

GREEN WALKS IN **CENTRAL DUNBLANE**



Dunblane Walking Routes

When staying at DoubleTree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro, you can explore a choice of great walks among picturesque rural settings. Here's our pick of the best.

Holmehill

Holmehill is the dun (or hilltop fortress) of St Blane, a Celtic missionary who founded Dunblane in 602 AD. A beautiful location, Holmehill is home to a wide variety of trees and local wildlife including roe deer, bats and many species of birds.

Laighhills

Discover a network of paths and a variety of wildlife, particularly in the wetter areas alongside the Allan Water and Scouring burn. In 1828 a well house was erected here for those who came to Dunblane to 'take the waters'.

Riverside Walks

Enjoy a relaxed stroll either side of the Allan Water, including the Memorial Park, Bleaching Green and the 'Faerie Bridge'. Look out for herons, dippers and goosanders. Daubenton's bats hunt insects over the water at dusk in summer.

Ochlochry Park

Enjoy a stroll around this tranquil park with its mature trees and beautiful pond, home to ducks and swans. The pond has been cleaned out and upgraded by local volunteers.

Knockmafuddy & Hydro grounds

Knockmafuddy is a small, secluded area of woodland, to the north of DoubleTree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro, which has a mix of managed parkland and woods.

Changing Seasons

Spring

In spring enjoy snowdrops, celandines and bluebells in the woodlands. Migratory birds, including sand martins, swallows and swifts arrive from the south and start nesting. Watch buzzards soaring overhead.

Summer

Look for pipistrelle bats catching insects at dusk near trees. Resident birds and summer visitors are in full song, breeding and nesting. Soon after, baby birds start edging. Bumblebees abound and painted lady butterflies may arrive after their migration from North Africa. Bees and butterflies can be found feeding on nectar-rich flowers.

Autumn

Swifts, swallows and sand martins depart as the leaves begin to colour for their autumn display. It's also the time of year for picking brambles fruit on Holmehill and in the Laighhills.

Winter

In winter, berries, including holly and rowan, provide food for winter visitors, as well as resident birds such as blackbirds. Look out for redwings, greenfinches, bullfinches, waxwings and fieldfares.

Pick up your detailed walking map at the hotel.