

Welcome to Balgay Hill

Balgay Hill is part of Greater Balgay, which was purchased by the city council from the estate of Sir William Scott, and developed as a park from about 1870.

The name 'Balgay' comes from the Gaelic 'Baile na Gaoithe,' which is translated as 'village of the wind.'

The narrow valley (a 'glack' or 'glaik') spanned by an elegant cast iron bridge, used to be a smuggling route.

The hill is thickly forested with a mixture of interesting native and exotic trees, including many outstanding evergreen specimens.

The park is also a refuge for many species of smaller native plants, animals such as bats and owls, and lots of interesting insects.

The network of footpaths around the hill offer pleasant walks and magnificent views across the River Tay.

The top of the main hill is 146 metres above sea level and is home to the city's Mills Observatory. See insert below for more information.

In addition to the observatory there is a 'Planet Trail' which offers a symbolic map of the solar system, spread along a informal walk on the crest of the hill.

For more information about various aspects of Greater Balgay, and many other parks in the city, please see: www.dundee.gov.uk

Visitor Guidelines:

We wish your visit to this park to be as pleasant as possible.

Please be responsible, follow these simple guidelines and show consideration for other visitors to this park.

Please see main management rules for details.

1. **Fires are not permitted.**
2. **Cars are restricted to the Mills Observatory route.**
3. **Consumption of alcohol in the cemetery is an offence**
(The Dundee City Council Prohibition of Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places Byelaw 1999)
4. **Cyclists: please act responsibly to other park users**
5. **Dogs must be under close control or on a short lead at all times**
6. **Dog Waste is a Health Hazard:**
NOT cleaning up your dog's mess is an offence (The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003)
7. **Littering and dog fouling are punishable by instant fines.**



Mills Observatory

Gifted to the people of Dundee by linen and twine manufacturer John Mills, a keen amateur scientist, the building opened on 28th October 1935, and is now Britain's only full-time public observatory.

The main telescope is actually older than the building, made in York in 1871 by Thomas Cooke.

The optical components of the telescope are of the highest quality and stunning views of the moon and planets are to be had with this instrument.

There are a calendar of events to take part in, and **ENTRY IS FREE.**

Other facilities include a shop, toilets, and ample parking for visitors.

More information can be found at: www.dundee.gov.uk

You can also email: mills.observatory@dundee.gov.uk or phone: 01382 435967



For more information:
Telephone 01382 434000
or see: www.dundee.gov.uk