

# NEW GALLOWAY TO DALRY

- **Linear riverside walk**
- **18km/11 miles (return)**
- **Allow 6 hours**
- **Hard surface and grass paths and roadside verge. Gates and Stiles**
- **Moderate**
- **Stout shoes or boots recommended**

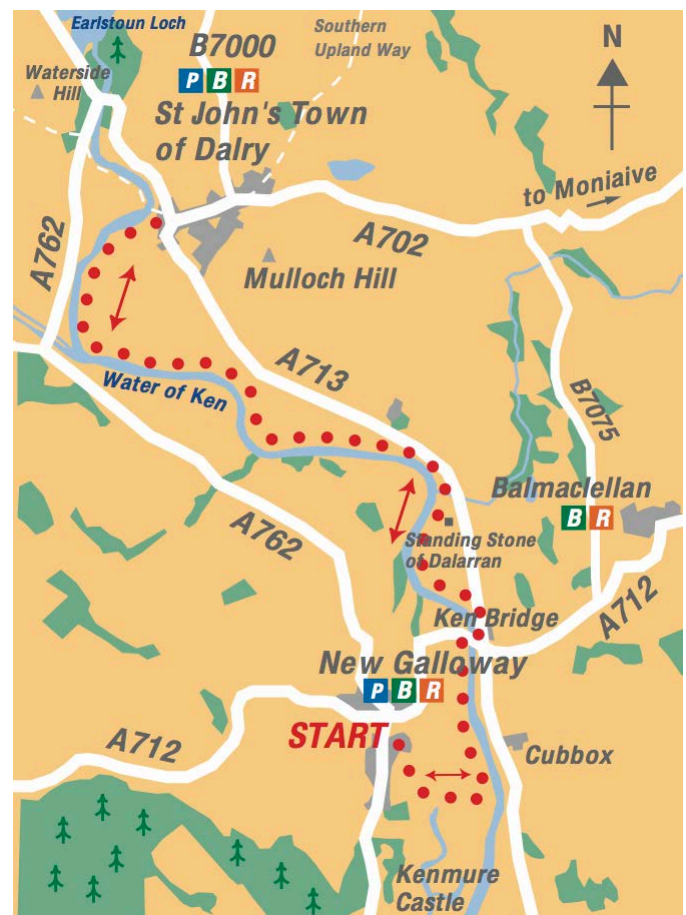
**PARKING** is available at the car park in the centre of New Galloway

**START** From the car park, a signpost indicates the start of the walk. Follow the waymarked route to Dalry. Either catch a bus or retrace your steps to New Galloway.

Follow the flood embankment through willows and gorse. Part of the Ken-Dee marshes, this is an important site for wildfowl, with teal and whooper swans visiting regularly in winter. In addition, the harvest mouse, though rare in Scotland, is found here and manages to survive the regular floods. Through the trees, Kenmure Castle stands out. The present castle is now ruinous but there has been a long history of habitation here, dating back to medieval times.

Continue along the embankment to reach Ken Bridge. This impressive granite bridge was built in 1822 and spans the Water of Ken. Cross it to regain the footpath on the other side. Note the Standing Stone of Dalarran, a prominent feature in the field. Dating from the Bronze Age around 4000 years ago, it is very likely to have some religious significance. Locally, it is thought to mark the site of a battle and weapons have been found in the surrounding area.

The path heads through attractive riverside woodland and follows the Water of Ken upstream. Along the banks of the river, look out for common sandpiper in summer and the familiar mallard all year round. As you approach Dalry you are rewarded with good views to the Galloway hills. Dalry itself is surrounded by smaller hills and routes over some of these are described in this guide.



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# MULLOCH HILL

- Circular farmland and riverside walk**
- 5km 3 miles**
- Allow 2 hours**
- Hard surface and grass tracks, roadside verge and grass path, soft in places. Gates and stiles.**
- Moderate**
- Boots recommended**

**PARKING** is available at the roadside in the centre of Dalry.

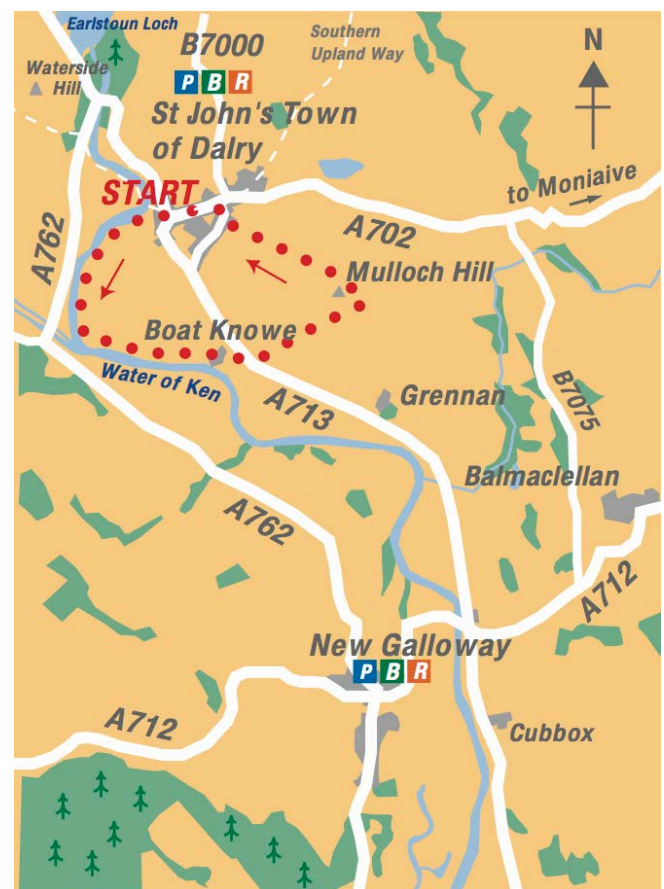
**START** at the Southern Upland Way information shelter to the rear of the town hall. Go through the gate on your left before the suspension bridge then follow waymarkers along the flood embankment. Take the first track on your left, leading to the A713. Carefully cross the road to reach a layby then follow waymarkers to the triangulation point on Mulloch Hill. From here, follow waymarkers downhill, through the fields towards Dalry.

Despite its diminutive height, on a good day Mulloch Hill (170m/556ft) offers extensive views over the Ken Valley. Towering behind Dalry stand the Carsphairn hills and across the Water of Ken sits the smaller peak known as Black Craig of Dee. The villages of Balmaclellan and New Galloway sit nestled in the valley.

Also visible from the summit are power stations at Glenlee and Earlstoun, part of the Galloway Hydro-Electric scheme.

From Loch Doon in the north of the region, to Kirkcudbright in the south, there are a host of dams, reservoirs and buildings which make up this pioneering scheme. These features have transformed the landscape and provide an ideal habitat for wildlife.

South of New Galloway, the Water of Ken has been dammed to form Loch Ken. This is now a major wintering ground for wild geese, including the locally rare Greenland white-fronted goose, and is one of the most environmentally significant sites in Scotland.



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Leave gates as you find them - Keep dogs under close control at all times - Keep to paths across farmland - Take care on country roads  
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls - Respect farm livestock, crops and machinery - Take your litter home with you  
Protect wildlife, plants and trees - Guard against risk of fire - Make no unnecessary noise.

# DALRY TO BLACKWATER BRIDGE

- Circular farmland and moorland walk**
- 19km/12 miles**
- Allow 6 hours**
- Hard surface track, minor road and grass path, soft in places. Stiles, gates and cattle grids**
- Moderate**
- Stout shoes or boots recommended**

**PARKING** is available at the roadside in the centre of Dalry.

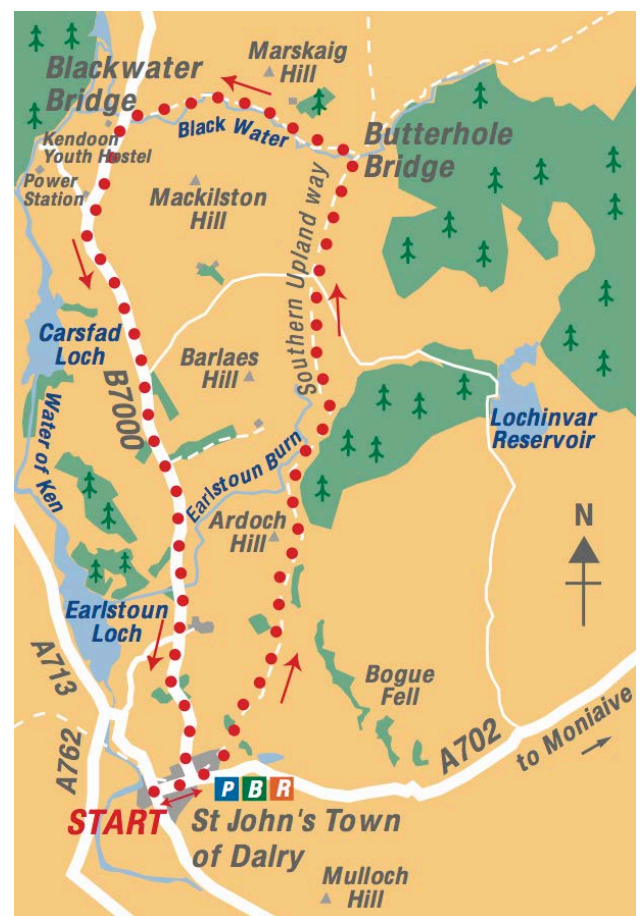
**START** From the fountain in the centre of Dalry, follow the main street uphill towards Moniaive. Turn left at the Southern Upland Way (SUW) signpost and follow the waymarkers for 8km/5miles to reach Butterhole Bridge. Just past the bridge, turn left at the sign for Kendoon Youth Hostel. Follow waymarkers to the B7000, turn left and follow the road back to Dalry.

On reaching Dalry, turn right and follow the road downhill to the main street.

Before you leave the main street in Dalry, note the small stone seat known as St. John's chair, named after St. John the Baptist. From here the SUW leaves Dalry to cross rough fields and moorland. Although waymarked, parts of the route are remote and navigation may be difficult in bad weather.

From Aardoch Farm the route skirts round Aardoch Hill to follow Earlstoun Burn. Enjoy panoramic views of the hills, with Cairnsmore of Carsphairn to the north and Bennan to the south. Continue across open moorland, frequented by birds such as wheatear and ravens. In summer, white tufts of cotton grass appear in boggy areas, warning you to steer clear. This part of the walk feels especially remote but you are not far from the road to Butterhole Bridge.

From Butterhole Bridge, the route continues across moorland, following the Black Water. On reaching the B7000 enjoy excellent views over the Water of Ken as it makes its way down the Ken Valley to Dalry. It has been dammed at various points, flooding the valley basin to create man-made lochs. Part of the Galloway Hydro-Electric scheme, the power station at Kendoon opened in 1936 and is also part of the scheme.



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# MANQUHILL HILL

- Circular moorland and hill walk**
- 11km/7 miles**
- Allow 4 hours**
- Hard surface track, minor road and grass path, and beaten earth soft in places.**
- Moderate to strenuous**
- Boots recommended**

**PARKING** There is a small car park at Stroanfreggan beidge on the B729 between Carsphairn and Moniaive.

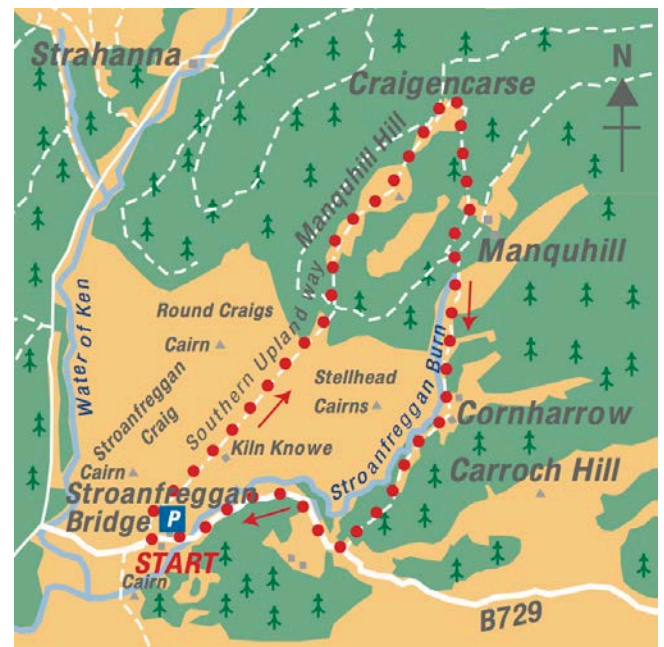
**START** cross the bridge, turn right at the Southern Upland Way (SUW) signpost and follow the waymarkers across farmland. Cross a forest track to continue over Manquhill Hill (421m/1377ft). On reaching the next forest track, turn right and follow it downhill, ignoring any tracks off to the left or right. Continue past the house and deer pens at Cornharrow, turning right to follow the track back to the main road. Turn right at the main road to return to the car park.

The countryside around Carsphairn is rich in historic remains. To the west of the SUW lies the rocky ridge of Stroanfreggan Craig. A cairn marks the remains of an Iron Age fort which sits in a prominent position, overlooking the Water of Ken. There are many other cairns in this area, including the large Stroanfreggan Cairn to the south of the road.

Continuing across rough farmland, the only signs of habitation are stone dykes and the ruins of an old farm settlement. As you gain the forested slopes of Manquhill Hill, enjoy fabulous, uninterrupted views across the Water of Ken to Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and the steep, abrupt slopes of Benninner. Also visible are the turbines of Windy Standard.

The route climbs gradually but stays below the summit of Manquhill Hill. Although it is waymarked, navigation may become difficult in bad weather.

After descending the gentle slopes, head back down through the forest to follow Stroanfreggan burn. On reaching the road, follow it past the pond where teal and greylag geese are frequent visitors. Continue to follow the road back to the car park.



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# WATERSIDE HILL

- **Circular hill walk**
- **8km/5 miles**
- **Allow 3 hours**
- **Minor roads, hard surface path, beaten earth and grass path, soft in places. Gates and a stile**
- **Moderate to strenuous**
- **Boots recommended**

**PARKING** is available at the roadside in the centre of Dalry.

**START** at the Southern Upland Way (SUW) information shelter to the rear of the town hall. Follow the waymarkers over Waterside Hill to meet the road at Garroch Glen. Leaving the SUW, turn left and follow the road towards Glenlee power station, part of the Hydro Electric scheme. Take the path on your left before the power station and follow it through fields and along the floodbank back to Dalry.

Above the SUW shelter in Dalry stands Dalry motte where a 12th century castle once stood. The path continues to downhill to cross the suspension bridge, known locally as Boat Weil after the ferry crossing that used to exist here. From here follow the river upstream to meet the road.

From Earlstoun power station, another link in the Galloway Hydro-Electric scheme, the route heads uphill through bracken and heather. Waterside Hill has fairly gentle slopes with rocky outcrops near its modest summit (172m/276ft). The SUW skirts round the summit and offers fine views of Dalry and the Ken valley before heading downhill to Garroch Glen.

A story, dating back the eighteenth century, tells of a farmer, Adam Forrester, who after a lively night spent at a local inn, was riding home. On his way, he caught some witches merrymaking in the local kirk. On being disturbed, they became incensed and chased him over Waterside Hill. Before the summit, to protect himself and his horse, Adam Forrester drew a circle in the ground around them with his sword. The evil spirits were unable to penetrate it and finally gave up at sunrise. This tale is thought to be the real Tam O' Shanter, as told by Robbie Burns and if you look carefully the circle can still be seen today.



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# DUNDEUGH FOREST WALK

- Circular forest walk**
- 6km/4 miles**
- Allow 2 hours**
- Hard surface tracks**
- Moderate**
- Stout shoes or boots**

**NOTE:** This walk may occasionally be unavailable due to military operations taking place on the ground and in the air.

**PARKING** just off the A713 between Dalry and Carsphairn, a large Forestry Commission sign for Polmaddy settlement sits at the entrance to the track into Dundegh Forest. Follow the rough track over a bridge to a parking bay just before the gate. Please take care not to block the track. Nearby, on the opposite side of the A713, a track leads to Polmaddy settlement where a short, waymarked trail leads through the old farming village.

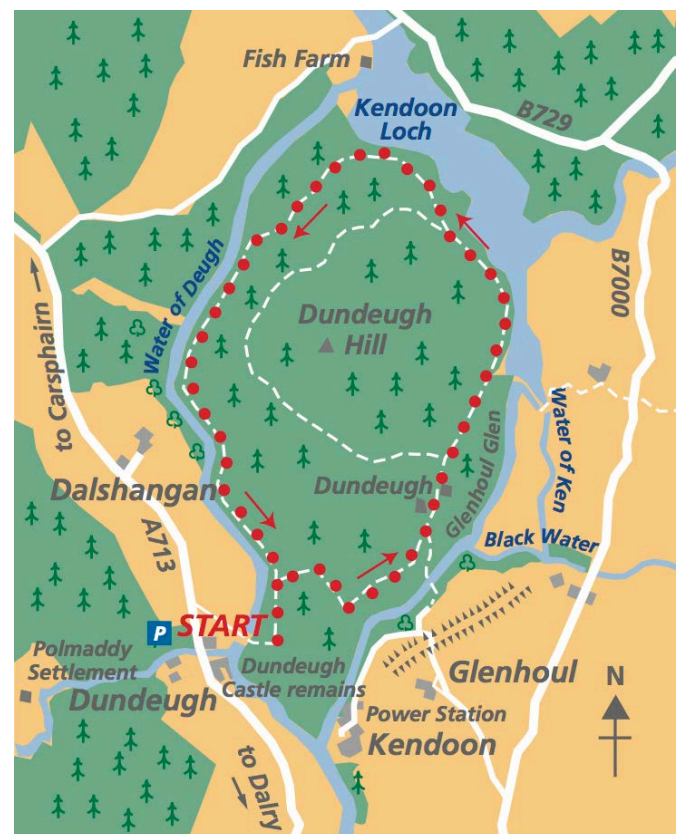
**START** From the parking bay, go through the gate, turn left and follow the track to a junction. Turn right and follow the track, ignoring any off to the left or right, until you return to the car park.

Dundegh forest is encircled by water and marks the point where the Water of Deugh meets the Water of Ken. Kendoon power station, at the head of Carsfad Loch is the first evidence of the Galloway Hydro-Electric Scheme.

The track follows Glenhoul Glen to reach Kendoon Loch, also part of the Hydro-Electric scheme and formed by damming the Water of Ken.

Follow the track through woodland beside Kendoon Lock, where birch, oak and Scots pine provide a contrast to the surrounding conifers. This part of the forest is very open and there are excellent views over the loch to Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Beninner. You can also see the Glenkens fish farm, situated at the head of the loch.

As you leave the loch, head into the woods to join the Water of Deugh. Slow moving and rocky, its tree-lined banks provide food and shelter for a host of small birds. Follow it downstream to return to the start of the walk.



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