

## BARRY HILL FORT

### DID YOU KNOW?

Hillforts are one of the most prominent types of prehistoric monument across many parts the British Isles and Ireland as well as being the most obvious legacy of the Iron Age period.

There is an online Atlas of all the Hill Forts in Britain and Ireland:  
<https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk> .

There is evidence of 'vitrification' in the ramparts of Barry Hill – this means the melting and fusing together of stones into metamorphic rock through immense heat that end up looking black and glassy - the temperatures required would need to be in excess of 1000 degrees C and enormous amounts of fuel would be needed to create such energy. Why this was done is not known although there are many theories including enemy action during or following capture, or a deliberate ritual act of 'closure' of the fort.

Some say there is a secret tunnel between Barry Hill Fort and the Castle of Inverquiech, the ruins of which can still be seen at at the confluence of the Quiech Burn and the River Isla.

Barry Hill is just one ancient site in a wider landscape of early pre-historic sites around Alyth – there are standing stones at Park Neuk and Pitcrocknie for example and burial cairns on Alyth Hill.