

KINCLAER VIADUCT

KINCLAER VIADUCT WAS BUILT BY THE GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY IN 1876. BY 1877, THE FINAL RAIL LINK, CONNECTING GIRVAN WITH STRANRAER, WAS OPENED, CARRYING TWO TRACKS, ONE NORTH, ONE SOUTH, OVER THE VIADUCT. THE LINE HERE IS ON A SLOW DESCENT FROM PINMORE TO PINWHERRY CLINGING TO THE SLOPES OF LETTERPIN, ALDONS AND BARGAIN HILLS.

AT KINCLAER, THE RAILWAY ENGINEERS WERE FACED WITH CROSSING A GORGE BETWEEN LETTERPIN AND ALDONS AT A BEND IN THE WATER OF ASSEL VALLEY. THE NEW RAILWAY WOULD HAVE TO SHARE THIS SPOT WITH THE MAIN GIRVAN TO NEWTON STEWART ROAD, THE WATER OF ASSEL AND ONE OF ITS LARGER TRIBUTARIES.

THEIR SOLUTION WAS A UNIQUE ELEVEN ARCH STRUCTURE WITH AT LEAST ONE ARCH ALMOST ON THE RIVER BANK AND CONSTRUCTED IN SUCH A WAY SO AS TO ALLOW THE MAIN ROAD TO PASS UNDER IT TWICE.

KINCLAER IS ONE OF ONLY TWO SUCH RAILWAY VIADUCTS IN THE WHOLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH SUCH A FEATURE.

THIS IS THE NORTHERNMOST POINT OF A DENSELY WOODED VALLEY BORDER SECURING THE STEEP HILLSIDES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE VALLEY AGAINST LANDSLIP AND EROSION.

NOWADAYS, THE VIADUCT ONLY CARRIES A SINGLE TRACK RAILWAY WITH AN INFREQUENT TRAIN SERVICE. AS A RESULT, THE AREA HAS BECOME A HAVEN FOR WILDLIFE.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF BARN OWLS WHICH HUNT HERE MOST NIGHTS ALONG WITH THE RESIDENT TAWNY OWLS.

PIPESTRELLE AND LONG EARED BATS FLY AT DUSK.

EVERY SUMMER THE VIADUCT ITSELF PLAYS HOST TO VISITING SWALLOWS WHO NEST READILY ON ITS MANY LEDGES.

GOOD GROUND COVER AND ABUNDANT WATER MAKES AN IDEAL HABITAT FOR ADDERS, COMMON LIZARDS AND SLOWWORMS, WHO REGULARLY BECOME BOTH WELCOME AND UNWELCOME VISITORS TO NEARBY GARDENS FROM TIME TO TIME.

OCCASIONALLY, TIMID ROE DEER MAY BE SPOTTED MOMENTARILY OUTWITH THE SECURITY OF THE WOODS, WHICH ARE ALSO HOME TO MANY BADGERS.



ABOUT HALF A MILE SOUTH OF HERE, THE WATER OF ASSEL JOINS THE RIVER STINCHAR FLOWING DOWN FROM BARR. THIS WATERMEETING IS THE ORIGINAL LOCATION OF PINMORE (OR PEINN MOR). A 16/17TH CENTURY TOWER HOUSE, PINMORE CASTLE, ONCE GUARDED THE SPOT. PINMORE CASTLE WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1876. WITHIN A YEAR, IT HAD BEEN REBUILT IN NEO-BARONIAL STYLE CREATING AN ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY SEAT ON ONE OF THE MOST LOVELY BENDS ON THE STINCHAR.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS BUILDING BURNT DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST CENTURY AND WAS LATER DEMOLISHED. A PRIVATE HOUSE NOW OCCUPIES THE SITE.