skylark. Watch out for a passing bird of prey including Ospreys, Hen Harriers, Buzzards, Merlins and Kestrels. In summer and autumn, dragonflies patrol the skies above the water.

Roe deer can often be seen in the earlier and later parts of the day as they make their way out of the woodlands to graze.

Enjoy a healthy family fun day out or exciting outdoor activities in Scotland's largest Regional Park. From high heather moors and woodland glens to freshwater lochs and coastal shores the Park has something for everyone. Our friendly Rangers are more than happy to answer any questions you might have about the countryside.

## Events & Activities

The Park and our partners host regular events please pick up a 'What's On' guides or look online

[www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk/events](http://www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk/events)

## Park Sites:

**Castle Semple Centre** tel 01505 842 882  
Park HQ in Lochwinnoch is popular for lochshore and woodland walks, coffee, outdoor activity courses plus boat and bike hire.

**Muirshiel Centre** tel 01505 842 803  
near Lochwinnoch provides 'great remote feeling country walking'

**Lunderston Bay** tel 01475 521 458  
between Inverkip and Gourock has a sandy beach, a coastal walk and toilet facilities.



- **5.2km / 3.2 mile way marked circular walk**
- **Geological SSSI**
- **Fantastic Views**
- **Starts at the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre**

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# Dunrod Hill Walk

At 298m Dunrod is one of the highest points in the northern region of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park it offers great views of the Clyde, Cowal Peninsula, Greenock as well as amazing views back into the Park itself.

Steep climb/descent from/to Visitor Centre over grass. Some wet and boggy patches on hill top when off the stone trail.



5.2km / 3.2 mile

Approx 1.5 hrs

## The Route

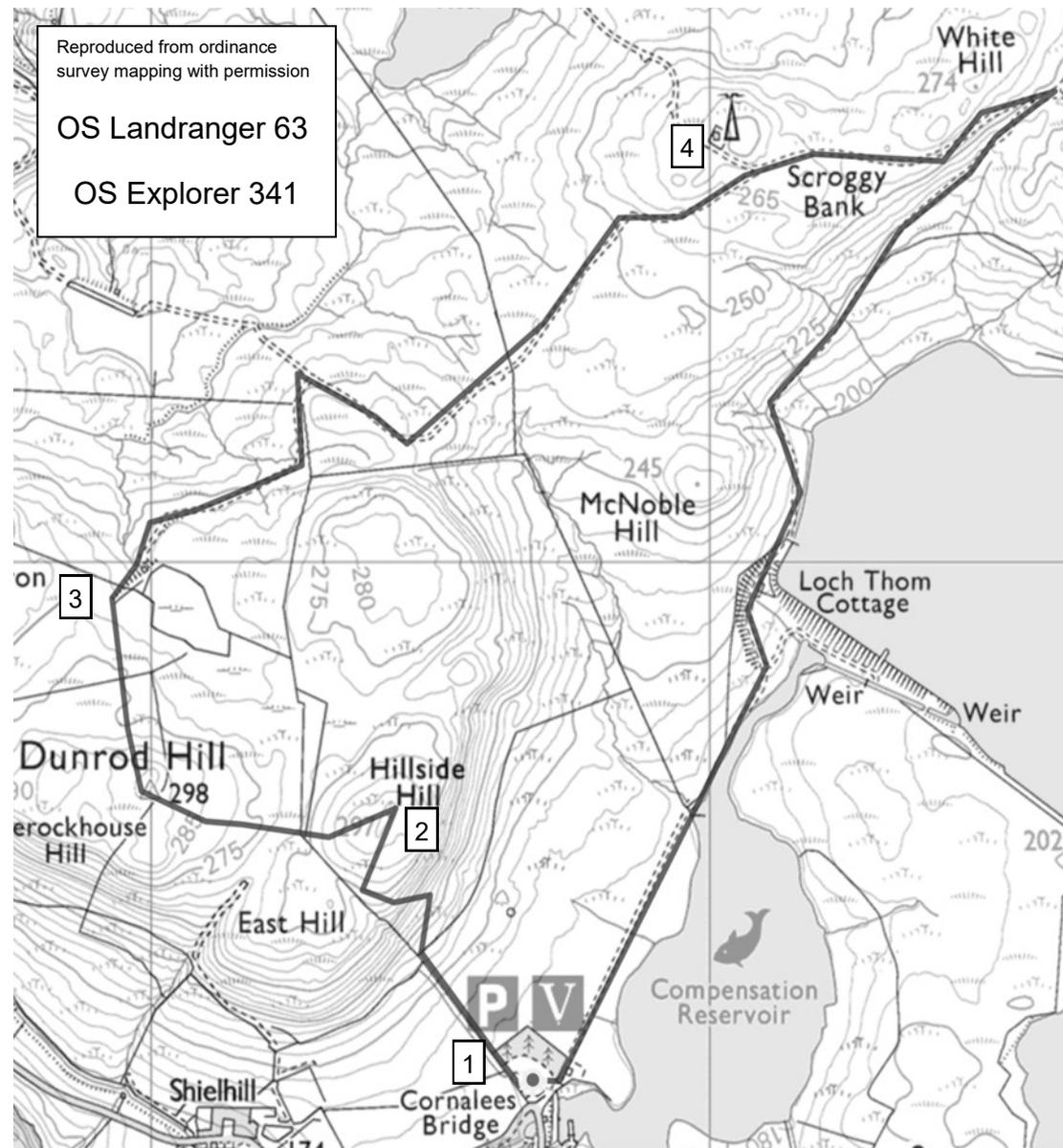
This route is a circular walk, the information below is for walking clock wise. While much of the route is on the old water company gravel tracks on top of the hills the initial part of the walk up and over Dunrod Hill is on grass and mud paths and can be quite boggy in places so sturdy footwear is advised (or shoes you don't mind getting wet and muddy!) Where appropriate it is marked with orange trail signs.

1. From the back on the visitor centre make your way along the short path signed Dunrod Hill and cross the stile.
2. You have the choice to go straight up Hillside hill following the fence line or taking the zigzag path. Which ever way you go up its worth taking in the Cairn at the top of Hill side hill before making your way over to Dunrod Hill.
3. From the trig point at the top of Dunrod 298m above sea level, you can see the old dam which once contained Reservoir One. There is a gate that will take you over the old dam before reaching the gravel road.
4. Dependent on time make your way to the top of Scroggy Bank and stand at the mast for amazing views of the Clyde valley before making your way back to the visitor centre.

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OS Landranger 63

OS Explorer 341



## Dunrod Geological SSSI

Dunrod Hill is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and is nationally important because it contains outcrops of volcanic rocks that belong to a sequence of lavas, which were erupted from a volcano during the early part of the Carboniferous Period, about 340 million years ago! In the Clyde area these are collectively called the Clyde Plateau lavas.

Interestingly one of the rocks found within the SSSI is a variety of basalt called "hawaiite" a type of basalt that is commonly found in hawaii!

## The Story of Auld Dunrod

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Alexander Lindsay the tenth and last Lord of Dunrod was rumoured to have become involved with witches living on his lands near Inverkip. He was said to gather with them and partake in the dark arts on the slopes of Dunrod Hill. True or not the Last Lord of Dunrod certainly had a reputation for his extravagant and cruel lifestyle. He was reduced to poverty and allegedly sold charms and potions in Greenock before dying a penniless hermit as depending on which story you wish to believe, his assets were either seized by the Church in recompense for his evil deeds, or he was forced to sell everything to pay for the massive debts he had built up either way his body was found in a barn on part of his former estate near East Kilbride under "*mysterious circumstances*"