

Kilcreggan Pier to Rosneath Village

East Coast



EAST ROSNEATH PENINSULA HERITAGE TRAIL



Rosneath Peninsula East Heritage Trail

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Common features of Baronies throughout Scotland were: a church, an administrative centre (castle), a Tom a Mhoide (Field of Justice) and a Gallows Hill. The population of a Barony generally centred on a clachan which is a small village or hamlet.

Ecclesiastical History

The date of the first church in Rosneath is not known, but one is referred to in a charter conferred by Alwyn. References are made to "Micheale Gilmodyne, persona Renyt." Alwyn's son, Amelec or Aulay, obtained from his elder brother, Earl Maldowen, a grant of lands that included Neved (Renyf or Rosneath) and gifted the church "with all its pertinents" to the Cluniac monastery of Paisley "in pure and perpetual arms". The grant was later confirmed by Alexander III (1241-1286). Additionally Amelec granted the monks a salt-pan in the lands of Rosneath.

Later, as part of the settlement of a dispute between the Bishop of Glasgow and the Abbot of Paisley it was agreed that the Abbot should present to Rosneath church a chaplain responsible to the Bishop. At this juncture the church of Rosneath was dedicated to Saint Modan, an obscure 7th century Celtic missionary who is believed to have built a church at Rosneath which, after his death, became a repository for his much venerated relics.

The Rosneath Peninsula was originally part of a much larger parish stretching to Loch Lomond and Cardross but it became a separate parish in 1645 with its parish church at Rosneath.

In 1780 a new church was built by heritor and patron John

Campbell, 5th Duke of Argyll (1723 – 1806) for the then Rosneath minister Dr Drummond and it remained in use until the building of the present church in 1853. Its ruined walls still stand in the centre of the old graveyard at the west end of the Clachan. Dr Drummond's grave lies close to the old walls and the graveyard has many interesting memorials.

Over the years the church had several extensions and in 1953 the church, formerly known as Rosneath Parish Church, was re-named St Modan's Church. For more information see separate pamphlet

In 1844, a year after the Disruption, a Free Church was built a mile south of Rosneath on the road to Kilcreggan. It fell out of use after church reunification and was demolished in 1933. Close by is the site of the old water mill demolished in 1913.

Rosneath Castles

The Headland at Castle Point been has been the site of a castle since early times. The original defensive castle evolved and was renovated as a residence by Archibald Campbell, 3rd Duke of Argyll, in 1744. He also undertook various agricultural improvements in line with simultaneous, extensive estate improvements at Inveraray.

The old castle was destroyed by fire in 1803 and his son, George Campbell (later the 6th Duke) embarked upon a rebuilding programme. Ornate estate offices and stables (in Gothic style) were built at Home Farm and an impressive Palladian style castle built on the site of the old ruin. Many considered this to be of superior design to the castle at Inveraray.

The 8th Duke, George Campbell, was a contemporary and personal friend of Queen Victoria. When she visited the

Early History

The first reference to Rosneath dates back to Alwyn, 2nd Earl of Lennox, when his son Amlec (Hamelyn) (b. 1199) possessed the Barony of Rosneath. From his descendants it passed to the Earl of Monteith and was in their possession at the time of David 1st (1124-1153) when the system of land tenure under the Great Seal of Scotland was created. (David came to the throne of Scotland having spent 40 years in the Anglo-Norman court. He strove to give his kingdom uniformity by introducing Norman feudalism - Normans being the inheritors of Roman traditions).

In 1455 Rosneath was annexed by the crown and remained in Royal hands until 1473, when it was granted to John Colclunoun of Luss.

Ownership next changed by the Charter of 1489. In very general terms, the King granted the lands of Rosneath to Colin, Lord Campbell of Argyll and Lorne, in consideration of his good and faithful service to the King.

The charter was a 'feu-ferme' which is a system of landholding dating from the late 15th and early 16th Centuries when crown and church required large incomes of money and it was expedient to replace the military obligations with financially based contracts.

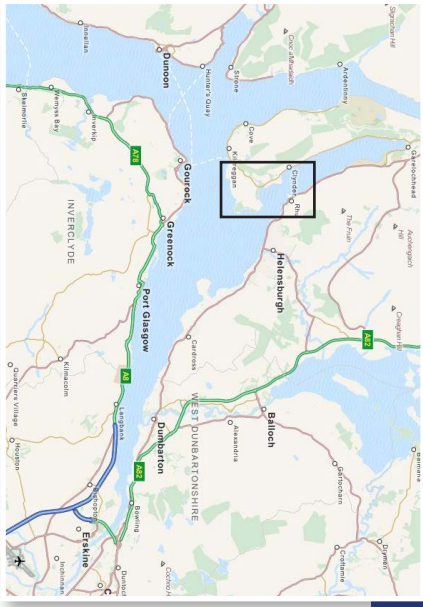
In 1509 the lands of Rosneath were incorporated into a barony by James IV which was then granted to Archibald Campbell, Second Earl of Argyll.

Barony Courts

Barony Courts fitted into the system of Jurisprudence below Regalities and Sherifdoms

There are no written records pertaining to the Barony of Rosneath but, generally, responsibilities lay in estate management and social control.

Although it might only rarely be exercised the baron had the ultimate right of Pit and Gallows. (Furca et Fossa). Gallows was the means of execution for males (Furca was a device for hanging slaves in ancient Rome. Pit - Fossa was a ditch filled with water for the drowning of women.



Directions to Kilcreggan for the start of the East Heritage Trail

By Car:
Scenic 16 mile drive from Helensburgh to Kilcreggan Pier via the A814 and B833 takes 30 minutes. Drive time from Glasgow is about 1 hour 15 minutes.

By Bus:
Hourly bus service from Helensburgh to links with trains from Glasgow. The B813 service from Helensburgh (Adjacent Helensburgh Central Station) to Coulpont stops at Kilcreggan Pier. Journey time 40 minutes. On Sundays the service is two hourly. There are regular bus stops along the Shore Road route of the Heritage Trail. The B813 service also stops at Rosneath for the East Heritage Trail.

By Passenger Ferry:
The SPT passenger ferry from Gourrock to Kilcreggan Pier links with train services from Glasgow. Passage time is 10 minutes. It runs at regular intervals on weekdays and Saturdays. There is no ferry service on Sundays. Post code of Kilcreggan pier for Sat Nav users is G84 0JH
The B813 bus service to Helensburgh stops at Rosneath after a 7 minute journey.

Car parking at Rosneath - Shown on village map.

Overview of The Rosneath Peninsula East Heritage Trail:

Start at Kilcreggan Pier and head east along Fort Road and along the coast/woodland path to Rosneath Caravan Park. Then walk on 5.5km to Rosneath via Rosneath Caravan Park.

These paths are not always wheelchair friendly. Alternatively take road transport direct to Rosneath for the village tour or limit your tour to a scenic walk to Gallows Hill. Parking at the junction with the B813.
Best viewed in conjunction with The Rosneath Peninsula West Heritage Trail.

Compiled by A. Bray & R. Reeve

Credit: North Clyde Archaeological Society

For more information visit:

www.rosneathpeninsulawest.com



Rosneath Peninsula East Heritage Trail




Scenic Walk from Kilcreggan to Rosneath (Distance 4km)

- 1 Note the tenement building with dates on gables 1888 & 1905. The remains of the old stone pier (c1750) at the shoreline.
- 2 The junction of Millbrae and Fort Road was the site of the Chapel of Ease. Walking along Fort Road, past the site of McKellar's Boatyard, the large gates on the left led to the King George VI playing fields.
- 3 Continuing, near the entrance to Portkil Estate, a path leads to the old sea cliff where first occupants used the cleft in the rock face around 5500 years ago. This was followed by people in the Bronze Age around 3500 years ago when they left pottery and objects recognised as cloak fasteners made from coal. Iron Age occupation was next around 400AD and then finally the place was used by holiday picnickers in the 19th century leaving fine examples of clay pipe bowls.



Portkill WW2 Military Hospital


- 4 Rejoin the road and follow to the end at Ensign Motifs. This area, Portkil Battery, of two 6" and two 4.7" guns with searchlights. It was completed in 1904 as part of the "Defence of Commercial Ports" which was a network of gun emplacements stretching the Cumbrae Gap. It operated in conjunction with Fort Matilda across the river. It was used for infantry training in WW1. Many of the battery structures remain and can be seen incorporated into houses. In WW2 it was part of US Navy Base 2 with a hospital there.

- 5** Follow the path to Meikleross Bay where there is a fish trap visible at low tide. From here inland briefly and then right to Culwatty Bay. Continue through the caravan park where there is a shop and Bistro.
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- 6 The Bistro marks the site of Rosneath Castle which was designed in 1804 in the neoclassical style by Joseph Bonomi, a London architect of Italian extraction. It was never entirely finished due to financial pressures. Princess Louise died in 1939 and the castle was used as an administrative centre for the U.S. Naval Base centred on Rosneath Village. It was visited by Churchill and Eisenhower planning D. Day Landings. It was demolished in 1963.



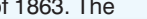
- 7** The Home Farm, 1803, designed by Alexander Nasmyth (1758-1840 #) as estate offices, now lacks its steeple. Best viewed from the Old Barracks, a line of terrace cottages at the brow of the hill as Home Farm is a working farm with associated hazards.
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- 8 Wallace's Loup. By tradition, Wallace, fleeing from enemies rode his horse over the steep cliff. The horse died but Wallace escaped across the water. Nearby is Parkhead with a notable private garden.
- 9 Joining the main road at Camsail Bay continue along the rough path along the road verge towards Rosneath. Opposite the builder's yard a road leads up the hill to the forestry road and back to Kilcreggan. Continuing, by the boatyard, the big post war sheds were used for the maintenance of inshore minesweepers until the 1970s.

Rosneath Village - Points of interest.

Dictionary of Scottish Architects Biography Report


- 10 Rosneath Village.** The Schoolmasters House of 1863. The drawing is taken from Blackie's Villa and Cottage Architecture John Baird (Second) (FRIBA) (1816 - 1893 #) who was previously in partnership with A. Thomson.
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- COTTAGE AT ROSNEATH, DUNDEE-SCOTLAND
FROM BLACKIE'S VILLA AND COTTAGE ARCHITECTURE




- 11 Clachan Bridge.** Architect Joseph Weeks (1880 - 1949 FRIBA, OBE #) was County Architect of Dunbartonshire from 1919 until retirement in 1946. He worked in Scottish Vernacular and Art Deco styles. Other local examples are in Manse Brae, Rhu and Helensburgh.

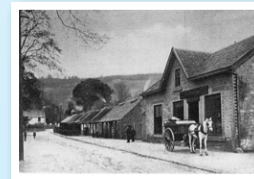



- 12 Clachan Glen Woodland Walk.** A woodland walk of about 0.5 km along the Clachan Burn has information boards of flora & fauna and a short deviation includes the site of the Tom a Mhoid.

- 13 St Modan's Church.** 1853 Architect David Cousin (1809–1878 #). Built for Rev Story to replace the leaky old parish church of Dr Drummond. Through the days of greater religious fervour it was extended several times to gain its present form. The last occasion utilised stone from the demolished Free Church at Millbrae when the congregations united in 1933. In 1873, after considerable opposition, it was the first church in the Presbytery of Dunbartonshire to install a pipe organ. The bellows were powered by a water pump. See St Modan's guide book for more details.
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- 14 Clachan.** These were ancient forms of small rural settlements common throughout Scotland and Ireland. Rosneath Clachan is marked on Timothy Pont's map of 1583 but probably goes back much further. The first house of the Clachan was, for many years the village blacksmith and the anvil still sits in the front garden along with the village pump.
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- 15 Rosneath Manse.** The original manse is now called Heather Cottage and is situated opposite the gates of the old churchyard. The house called Manse Cottage was an annex to this manse. The cottage across the burn was once the Princess Louise sewing school for girls. In 1838 a new manse was built, architect Greenock based James Dempster (1798–1867 #) now Easter Garth Guest House.
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- 16 Old Church and Graveyard.** The present ruin is thought to be built on the site of a 4th Century church built by St Modan. This was probably a wooden structure, may have been one of the oldest

in Scotland. The remains of a 12th century church are now concealed below 3 concrete slabs adjacent to the present ruin. This was, in turn replaced during the 16th century. After the Reformation this was deemed to be too elaborate and was replaced in 1780 by the heritor and patron John Campbell, 5th Duke of Argyll for the minister Dr Drummond. This remained in neglected use until 1853.



The graveyard contains many interesting grave stones. Dr Drummond's gravestone lies close to the old walls. Three other notable gravestones being "Slave's Grave" dated 1848, the grave of the McNeil family which is believed to contain the remains of Moses McNeil – founder of Rangers football club. Also Mary Campbell, well known in Africa for her work for the Baptist Church.

- 17 Yew Tree Avenue.** Across the footbridge over Clachan Burn are five Yew trees that once formed an avenue leading to Clachan House, a residence of the Dukes of Argyll. The trees are believed to date from 17th century Clachan House was demolished after 1962 and is now the site of the Primary School.
St Gildas RC church 1968 Thomas Cordiner Partnership (John Cordiner 1902-1965 #)



- 18 Ferry Inn.** One of only two of houses in Scotland designed by Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944 #) for Princess Louise at the insistence of Queen Victoria. It was a large extension to the original Ferry Inn which served travellers crossing the Rhu Narrows. Also adjoining, the building that stands separately to the rear was a village hall and said to be a ballroom for Princess Louise. The original Ferry Inn was demolished in 1959. Along the shore to the south of Ferry Inn a navigation beacon for the entry of ships to Faslane Naval Base. Close by are several old wooden piles which are the remains of Rosneath Steamer Pier.



- 19 Clynder.** To the North of the crossroads the footpathed B813 leads to Clynder which was on the Baremman Estate owned by the Cumming's family and later Robert Thom, a Victorian entrepreneur and ship owner. The road meets the shoreline at Stroul Bay. Along its southern shore is Silvers Boatyard. Rosneath has a long tradition of boat building and the modern facilities superseded Victorian boatyards. Another famous boatbuilder was McGruer's of Clynder



Further north was feued in the early 19th Century. For many years the village had two steamer piers both now demolished. A mile further north is the distinctive Ardchoille 1901 designed by William Leiper. #

