

ARCHBANK AND FRENCHLAND

- Circular town and farmland walk**
- 6km/3½ miles**
- Allow 1½ hours**
- Pavement, minor road, tracks and grass. Gates**
- Moderate**
- Boots or stout shoes recommended**

PARKING In Moffat High Street.

START from the bottom end of the High Street. Walk towards the War Memorial and turn right at the Clock Tower down Well Street (signed for Old Well Theatre and Well Street shops). Head uphill on Old Well Street past Dowding House and the Old Well Theatre. Dowding House is named after Air Chief Marshal Lord Hugh Dowding (1882-1970), the most famous son of Moffat and the 'Architect of Deliverance' whose preparation and operations gave the Royal Air Force victory in the Battle of Britain.

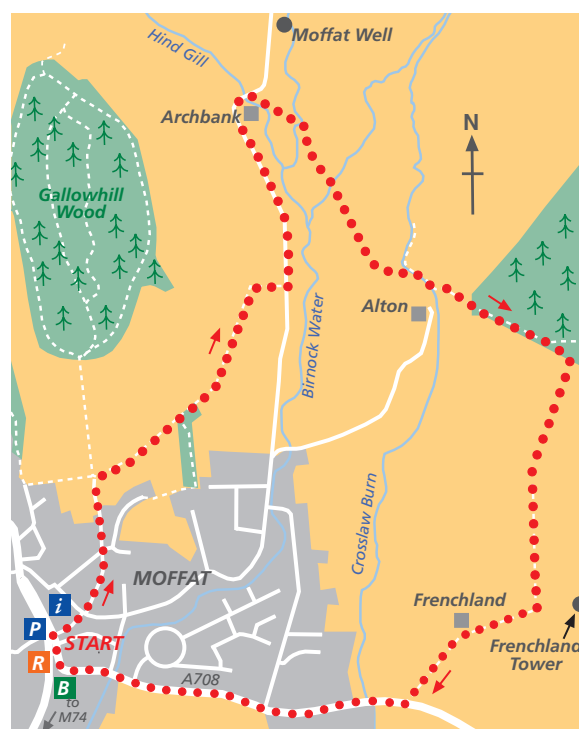
Continue between the no through road signs and past the end of Hartfell Crescent. At the top of the narrow section of road, enclosed by a wall and high earth bank, turn right following the fingerpost for Heatheryhaugh. This is a good vantage point over the eastern side of Moffat. The track narrows to a path that reaches a field entrance. Pass through the kissing gate into the field and follow the fence line in front of you that runs parallel to the road below. Turn right after the kissing gate by the water trough and descend between the fence and wall to reach the minor road. Turn left following the road past Archbank House and on over the bridge with interesting balconies jutting out over a gorge section of Hind Gill.

One hundred years ago this route to Moffat Well was bustling with noise and activity of pedestrians and passengers in carriages, drawn by the health fad for sulphurous waters.

At the end of the bridge parapet turn right, signposted – Alton 1/2, through the gate and follow the edge of the bank for a short distance. As the ground drops away turn left and descend to the bridge over Blae Beck via a red sandstone track. Pass through the gate and follow the grass track until it swings left. At this point continue straight ahead, leaving the main track, to cross a small burn before reaching a kissing gate in the dyke. Cross the field to the next kissing gate and then bear left towards the redundant section of wall at the site of an old pond. Another kissing gate takes you on to a farm track. Turn right and just before you reach the farm of Alton, turn left through the pedestrian gate set in the left side of a field gate.

Cross the burn at the multi-stemmed lime tree and walk uphill alongside the fence to reach the gate into the corner of the plantation. Follow the rough path between the trees and the dyke. This strip opens out and you will find a kissing gate next to a large boulder set in the dyke. Enter the field and aim for the nearest barn. You will cross a drain before reaching a pair of gates just up from the field corner. Continue to the next gate at the head of a track. Follow the track through a right angle turn to reach Frenchland Farm. Look to the left just before making this turn and you will just be able to see the top of the remains of Frenchland Tower built by a French family in the late 16th century.

Follow the track through the farmyard and then through a left turn to reach the Moffat to Selkirk road. Turn right and follow the verge until you can cross the road to join the pavement. Pass the hospital, the fire station and Moffat rugby ground on route to the town centre.



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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.