

SAINT KENTIGERN'S CHURCHYARD

- **Allow 1/2 hour**
- **Main road, grass field**
- **One stile**
- **Easy**
- **Stout shoes useful**

START from the car park, following the blue signed path through the woodland for Hoddom Castle. When you reach the tarmac drive turn to the right towards the gatehouse for about 25 metres. Then take the waymarked riverside path for Hoddom Castle. The path leads upstream for about 200 metres, before turning left. Continue following the blue arrow signs through the woodland to come out just before Hoddom Castle. There is a car park at the Hoddom Castle Caravan Park and the café in the castle provides welcome food refreshments during the summer season.

Just before the Castle turn left and pass the children's playground. At the end of the playground a finger post indicates the path to Repentance Tower; continue through the caravan park, following a second finger post to the edge of the wooded area, where a third finger post can be found. This marks the path which winds through the trees to the main road (B725). Turn left and a sign there reads "100 metres to the stile for Repentance". The steps and stile are signposted on the righthand side of the road. Take care on these steps as they can be slippery. There is no path up the steep hill to the Tower and care should be taken as the grass can be slippery.

From the Tower, retrace your steps to the main road and turn right towards the car park.

PARKING The Hoddom and Kinmount car park and picnic site are signposted off the B723 Annan to Lockerbie road at the junction with the B725 Dalton road about 4 1/2 miles west of Annan.

Several other waymarked walks start from here, including the Woodcockair walks which involve steep hills and care must be taken as timber felling and clearing contractors are often working.

This is a short walk along the banks of the River Annan to an ancient burial ground which has many ornate 17th and 18th century gravestones.

The cemetery is known locally as St. Kentigern's.

According to tradition, St Kentigern, who is also known as St. Mungo, came to Hoddom in 573 when returning to Glasgow after exile in Wales. At Hoddom he founded a monastery before returning to Glasgow where he became the city's patron Saint. The site was famous for its large collection of 8th and 9th century sculptures, some of which can now be seen in Dumfries Museum.

In 1991 the remains of a large 8th century monastery were discovered on the high ground behind the churchyard.

START from the Hoddom and Kinmount Estates car park and picnic site.

From the car park, follow the path signed for Hoddom Castle. When you reach the castle drive, turn right and walk out through the entrance gates and join the main road.

Take care as the corner is blind and the bridge is narrow.

Cross the bridge over the River Annan, and take the stile on the right hand side of the road which gives access to the riverside path.

This path runs downstream along the bank to the ancient churchyard. It is worth spending a few minutes in this tranquil spot before retracing your footsteps to the car park.



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