

Leaving the village the route passes Balcamie Farm and climbs towards Barony Hill. Ascending the hill the track passes close to Machrihill. This was believed to be the site of a cell or chapel founded in the first century by St Machar, but the order of the letters in the name under this unlikely. It contains parts of an oval shaped wooded earth enclosure within which are a large cross base and a pentagonal stone with a faint latin cross and a cross socket. Until recent times Dailly Parish Church was known as St Machar's Church of Dailly. Crossing the bare hillside the summit of Barony Hill is reached, where there is the opportunity to take in the view and rest on the many oak log seats distributed throughout the trails. It is a joy to walk through Falfarocher Glen following the burn downstream through a marvellous woodland which is the haunt of roe deer, badger, fox and red squirrel.

Walking along the bank of the Water of Girvan the route passes the Dalquharran Manston, which is conspicuous on high ground on the north side of the river. It was built in 1786 to a design by Robert Adam and commissioned by Thomas Kennedy who married Jean Adam, a niece of Robert. Wings were added to the left and right of the house in 1881 bending a royal visit which never took place. In 1936 it opened its doors as Scotland's grandest youth hostel until the war intervened. After crossing the river the ruins of the old Dalquharran Castle can be seen through the woods. The castle dates from the 16th century and was built by a branch of the Kennedys of Cuzzean and was acquired by Sir Thomas Kennedy of Kirkhill and Colmonell, an offshoot of the Bargany Kennedys who held it until 1935. The grounds contain a walled garden, stables and a family graveyard with an obelisk, crosses, and chest tombs. The trail now meanders through a riverside wood of early summer snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells carpet the woodland floor. Before reaching the village the trail crosses a footbridge (constructed in 2002) over the River Girvan. This artist designed bridge is the main focus of the trails network around Dailly. The trail through the Dalquharran woods to the bridge and from the bridge to the village is suitable for wheelchair access.

Barony Hill Trail

6.5 miles / 10.5 km

SYMBOL - Oak leaf from the Collers Oak, where miners used to meet.

A linear hill walk for those who relish steep, rough walking. The splendid views leading to the top are as good as any in the district. The walk takes you past the cemetery and follows the crystal waters of the Lindsayston Burn. Hadyard Hill looms ahead and with Maxwellston Hill forms an impressive backdrop along the southern boundary of the Girvan Valley. Views open up as height is gained by climbing up the exposed shoulder of Hadyard on to the moorland plateau. This is the habitat of a variety of wildlife including curlew, buzzard, peregrine, kestrel, and merlin. Although waymarked, care should be taken when crossing the hilltop in bad weather as the lack of distinct landmarks on the plateau can make navigation difficult.

With the village of Dailly and the Girvan Valley lying well below, the site of a pre-historic fort on the summit of Maxwellston Hill is reached. The remains of the Pictish fortress consisting of two earthen ramparts and two ditches can be seen. This scheduled monument has associations with Robert the Bruce, who having landed on the Ayrshire coast from Arran took refuge here following an unsuccessful attack on Turnberry Castle. Bruce camped with some 300 men for three days before moving to a more secure location in the Galloway Hills.

Maxwellston Hill Trail

3.5 miles / 5.5 km

SYMBOL - Fence posts access to the countryside.

This trail has many associations with the coalmining industry of a bygone era. Walking through Kilgrammie, little remains of the industrial past with new woodland having obscured nearly all traces. An attractive trail through confers with the possibility of seeing roe deer, squirrel, sparrow hawks, and buzzard. Close by is the old Kilgrammie old collier was trapped in a pitfall and remained underground without food for 23 days and came out alive. Most had given John up for dead but several worked on as they thought they heard cries. When they eventually found a totally exhausted John Brown his words were "Boys oh but you were a long a coming". One report says he would have been spared his ordeal had he not turned back to pick up his jacket as others fled the collapsing workings. Sadly John quietly expired three days later and his grave is to be found in the village churchyard.

From the highest point of the woodland, pause and catch your breath. Continuing along the track, the circuit is now complete with the short stroll back into Dailly.

Kilgrammie Trail

4.75 miles / 7.65 km

SYMBOL - Jack Tamson's Balm, John Thomson the originator of the saying "They're all Jack Tamson's Balm". One of the wee men is a woman, see if you can find her.

Lindsayston Trail

2.75 miles / 4.5 km

SYMBOL - Curling stone, the walk passes the old curling pond.

Leaving the village the route follows the burn through Lindsayston Wood. A series of delightful waterfalls and pools makes this an enchanting, secluded place. It is a delight to walk along the woodland path which, like other walks around Dailly, is a sanctuary for wildlife. If you are lucky you may see heron and dippers feeding in the burn. The route continues along a section of the unclassified hill road to Barr where, on the left, you can see a small sandstone memorial which is inscribed "Dr C". The identity of the mystery doctor is not known but local legend suggests he was a doctor from Maybole who was killed after being thrown from his horse on this spot, on his way home from visiting a patient.

An interesting relic of a bygone age can be seen at the junction of the track to Balcamie. In the woods beside the burn are the remains of the old waulkmill at Gettybeg. This mill, powered by water from the burn, was used in a process to make heavier and more compact cloth through shrinking and beating. Sadly the waterwheel has long gone.

Return along an attractive narrow track past Balcamie Farm. On the right of the farm road is the site of the old curling pond, now filled in.

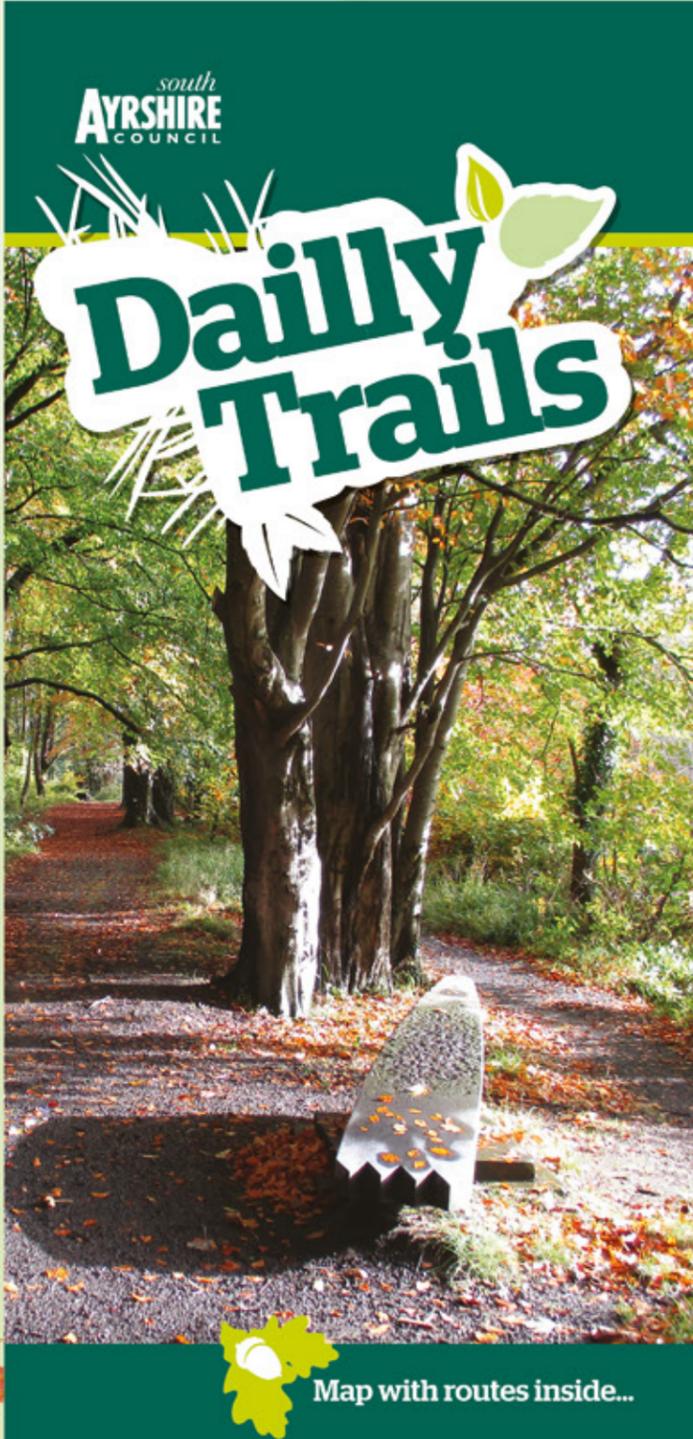
Dailly Arts Project

Dailly Community Council decided to enhance the walks with works of art and the benches, waymarkers, and the footbridge in the village are sculptures that are both eye-catching and practical. Nigel Ross made the benches, which are carved from timber gifted by the Bargany and Kilkerran Estates. Jimmie Ritchie designed and made the waymarkers to reflect local history and the then current debate on Land Reform and Access. He talked with the children of Dailly Primary School and the Oak Leaf and Tramway markers were developed from their ideas. Steve Dilworth designed the bridge with help from Professor Iain McLeod of Strathclyde University and Charles Scott and Partners acting as Consulting Engineers. Donald Cameron of AMSCO Alexandria built the bridge. Juliet Dean of PACE Edinburgh was the Arts Consultant to the project.

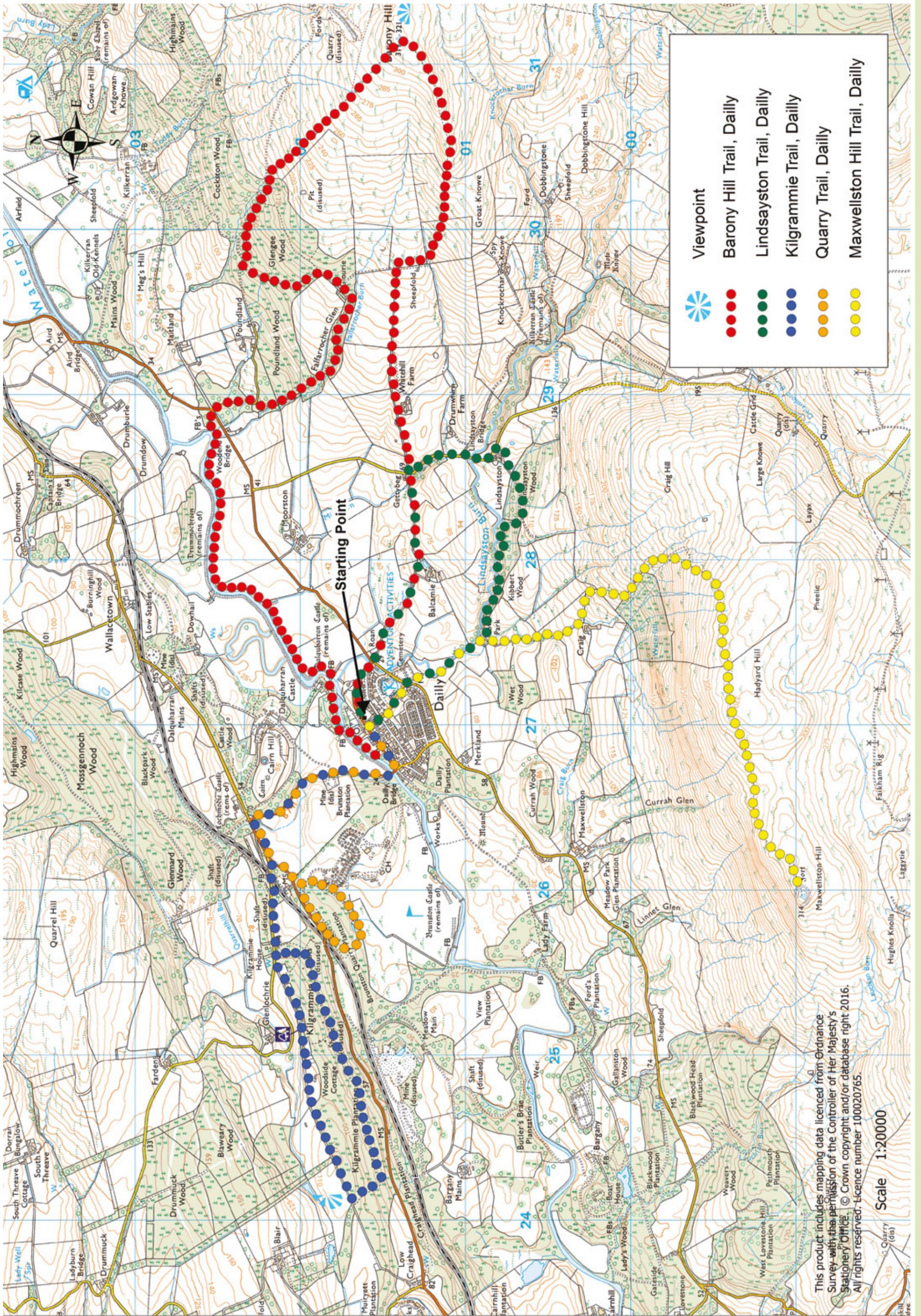
Acknowledgments

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www.ayrshirepaths.org.uk



Map with routes inside...



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