

Extinct volcanoes and lavas of the Campsie Fells



Where is this?

On the John Muir Way/Strathkelvin Railway Path at **Strathblane**. The path starts opposite the village church (postcode G63 9AB) at a car park on south side of the A891 just east of the roundabout junction with A81. The rocky mound of Dunglass is about 1.5 km/1 mile along the path.

What will you see there?

Dunglass (above) and Dumgoyne, a well-known landmark at the western end of the Campsies, are examples of distinct steep peaks of harder basalt rock which are the necks or plugs of extinct volcanoes. These defensible sites are called dun, Gaelic for fort.

These were sources of a few of the 33 separate eruptions that produced the lava flows forming the Campsies around 300 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. Earthquakes stretched and cracked the Earth's crust allowing lava to erupt through vents and flow over the land. At Dunglass the lava formed columnar jointing as it cooled. From SWT Loch Ardinning reserve on the A81 between Milngavie and Strathblane you can see both Dumgoyne and the terraced layer-cake effect on the Campsies, with each terrace a separate lava flow.

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