Information

Tourist Information Centres
If you want to find out more about any of the places of interest along the Irvine & Kilwinning New Town Trail, contact:
The Ayrshire & Arran Tourist Board
Telephone 01292 678100
www.ayrshire-arran.com

Other Walking and Cycle Routes in and around North Ayrshire
For information and guides to other walking and cycle routes in and around North Ayrshire, contact:
Eglinton Country Park Visitor Centre
Telephone 01294 551776
www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Other information on paths can be found on:
Ayrshire Paths
www.ayrshirepaths.org.uk

Paths for All Partnership
Telephone 01259 218888
www.pathsforall.org.uk

Irvine and Kilwinning
NEW TOWN TRAIL
Part of the National Cycle Network

Pedestrian & Cycle Trail Map and Guide
Irvine and Kilwinning New Town Trail is a circular pedestrian and cycle route, some 12 miles (19 Kilometres) in length. The Trail follows the main river valleys and provides traffic-free transport links between communities as well as attractive local recreational opportunities for walkers and cyclists.

The route links Irvine town centre, Kilwinning, Eglinton Country Park, residential areas as well as local leisure facilities and workplace locations.

The Trail also provides links with an extensive network of local paths and tracks as well as linking into two National Cycle Network (NCN) routes; running from Glasgow to Carlisle and between Kilmarnock and the Isle of Arran and onto the Mull of Kintyre.

**Walking & Cycling on the Trail**

The Trail is on well-surfaced paths or tracks that are suitable for able pedestrians and less able people.

Some parts of the route are shared with cyclists, particularly those sections that are the same as the National Cycle Network; these are identified on the accompanying route maps.

Always have regard for your own safety and the safety of others.

Before setting off, please read the pedestrian advice and notes on cycle safety and signs on the following pages.

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**Pedestrian Advice**

To maximise your enjoyment of the Trail ensure that you:

- Wear comfortable footwear
- Carry adequate clothing
- Be aware of other users on the route, particularly cyclists who may be approaching from behind

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**Cycle Safety**

Observe the following few simple safety precautions:

- Wear a helmet
- Ensure that your cycle is roadworthy
- Observe signs and notices along the route
- Be courteous to other Trail users, especially young or elderly pedestrians
The illustrations below indicate the main signs you are likely to encounter along the route.

- **NEW TOWN TRAIL** Marker Posts
- **National Cycle Route Signing**
- **Toucan Crossing**
- **Route recommended for Pedal Cyclists**
- **CYCLISTS DISMOUNT**

**Planning your journey**
The Irvine and Kilwinning New Town Trail is approximately 12 miles long (19 kilometres) and is predominantly flat along its length. The overview map on pages 6 and 7 shows the general line of the route. Maps A to H give more detailed information, including notes that will help you complete your journey safety.

**Key to symbols used on the Route Maps**
- **New Town Trail**
- **New Town Trail/National Cycle Network Shared Sections**
- **Other Routes**
- **Road**
- **Railway, with Station**
- **River**
- **Park or Recreation Area**
- **Built-up Area**
- **Car Parking**
- **Viewpoint**
- **Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve**
Sights and Features

- Bird watching at Garnock Floods – the route passes this popular birdwatching location.
- Enjoy seeing the wild flowers and butterflies on the Town Moor.
- Visit the Powder House: part of the local history of the area.
- Look out for views of Irvine’s churches from around the route.
- View Kilwinning Abbey from the route.
- Discover the Maritime Museum and Magnum Leisure Centre.
- Call in to the Eglinton Park Visitor Centre: visit the Castle and Gardens.
- Other things to look out for are the stunning views of Arran and the local rivers.

Eglinton Country Park

The Trail runs for some 3 miles (5 kilometres) through Eglinton Country Park. The park offers numerous opportunities and facilities for leisure and recreation.

Within the Park you can take a quiet walk through the woods, around the loch or along the River Lugton in the gardens looking out for a variety of trees, flowers, birds or insect life.

Bring along a picnic and relax on the castle lawn or near the Visitor Centre whilst the children enjoy the play areas.

If you want to explore Eglinton by bike, a good network of suitable paths exists within the park.

Coarse angling is available at Eglinton Loch and there is a bridleway system for horse riders. Permits are required for both, and can be obtained at the Visitor Centre.

Discover the story of Eglinton Estate, site of the famous Eglinton Tournament.

The Visitor Centre is the starting point for finding out what’s on; including Ranger led walks and activities.

Irvine

Irvine is the principal town and commercial centre of North Ayrshire. A royal burgh since 1372, the town has a rich maritime heritage.
Along the Route

It functioned as the chief port for Glasgow until the 18th century when the River Clyde was deepened and Port Glasgow was developed.

Historical connections include Mary Queen of Scots who is celebrated annually with the week-long Marymass Festival in August.

Robert Burns lived in Glasgow Vennel in Irvine and the town was the birthplace of author John Gait and the poet James Montgomery.

One of Scotland’s five new towns in the 1960s, today the town is a diverse mixture of old and new architectural styles, with excellent shopping and commercial facilities.

Irvine has an array of leisure facilities and developments including the Magnum Leisure Centre and the Scottish Maritime Museum.

**Kilwinning**

With a history stretching back almost 1400 years Kilwinning is dominated by the remains of the 12th century abbey and this landmark is the most outstanding feature of the local skyline.

Kilwinning was home to the poet Robert Service, known as the Bard of the Yukon, who is revered in Canada in the same way that Scots remember Robert Burns.

Information

**National Cycle Network**

The National Cycle Network is a major project that has developed 10,000 miles of high quality, signposted cycle routes.

North Ayrshire has two national cycle routes running through its Area. National cycle route 7 runs roughly north to south through North Ayrshire, close to many of the area’s major settlements. Whilst national cycle route 73 runs east from Irvine to link to Kilmarnock in East Ayrshire as well as west to Ardrossan, Arran and onto the Mull of Kintyre. For more information contact:

**Sustrans**

Telephone 0131 624 7660

www.sustrans.org.uk

**Car Parking**

Car parking is available at Eglinton Park as well as other locations around the route. The maps identify where cars may be parked.

**Rail Services**

Train services are frequent and are available a short distance from the New Town Trail route. Contact:

**Scotrail**

Telephone 0845 7484950

www.scotrail.co.uk

Bicycles are carried free on all Strathclyde Passenger Transport supported rail services. Booking is not required, but cyclist’s cooperation is requested in avoiding travelling at peak periods where possible.

**Bus Services**

The Trail is well served by local bus services. Contact:

**Traveline Scotland**

Telephone 0870 6082608

Strathclyde Passenger Transport

www.spt.co.uk