

ARDWELL POND WALK

- **Circular woodland and estate walk**
- **3km/1 ½ miles**
- **Allow 1 hour**
- **Grass path and beaten earth, soft in places.**
- **Easy**
- **Stout shoes recommended**

PARKING is available at the car park and picnic site at Chapel Rossan Bay in Ardwell village.

START From the car park, carefully cross the busy A716 to a signpost indicating the start of the walk. Follow the waymarkers through woodland to Ardwell House and Gardens then back to the car park.

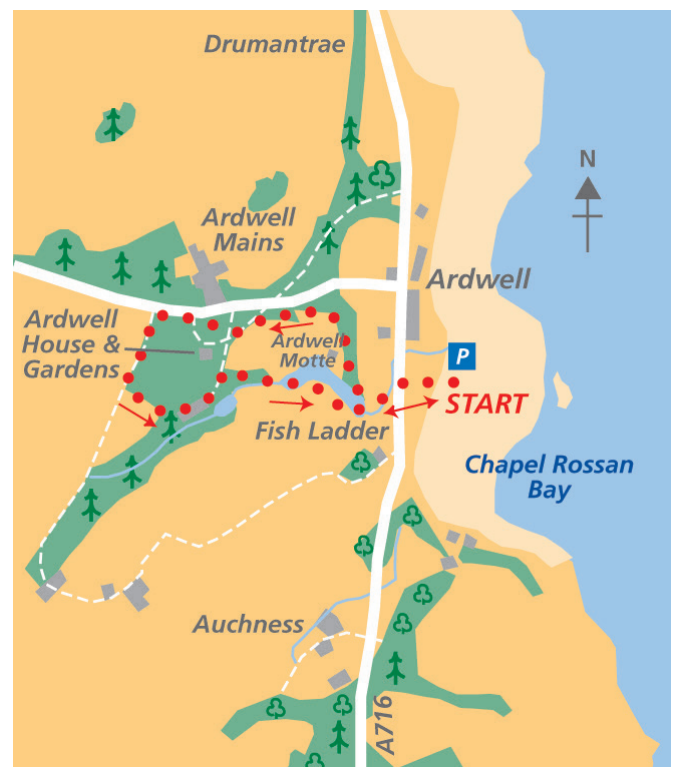
Before you even begin this walk, take time to enjoy the fabulous views from Chapel Rossan Bay. On a good day you can see over the wide expanse of Luce Bay to the Machars and the Galloway hills.

Follow the path through Corsican pines then along the burn to the fish ladder. Turn right, crossing the bridge and continue through attractive, mixed woodland to join the drive to Ardwell House. Built in the 18th century, this elegant house is not open to the public and is still used as a family home. The surrounding gardens and woodland were designed in the early 19th century and some of the oldest trees date from then.

Continue to follow the path as it loops round the house to reach the walled gardens, beautifully laid out with both exotic and traditional plants. The gardens are open to the public from March to September. There is a donation box at the entrance and many plants for sale. A door at the far end leads you to the small pond with its unusual, arched bridge then back onto the main path.

If you do not wish to visit the walled gardens, continue to follow the track and turn right to rejoin the Pond Walk. Continue through woodland to the big pond, created in 1901 by damming the Killaser Burn. Mute swans are regularly seen on the pond and moorhen, with their jerky movements and loud calls, feed amongst vegetation at the edges. The grass-covered motte, clearly visible from here, dates from the 12th century and would originally have had a timber castle built on it.

Follow the path back to the fish ladder then retrace your steps to the car park.



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Leave gates as you find them - Keep dogs under close control at all times - Keep to paths across farmland - Take care on country roads
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls - Respect farm livestock, crops and machinery - Take your litter home with you
Protect wildlife, plants and trees - Guard against risk of fire - Make no unnecessary noise.