

## DISCOVER THE PAST

Kilsyth is steeped in history with Dumbreck Marsh in the thick of it. The site has come full circle from its beginnings as a wetland area in the Neolithic age to Local Nature Reserve you see today. There is little to remind us of the industrial past, however, if you follow the Heritage Trail, the landscape does reveal its secrets.

The Dock Water channel, dug over 300 years ago, helped drain the wetland and improve the area for agriculture. Dumbreck Farm supported cows, sheep, and pigs and in time would supply ponies for working in Dumbreck Coal Mine!

Dumbreck Colliery opened in 1887 and finally closed in 1967. Some of the miners still live locally and contributed to the filming of *"Dumbreck Past, Present and Future."* The Mineral Bridges formed part of the Mineral Railway network connecting mines to the Kelvin Valley Railway Line and the Forth and Clyde Canal. The Old Bing is now a Forest.



Sand Martin wall at Dumbreck Marsh

## ENJOY THE PRESENT

The construction of an artificial Sand Martin Wall provided much needed nesting habitat for these summer migrants. They now successfully breed here each year. Their ariel display over the water is mesmerising but please don't get too close and scare them away.

## WHAT NEXT?

The management plan for Dumbreck Marsh promotes winter pasture. Cattle grazing keeps vegetation short, encouraging wildflowers and improving biodiversity. We created shallow pools to enhance the area for Lapwings, (you might know them as *"Peewits"*), and included bare earth scrapes to attract insects and reptiles.

Most of the site is flat and suitable for bikes or buggies, although some areas are prone to puddling in wet weather. In addition, there is a seasonal un-surfaced path that follows the route of the meanders with lovely views of the rippling water and tranquil pools.



## TRAVEL

Dumbreck Marsh is a short walk from the bus stop on Airdrie Road, Kilsyth.

**Bus:** routes include 35, 88C, 89, 89B, 147, 344, 344A, 344D, 344E, 435, and 344B.

**Train:** nearest Croy Station. Use the ScotRail website or app for train times.

**Car:** kerbside parking on Garrell Road G65 9JX. Car Park Gavell Road (off Glasgow Road 803)

To plan your journey check transportation apps for bus routes and schedules.

The Heritage Trail forms part of a larger digital trail, which together with the Film, can be accessed using the QR code.

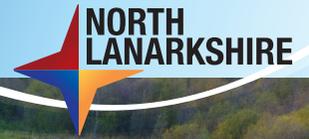
Photographs courtesy of Malcolm Gillies and Getty Images.



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# Dumbreck Marsh LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



## A SPECIAL PLACE

Dumbreck Marsh, with its series of ponds and waterways, provides valuable wetland habitat within the Kelvin Valley. Combined with hedgerows, open grassland, wildflower meadows, and woodlands it is a haven for wildlife, many of which are included in the North Lanarkshire Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Together with the improved path network and seating added at various scenic points along the route, this Local Nature Reserve in Kilsyth is well worth a visit.

In 2022 The Dumbreck and Garrell River Restoration Project realigned the Garrell Burn, introducing two fish ladders and establishing a more natural meandering flow through the site, which saw the return of Salmon to the waters following an absence of almost a century! The Salmon Sculpture, developed through a series of creative community workshops with the young people of Kilsyth, celebrates the restoration of the Garrell Burn and tells the story of a flourishing natural environment.

## THE KILSYTH BIG FIVE

-  **Barn Owl**
-  **Kingfisher**
-  **Otter**
-  **Salmon**
-  **Sand Martin**



# Dumbreck Marsh

