

MURRAY'S MONUMENT

- **Circular forest walk**
- **Hard surface path and track**
- **2.5km/ 1 ½ miles**
- **Allow 1 ½ hours**
- **Strenuous (steep climb to monument)**
- **Stout shoes or boots recommended**

PARKING From the A75, just east of Newton Stewart, follow the A712 to the Galloway Forest Park. After approximately 11km/6½ miles, the car park for the Grey Mare's Tail is on your left.

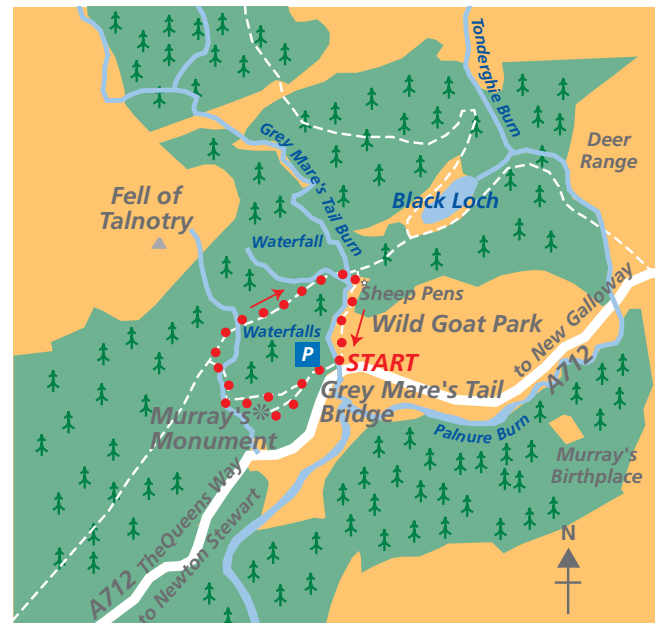
START From the car park, follow the red waymarkers along the Talnotry Trail.

The stretch of the A712 through the Galloway Forest Park is known as the Queen's Way, in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee. It is a very scenic stretch of road, winding through forests and moorland with rugged hills rising on either side. Other attractions include the Red Deer Range and the Goat Park, large areas of hillside fenced off to contain some of the red deer and wild goats that roam these hills, and Clatteringshaws visitor centre on the shores of the loch (open April to October).

The steep climb up to Murray's Monument is well worth the effort. The monument was erected in 1835 in memory of Alexander Murray, a local shepherd boy who later became professor of oriental languages at Edinburgh University. It stands in a prominent position on the hillside with commanding views of the valley and the northern slopes of Cairnsmore of Fleet.

The trail continues through the forest, be aware the trail joins one of the mountain bike trails for approximately 250m before it joins the old Edinburgh Road, once used by pilgrims on their way to Whithorn. After crossing the Grey Mare's Tail burn follow the path downhill, through old sheep pens where eerie faces await you. These unusual carvings, set into the stone walls of the pens are part of the Galloway Forest Park arts programme.

Follow the path down craggy, heather clad slopes to the car park. A viewing point here is the best place to see the Grey Mare's Tail waterfall as it cascades over rocks before meeting the Palnure burn.



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