

DINMURCHIE TRAIL

Distance: 3.25 miles/5 km

Further Information: Ayr Tourist Information Centre, 22
Sandgate, Ayr, KA7 1BW

OS Map Reference: Landranger 76 (Girvan, Ballantrae &
Barrhill)

For those who appreciate a combination of forest and open hill, this walk will suit admirably. It is part of a network of way marked trails through the countryside around the picturesque village of Barr. The walks take you by riverside, forest and on to open countryside where there are spectacular views of the South Ayrshire countryside. Pick up the leaflet of Barr Trails in the Tourist Information Centre.

This track starts in the forest before you suddenly clear the tress at the top of the hill, from where you can look down on the village of Barr and across the Stinchar Valley. If you are lucky you may see some of the wildlife including deer, foxes, hares, kestrels and buzzards.

You then follow the old road, which runs from the Water of Minnoch to Barr passing close to Dinmurchie Farm, which was the birthplace of James Dalrymple who became the first Viscount of Stair and was the author of the "Institutes of the Law of Scotland".

The village of Barr is worth exploring from the historical viewpoint as the area has a considerable Covenanting history. In the old churchyard there are two Martyrs' stones, one of which is to Edward McKeen who was arrested by soldiers at the farm of Kalwyne following suspicion that a prayer meeting was taking place. He was dragged out and after some questioning the officer in charge shot him twice through the head.

Strolling back along the narrow road that follows the Water of Gregg with its attractive wooded banks makes a fitting end to a memorable walk.