

BUCKLAND GLEN

- Circular coastal and countryside walk**
- 8.5km/5miles**
- Allow 3 to 4 hours**
- Roadside pavement, verge and minor roads**
- Moderate**
- Stout shoes recommended**
- OS Explorer 1:25,000 map number 312**

PARKING is available at the Harbour Square car park in the centre of Kirkcudbright.

START from the car park. Leave the entrance opposite the Post Office and turn right then left. On reaching St Mary Street, turn right and walk out of town. Follow the A711 going south to Dundrennan and Auchencairn, along the roadside pavement. This road meanders alongside the coast until it reaches Mutehill. There are benches along the way and a few points where you can leave the road and get access to the shore where there are plenty of opportunities to spot waders such as oystercatcher and curlew on the mudflats. There are views over to St. Mary's Isle and Ross Island at the mouth of Kirkcudbright Bay.

Before you reach Mutehill you will notice Black Moray Wood on your left. Also known as Black Morrow Wood, it is the site of the Black Morrow Well. Rumour has it that a gipsy chief, greatly feared by the locals and known as Black Murray, lived in this wood. Young MacLellan of Bombie, in order to recover his father's lands, filled a well beside Murray's cave in the wood with spirits. Murray drank from it then fell asleep. MacLellan seized the opportunity, jumped from his hiding place and chopped off Murray's head. He then brought it on the point of his sword to King James II and so secured the reward promised for the death of Black Murray and the defeat of the gypsies.

Once you reach Mutehill, the pavement ends. Turn left over the bridge and walk along the A711 for a short while before turning left onto the minor road. This quiet road follows the Buckland Burn along a wooded glen, which is in sharp contrast to the estuarine environment you have just left. At dusk you may get glimpses of roe deer, foxes and rabbits. Various woodland birds can be seen such as blue, great and coal tits and long-tailed tits which forage in large parties outwith the nesting season. Because of their high-pitched call, these birds can very often be heard long before they are seen. Greatspotted woodpecker, treecreepers, jay and tawny owl are all to be seen in this type of habitat.

Continue on up the Buckland Glen. If your visit is in the spring time, the roadside verges are carpeted with pungent smelling wild garlic which will be followed by foxgloves, red campion and numerous white umbellifers such as cow parsley and hogweed. When you arrive at Buckland Bridge, take a left turn which takes you back to Kirkcudbright up a rather twisting (to begin with), quiet country lane. When you meet the road to Gelston, after about a mile, watch out for the cemetery on your right. It is here that Billy Marshall, 'The Caird of Barullion and King of Galloway Tinkers' was laid to rest at the age of 120 years. His many adventures and polygamous marriages not seeming to do him any harm at all! It is all down hill from the High Kirkland Cottage to the town.



Map © Crown Copyright and Database right 2013. All rights reserved.
Ordnance Survey licence 100016994

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.