



WALK 1 AROUND STRATHAVEN

Park in Station Road and return to the A71 and turn right towards the CASTLE.

1. **Strathaven Castle** - The ruins of Strathaven Castle, also known as Avondale Castle, still dominate the town. Sir Andrew Stewart, 1st Lord Avondale, built it around 1458. It replaced an earlier castle owned by the Douglas family. The Hamilton family owned the castle from 1611. It has been uninhabited since the early 1700's.



2. **Town Mill** - This was built in the grounds of the castle around 1650 by the 2nd Duke of Hamilton. It was three storeys high with a thatched roof and large dam behind. In 1902, the granary was built on the Stonehouse Road and connected to the Mill by an aerial walkway. In the 1930's the Mill was converted to hydroelectricity and was officially re-opened in 1936 by Sir Harry Lauder. The Town Mill finally ceased production in 1966 and is now a local arts centre.
3. **Old Cemetery Gates** - These face what was the oldest part of Strathaven where the Old Jail stood - demolished in 1963 - the inn known as The Claverhouse - demolished in 1932 and was the site of the oldest religious building - St Mary's Chapel dating back to 1228.
4. **James Wilson Monument** - James Wilson, a Strathaven weaver was executed on Glasgow

Green for his part in the local Radical Rising of 1820. The monument was erected on the site of his house in 1846.

5. **The Graveyard** - The entrance is via Pathfoot. The oldest part dated from the 17th century. There are two Covenantor headstones, one to William Dingwall who was shot at the Battle of Drumclog and other to William Paterson and John Barrie.
6. **North Street** - This once had weaving cottages along its entire length. These were single storey cottages comprising two rooms, one for the looms and the other for the family. (Walk down the steps between the new housing complex.)
7. **Strathaven Weavers Beaming Society** - (now part of the Co-op) See the old name on the door lintel. The weavers brought their beams here to be fitted with threads.
8. **Allison Green** - This was originally a washing green for the town. The Green was set up in 1775 by four of the town's Friendly Societies for drying and bleaching. Note the steps down to the water for access and the poles for drying. The Green is named after James Allison a native of Strathaven who emigrated to Australia. He purchased the land and presented it to the town in 1890.
9. **Alexander Taylor, Bakers** - A family business, baking since circa 1820. The oldest bakery in the town and continues today as a specialist bakery, shop and café.
10. **The Boo Backit Brig** - This was constructed over the Powmillon Burn in the 18th century

11. **The Common Green** - Now the main shopping centre, the Green was originally laid out in the late 17th/early 18th centuries. Markets were held here and in the late 19th century fairs were set up here.
12. **The East Church** - This was built in 1777. The spire with clock and bell was added in 1843.



13. **Site of the Stra'ven Toffee Factory** - On the right-hand side of the bottom of Commercial Road (now flats) was the original Toffee factory.
14. **Kilwuddie Mill** - Halfway down Chapel Road you can see the façade of the Mill built in 1888.



15. **Strathaven Park** - This is made up of two parks, the George Allan and the John Hastie. George Allan tragically died after playing football in 1892 at the age of 13. The Rev James Allan bequeathed a large sum of money for a public park to be built in memory of his son. It was opened in 1902.

John Hastie was a licenced grocer in Strathaven. The proceeds of his estate were used to provide a Public Park and Museum.

There is a children's play area and picnic tables. During the summer there is boating, putting bowling and tennis as well as the miniature railway at weekends. There is also a café and bandstand.



16. **John Hastie Museum** - This is a small local history museum. Displays feature Strathaven Castle, weaving, the Covenanters, the Battle of Drumclog, old photographs, the 1820 Radical Rising and a collection of ceramics. Open Easter to September - Admission Free.
17. **The Bucks Head Hotel** - An example of a coaching inn in Strathaven. Stage coaches left Strathaven daily for Glasgow, a journey of three hours.
18. **Avondale Old Parish Church** - This was built in 1772. The Duke's Gallery was reserved for the Duke of Hamilton, his family and tenants and the stained glass window bears the family coat of arms. A pair of silver communion cups presented to the old St Mary's Church in 1704 by Anne, Duchess of Hamilton are still in use.
19. **Strathaven Public Hall** - Built by subscription and opened in 1896. It is known locally as the

Scout and Guide Centre, but has recently been upgraded thanks to lottery funds and is used by many organisations in the town.

20. **The Old Auction Mart site** - Up till June 2003 regular cattle auctions took place here. The buildings were demolished in 2009 and Sainsburys now occupy the site.

RAILWAYS

You are now back to STATION ROAD. As its name implies trains did run to Strathaven. The railway reached here in 1863. The first station was at Flemington (at the top of Glassford Road). Trains ran to Glasgow via Glassford and High Blantyre. In 1904 this became Strathaven North and Strathaven Central was built. An express journey to Glasgow took forty minutes. In 1905 a new line was opened to Darvel linking into the existing network to the Ayrshire coast. The Darvel line closed in 1939 with the High Blantyre line following in the 1940's. The goods yard at the North Station finally closed in 1964 and the passenger station at Strathaven Central closed on 2nd October 1965.