

# H O L M W O O D S

- Circular road and woodland walk with dramatic river crossing**
- 4km/2½ miles**
- Allow 1 hour**
- Hard surfaced paths (soft in places) and minor roads**
- Easy**
- Boots recommended**

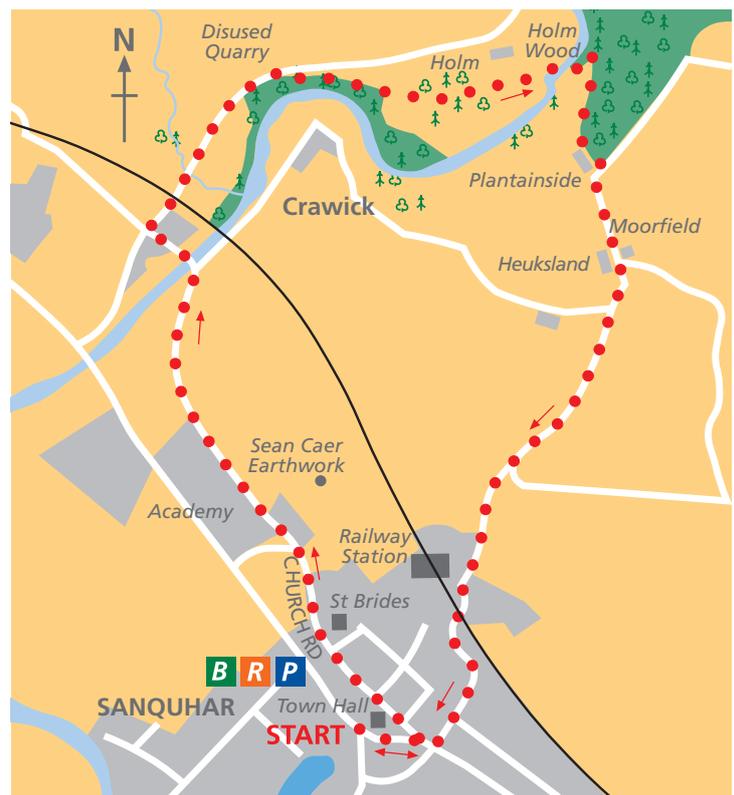
**PARKING** From Dumfries follow the A76 Glasgow Road to Sanquhar. Continue along the High Street, through the narrow section at the Tolbooth and take the next left turn into Queens Road. Turn immediately right and park at the picnic site above 'The Waird' curling pond.

**START** Return to the main road and cross to the far pavement. Turn right, walk past the Town Hall and turn left down Church Road. Continue past St Brides (or take a detour through the churchyard leaving via the lower gate) and on towards the Academy. Before reaching the Academy look for the mound behind the houses to your right. This is the ancient earthwork of the fort of Sean Caer, the namesake of the town. Pass the back of the Academy and descend towards the old village of Crawick. In the 1900s this valley was a hive of industry with 54 looms in the blanket mills and a forge that specialised in spade and shovel manufacture.

Cross the pedestrian bridge and turn right at the crossroads, pass under the railway and continue to the top of the hill past the disused quarry.

When you are level with the top boundary of the old quarry site take the track to your right and descend towards the river. Continue past the cottage and ruin to reach the riverside path and the bridge across the Sodgers' Pool. The captured officers of Napoleon's army enjoyed this bathing pool when they were on parole of honour in the Sanquhar area from 1812 and the pool has been known by locals as the Sodgers' (soldiers') ever since.

Cross the second and third sections of this bridge and turn right up the steps (before reaching the next bridge). At the Y-junction above the steps keep left and continue uphill past the cottage to the minor road. Turn right and follow this road (ignoring side roads) to return to Sanquhar. You will cross the bridge over the railway before descending to meet the High Street. Turn right to reach 'The Waird'.



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