

Outdoor Access Unit • The Gatehouse
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THE riverayr WAY

The Village of Catrine







east ayrshire
just waiting to be enjoyed

East Ayrshire COUNCIL

EAST AYRSHIRE Outdoor Access ...taking the right route

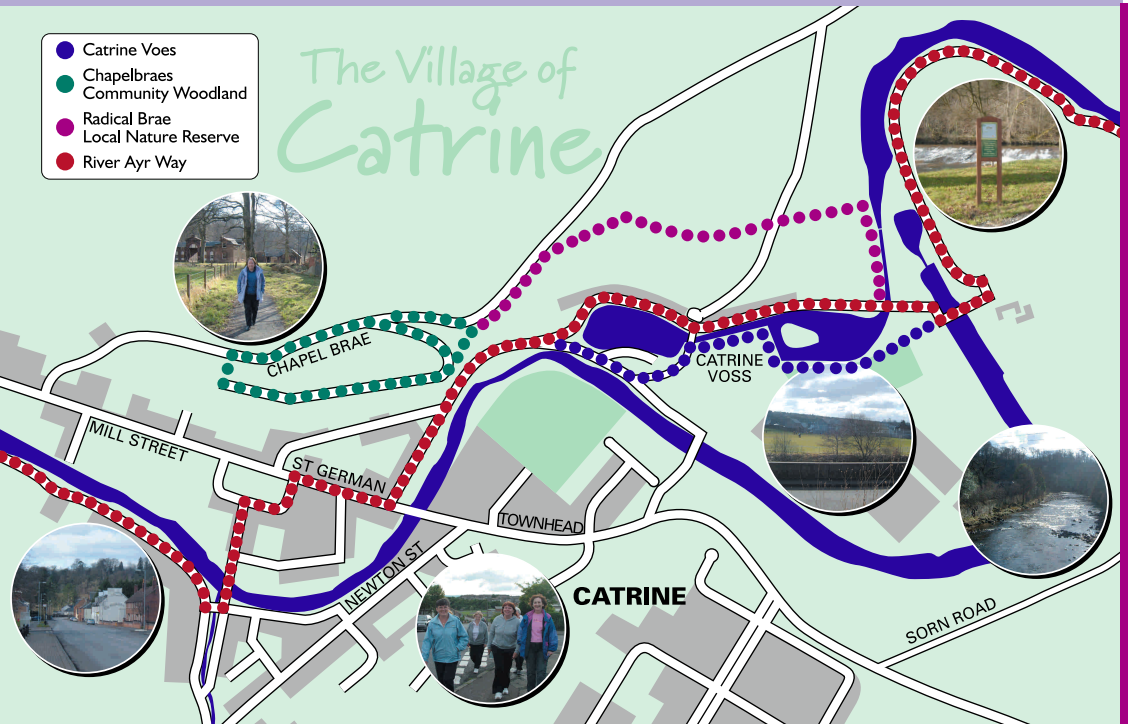




Route 1 - Catrine Voes

In 1787, Claud Alexander and David Dale founded the town of Catrine, based around a rapidly expanding cotton mill that was powered by water from the River Ayr. At its peak the mill employed over 1,000 and was home to the largest and most powerful water-driven wheel in Scotland. Water was taken from the river via a system of Voes, or reservoirs, which regulated the flow of water. The system consists of five reservoirs, valves and sluices which allow draining of the Voes into the River Ayr, a 500m long mill lade, and a 10 foot diameter tunnel stretching from the reservoirs to the site of the former mill. This system of reservoirs powered the cotton mill until the mid 20th century. In 1993, the Catrine Voes and Weir system was designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The site is now used for passive recreation, fishing and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of the town and you can take a short leisurely stroll around the site. The rich natural character of the site has led it to become the basis of the first Local Nature Reserve in East Ayrshire.



Route 2 - Chapelbraes Wood

From the point where Chapel Street meets Ayr Street, you enter Chapelbraes Wood. This is young native species woodland established as part of the Millennium Forest for Scotland initiative.

Ash, oak, birch, rowan and hazel are among the species planted. This provides important habitat for a wide range of insects and birds. Its diverse ground flora includes Burnet saxifrage and agrimony. It is now managed as part of the Catrine Voes Local Nature Reserve.

It is a steeply sloping site offering excellent views across Catrine and the River Ayr Valley. A network of paths and steps has been developed with access from Ayr Street and Chapel Street. The impressive war memorial sits proudly on the skyline

Route 3 - Radical Braes

The radical brae path is a route created to extend the path network from the war memorial at the top of Chapelbraes and to meet the River Ayr Way and Catrine Voes. It gives great views over the whole of Catrine and to Sorn Estate and allows you to walk a circular route around the whole of the Catrine Voes Local Nature Reserve.

Route 4 - River Ayr Way

The River Ayr Way is a 66km route which follows the River Ayr from its source at Glenbuck to the sea at Ayr. Seven local path networks around the villages of Muirkirk, Sorn, Catrine, Mauchline, Annbank, Mossblown, Tarbolton, and Coylton have also been developed to provide local connections and circular routes to further enhance the walking experience in Ayrshire.

The Route enters Catrine from Sorn in the East, on the south bank of the river through the beautiful designed landscape of Sorn Castle Estate. From the designed landscape of Sorn Estate, it follows the river through the grounds of Daldorch House. Daldorch House was once an impressive mansion owned by Professor Dugald Stewart where Burns once "dinner'd wi' a lord". The building and grounds now make up the first school of its type in Scotland owned by the National Autistic Society.

From Daldorch, the route makes its way through the village of Catrine and heads towards the beautiful Ballochmyle Gorge on the south bank of the river.

