



Tunbridge filmy fern

Balmoral Ride

Woodlands, gorges and views

5km (1½ - 2 hrs) **Waymarked blue arrows**

Along this trail you can see some of the best views on the island looking out over Brodick Bay. A large part of the trail follows a carriageway that led to one of the four Bavarian summerhouses around the castle grounds. The only one to survive today is in the castle gardens, decorated on the inside with pine cones collected from the grounds.

Descending steeply down the Merkland Burn path, there are fantastic water-carved shapes in the rocks of the gorge. Hidden in the overhangs grows the moss-like Tunbridge filmy fern, each leaf the size of a 10 pence piece.



Cnocan Burn

A walk around Cnocan

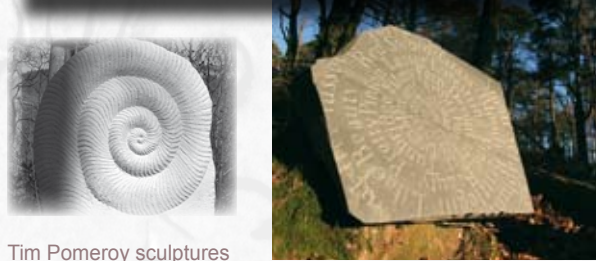
Waterfalls, ruins and rhododendrons

2.5km (50 mins) **Waymarked purple arrows**

Follow the path to the Easceanoch Bridge. Here you get a clear view of a grand sandstone bridge thought to have been designed by Telford. Below are hanging valleys of mosses and liverworts.

Climbing up the Cnocan Gorge you pass long-leaved rhododendrons including *Rhododendron magnificum*. This frost-intolerant plant survives in the protection of the gorge, its pink flowers creating a spectacular display in late January.

The pools in the burn were probably a favourite bathing spot for previous inhabitants of Brodick. At the top of the gorge there is a picnic table with superb views across Glen Rosa to Brodick Bay.



Tim Pomeroy sculptures

Dan's Walk

Rocky outcrops and sculptures

2.7km (50 mins) **Waymarked green arrows**

Dan's Walk is named after an Arran naturalist who started the conservation of Merkland Wood. Since the 1970s locals, volunteers and staff have helped to clear *Rhododendron ponticum* from the woods. This invasive plant shaded out wildflowers and prevented the regeneration of native trees. Today the woodland is beginning to recover.

The path winds through mature oaks and huge sandstone boulders carved by ancient seas. Look out for the sculptures by renowned Arran artist Tim Pomeroy reflecting on the woodland.

The mild, wet conditions are excellent for native ferns clinging to the crevices of Merkland Gorge.

The National Trust for Scotland is an independent charity with the aim of conserving, managing and promoting Scotland's cultural and natural heritage.

Brodick

ISLE OF ARRAN

the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for everyone

Trails Guide



The trails are managed by The National Trust for Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland. Trail surfaces vary throughout the Country Park. Please wear stout footwear as paths can be muddy during wet periods.

A mountain bike trail is indicated by bike signs on the map, and posts on the ground. Please cycle the route anti-clockwise and respect walkers.

You are free to walk through the Castle Parks fields, but please be aware that the fields are grazed by Highland cattle during the summer months. Cows with calves can react aggressively towards people so please keep at a safe distance. If you have a dog with you please avoid the fields at these times.

The Ranger Service offers a range of guided walks, open days and workshops during the summer. To find out more please contact the Ranger Service on the number below.

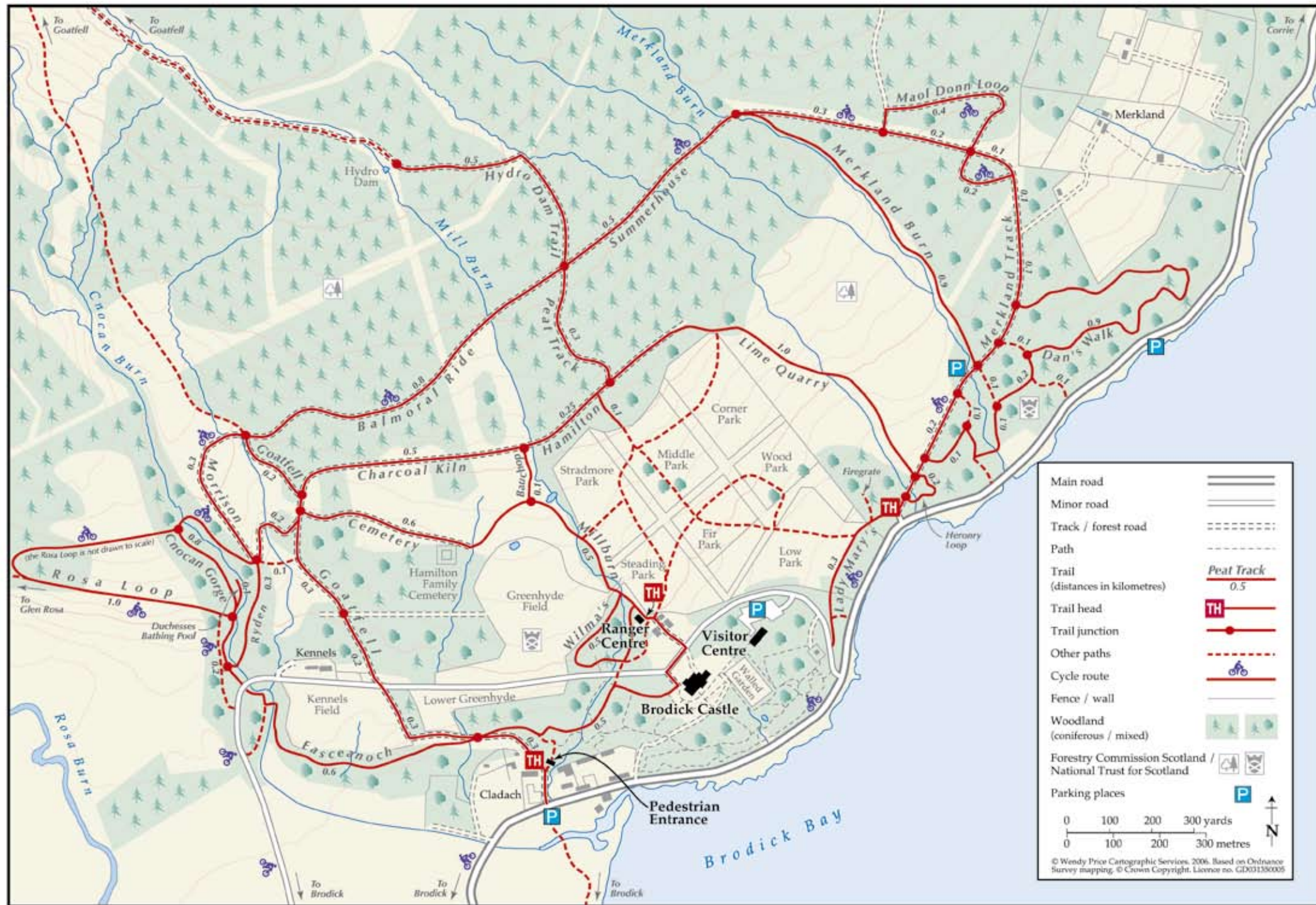
Please support the Trust by becoming a member.
Tel: 01770 302462 (Brodick Rangers)
Website: www.nts.org.uk

Maps by Wendy Price.

Photos by Liz Miller, Tim Pomeroy and Graeme Walker.
Leaflet designed by NTS Education & Interpretation Department.



3070 MP 20m 12/06 / Recognised Charity No SC 007410



Explore Brodick Country Park

Our trails take you through native woodlands, past dramatic gorges and provide magnificent views across Brodick Bay. You are free to walk where you wish, so take your time to wander and soak up the atmosphere.

The fields and woods are managed for Arran's wildlife. In the fields we maintain hedgerows, wildflower meadows, rough grasslands and crops to encourage birds. Great efforts have been made to remove *Rhododendron ponticum* from the woodlands and to regenerate native tree species.

The forestry plantations in this area are managed by Forestry Commission Scotland. Planted in the early 1970s, they will be harvested for commercial use in the next 20 years. Scots pine and broadleaves such as oak, hazel and ash will be planted in their place to benefit wildlife, the landscape and visitors. Barn owls, red squirrels, long-eared bats, otters and badgers all live in this wonderful mix of habitats.

Rhododendron ponticum



What's in a name?

The trails have a mixture of old and new names – some after archaeological features and others after people, both historical and more recent. The children at Brodick primary school have named many of the trails. You'll find these signposted with their logo.

Lime Quarry: Lime was dug here for use on fields.

Charcoal Kiln: Near the junction with the Goatfell Track you can see the remains of a kiln that was used to make charcoal from rhododendrons.

Summerhouse: Four Victorian summerhouses were built in the castle grounds. One stood at the Merkland Burn.

Dan's Walk: Named for Danny McNicol, a renowned Arran naturalist.

Bauchop: Robert Bauchop produced the first detailed map of the island in 1811.

Mill Burn: The water has been used for many centuries to power the sawmill, castle and now a hydro-electric station at Cladach.

Merkland Bridge

