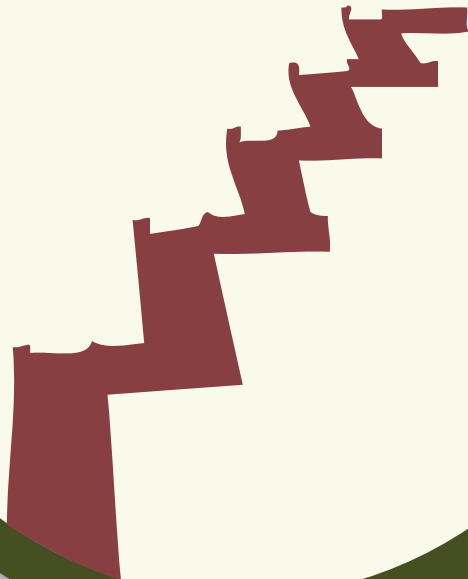


# AFTON DAM ROUTE



This anticlockwise path around the reservoir takes you up the 176 steps to the top of the dam. After crossing over a bridge at its farthest end you will come across the ruins of Monthraw, a site with its own story to tell.

*"The lone Monthraw,  
where man never heard,  
his neighbour's cock crow."*

Excavations for the reservoir commenced in 1931 following a 1929 Act of Parliament that allowed County Councils to distribute water on a wider scale than individual parish schemes had done previously. At first it was named Monthraw Reservoir, later becoming Afton Water Works and finally Glenafton Reservoir.

The views, particularly down the glen, are stunning on a clear day and the walks from the reservoir enable you to explore a landscape which is rich with historical references. The valley was a refuge for Robert the Bruce and nearby Castle William, a rocky outcrop, has connections to William Wallace.

Time = 1 hour 20 minutes (full circular route)

Length approx. 3.4 miles or 5.42 km

Route - Start from Glenafton Reservoir, six miles along the Afton Rd, which is reached by taking the B741, Dalmellington Rd out of New Cumnock.

The main track takes you past the start of the walk up to Castle William and on to the 176 steps that must be climbed to reach the top of the

dam. The anticlockwise path round the reservoir includes sections of open ground and woodland. After crossing over a bridge at its farthest end, you will come across the ruins of Monthraw on your left. This makes a good turning point if you wish to avoid the difficult wet and steep sections of path that complete the circuit on the east side of the reservoir.

Navigation (1 least skill/5 most skill) = 3

Stamina (1 least/5 most) = 4

Mobility (1 least/5 most) = 4

The East Ayrshire Coalfield Environment Initiative was able to improve these paths during 2012 thanks to funding from Ayrshire LEADER and the Cumnock and Doon Valley Minerals Trust.

The East Ayrshire Coalfield Environment Initiative (CEI) is a partnership between local authority, conservation bodies and industry, working together to enhance, conserve and promote the environment in East Ayrshire.

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