DALRY TO BLACKWATER BRIDGE

- **Circular farmland and moorland walk**
- **19km/12 miles**
- **Allow 6 hours**
- **Hard surface track, minor road and grass path, soft in places. Stiles, gates and cattle grids**
- **Moderate**
- **Stout shoes or boots recommended**

PARKING is available at the roadside in the centre of Dalry.

START From the fountain in the centre of Dalry, follow the main street uphill towards Moniaive. Turn left at the Southern Upland Way (SUW) signpost and follow the waymarkers for 8km/5miles to reach Butterhole Bridge. Just past the bridge, turn left at the sign for Kendoon Youth Hostel. Follow waymarkers to the B7000, turn left and follow the road back to Dalry.
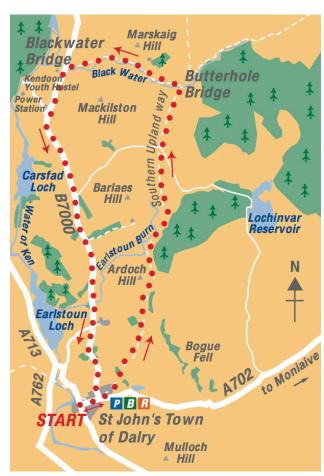
On reaching Dalry, turn right and follow the road downhill to the main street.

Before you leave the main street in Dalry, note the small stone seat known as St. John's chair, named after St. John the Baptist.
From here the SUW leaves Dalry to cross rough fields and moorland. Although waymarked, parts of the route are remote and navigation may be difficult in bad weather.

From Aardoch Farm the route skirts round Ardoch Hill to follow Earlstoun Burn. Enjoy panoramic views of the hills, with Cairnsmore of Carsphairn to the north and Bennan to the south. Continue across open moorland, frequented by birds such as wheatear and ravens. In summer, white tufts of cotton grass appear in boggy areas, warning you to steer clear. This part of the walk feels especially remote but you are not far from the road to Butterhole Bridge.

From Butterhole Bridge, the route continues across moorland, following the Black Water. On reaching the B7000 enjoy excellent views over the Water of Ken as it makes its way down the Ken Valley to Dalry. It has been dammed at various points, flooding the valley basin to create man-made lochs. Part of the Galloway Hydro-Electric scheme, the power station at Kendoon opened in 1936 and is also part of the scheme.

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.