

Machrie to Lagg - 11.5miles (18.5km)

summer's morning. Many stone circles are aligned in this way, and the changing seasons would have been much more important to ancient man - and so the circles could have been an astronomical clock used to mark the seasons.



After walking back to the main road the route now carries along south until you reach a clearing in the forest to the right of the main road where there is a car park. From here, they way takes you back to the shore and on towards the Kings's cave. This cave which sits about 8M above sea level was formed about 6000 years ago. This is the place where Robert the Bruce fled, after murdering his rival John

Comyn at the alter of Greyfriars Abbey. After fleeing from this gruesome act Bruce hid out in a series of caves. It is here that he was supposed to have been inspired by the tenacity of a spider spinning its web. In fact the spider story was made up by Walter Scott and despite the story that Bruce was fleeing from the English, it was more likely that he was hiding from fellow Scots who disapproved of the murder of Comyn. Historically the caves have been inhabited for a long time, and there are Pictish as well as Christian carvings on the walls. These consist of early Christian religious images, and Pictish symbols. When you reach the cave you will see that the main cave has been closed off from the public by the means of a large iron gate, however more information about access to this cave can be had at the Brodick Tourist Information centre.



The cliffs here and further along at Drumadoon point are known geologically as Sills. These sills are harder than the rocks into which they have intruded, and as erosion has worn away those surrounding weaker rocks the sills have been left standing 'proud'. These sills form the steep 'steps' in the landscape and have also shaped the waterfalls for which the area is well known.- the rivers cannot erode the hard sills as rapidly as the surrounding rock, and over time waterfalls have been created where water flows over junctions between the two rocks.

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On the headland at Drumadoon is the iron age fort (Doon fort). The Doon occupies a commanding position on the headland. The impressive cliffs on the seaward side give sufficient protection there, but on the landward side a single wall, about 10ft thick originally, encloses the entire summit, an area of nearly 12 acres, There is very little to be seen of the original fort now.

The way continues along towards the outskirts of the community of Blackwaterfoot. Pass through Shiskine golf course which was originally a 9 nine hole golf course laid out in 1896. Plans to expand the course into an 18 hold course were abandoned after the first world war but the course was extended by another 3 holes to make it an unusual 12 holes in total. The club house is open to the public and is a good place to stop, refuel with coffee and delicious scones and watch the golfers teeing off from the first tee.



A short stroll leads to Blackwaterfoot harbour. At the end of the "string" road that was built by the famous engineer Thomas Telford in 1817 that cuts across the island from Brodick, this little place is a hive of activity - at least during the summer months. The largest building is the Kinloch hotel which sits behind the little harbour. Apart from a shop and the harbour there is very little to Blackwaterfoot. From this point on to Lagg the way follows the shoreline and can be frustrating as the "way" is little more than a slog over boulders and rough ground. The main road carries on over the hill and offers lovely views over to the Ailsa Craig lying to the south. Ailsa Craig was the source for the fine granite that was used to make curling stones which were exported all over



the world. The island is now uninhabited, and the quarry long since disused. The island is now a bird sanctuary with large numbers of gannets nesting here after a population of rats that lived on the island were eradicated. Also, a growing number of puffins are choosing to return to the island from nearby Glunimore and Sheep Islands. There is a saying that the