

THE MOORS OF WIGTOWNSHIRE

- START** Glenluce. Park on the main street
- 29km/17miles**
- Allow 3 hrs**
- Gently undulating plus two longer, but easy climbs**

Luce Valley is particularly rich in all manner of archaeological remains. There are prehistoric hut circles and cairns, including an important chambered cairn at Kilhern. In addition there are Iron Age forts, mottes and baileys, castles (remains and complete), tower houses, deserted villages, and, of course, Glenluce abbey. Look out for some of these as you go.

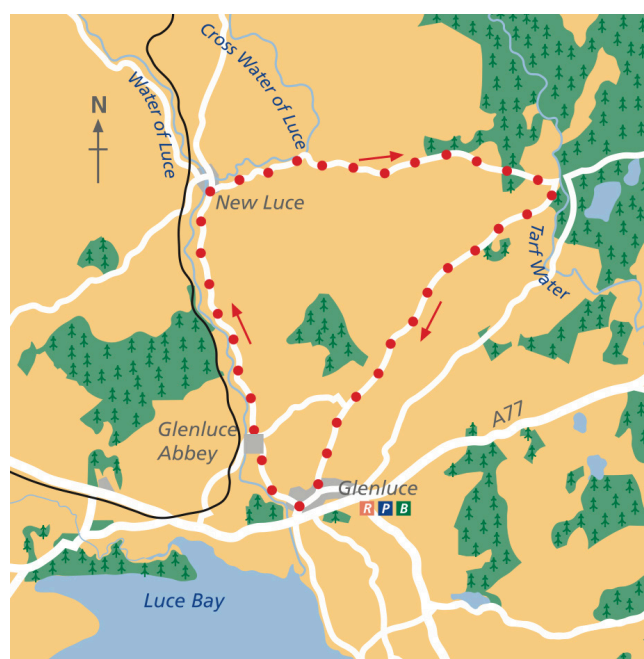
Glenluce A small village with a traditional main street, restored by the opening of the bypass.

Castle of Park is a complete laird's house, built in 1590 and now fully restored and lived in. The lands were still in the hands of the Hays until about 1870. The founder was Thomas, son of the last abbot of Glenluce Abbey, from where he reputedly plundered the stone.

Glenluce Abbey Roland, Lord of Galloway, founded this Cistercian abbey in 1192. At that time Galloway was hard to access by land and was a semi-independent province ruled by its own Lords. Robbed of stone for the building of Castle of Park, the abbey now sleeps in its tranquil setting. Its chief surviving glory is the beautiful 15th century chapter house.

The Moors Here you cross wild moorland with a preponderance of peat. In spring and summer there are a variety of moorland birds such as skylark, curlew, oyster catcher, redshank, wheatear, red grouse and, if you are lucky, even golden plover.

Miles	Route
0.0	Glenluce. Leave at the foot of the village by the New Luce road (signposted to New Luce and Barrhill). If you wish to visit Castle of Park, turn left after the viaduct, crossing the bridge. At the tight bend, turn right and go up the Coal Merchant's road. Return and continue on New Luce road. Soon, on your left are the remains of Glenluce Abbey.
5.7	"Hideaway" village of New Luce. If you wish, take some time to explore. Otherwise, turn right before the church. This is where you cross really wild countryside.
11.1	Turn right at the T-junction and continue straight on
17.2	Glenluce



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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