

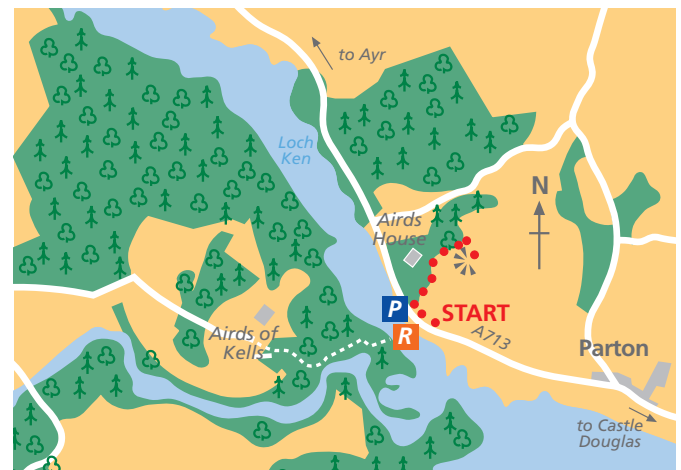
PARTON VIEWPOINT

- **Linear farmland walk with viewpoint**
- **1.75km/1 mile (return)**
- **Allow 45 minutes**
- **Grass path**
- **Easy to moderate**
- **Boots or stout shoes recommended**
- **No Dogs**

PARKING is available in the lay-by at the Loch Ken Holiday Park near Parton on the A713, approximately 11km/7 miles north west of Castle Douglas. NX 685704. The Holiday Park has a small shop, selling basic provisions and has a wide range of tourist information. It is also possible to hire boats, canoes and bikes from here. The information board in the car park has details on Loch Ken, its surroundings, facilities and wildlife.

START from the end of the lay-by nearest the Holiday Park, then carefully cross the busy A713, where the walk is signposted. The path follows the edge of the field and takes you alongside mature woodland where red squirrels may be seen scampering along branches and leaping between trees. Mature trees are also dotted throughout the field. Past these, the path steepens. Where it levels out, take the opportunity to stop and enjoy the magnificent views over Loch Ken and the distant hills. The biggest of these is Black Craig of Dee. Once you reach the top of the field, follow the path round to the right. Here you get views to the north of Parton and the undulating hills here. Listen out for buzzards “mewing” and on a fine day, look out for them circling effortlessly upwards on the thermals. There is also a chance that you may spot a red kite. The walk ends at the main viewpoint where you can see the impressive steel girders which form Loch Ken Viaduct. These are the remains of the Castle Douglas to Portpatrick railway line, which was opened in 1862. The line was closed in 1965 as part of the Beeching cuts.

Retrace your steps to the lay-by, again making sure that you take care as you cross the busy A713.



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