

Carbisdale Castle

The castle was built between 1905 and 1917 for Mary Caroline, the second wife of the 3rd Duke of Sutherland. The marriage was not well liked in the Sutherland family. When the Duke died in 1892 his will, in favour of the Duchess, was contested by his son and heir. In a court process that followed, the Duchess was found guilty of destroying documents in attempt of securing the inheritance and was imprisoned for six weeks in Holloway Prison, London.

Eventually, the Sutherland family came to an agreement giving Duchess Blair a substantial financial settlement. Furthermore, the family agreed to build a castle for the Duchess, as long as it was outside of the Sutherland lands. Work started in 1906 just outside the Sutherland lands in Ross-shire. It was located on a hillside to be visible to a large part of Sutherland.

Thus it became known as the "Castle of Spite" as it was widely considered that the Duchess located the castle there to spite her husband's family and the settlement agreement. The castle's tower only has clocks on three of its four faces - the side facing Sutherland is blank, supposedly because the Duchess did not wish to give the time of day to her former relatives

The castle is currently a private residence and there is **no public access** to the castle or its immediate grounds.

Forest Trails

There is an extensive network of trails in the woodland adjacent to the Castle and there are links to the south, Invercharron Wood, and also over the Kyle of Sutherland (via the viaduct) to Invershin and Balblair Forest.

Please when completing any of the walks follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The walks are all achievable by any moderately fit person. The information is provided as guidance only and may change through time and inclement weather. Please go with suitable footwear and clothing. ENJOY your chosen walk/s and see the Kyle of Sutherland from a different viewpoint.

Battle of Carbisdale -1650

Carbisdale is significant as the last battle of James Graham, the 1st Marquis of Montrose, in support of the Royalist cause. Widely thought to be one of Scotland's finest ever military commanders, Montrose is a highly significant figure within Scottish history.

Carbisdale also marks the end of the internal struggles within Scotland as part of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms. The battle was a decisive victory for the Covenanter forces arrayed against Montrose, with his forces routed almost without firing a shot. Montrose himself escaped the field but he was handed over to the Covenanters a few days later and taken to Edinburgh for his trial and subsequent execution.

Photo © [John Lucas \(cc-by-sa/2.0\)](#)

Carbisdale Forest Trails



Lochan on Culrain Burn

**A trail map of paths around
Carbisdale Forest at Culrain.**

Produced by



Culrain & District Hall Committee

With assistance from



Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba



Carbisdale Forest Trails

