

Points of Interest on the Trail

- 1 Royal Troon Golf Course** is known worldwide for staging the Open Golf Championship. The Clubhouse was built in 1878 and designed by H. E. Clifford, the portico arched windows and cast iron balcony make this Clubhouse unique in Ayrshire.
- 2 The Wrack Road** was the Fullarton Estate service road used by farmers who took their carts down to the shore to collect seaweed for fertiliser. It was also the main road from Troon for any funerals going to Crosbie kirkyard.
- 3 Crosbie Kirk** was built in 1680, and constructed on the site of the original chapel, the name came from the Anglo-Saxon 'Crosbyre', signifying the dwelling of the cross. It had its roof blown off by a fierce gale on the night of 25 January 1759, the same night Robert Burns was born.
- 4 Crosbie Castle**, an ancient fortalice built around 1240, was the original Fullarton home. It was re-built three times using the same square design seen at Dundonald Castle. All that remains today is the Castle's dungeon. The dungeon, which had an underwater river, was an ideal cold storage cellar and became known as the 'Ice House'.
- 5 Fullarton House** was built in 1745 by Colonel William Fullarton, soldier, student of agriculture and good friend of Robert Burns. The mansion was eventually demolished in 1966, however the stable block, a later addition was saved and turned into a picturesque development in the 1970's.
- 6 Colleenan Reservoir** Originally supplied water for Troon, this reservoir was replaced in 1960's by a direct pipeline from Loch Braddan in the Galloway Forest Park. It is now used by the Troon Fishing Club. **BEWARE OF ANGLERS BACK-CASTING.**
- 7 Merkland Loch**, now virtually overgrown, was once used by the local people for curling. The Dundonald Curling Club was founded in 1820. There was a strong rivalry between the Symington and Dundonald Curling Clubs.
- 8 Dundonald Wood** is dominated by elm and ash trees plus larch. Since 1975 Dundonald Wood has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is a designated Ancient Woodland.
- 9 Dundonald Castle & Visitors Centre.** The Castle is a fortified tower house built for King Robert II on his accession to the throne of Scotland in 1371 and it was used as a royal residence by the early Stuart kings for the next 150 years. It was said to be Robert II's favourite residence and it was here that he died in 1390. The Visitor Centre is open during the summer season. Car parking is available all year round.

The Main Men



David Dunlop was the miller at Schullloch Mill, at the crossroads of Loans. He married the daughter of John Dickie, who had founded the Loans smuggling company in 1740s. Now the smugglers were known as David Dunlop & Co. The company traded successfully for over 40 years. David died in 1804 aged 65 and is buried in Dundonald churchyard.

William Stuart lived at Collennan. Before 1765 he visited the Isle of Man regularly, tasting brandy and rum to ensure that it was a suitable quality for the Loans smugglers. In 1774 he sent 20 hogsheds of tobacco from Ayr to Bergen in Norway where it was re-packaged ready for the wherry journey to Troon. Two years later he was recommended to a Glasgow tobacco merchant as 'a very good man'!

Troon & Firth of Clyde

The Smugglers' Trail

The Smugglers' Trail leads from South Beach, Troon,

along the Wrack Road across Royal Troon Golf Course, past Crosbie Kirk and through Fullarton Woods

From the Main Street, Loans the trail crosses ancient woodland and enjoys stunning views over the Firth of Clyde. This historic route has been in regular use from early times including by those famous smugglers.

An easy to moderate woodland and coastal walk the incline sharpens to 1:6 in places. The walk takes about 2 hours. Sensible footwear is advised.

The Outdoor Access Code

When you are in the outdoors:

- 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

or call your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

Acknowledgements

Smugglers' Incorporated

The Smugglers' Trail was developed in collaboration with Dundonald, Loans and Troon Community Council's with South Ayrshire Council's assistance.



South Ayrshire Health and Environment Trust



TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Design: Ocean Agency.co.uk

The Smugglers

Virtually everyone in the Parish of Dundonald was linked to the 18th century smuggling trade. This was highly organised by David Dunlop so that the Loans Smuggling Company was the most successful in Scotland.



Before 1765, tea, brandy, wine, rum and tobacco were purchased in the Isle of Man and shipped to the Troon by wherry. Later in the century these goods came directly from Europe.

About 16 small boats were kept permanently on the beach to unload the illicit cargo. This was a lucrative trade: the value of one cargo seized by the revenue officers was £2,000 - £120,000 at today's prices.



When a wherry was expected, news spread from house to house and local men, with up to 500 horses, would assemble on the beach ready to carry the contraband inland as speedily as possible.

One route was through Dundonald Glen.



Fullarton House (1745 - 1966)

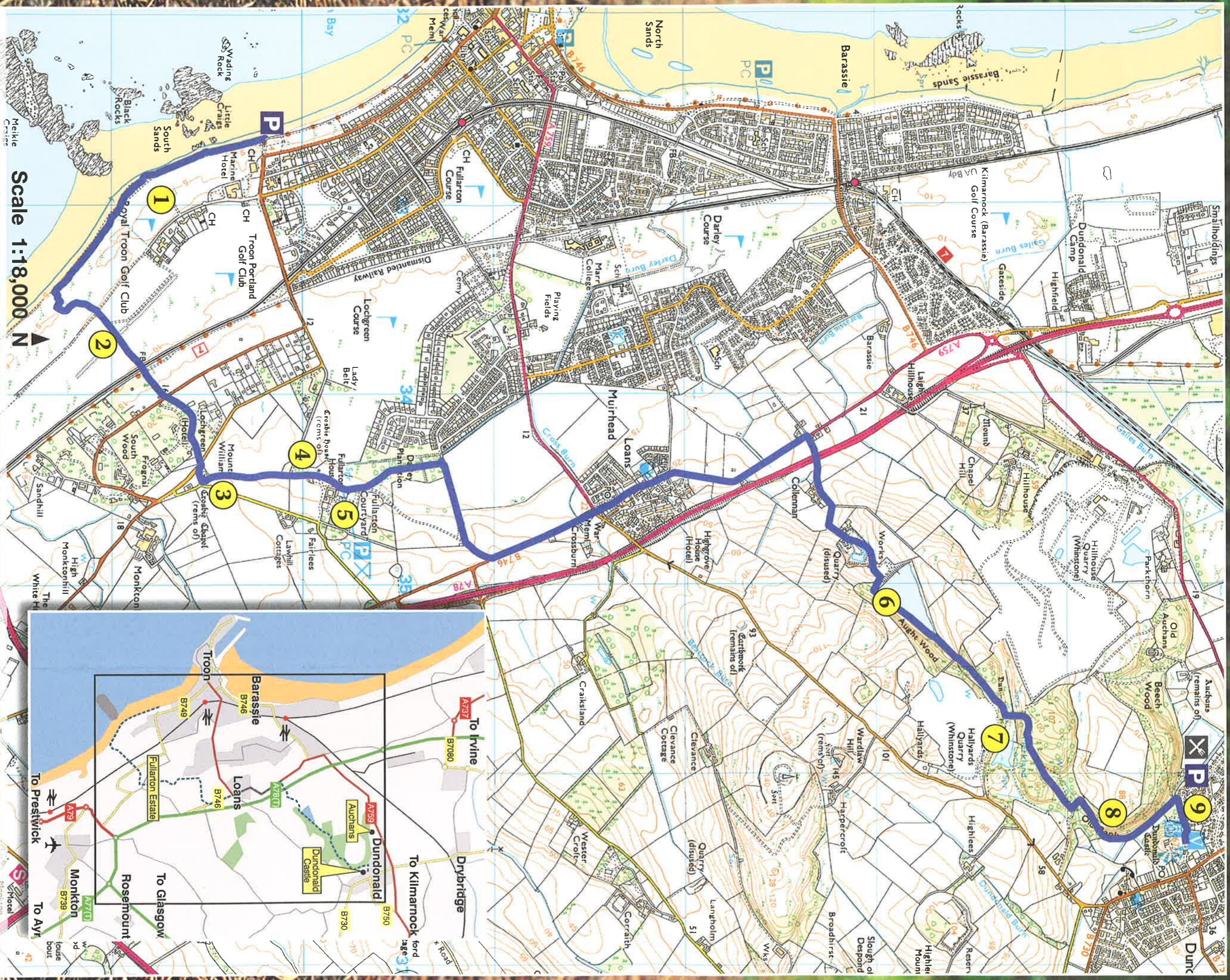
The Revenue Officers

The customs and excise officers, based at Ayr and Irvine, endeavoured to put a stop to this trade. The smugglers had obtained a lease of the pasture land at the Troon from the Fullarton family and this gave them control of the beach and surrounding area.

The Collectors of Customs at Ayr believed that the only way to prevent the smuggling was to lodge a squad of officers and soldiers at the Temple on Troon Point. The Fullartons declined these requests because they were loath to lose the high rents paid by the smugglers.

Despite the intricate lookout system, informers often forewarned the revenue officers of an intended smuggling run. Even when supported by the local dragoons, the officers would be outmanoeuvred by the smugglers. Sometimes they were attacked and tied up by the women folk after a seizure had been made. The officers were only released once the goods had been carried away safely.

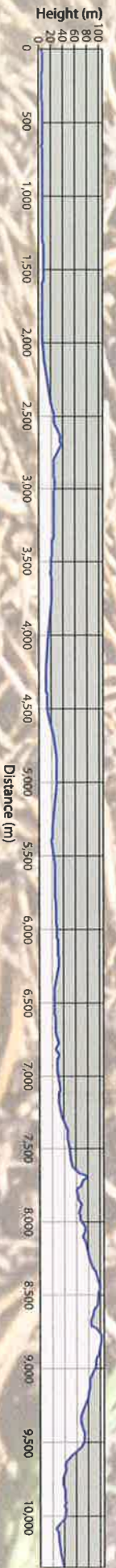




Scale 1:18,000 N

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Smugglers' Trail Route Profile



- 1:6 MAX GRADIENT
- 80 HEIGHT GAIN (m)
- 2 TIME (hr)
- 8 DISTANCE (km)