

# Doune & Deanston



## Doune Castle

Doune Castle once dominated the village and it is likely that the medieval settlement was clustered in its shadows. There may have been a castle on the site since the 11th century but the present building dates from the 14th century, built by the Duke of Albany. It sits on a strategic site on the edge of the lowland and highland areas of Scotland.

In more recent times the castle has been used as a film location. *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* was shot here, and it also featured in the television film of *Ivanhoe*.

The castle is open 7 days a week from April to September 9.30-6; October 9.30-4.30. From November to March it is open 9.30-4 and is closed all day Thursday and Friday. There is an admission charge. For more information call (01786) 841742.



## 1 Commonly Walk and Doune Trail

(1 3/4 miles/3km. 1 hour on foot, 15 minutes+ cycling)

A circular route around the northern edge of Doune, mainly level but with some muddy uphill sections.

Doune Trail >

From the Information Centre cross Main Street and take Moray Street north passing the Church and Moray Park on your right. Cross over the old railway and continue straight ahead for about 350m. Take a right turn (signposted) at the foot of the track up to West Lundie. This path is known as "The Commonly Walk".

The "Commonly" refers to common grazing land which once existed close to the village. This was Common Land where the villagers were able to graze their cattle during the day, before herding them into closes in the village at night. This entitlement ceased to exist over 100 years ago, after the 1897 Public Health Act deemed that it was unhealthy to have byres close to dwelling houses. The land is now forested on the north side of the path, which continues along the edge of the woodland and has great views south over Doune and to the Gargunnoch hills in the distance.

Continue along the path until you meet the Argaty Road. From here turn right for one hundred metres and then left through a small woodland, along an established track to join the line of the old Dunblane to Callander railway - now Sustrans route 76. Turn right onto the route and follow it back towards Doune. Follow the cycle route signs around Moray Park and back into the village.

## 2 Deanston Mill Lade

(2 1/4 miles/3.4km. 1 hour 15 mins)

A flat linear walk along the historic mill lade at the planned industrial village of Deanston.

From the Kilmadock Information Centre start off up Main Street to the Mercat Cross, then bear left down George Street to meet the A84 (T) at the Muir Hall. Bear left again and head down to and over the Bridge of Teith, where great views east to Doune Castle can be seen. Take care crossing the bridge, as there is no pavement.

Robert Spittal had the bridge built in 1535 after he was refused crossing by the ferryman because he had mislaid his purse and could not pay. On the bridge, a shield with a large pair of scissors denotes Spittal's role as tailor to Queen Margaret.

Once over the bridge, immediately take the road to your right to Deanston and join the pavement. Keep right at the fork to Deanston. Keep to the path and walk parallel to the River Teith for 1/2 mile (800m).

The view ahead opens to the sizeable old mill building at the entrance to Deanston. The Mill, established in 1785 by the Buchanan brothers, was purchased and updated in 1807 by James Finlay and Company. It was the first integrated Cotton Mill in Britain. The building now houses Deanston Distillery.

Continue onwards, the road turns sharply left but keep going straight ahead and past The Cottages following the small path to your right. Continue on and soon the mill lade is reached.

Historically this provided water to the mill for generating power and also for washing the cotton material. Today the lade continues to be used in the distillery for electricity generation.

The route continues along the lade until a gate is reached. Beyond the gate are the sluices and an impressive weir built across the river in the 1820's by influential mill manager, James Smith.

To return to Doune retrace your steps back along the mill lade and across the Bridge of Teith.



## 3 Doune Castle and River Teith

(1 3/4 miles/2.8km. 1 hour walking)

A scenic route passing Doune Castle, following the riverbank and returning through the village. Some narrow and muddy sections with short slopes.

Starting at the Information Centre in Doune, turn left and left again into Castlehill Court, left again in to Castlehill then right onto a local sports field. Here the path skirts the edge of the playing field following the edge of an old Roman Fort before crossing into a small wood.

There is evidence of Roman occupation throughout the area from Callander to Braco and Roman fortifications have been discovered in the area close to the castle. Newer discoveries have shown that the Romans had a medical ward underneath the present Primary School dating back 2,000 years.

There is an unusual view of the medieval castle through the trees as you follow the waymarkers and round to the car park. Beware of traffic.



The route now passes to the left of the castle then left past the water treatment works through a wonderful Blackthorn tunnel to 'The Mouth of Ardoch'.

In early summer the grassland area around the point has a superb variety of wildflowers including Yellow Rattle, Pignut, Water Avens, Red Campion and Stitchwort. The earliest settlements in Doune are believed to have been on the banks of the Ardoch.

From here follow the river upstream for around 1/2 mile, crossing over the bridge and through the kissing gate, before passing 'Gamekeeper's Cottage' and exiting onto Dan Doo's Brae on the A84.

Dan Doo's Brae is named after Duncan Dow who was one of the gamekeepers that lived in the cottage.

Head uphill, turning first right into Muir Crescent, then right into George Street to the Cross. Returning to the Information Centre right along Main Street.





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### 6 Doune Ponds

A short walk to the peaceful woodlands around Doune Ponds. 1000m of path are wheelchair accessible, others are uneven.

From the Information Centre cross Main Street into Moray Street, past Moray Park and over the disused railway. Take the next road to your left, which brings you out at the car park.

Doune ponds were developed on the site of an old sand and gravel quarry and since 1982 have been developed as a nature area by Moray Estates and Stirling Council.

The reserve is dominated by 3 large ponds and extensive regeneration of Silver Birch and Willow, it contains nature trails, viewing hides, picnic tables and pleasant walks.

A Doune Ponds guide is available from the Information Centre and from a box at the car park. Once you've enjoyed a walk around, a picnic or just feeding the ducks return to the car park.

On the edge of the car park is a standing stone locally known as the 'Deils Heid'. It is thought to date from the Bronze Age, as is a burial chamber or cist containing a child's skeleton - these were discovered during the excavation of the Bluebell wood which was where the central pond now stands.

To return, walk down Station Wynd, turn left along Balkerach Street past The Cross onto Main Street and back to the Information Centre.

### Know the code before you go ... Enjoy Scotland's Outdoors - Responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Respect the interests of other people
- Care for the environment
- Find out more by visiting [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage Office.



### Kilmadock Information Centre

The Information and Heritage Centre is managed by a Community Futures Group, the Kilmadock Development Trust.

This is the centre for a large range of activities: Community learning, Youth project, Police surgery, Kilmadock Society, The Bridge (local news) and Book Club. The Information Centre gives free and friendly visitor advice as well as offering a wide range of products and services; a cash ATM service, tourist information leaflets and history research room. It is staffed by volunteers and sells books, guides, maps, booklets and sundries. The Heritage room offers resources for those researching family and local history, as well as displays on various aspects of local history. A community noticeboard is on the outside wall and is always full of events and details of clubs and societies.



Open Monday to Saturday - 10am to 4pm, Sunday 2-4pm. Tel 01786 841250  
email [info@douneanddeanston.net](mailto:info@douneanddeanston.net)  
[www.douneanddeanston.net](http://www.douneanddeanston.net)

### Acknowledgements

This leaflet is a partnership initiative between Stirling Council Countryside Service, Kilmadock Development Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage with additional funding from Landfill Tax Trust and Airtricity.

Airtricity is one of Scotland's leading fully integrated renewable energy companies and is focused on wind farm development, finance, ownership or wind farms and green electricity supply. The company was established in November 1999. Airtricity believes it can play a significant role in the reduction of carbon monoxide emissions. Contact Airtricity, 29A Union Street, Greenock PA16 8DD. Tel: 01475 892 344. Email: [info@airtricity-scotland.co.uk](mailto:info@airtricity-scotland.co.uk) Web: [www.airtricity.com](http://www.airtricity.com)

If you have any comments or suggestions please contact: Countryside Service, Environment Services, Stirling Council, Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET. Tel 01786 442875; Email [countryside@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@stirling.gov.uk)

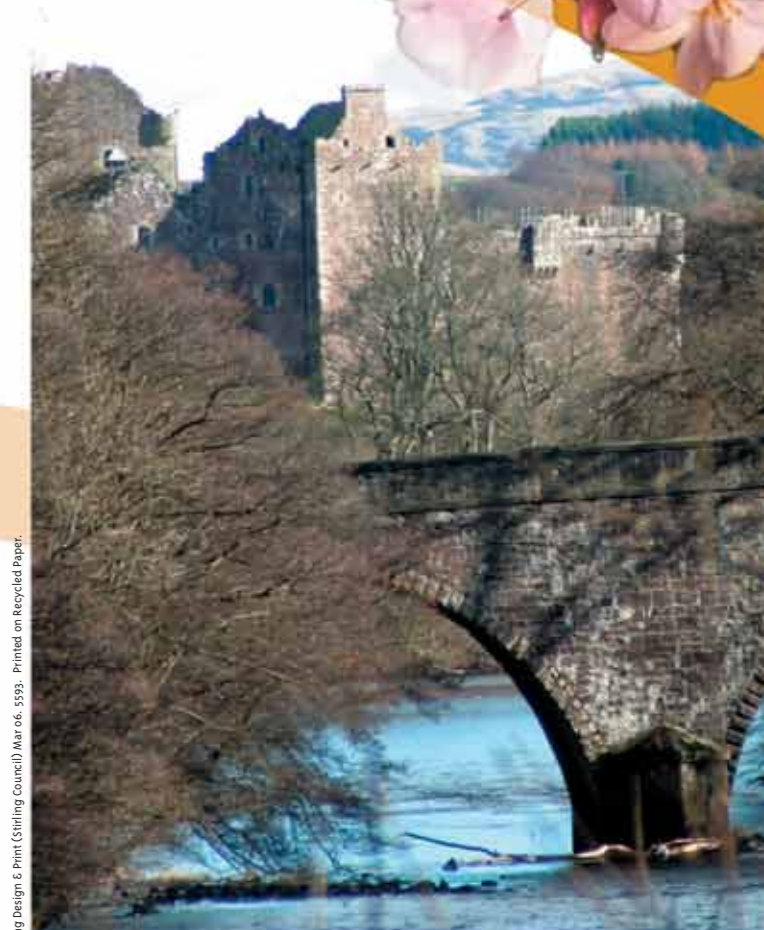
Available in large print, braille, on tape or translated text. Phone 0845 277 7000.

إذا تكلتي صعوبة بفهم اللغة الإنكليزية وتود الترجمة، رجاء اتصل بالمجلس البلدي على الرقم 0845 277 7000 حيث يمكن أن نترجم هذا لك.

如果你看不懂英文，而又希望取得中文翻译版本的话，请致电 0845 277 7000 与地方议会联络，我们会为你作出有关安排。

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਸਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਪਿਲਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੰਸਥ ਨਾਲ 0845 277 7000 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਸਹੀ ਇਸਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

اگر کسی زبان سمجھنے میں آگے نہیں آسکتا ہے اور اس کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم اسے اپنی مقامی زبان میں 0845 277-7000 پر رابطہ کریں۔ آپ کے لیے درج ذیل ترجمے کے انتظام کیے جائیں گے۔



## Community Paths

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# DOUNE & DEANSTON



## 4 Dunblane

(3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles/6km. 2 hours on foot)

A linear route following Sustrans route 76 into Dunblane. It is fairly well surfaced with some slopes.

Starting at the Information Centre, cross Main Street and turn into King Street, to the right of the church. Follow the edge of Moray Park and join the old railway, now a cycleway.

The railway was first opened in 1858 and as a single line ran from Dunblane, to Callander and Killin. In 1902 the track was converted to double line, and a large impressive station was built at Doune. The scale of the station was in part due to the fact that Sir James Thompson, chairman of the Caledonian Railway lived in nearby Inverardoch House. The line ceased to operate in October 1965 as a result of the "Beeching" rationalisation of the railways.

Follow the route east for 1/2 miles (2.7 km) before meeting up with a minor road. Turn onto the road and proceed downhill and across the Ardoch Burn to the junction first with a minor road, then with the A820. Carefully cross the A820 and follow the old right of way for 400m to join up with the Old Doune Road. Turn left at the top of this track and follow the Old Doune Road, passing Greenyards Farm before crossing over the A9. To get to the City Centre follow 'Old Doune Road' ahead and down to the bottom of the hill. Those on foot can return using public transport or by retracing the outward route.



## 5 Old Kilmadock Cemetery

(4 miles/6km. 1 1/2 hours on foot)

This route passes through sheep fields. During lambing time (March-May) ewes are easily stressed. To help reduce risk of miscarriage or abandonment please consider not going into the field around the cemetery and do not take dogs into the field at this time.

Following the route of an ancient Right of Way this is a pleasant walk through woodland, farmland and along riverbank to the ancient cemetery of Kilmadock returning via Buchany and along the edge of the A84.

From the Information Centre head along Main Street, past the Mercat Cross forking right into Balkearach Street.

Continue along Balkearach Street till you meet the A84. Cross the road at the crossing and go to the right along the pavement. Cross Fir Road, leave the pavement and follow the path through the woods, continue on a vehicle track following it round to the left and exit the woods.

Turn left and stay on the track between the woods and the fence. Turn right when you reach a T-junction and follow the narrow path through the woods, over a small stream through the beautiful birch woods.

Go left along the farm track, fork left then cut off the track into the birch woods and head towards the river.

Walk upstream through the gate and continue to follow the river until you see the cemetery.

The church and cemetery date back to c1560, most of the old church in the cemetery was pulled down and the stone used in the new church, built in Doune in 1743. Some medieval remains are still clearly visible.

To return to Doune, either retrace your outward route OR

from the cemetery, head up to the gate in the top corner of the field. Pass through this out of the field, follow the old road downhill and along the edge of the Annet Burn until you meet the A84, again. Carefully cross the A84 and take the pavement back to Doune via the hamlet of Buchany. This is a busy road and the pavement is narrow in places.

