

# Directions

## How to get to the starting point:

**From Denny Cross:** Go east on Broad Street for 30 metres. Turn left into the Vennel. At the bottom of the Vennel turn right into Herbertshire Street and walk for 50 metres to the **Baptist Church**.

At the east end of Herbertshire Street you can see Gogarfield House which was the **Baptist Manse**.

Go through the bollards and over the old railway bridge. Walk down the steep hill and at the next junction turn left into Winchester Avenue. After 100 metres you will see a 'right of way' sign on your right. Walk down the red ash path to the **Dale Bridge**, which crosses the **River Carron**.

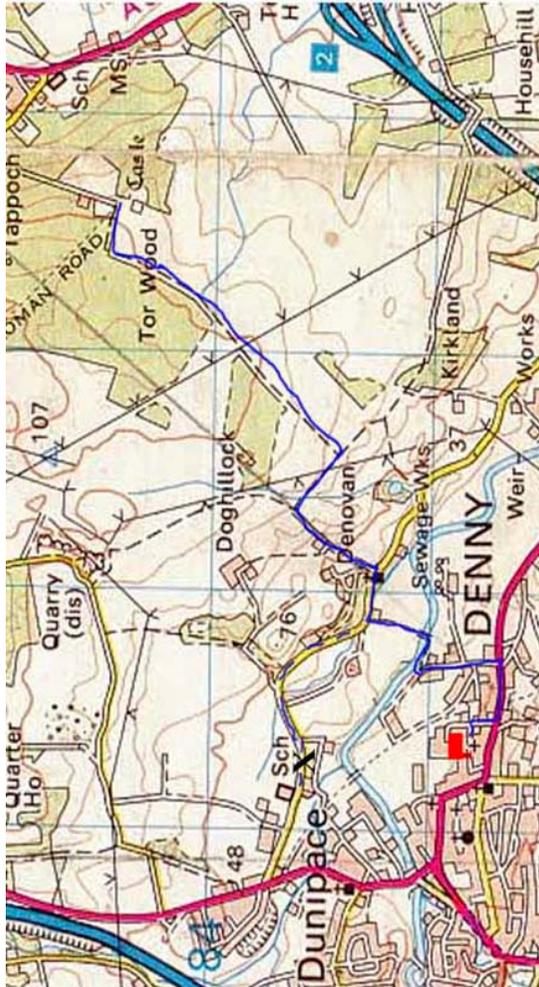
On the other side a path takes you to the Denovan Road where you turn right and **Denovan Church** is on your immediate right. On the hill opposite is Denovan House. The right-hand single track road leads in 250 metres to **The King's Well**, a small square hole in front of the cottage. Continue on the path to the east of the cottage for another 250 metres to where the path makes a sharp turn to the right. Follow it to a post with three directions and a stile. Turn left and follow the path for one and a half kilometres to **Torwood Castle**.

**The Old Dunipace Primary School** is one kilometre west of Denovan Church towards Dunipace.

**TIP:** From Herbertshire Street you can drive up Kirkslap to Broad Street, turn left then after 100 metres turn left onto Winchester Avenue and park at the 'right of way' sign.

**TIP:** If a second car is parked at Torwood Village it will save a return walk of four kilometres.

# Map of Denovan Heritage Trail



Start at the red square on the map, which is at the Baptist Church. The blue line shows the route to Torwood Castle.

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The Society meets on the second  
Monday of each month in the Heritage Rooms at  
13 Milton Row, Dunipace, at 7.15pm

# The George Skelton Heritage Trail No.2

## The Denovan Heritage Trail



1. **The Baptist Church**
2. **The Baptist Manse**
3. **The River Carron**
4. **The Dale Bridge**
5. **Old Dunipace Industrial Site**
6. **Denovan Church**
7. **The King's Well**
8. **Torwood Castle**
9. **Old Dunipace Primary**

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## 1. Baptist Church

The Church began in the old Town Hall, which was located on the Glasgow Road site opposite the Bank of Scotland Branch. (This site later had the De Luxe Cinema/Bingo Hall, now demolished due to a fire in 2010). The congregation moved to their present location in 1905.



## 2. Baptist Manse

Gogarfield was the family home of Pastor Wright, who was the first pastor of the Baptist Church in Denny. Pastor Wright owned a baker's business in the town. After Pastor Wright finished his term as pastor, the Church found a manse for future pastors on the West side of the town.



GOGARFIELD, DENNY.

## 3. River Carron

The River has been integral to the prosperity of the burgh for many years. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were 11 mills on the river within one and a half miles of Denny. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were four paper mills, Headwood, The Vale, Stoneywood and Carrongrove, all now closed down with no trace of their existence left. The river at one time had the reputation of being one of the best salmon rivers in Scotland, and is also said to be the second fastest flowing river in Scotland.

## 4. Dale Bridge

The bridge, in its different forms, has been used by workers and worshippers for hundreds of years. Workers living in Denny accessed their place of employment on the industrial sites from as far back as the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, and the bridge would receive a lot of traffic after Denovan Church opened in 1834.

It has been the most important crossing point between the bridge at the Hills of Dunipace and the Denny Bridge for many years. (*The bridge is on page one of this Trail*)

## 5. Industrial Site

Industry was located on several sites in and around the Denovan area. The "Print Works" was situated on Denovan Field and employed 300 workers. The Salt Pans are 500 metres east of Denovan Church towards Larbert and the "Bleachfields" were sited at Kirkland, which is one kilometre further on the road to Larbert. In the 1840's one thousand workers were employed in the area.

## 6. Denovan Church

The first Dunipace Parish Church was sited near the "Hills of Dunipace" and its priest in the late eleventh century was William Wallace's uncle.

The formal name for the Church was Dunipace Old Parish Church. It opened in 1834 and seems to have been sited at Denovan because of the large increase in industry in this area of the parish.

The congregation met for the last time on Christmas Day 1988, after which they joined Dunipace North Church. The building has now been converted to privately owned flats.

## 7. The King's Well

The well is also known as Cauld Well and Hanna's Well.

The name seems to come from the unproven story that Robert the Bruce and William Wallace met here.

The well served the people of the Burgh immediately after the Second World War when the water services were not as reliable as they are today.

## 8. Torwood Castle

The Castle was completed about 1566 in an area which is steeped in history. Just to the north of the Castle lies a Roman Road which runs to the northwest, and lies south of the nearby Tappoch Broch. Robert the Bruce trained his army in this area before the Battle of Bannockburn. The spears used by the Scot's army, in their hedgehog-like schiltrons in the battle, are said to have been cut from the trees of Torwood.

## 9. Dunipace Primary

The children of Dunipace were educated here from 1875 to 1993. The old school bell for which the school was famous was moved to the new school at Tygetshaugh. Famous former pupils include Billy Steel who was capped thirty times for Scotland at football.

