Clyde Muirshiel
REGIONAL PARK

The Park for People

Inverclyde

START/FINISH: Greenock Cut Visitor Centre

Dunrod Hill

At 298m Dunrod is one of the highest points in the area. It offers great views of the Firth of Clyde, the Arrochar Alps, Cowal Peninsula and Alisa Craig on a clear day.

Depending on which direction taken there is a steep climb/descent from/to Visitor Centre over grass. Some wet and boggy patches on the hilltop when walking off the old gravel tracks. Waymarked with orange and white arrows.

3.2 miles / 5.2 km **Approx 1.5 hrs**

strenuous

More information

History In the 17th century the Lindsay family once owned a vast swathe of the area near Dunrod Hill and even had a castle at its base near what is now Dunrod Farm. Nothing now remains of Dunrod Castle, its stone was repurposed for wall construction.

Folklore The Lindsay dynasty came to an end in 1619 when Alexander Lindsay of Dunrod died penniless with his body was found in “suspicious” circumstances in a barn on land he once owned. Often referred to as Auld Dunrod, it is claimed that he became involved with witches living on his lands in Inverkip, and gathered with them, on the slopes of Dunrod Hill. Rumour has it that he consorted with the Devil himself! Whatever the truth of the matter, he earned a reputation for being a cruel and wicked man. He fell into debt in part due to his “lavish tastes” and was forced to sell off much of his estates. He was allegedly reduced to selling charms and trinkets on the docks of Inverclyde before his untimely death.

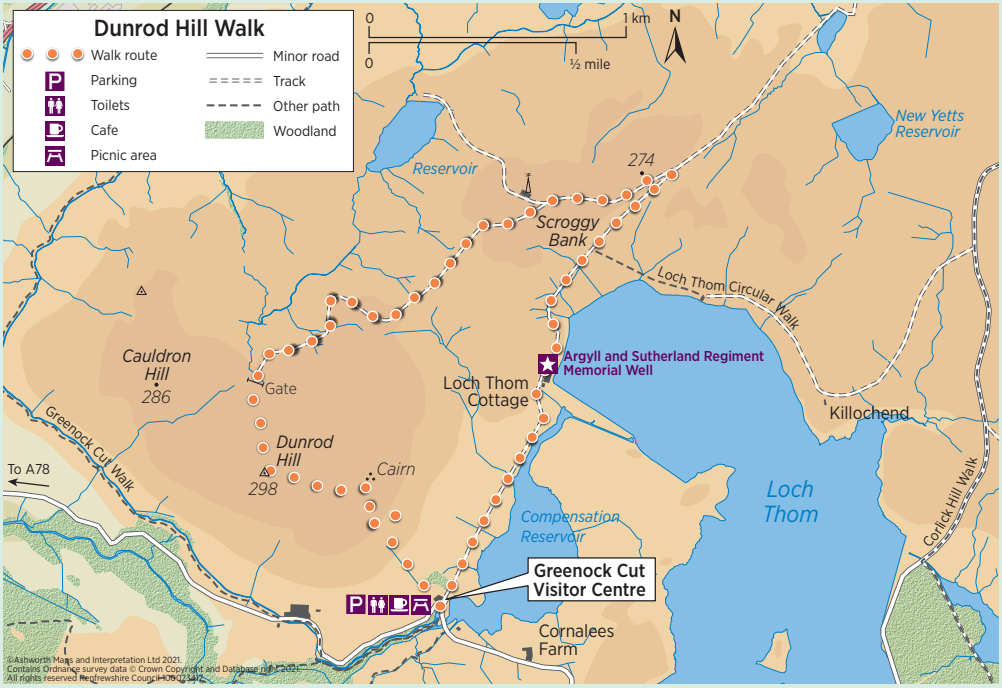
The Route

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

This is a circular walk, the information below is for walking clockwise. The initial part of the walk is on grass and mud paths and can be quite boggy in places so sturdy footwear is advised. The trail marked with orange and white way markers.

- The trail is marked from the corner of the car park, near the old plane engine, take the short path signed Dunrod Hill and cross the stile.
- You have the choice to go straight up following the fence line or taking the zigzag path. Whichever way you go up it's worth taking in the Cairn at the top of Hillside Hill (297m) before making your way over to Dunrod Hill.
- Looking north from the Dunrod trig point you can see the old dam. There is a gate that will take you over the old dam then you will need to hop over a wee burn before reaching the gravel track.
- Once on the gravel track keep taking right turns at each of the junctions to make the circuit.

Depending on time, a detour to the top of Scroggy Bank is recommended. From the mast there are amazing views over the Firth of Clyde.

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

Interestingly, one of the rocks found is a variety of basalt called "hawaiite". It was first used as a name for some lavas found on the island of Hawaii.