

CREE ESTUARY

- START** Newton Stewart Riverside car park
- 24km/15miles. Off-tarmac 3km/2miles**
- Allow 3 hours**
- Mainly at shallow gradients, but three very steep uphill and downhill**
- On route, toilets and snacks available all year round in Creetown and seasonally at Kirroughtree Visitor Centre**

This route takes advantage of the only significant cycle paths in Wigtownshire. However, you do have to return the way you went out. But you can gain a lot from the reverse perspective and the scenery is stunning.

Newton Stewart is a busy market town, named after its founder William Stewart, son of the Earl of Galloway. It sits on the banks of the River Cree, not far from the attractive Galloway coastline.

Creetown is a small, picturesque village situated at the head of the Cree Estuary. It boasts an extensive area of saltmarsh which attracts large flocks of geese in winter. Granite quarrying was once the main industry around Creetown and the village is made from the local stone. The Kirkmabreck quarries once supplied stone for the Liverpool docks, London and even overseas.



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Miles	Route
0.0	Exit the car park over the Sparling cycle bridge. Turn left onto the riverside path and continue to the crossroads. Cross the road and turn right to reach the cycle track on the other side. This is National Cycle Route 7, which you follow all the way to Creetown.
0.5	Cross the A712 to continue on the cycle track
1.0	After the section alongside the A75, head steeply uphill on the rough track (Leadmines Hill). The track continues to Kirroughtree Visitor Centre, a base for forest cycle and walking routes. Enjoy views of the estuary from the cycle path after emerging from the wood. Note the little conical hill, the Knock of Luce. After passing the next farm, head steeply downhill
7.5	Creetown Clock, in the centre of the town. Visit the Gem Rock Museum to see displays of gems, crystals, minerals and fossils. Once you have rested and explored, return to Newton Stewart along Route 7.

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