

Explore historic King's Cave, find evidence of sea-level change, dramatic igneous intrusions, and discover the prints of the mysterious 'hand-beast' – which walked here over 200 million years ago.

**Distance :** 8 km / 5 miles

**Approximate time:** 3.5 hours

**Start:** King's Cave Car Park

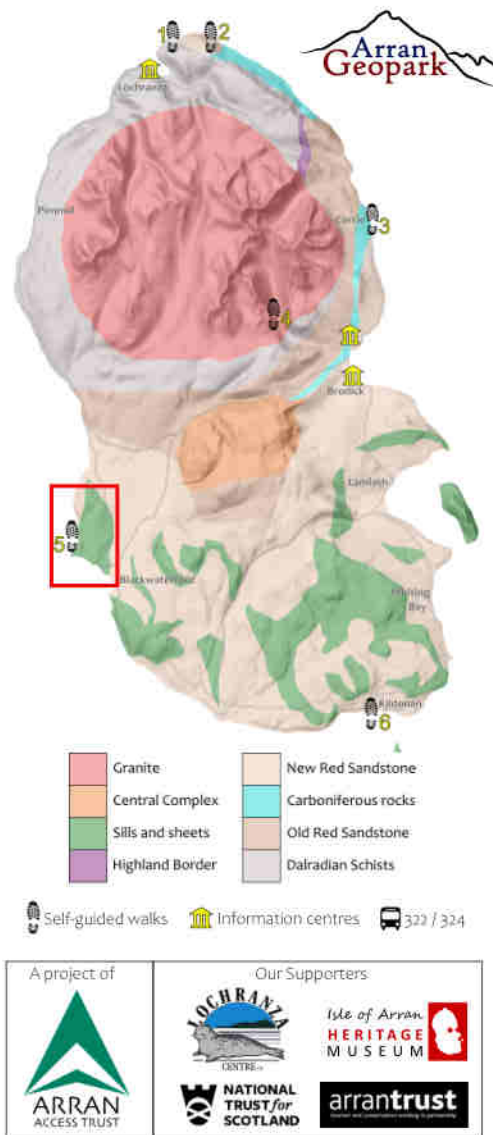
**Terrain:** Surfaced paths and grassy paths, which may be wet in places.

**Route description:** Follow the waymarked route, initially north, into woodland. Continue along path to reach the shore. Follow coastal path via King's Cave towards Drumadoon – look out for Geopark marker posts. Return via the signposted path to the car park.

For information on our interpretation centres, guided walks and other events please visit:

[www.ArranGeopark.co.uk](http://www.ArranGeopark.co.uk)

Arran Geopark is a project of the Arran Access Trust  
Scottish Charity number SC029027.



## Walk 5 King's Cave & Drumadoon

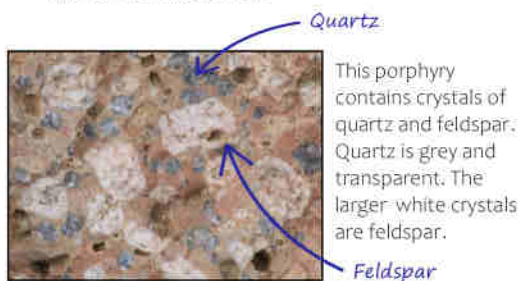


# King's Cave and Drumadoon

This walk takes you through the spectacular and varied geology of the King's Cave coastline. See igneous intrusions, evidence for sea-level change, and find the footprints of the mysterious 'hand beast'.

## 1 An Cumhann dyke

The rock you're now standing on is one of 'Judd's dykes' – a series of magmatic intrusions described by J. W. Judd in 1893. It is an igneous rock known as a 'porphyry', meaning it contains large crystals in a fine-grained matrix. This intrusion is connected to the main Drumadoon sill.

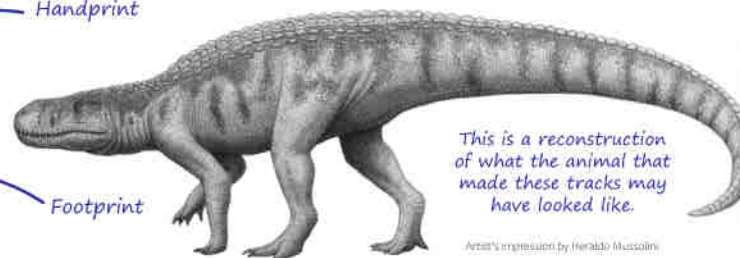


## 2 King's Cave

King's Cave is one of several large caves eroded into the New Red Sandstone along this coast. They were worn away by the sea at a time when ice covered much of Scotland. After the glaciers melted and the weight of the ice was lifted, Arran began to rise relative to the sea, leaving a feature known as a 'raised shoreline'. There are carvings on the walls of the cave that date to the Iron Age and early Christian times. Look for crosses, deer, and a group of snakes.

## 3 Chirotherium footprint

At the end of this path you will find a small vertical rock face with several footprints. These belong to a large reptile that lived at the time of the earliest dinosaurs. The name *Chirotherium* means 'hand beast', because the prints look like giant hands – although the digit that points to the side is not its thumb but its outside toe.

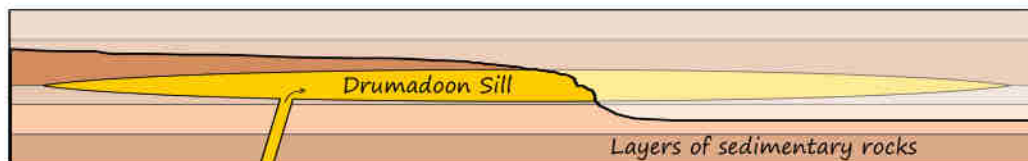


## 4 Drumadoon Sill

The spectacular cliffs of the Doon are made up of igneous rock like you saw at An Cumhann. The magma was intruded as a sill, meaning that it squeezed its way horizontally between layers of sedimentary rocks. As you walk along the shore below the sill, you get a closer view of the large blocks that have fallen from the cliffs. You should be able to identify quartz and feldspar again. Look for blobs of orange material in the rock, this is a different magma that mixed with the porphyry while both were still molten.



The vertical columns are formed as the magma cools and contracts. The boulders below the cliffs are columns that have fallen – some are hexagonal. See if you can find any.



The Drumadoon sill was formed from molten rock that squeezed its way between layers of sedimentary rock. This magma slowly cooled and formed the rock that you can see in the cliffs today.

