









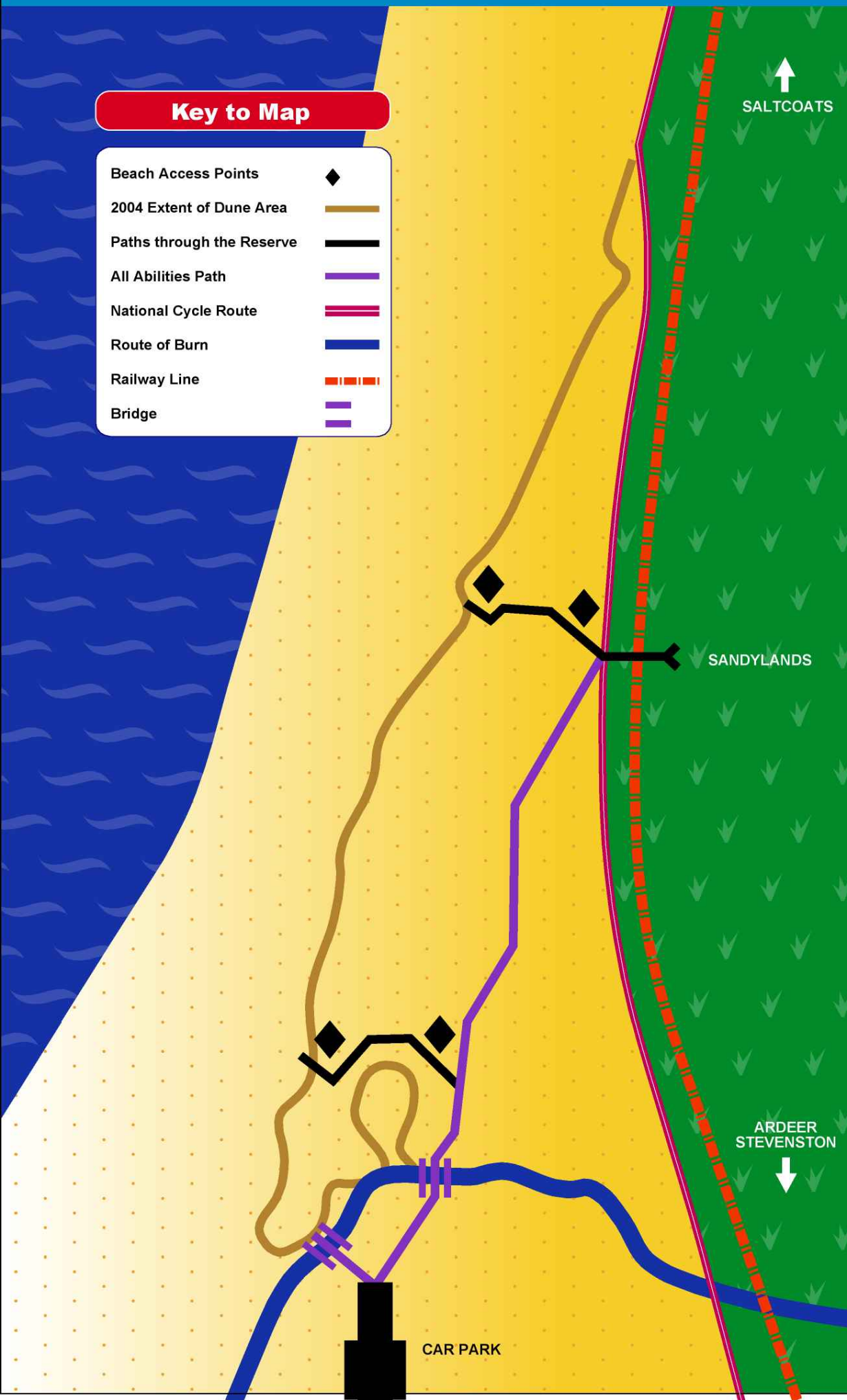
# Stevenston Beach Local Nature Reserve



**NORTH AYRSHIRE  
COUNCIL**

## Key to Map

- Beach Access Points 
- 2004 Extent of Dune Area 
- Paths through the Reserve 
- All Abilities Path 
- National Cycle Route 
- Route of Burn 
- Railway Line 
- Bridge 



*Common Seal*



*Golden Plover*



*Red-breasted Merganser*



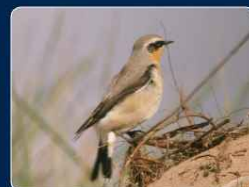
*Whimbrel and Curlew*



*Iceland Gull*



*Goldeneye*



*Wheatear*



*Gannet*

*Photographs by Robert Lambie*



## What is a Local Nature Reserve?

The sand dune system at Stevenston Beach was declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) by North Ayrshire Council in 1998. An LNR is a place with special local natural interest, set up to protect nature and for people to enjoy and appreciate.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) can be all sorts of places including woodlands, wetlands, meadows or as in this case, sand dunes. They provide wild spaces where plants and animals, both common and rare, can thrive. They offer a natural environment that are still readily accessible to people.

## All Abilities Path and Bridge

The bridge and path through the Reserve are part of the Council's efforts to ensure that the Reserve is accessible to all while still protecting the fragile environment.

These works now enable people of all abilities to access the beach and enjoy the experience of the Reserve and hopefully spot some of the wide range of birds and plants that inhabit the dunes and beach.

## Other Routes in North Ayrshire

For information on other routes in North Ayrshire contact Eglinton Country Park Visitor Centre on **01294 551776** or visit [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/outdooraccess](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/outdooraccess)

For further information on the National Cycle Network Route 73 between Kilmarnock and Ardrossan contact Sustrans on **0131 539 8122** or visit [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)



## 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.

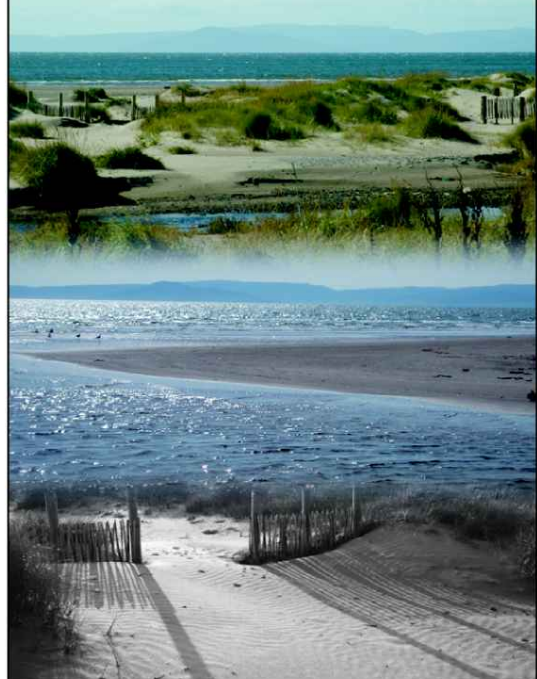
Find out more by visiting [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office on **01292 261392**.

For further information on Outdoor Access visit: [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/outdooraccess](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/outdooraccess) or telephone the Access officers on **01294 225100**

Developed in partnership by



# Stevenston Beach Local Nature Reserve



[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/outdooraccess](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/outdooraccess)

## Dune System

Sand dune systems are fast disappearing throughout the country, partly due to the changes in climate and partly due to human activity.

Dunes develop as a result of processes involving the movement of sand and other particles by wind and water.

In coastal areas of Scotland, plants, particularly dune grass are important in helping the entrapment of wind blown sand. These areas provide a valuable habitat for many species of wildlife.

By their nature sand dunes are unstable and prone to erosion if the surface vegetation is disturbed.



## Dune Conservation

Erosion is the most significant threat to sand dunes. The major impacts are from excessive trampling, horse riding, lighting fires and use by off road vehicles including motorcycles.

These activities gradually break vegetation and expose the sand to wind action. Unchecked this leads to blow outs and can result in massive dune loss.

## Dune Cross-Section



## What you can do to help

The dunes at Stevenston are being managed to combat human erosion and you can help by following these simple guidelines:

- Cross over onto the beach using fenced access paths. On the seaward side these are located using 'black diamond' sign posts.
- Take your litter home
- DO NOT light fires



By following these simple guidelines you can help conserve this fragile habitat for everyone to enjoy.



For further information call North Ayrshire Countryside Ranger Service on **01294 551776**.

