

# KIRKCONNEL VILLAGE WALK

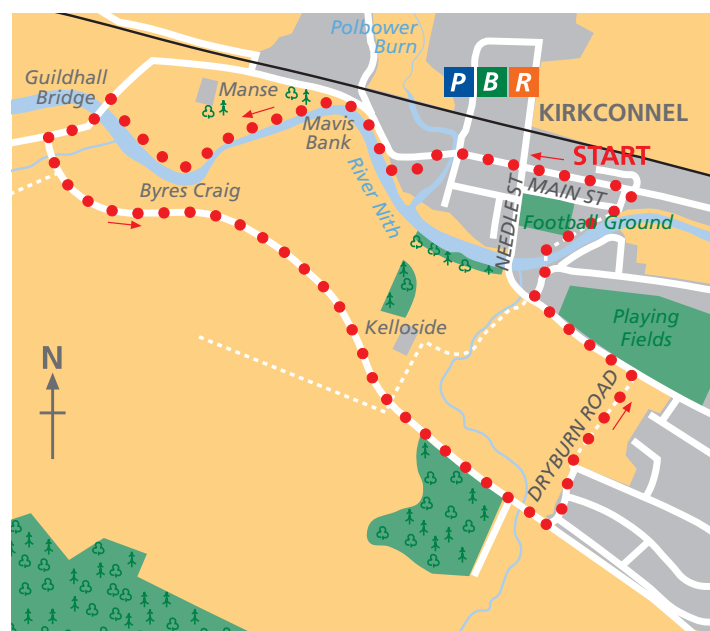
- Circular riverside walk with quiet road return**
- 4km/2½ miles**
- Allow 1 hour**
- Hard surfaced paths and minor roads. Gate**
- Easy**
- Stout shoes or boots recommended**

**PARKING** From Dumfries follow the A76 Glasgow Road through Sanquhar to Kirkconnel. Continue along Main Street and turn right into the car park by the pharmacy (just before the Riverside Bar).

**START** Leave the car park and continue along the Main Street past Kirkconnel Parish Heritage Society building. This is a good drop-in point for local and historical information, including advice on walking routes. Continue past the Post Office and the public toilets. In October 1940 homebound German planes returning from bombing Clydebank destroyed the site now occupied by the public toilets. The intended target was probably the railway that was being used for troop transport. Cross Polbower Burn, then cross the A76 at the steps and traffic island and enter the former school site through the sandstone gate pillars. Turn right in the park and right again just after the commemorative wall and the tree planting. Turn right before the River Nith and up the incline to the start of the Mavis Bank Walk. From the platform by the information board you can see St Connel's Parish Church and the Alexander Anderson Memorial. This pleasant riverside walk meanders through a narrow strip of mixed woodland, past the restored sluice with viewing platform and the ruins of Mavis Bank cottage before opening out alongside the Church Glebe. On the far bank of the meander is a pretty crag with neighbouring swathes of wild garlic.

Continue upstream and pass through the gate to the verge of the Glasgow Road. Turn left across the Guildhall Bridge and turn left on the minor road signed 'Kelloholm 1¼'. From here you have expansive views of the rounded tops of the Upper Nithsdale hills that were eroded and shaped by ice sheets during the last Ice Age.

Continue past Kelloside Farm and the plantation before taking the first left turn into the estate. Pass the line of garages to reach the footpath at the corner of Dryburn Road. Follow the path up the rise then descend towards the playing fields, cross the road and turn left along the pavement. On passing the bowling green turn right down Kingsway and cross the River Nith using the footbridge. Turn right between the bollards and follow the riverside path past the crazy golf and up the steps to the Miners' Memorial Garden. At Main Street turn left to return to the car park.



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