

# FACILITY AUDIT



# GLENBUCK

## EAST AYRSHIRE LEISURE FACILITIES



The **River Ayr Way** is Scotland's first Source to Sea medium to long distance routes. It is included in the national family of 'Scotland's Great Trails and is used by over 120,000 people each year who either do the route in its entirety or explore individual sections of the route. Glenbuck is the starting point of the River Ayr Way as well an excellent base for a range of walks in the area.

## COMMUNITY LED FACILITIES



Like many mining villages, Glenbuck experienced times of mixed fortune. Its population peaked at the start of the twentieth century, when coal mining flourished, but most of its residents had moved away by the end of the century, following the demise of mining in the area around that time.

The village was demolished when opencast mining was introduced to the area, but public interest in the village has endured, thanks to the legacy of its most famous son, Bill Shankly. Bill Shankly was one of a family of 10 children and he and his five brothers all went on to play professional football, but in total, some 50 members of the famous Glenbuck team, the Cherrypickers, also progressed to professional teams, establishing an incredible legacy for the tiny mining village.

The redevelopment of the site as the **Glenbuck Heritage Village** formed part of the overall restoration of opencast sites across East Ayrshire and the works have included the relocation of a number of memorials from the nearby village of Muirkirk to Glenbuck. The famous Shankly memorial has been relocated to the plot where the Shankly family home once stood, and nearby, a new memorial has been erected to commemorate the famous Cherrypickers, overlooking Burnside Park, the pitch where they used to play. A number of interpretation boards along a short trail have also been installed to give visitors an insight into the history of the village over the centuries. A path network has been developed leading from the village to explore the nearby hills and countryside.

### **Glenbuck Fishery**

The "Loch" is in fact a dam created in 1802 by James Finlay for his Catrine cotton works. Much of the dam banks were created by French prisoners of war. The dam was situated so that the water to power the mill took exactly 12 hours to reach Catrine. The reservoir now supports a recreational fishery for brown trout managed by Muirkirk Angling Association.