



**The Burnside**

**School Brae**

**Oswald Trail and Waggonway Trail**

# Annbank/ Mossblown/ Auchincruive Paths

Scale 1:7500

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The countryside around the villages is a working environment, many people rely on it for their livelihoods, please show respect and consideration when taking access. Please keep dogs under close control or on a lead, and clear up your dog's mess.

www.outdooraccess-scotland.com  
or by contacting your local access officer at  
www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/outdooraccess/

## Find out more by visiting



## The Scottish outdoor access code says that when you are in the outdoors:

In line with local historical interest, there are several local trails and paths around Annbank, Mossblown and the neighbouring Auchincruive Estate.



The trails are in a mix of woodland, riverbank and open fields, in outstanding countryside. They also include easy, shorter routes, and longer and more challenging routes. The trails are denoted as easy, moderate or challenging to help you decide which one suits you at the time.



Both Mossblown and Annbank today have shared and connecting community aspirations, and the Annbank Gala day is one of the best community events in the region.

Major changes in housing took place in Annbank in the 1930's, which in effect created a new village. Old rows were demolished and new houses built, and several new streets were created. The same occurred in Mossblown with the old rows being replaced with modern Council houses and "prefabs".

The Annbank brickworks was closed in the 1960's and the buildings demolished. At the peak of production around 30,000 bricks were produced each day.

Interesting buildings in the area include Enterkine House – now a country house hotel. The estate dates back to the early 17th century, when it belonged to one of the oldest families in the area, the Dunbars. The original house was replaced with a late Georgian mansion, which was subsequently considered too large and expensive to run, and was replaced by the present mansion in 1939. The school building in Mossblown is built near the site of Annbank Station, and was established to educate all children from that area, as well as older children from Annbank. The school was opened on September 30th 1903 and its facade remains similar today.

## The Routes

### The Burnside (Red route)

**Easy** – level ground, although can be muddy in wet weather, as surface is mostly grass/ beaten earth. Approx. 1.3km one way, from car park at edge of Mossblown to Bowling Club in Annbank.  
**Around ½ hour to walk.**

### School Brae (Black route)

**Easy to moderate** – fairly level ground, although can be muddy in wet weather, as section of route is grass/ beaten earth. Includes a section on a rural road with no footway, so be aware of vehicular traffic. Approx. 2.4km circuit from School Brae.  
**Around ¾ hour to walk**

### Auchincruive (Blue routes)

**Oswald Trail and Waggonway Trail.**  
**Moderate to hard** – some steep slopes, steps and climbs. Mostly stone surface paths, but some sections of grass/ beaten earth/ field tracks which can be muddy in wet weather. Approx. 3.5km circuit around Brockle Wood and return back past Walled Garden. To add another approx. 4.6 km to your walk, after Walled Garden turn right and continue along riverside to Oswald's Bridge, cross over and then around the circuit of the Waggonway Trail on the south side of the river, before returning back along riverside path.  
**Around 2-3 hours to walk**

## Parking

The main car park for the walks is on the edge of Mossblown. There are additional car parking areas in Auchincruive Estate.



The villages of Annbank & Mossblown are quite new in historical terms. They have only been in existence for around 165 years. The area was transformed with the development of coal mining in the early 19th century.

The original village of Annbank was built between 1853 and 1863 by the mining company George Taylor and Co. It comprised 233 houses, most of which had only one room. A wagonway ran from the nearby Enterkine pit to Ayr Harbour – the export of coal to Ireland being big business. In 1870 a line from Ayr to Mauchline was introduced, with a station being developed near Annbank, named Annbank station. This station developed as a community in its own right with housing being built around it and along the road to Annbank, to accommodate workers from the local pits. The opening of Auchincruive colliery 1, 2 and 3 led to William Baird and Co., the mining company, building more rows of housing and the colliery and the houses became known as Mossblown, after a local farm. Because the miners spent so long underground, many of their leisure activities were based in the outdoors and the whole community tended to get involved. Popular activities included running, cycling, walking and fishing, as well as greyhound racing or keep homing pigeons. Another popular activity was quoting.

The closure of the last pit in Mossblown (in 1960) suddenly forced many in the community to find work elsewhere, in the local and surrounding area.

## The History of Annbank and Mossblown.

# Annbank & Mossblown Paths



Map with walking routes inside..