

Fleet Valley National Scenic Area

Follow the course of the Water of Fleet from the heather hilltops as it cuts its way unseen through the steep valley clothed in oak woods. Glimpse the river as it meanders through the rich farmland pastures until it reaches the historic gem of Gatehouse of Fleet.

Water was once the power behind this historic industrial town, which lies at the heart of the National Scenic Area. Now the river reaches the Fleet Bay by canal, spreading out across the vast gleaming intertidal muds and sands.

Geology has formed this landscape, between the granite dome of Cairnsmore of Fleet and the rocky Isles of Fleet, dry stone dykes divide and pattern the landscape.

The Fleet Valley is a living, working landscape. It has been home to people and animals for many thousands of years, and farming continues to shape the landscape of today.



Knocktinkle Viewpoint

Cairnsmore of Fleet dominates the head of the valley and is one of the few Galloway hills to remain unforested from valley to summit. The craggy cliffs of the Clints of Dromore and the abandoned railway viaduct are dramatic landmarks in the landscape. Visitors are welcome at the information centre.

Castramont Wood, the largest ancient oak wood in the valley, provides spectacular colour throughout the year especially in the autumn. In the past it was managed to produce charcoal, but now is renowned for its stunning carpet of bluebells in the Spring.

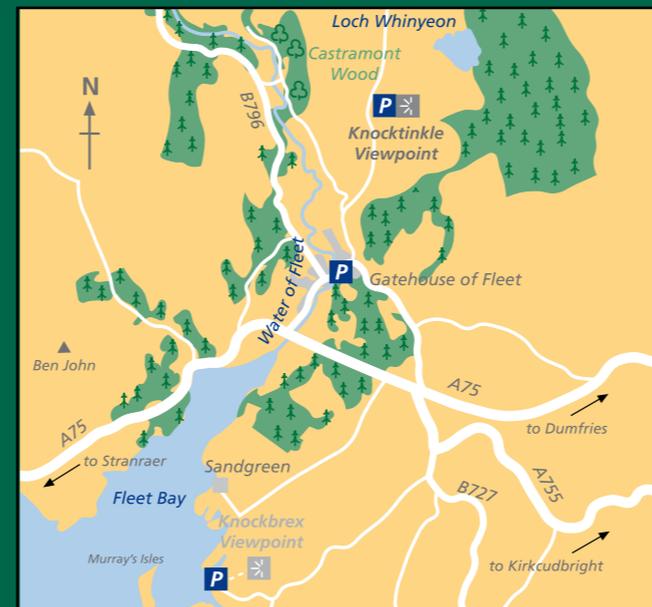
As the valley reaches the coast Rutherford's Monument can be seen silhouetted against the sky. This granite obelisk was erected to the memory of Reverend Samuel Rutherford, who ministered in the parish of Anwoth between 1627 and 1639.

From Knocktinkle viewpoint you can join the circular walk from Laghead to Lagg, or can walk up to Loch Whinyeon, the water source for the many former mills in the town. Visit the restored Mill on the Fleet, now a visitor centre, to find out about walks and to discover more about the Fleet Valley National Scenic Area.

Another spectacular view can be enjoyed at the coastal viewpoint at Knockbrex Hill on the Carrick shore.

How to get there

Take the Laurieston Road from Gatehouse of Fleet. Follow the road for 2¼ miles up through the broadleaved woodland of the valley and cross the cattle grid into open moorland. The viewpoint is just beyond the cattle grid on the eastern side of the road. The viewpoint is signposted from Gatehouse of Fleet.



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Knocktinkle viewpoint is part of a developing network of viewpoints that are being created across the three National Scenic Areas in the region.

The natural place

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National Scenic Areas



Knocktinkle Viewpoint

National Scenic Areas

Enjoy the stunning scenery of the Fleet Valley, its rich history and wonderful wildlife.

From coast to cairns, from lochs to lades, and from crabs to curlews – there is so much to explore it feels like Scotland in miniature!

The area, recognised as one of the most scenic parts of Scotland, has some spectacular views like this one from Knocktinkle, a viewpoint on the open hills surrounding the valley.

The rich mix of sea, rocky coast, river and moorland hills is highly valued by locals and visitors alike, and has inspired many writers and painters. We hope it will inspire you to come and enjoy it too!

