

## SCOTLAND'S GOLF COURSES

since 1900 and long pre-dates the New Town development. Two municipal courses—Torrance House (B157) and Langlands (B75)—followed the expansion of the population in this area associated with the New Town development. The Langlands course was opened in 1983.

Two new commercial golf facilities have been developed near Motherwell. In 1998 the Dalziel Park Golf and Country Club was opened with a 9-hole parkland course (2,754 yards). A further nine holes are under construction and the facility includes a 15-bay driving range. Three miles northeast of Motherwell, at Newhouse, a major development is in progress which will include a hotel and conference centre and an 18-hole golf course. The facility is to be named Torrance Park in honour of Sam Torrance, who has been acting as an advisor to the project.

Apart from the two courses on the Cathkin Braes (Blairbeth and Cathkin Braes Golf Clubs), Torrance House, East Kilbride, Bothwell Castle and Hamilton Riccarton, the courses to the south-east of Glasgow are neither very attractive nor of high quality. This sub-region does not have the variety of golfing landscapes which occurs in the other three Glasgow sub-regions.

## SOUTH-WEST GREATER GLASGOW

It is not surprising that the south-west quadrant of Greater Glasgow has the largest number of golf courses. The 26 courses are largely a response to the high quality of the suburban housing of the area, along with the good communications network linking much of Renfrewshire with the centre of Glasgow.

The golf courses of this sub-region are of four types (Fig. 6.3, Fig. 6.5).

1. Those built mainly on river terraces or raised marine sediments: Erskine (B70), Haggs Castle (B81), Pollok (B133) and Renfrew (B141).
2. Those built mainly on drumlins: Cathcart Castle (B34), Cowglen (B47), Deaconsbank (B54), Elderslie (B69), Barshaw (B9), Ralston (B139).
3. Those built on hillsides or undulating land but with strong parkland characteristics: Caldwell (B24), Cochrane Castle (B42), Kilbirnie (B96), Gleddoch Golf and Country Club (B76), Lochwinnoch (B119), Whitecraigs (B170), Williamwood (B172).
4. Those built at relatively high altitude (400–600 feet) on the plateau basalts and which have a distinctive 'craggy' appearance and a dominantly moorland vegetation: Fereneze (B71), Beith (B11), Old Ranfurly (B131), Ranfurly Castle (B140), Bonnyton (B18), East Renfrewshire (B67), Eastwood (B68), Kilmacolm (B97), Paisley-Braehead (B132).

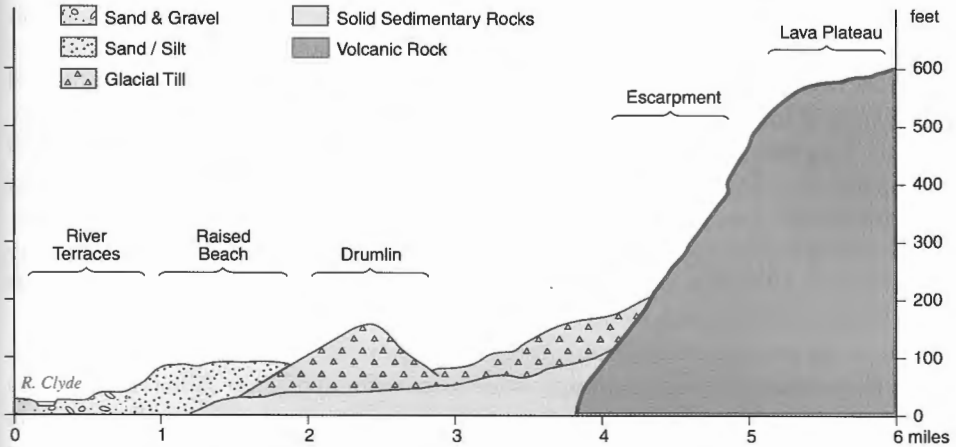


FIG. 6.5 Cross-section of typical rocks and landforms in south-west Glasgow.

In each of the above four types there are respectively four, six, seven and nine courses. Although the main contrast is between the parkland courses of types 1, 2 and 3, and the moorland landscapes of type 4, there is considerable variety within each type.

Four courses close to the River Clyde owe their character to the changing sea levels which affected this area after the last glaciers wasted away (see Chapter 3). A relatively high stand of sea level about 13,000 years ago allowed the deposition of marine clays in the areas around Renfrew, Paisley and Pollok, and these clays now underlie relatively flat land up to an altitude of about 100 feet above present sea level. In many locations the flat 'carse' lands (raised estuarine mud flats) lap against the relatively steep slopes of drumlins. Two fine golf courses were built on the relatively flat land between drumlin hills at Pollok (B133) and Hags Castle (B169). The fine mature parkland of the Pollok estate provides a most attractive setting for a good golf course of 6,295 yards. Nearby are the attractions of Pollok House itself and the now world-famous Burrell Museum. The Hags Castle course is a championship course (6,464 yards), which for several years hosted the PGA European Tour's Glasgow Open Championship.

As the River Clyde adjusted itself to the changing sea levels following the last glaciation, it cut terraces into the glacial, fluvioglacial and marine sediments which had choked its course to the sea. Two parkland golf courses have been developed on the Clyde terraces at Renfrew (B141) and Bishopton (B70). Both courses are of high quality.

The six courses built on drumlins in this quadrant (B34, 47, 54, 69, 9, 139) reflect the fact that the drumlins to the south-west of Glasgow tend to be larger but less numerous than those on the north side of the city and they are often surrounded by relatively flat land underlain by marine clays. The drumlin forms are often modified by the presence of outcrops of solid rock, but most of them have a strong north-west to south-east orientation. All of the golf courses built on drumlins are relatively short (circa 6,000