

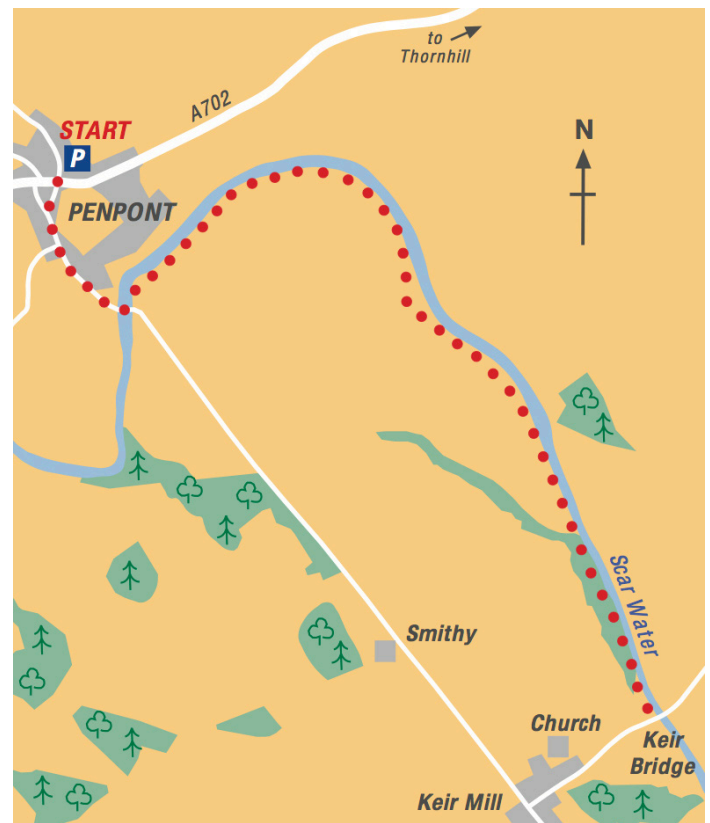
PENPONT TO KEIR MILL

- **Linear road and riverside walk**
- **5.5 km/3½ miles**
- **Allow 1½ hours**
- **Hard surfaced paths soft in places with steps/gate**
- **Moderate**
- **Boots**

PARKING From Dumfries follow the A76 Glasgow Road to Thornhill and at the end of the village turn left on the A702 to Penpont. Turn right at the crossroads in Penpont and you will find the car park and public toilets on the right hand side.

START Turn left out of the car park and continue over the crossroads, passing the post office. Leave the village, cross the Scar Water and at the far side of the bridge turn left through the gate and follow the riverside path. This is a pleasant corridor rich in wildlife and gives good views of the hills to the east of the Nith Valley.

In winter you can watch the water through the ash and alder stems and you may well see goosander, white-breasted dippers darting from stone to stone and solitary feeding heron. Further along the path you will find some fine old gnarled oaks clinging to the riverbank. The path crosses a burn and up a flight of steps to reach Keir Bridge. From this mid-point you can return along the river or turn right, pass the church into Keir Mill, where another right turn will take you along the roadside to Penpont. You will pass the smithy where Kirkpatrick MacMillan invented and built the first rear wheel driven bicycle around 1840.



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