

# PENCIL WALK

Distance 1.25 miles/2k

Follow the Promenade southwards passing the attractively designed War Memorial. As you enjoy the walk by the beach, you will pass a jetty used for access to moored boats in the bay. This is Cairnie`s Quay, built by Doctor Cairnie to provide access to his yacht. A retired Doctor, he built a beautiful home above the grass of Broomfields, Curling Hall, and devoted much of his time to sailing and curling. So fond was he of the latter, that he created the first ever man-made Curling Rink in the grounds of Curling Hall, and is recognised world wide as the Father of Curling. Flats have now replaced his home, but a standing stone which once stood in its grounds can now be seen in the grass opposite. This is the first of two monuments to commemorate the Battle of Largs.



As the path curves round the bay, just before the tidal island, a plaque on the ground by the wall commemorates the building of this path with funds raised in 1909 mainly by Largs Visitors` Club i.e. regular holidaymakers. Finally you reach the Pencil Monument, built in 1912 to commemorate the Battle of Largs 1263. Whether this was a slight skirmish or a great battle, it deserves its place in history because it was the last occasion on which Scots and Norwegians fought on Scottish soil. Walk a little farther and the attractive waterfront path continues behind the Largs Yacht Haven Marina.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The walks in this leaflet are supported by





**SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE**

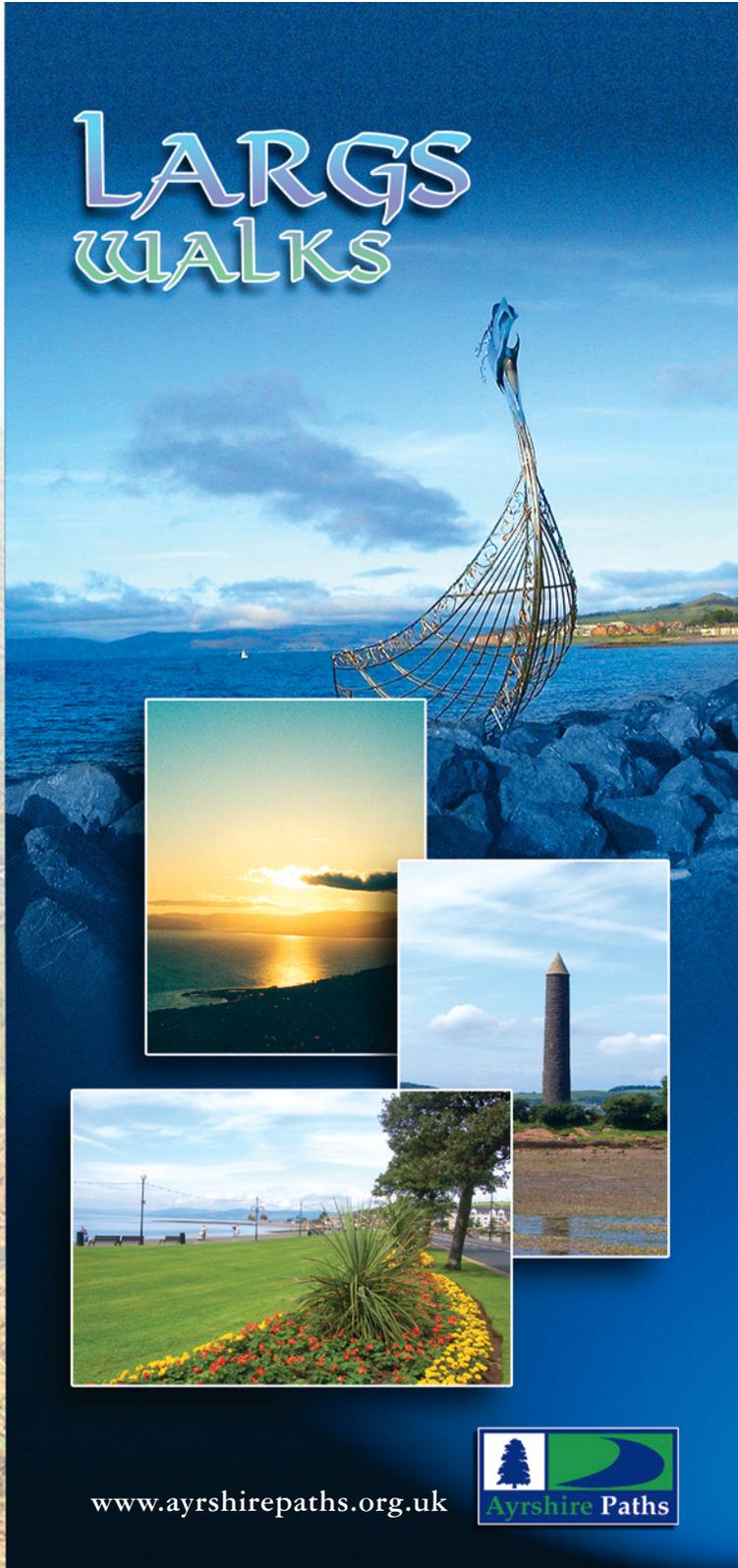
**Know the Code before you go ...**  
**Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly!**

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.



## KNOCK HILL WALK

Distance 6.75 miles/11k

As you follow the Promenade northwards, you pass two points of interest: the R.N.L.I. Slip, originally built as Catalina (seaplane) Slip, to enable Catalinas to be brought ashore for servicing and repair in Barrfields during World War II: Vanduara, important as H.Q. for communications at the planning of D-Day. Follow the path by Noddsdale Water and cross the main road into Barr Crescent.

Keep to the path by the burn until you reach Brisbane Glen Road. Opposite the cemetery you pass gates that once marked the entrance to the home of the Brisbane family, important landowners and benefactors to Largs, the most famous being Sir Thomas MacDougall Brisbane, soldier, renowned astronomer, and at one time Governor General of New South Wales. Take the farm road on your left to Brisbane Mains Farm, a C-listed building with its unusual archway. As you follow the path upwards you are strongly advised to make a detour to your left and climbing to the top of Knock Hill you will enjoy a wonderful panorama of the Clyde and its islands, a view not to be missed. Should you choose to take the longer route to the top, by the spiral path, think of the grand ladies who travelled there by horse-drawn carriage, to picnic, while their husbands were shooting in the Brisbane Estate below. The conical hill is a vitrified fort of volcanic origin, with traces of pre-historic rampart walls.

On the main Greenock road again, notice the gatehouse to Netherhall, once the baronial mansion of Lord Kelvin, renowned scientist and mathematician.



## DOUGLAS PARK & CASTLE HILL WALK

Distance 3 miles/5k



Please note this walk contains a strenuous climb but can be more easily reached from the Haylie Car Park. Follow the route to the PENCIL WALK until you reach May Street. Take a short cut through Anderson Park and cross into Douglas Park. Walk up the drive between formal gardens and tennis courts. Before passing through the gate to the upper park, make a short detour south to the

Haylie Chambered Tomb. Although still sometimes called Haco's Tomb, it is, in fact a pre 3000 B.C. Neolithic Chambered Cairn, and was discovered in 1772 by James Wilson of Haylie, when it still contained the remains of 5 people.

Retrace your steps to the gate into the upper Park and climb at your leisure, stopping if you wish to admire the view of the Firth, the islands and the mountains beyond. Having accomplished the long flight of steps, walk south to view the surrounding hills by using the directions on the indicator.

From the viewpoint follow the circular route north west to Castle Hill. This appears as a rocky knoll on top of which traces of the Iron Age Hill Fort c.1 AD can still be seen. Its defensive situation can be appreciated, as on its one accessible slope there are signs of a ditch, topped by a low rampart. Continue the circular route until you rejoin the path back to the pier.

## GREETO BRIDGE WALK

Distance 2.50 miles/4k

A good path leads up from Flatt Farm but the gradient is such that canny walker will pause frequently to watch the ferry curving across to Cumbrae, take in a bird's eye view of Largs, or try to name the various islands visible in the Firth of Clyde.

Climbing the grassy path to the Greeto Falls is a popular outing for Largs families in summer but it must have been an arduous journey for local residents who used it to collect their winter's supply of peat. The cottage of Cock-ma-lane stands out as a well-known landmark set on the hill to the south side of the Gogo Burn.

The route continues from the Greeto Bridge and climbs to the old mast giving spectacular views over North Ayrshire hills and the Clyde Coast. For the experienced walker (denoted by the broken line) there is an opportunity to cross the Gogo Water by a bridge below the falls. This walk involves a very steep descent to the bridge and an equally steep climb on the other side. This walk is across rough moorland and would require good navigational skills and the walker to be suitably equipped.



**Key To Map Symbols**

-  **VIEW POINT**
-  **HISTORICAL MONUMENT**
-  **VILLAGE**
-  **BUILDINGS**
-  **Knock Hill Walk**
-  **Gogo Glen Walk**
-  **The Pencil Walk**
-  **Douglas Park Walk**



**Largs**  
 Start Information Board  
 Pier  
 Car Parking



*The hill walks in this leaflet are within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, which offers additional facilities and walking areas from visitor centres at Cornalees (by Loch Thom), Muirshiel and Castle Semple (both near Lochwinnoch).*

Local Area Knowledge  
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Photography  
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More detailed map information can be obtained from  
 ORDNANCE SURVEY LANDRANGER SERIES No. 70  
 and  
 EXPLORER SERIES No. 341