

BLADNOCH & MOCHRUM LOCH

- START** Wigtown, park on street. Route signposted as the “Machars Yellow Route”
- 40km/25miles. 21km/13miles for the shortcut
- Allow 4hrs or 2½ hrs if taking the shortcut
- Gently undulating

Wigtown is Scotland's Book Town and is building a reputation as a literary centre with many dedicated book businesses. Also worth visiting are the County Buildings for displays and information on local history and wildlife.

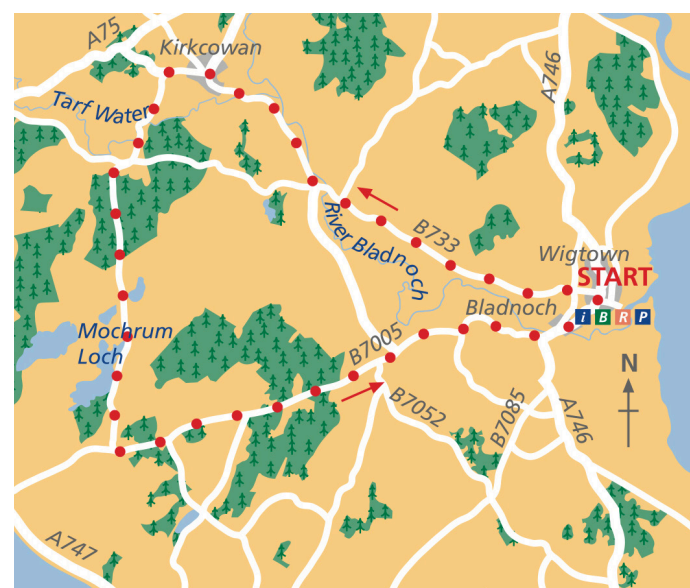
Torhousekie Stone Circle Built by our ancestors some 4000 years ago, this cluster of standing stones and cairns is now part of a managed landscape of farms, fields and woodlands.

The River Bladnoch meanders through this broad section of valley and the associated band of wetland supports a good variety of wildlife neighbouring the more productive farmland. The valley has had its fair share of industry over the years, mainly milling.

Old Place of Mochrum and Mochrum Loch are just past the mid-point of this route and offer a visual treat. You emerge from conifer forest and burst out on to open, peaty moorland. On your left are Fell Loch and Loch Hempton. Look to your left for glimpses of the magnificent Old Place of Mochrum, a combination of two sixteenth century tower houses. On your right enjoy good views across Mochrum Loch and its islands. Some of the islands you see are Crannogs, ancient lake dwellings.

Bladnoch Distillery is back in production and has an interesting visitor centre, offering tours and samples.

Miles	Route
0.0	Wigtown. Start at the County Buildings and continue down the High Street. Go straight on along the B733 Kirkcowan Road. Follow the Yellow Cycle Route signs until you meet the orange route, then follow cycle signs to return to Wigtown.
3.4	Torhousekie standing stones.
5.3	To take the short cut, turn left and after 3 miles turn left at the T-junction to follow the cycle signs back to Wigtown. Look out for the Hole Stone, a place for sealing the knot by linking hands through it.
7.8	Kirkcowan.
13.5	Old Place of Mochrum and Mochrum Loch.
20.1	Join the orange route and follow cycle signs back to Wigtown.
23.5	Bladnoch.
24.7	Wigtown.



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ON SHARED USE PATHS • Please be courteous and be prepared to slow down or stop if necessary • Give way to pedestrians, horse-riders and wheelchair users, leaving them plenty of room • Carry a bell and use it - not all pedestrians can see you • Always follow the Highway Code • Be seen - most accidents to cyclists happen at junctions • Fit lights, wear a helmet and light and reflective clothing • Respect land management activities such as farming and forestry and take litter home • Be self-sufficient - in remote areas carry food, repair kit, map and waterproofs.

Bikes on Buses – the 500/X75 carries bikes along the A75 www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables