

OLD IRVINE

- Circular lower hill walk**
- 17km/10½ miles**
- Allow 3½ hrs**
- Hard surfaced track, minor road, hill ground and pavement. Gates.**
- Strenuous**
- Boots recommended**

PARKING Kilngreen car park on the side of the River Esk, is the start point for all the Langholm walks and is just north of the town centre on the A7. If you are coming from the south take the A7 to Langholm and pass through the town centre following signs for Hawick and Galashiels (A7) to the far side of town. Pass the Lockerbie turn and take the first left into the Kilngreen car park where you will find toilets, information and picnic tables.

START Return towards the town centre and turn right for the bridge over the River Esk on Thomas Telford Road. At the end of the bridge turn left down Elizabeth Street, bear right into Caroline Street and cross the road, taking the footbridge into Buccleuch Park. Cross the park passing between the Memorial Garden and the church to the riverside path.

Turn left when you meet the wide track and continue past Murtholm Farm to reach the main road just past Skipper's Bridge. Turn right and follow the road, passing the cemetery road end. Just after the cyclists warning sign turn right at the waymarker on to a path leading up the wooded slope.

After a short climb turn right on a track for about 200 metres to reach a junction before the houses. Turn left through the kissing gate. Turn left through the kissing gate and follow the track until it splits. Take the right track (ignore the spur track to the left) and keep ahead through the rushes making for the tip of the woodland above Middleholm. Pass through the gateway in the dyke and cross the small enclosure to the next gate. Turn right through the gate and follow the track to ford Gaber Gill. Follow the waymarker straight ahead to meet a ruined and grassed over dyke leading to a standing dyke. Follow this dyke (and the power lines) to reach a track above Old Irvine farmstead.

The ground between Middleholm and the sheepfold is rich in archaeological interest, including enclosed settlements incorporating round houses, evidence of rig and furrow cultivation (and associated clearance cairns) and remains of old field boundaries and livestock pens. Early evidence of iron extraction has been found at two bloomey mounds. These are concretions of small stones and slag produced by smelting iron ore in charcoal powered chimney furnaces.

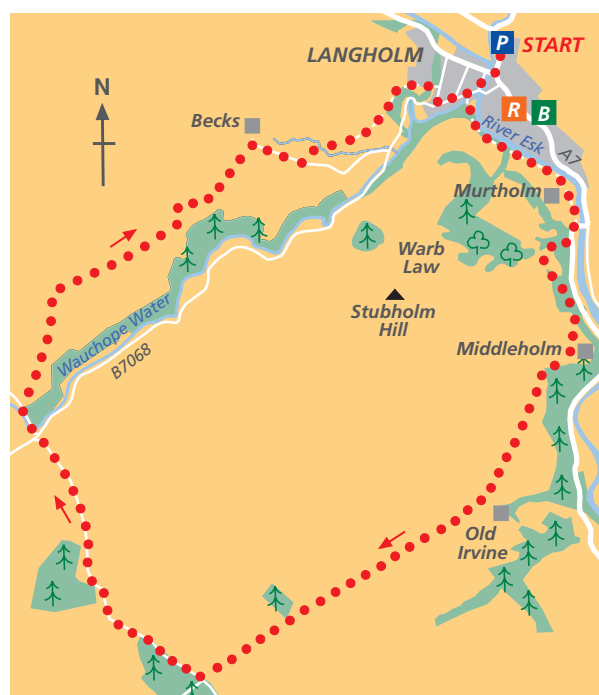
Descend towards the farm, crossing the burn and keeping right on the track leading past a cottage. Follow the track through five more gates to reach the public road. This long straight track is a medieval route that linked Langholm and Annan. Turn right, signposted Langholm 5 and continue for 1 1/2 miles to meet the B7068.

Turn right, (Langholm 3 1/2), and next left to cross the bridge over the Wauchope Water (Cleuchfoot, Arresgill and Loganhead). In a short distance the path is signposted to the right. Pass through the kissing gate and cross the burn. Keep to the top of the bank (and follow the waymarkers) to reach the next kissing gate.

Continue with the fence on your left and at the next turn in the fence keep straight ahead to the power lines. Turn right and using the poles as a guide, negotiate the wet areas and drains to reach a kissing gate.

Continue on a line of your choice, roughly 20m to the top side of the fence and parallel to the power lines. At the gate follow the farm track straight ahead to Becks and turn right to join the public road. After approx 1/2 km turn left at the waymarker into the wood. Follow the path down and up the valley sides to reach a track terminus with a seat. This track will take you past some interesting smallholdings.

As you near the housing two tracks feed in from the left. Descend the lane past the housing estate and the stables and bear left to a seat at the top of a grass slope. Take the hairpin track downhill past the garages and at the track junction turn left to reach Eskdail Street. Turn left along Eskdail Street and at the road end turn right to return to Telford Bridge downriver from the Kilngreen car park.



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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.