Clyde Muirshiel
REGIONAL PARK

The Park for People

Renfrewshire

START/FINISH:
Castle Semple Visitor Centre Lochwinnoch

Johnshill Loop

A circular walk exploring Castle Semple Country Park's Lochshore, Parkhill Wood and a wildflower meadow in Johnshill Field before returning through the village.

On whin dust trails and tarmac pavements. The wood can be muddy in places in wet weather and the lochshore path may be flooded. 2 kissing gates on route.

2.5 miles / 4.1km **Approx 1-2hrs**

easy

More information

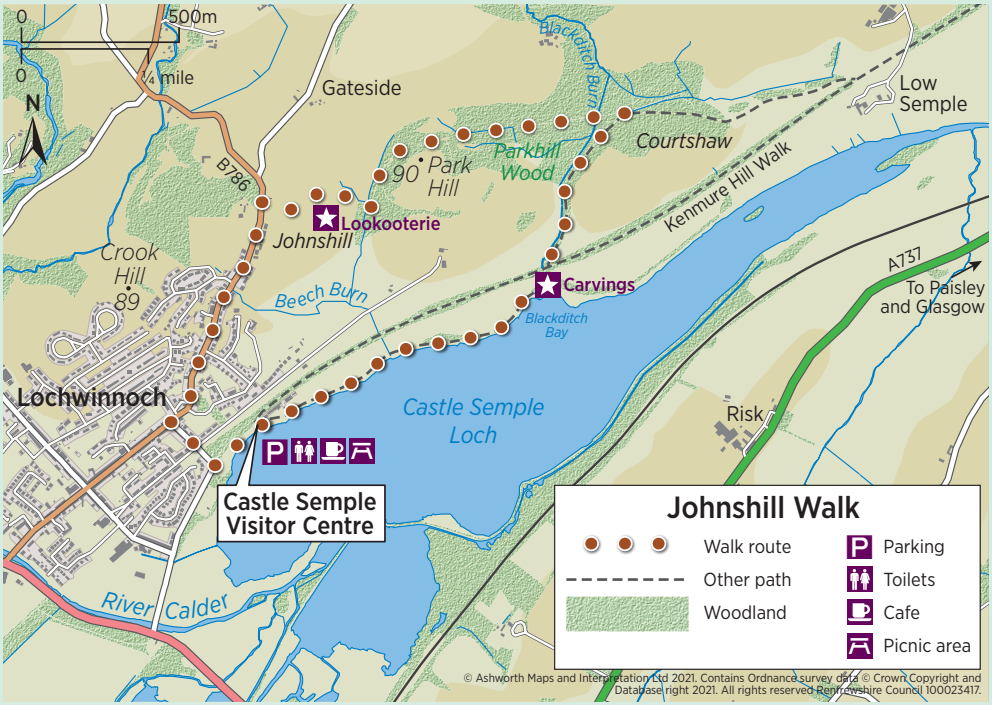
Blackditch Bay Benches The carved thrones feature the Semple Clan Coat of Arms and motto 'Keep Tryst'. How many different creatures on the benches can you count? Take the opportunity to enjoy the walk through the Willow Tunnel.

Wildlife Along the lochshore you can hear grasshopper warblers and see bumblebees feeding on comfrey and black knapweed later in the season. In springtime listen for woodpeckers in Parkhill Wood and in autumn search for scarlet elf cap fungus in the undergrowth.

At Johnshill, lookout for large red and common blue damselflies, small copper butterfly, common darter dragonflies patrolling around the field and basking in the sun on the path.

Meadow The Johnshill Field is a native wildflower meadow created in 2009 by Johnstone High School and the Clyde Muirshiel Ranger Service. Annual meadow management is required; this includes scything and raking which is organised by our Countryside Rangers with help from Conservation Volunteers. It makes a wonderful habitat for our native pollinators.

The Route

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

- From the Visitor Centre carry on past the building, take the lochshore path along to Blackditch Bay.
- Turn left uphill past the benches to cross over the National Route 7 cycle track and enter Parkhill Wood.
- Continue until you come to the Wildlife Sculpture junction. Turn left before the sculpture across the bridge and left again, almost making a U-turn to follow Central Track back through the middle of the wood.
- At the next trail junction carry straight on or detour downhill left slightly to see the Parkhill Pond and the Grotto.
- Central Track then comes to a Y-junction, take the right hand fork downhill.
- Exit the wood crossing through the old estate wall and follow the path up through Johnshill Field Meadow.
- A short detour to the left takes in beautiful views across Castle Semple Loch
- Exit Johnshill into the car park and then take a left down into Lochwinnoch village.
- When you see the Corner Bar take the left turn and carry on under the bridge taking another left to return to the start.