

BURNS WALK LOOP

- Circular town and country route**
- 5km/3miles to 7.5 km/4½ miles depending on option**
- Allow 1½ hours**
- Hard surface, gravel and beaten earth paths with steps**
- Moderate**
- Boots or stout shoes recommended**

PARKING Park at the Whitesands car park alongside the River Nith. You can conveniently reach the start point using buses or bicycles as this area has a bus terminus and cycle stands.

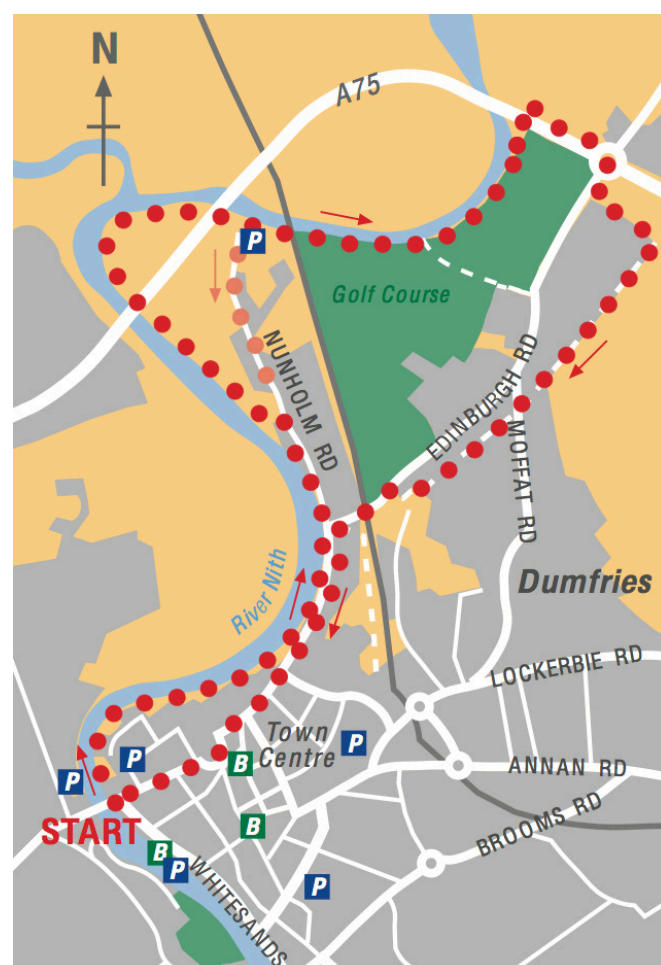
START at the foot of Devorgilla Bridge. You can explore the historical link with Lady Devorgilla by visiting Sweetheart Abbey in New Abbey. This elegant sandstone bridge was built around 1431 to replace the timber bridge of 1280. The central cutwater (pier) is extended up to the bridge parapet and was the site of the former Toll Gate marking the boundary between Dumfries and Maxwelltown. Follow the finger post for 'Burns' Walk Dalscone 3 Miles'. Pass under the Buccleuch Street Bridge and then past the swimming pool and rowing club. The next section of path is prone to flooding when the Nith is in spate. If your route is blocked then take the detour.

DETOUR Turn right up the hill, then left at the t-junction. Take the second road on the right (Irving Street) and then turn left at the next junction. Continue past Dumfries Academy and the entrance to the staff car park. In a short distance you will reach some railings and a gap in the wall. Descend the slope to rejoin the riverside path and follow the 'main route' directions.

MAIN ROUTE This route is a quiet corridor heading out of town. Follow the path straight ahead until it climbs the riverbank to meet Albany Place/Nunholm Road. Pass through the kissing gate and turn left along the pavement. After a short distance turn left at the signpost towards the river. As you continue along the path you will pass under one railway bridge and two road bridges. This section of the river is very popular with local fishermen. Shortly after the second road bridge you will reach a small car park. At this point you have two options:

• **OPTION 1** To return to the town centre follow the track away from the car park. This track joins the public road. Continue to the T-junction and turn right. Follow this road past Gracefield Arts Centre and Dumfries Academy and on through the town centre to return to the Whitesands and the start of your walk.

• **OPTION 2** Continue along the riverside path and pass under the Martinton Railway Bridge. The next section of the path runs high above the river and alongside the Dumfries and County Golf Course. After approximately ½ mile you will climb the steps up Dalscone Bank and walk among the impressive beech trees. Pass under the next road bridge, cross the stile on your right and climb the steps to meet the bypass. Turn left, heading for the roundabout. Descend through the subway where you will find another sign for 'Burns Walk'. Shortly after leaving the subway take the steps on your left and continue along the path until you reach the bridge over the cycleway. Turn left through the gate to join the cycleway, then left along the cycleway for the return leg into town. Continue along the cycleway for just over ½ mile, proceeding straight ahead at the road crossings, until you reach the sign for 'Town Centre and Station'. Turn right at this point to meet the public road, turn left and follow Edinburgh Road, Academy Street, Church Crescent and Buccleuch Street, turning left before the bridge to return to the Whitesands where you started your walk.



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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.