

Bonnet Stone

Starting at the Bonnet Stone Car Park (1) on the Dryside Road above the village of Gateside, follow the sign posted farm track up the hill. Please be aware of any farm animals and ensure that dogs are kept under control.



The Bonnet Stone (2), or Bunnet Stane, is made of grey **sandstone** laid down as desert sand dunes in the **late-Devonian** period, 410-353 million years ago, when this part of the Earth lay close to the Equator. You can detect layers in the stone arranged at different angles to the horizontal, a feature known as **dune-bedding**. This is the result of the dunes migrating downwind with sand tipping over the edge to form a slope. The orientation of this slope changed with the direction of the wind. Shaped by erosion of softer layers of sandstone to look like a giant mushroom, the Bonnet Stone takes the form of an elevated table of rock perched on a thin column

On the east side of this outcrop there is a cave known as the “Maiden’s Bower.” Local lore tells us that it was a trysting place for a young woman and her lover. The maiden eventually lived in the cave, refusing to return home after her young man was killed by her father’s henchmen. The cave appears to have been carved out by human hand and most likely was used as a bothy by local farm workers. Those who cut it out may well have taken advantage of a pre-existing natural crack or fault in the rock.

Please do not remove anything from the site.



Terrain: Long moderate slope over an uneven grassed surface and over grown farm track



moderate

Distance: 0.75miles, 1.25km

Time: ¾ hour

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Scottish Outdoor Access Code

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For further information visit www.livinglomonds.org.uk