

WANLOCKHEAD TO SANQUHAR ALONG THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY

Bus to start point. Linear upland path with road and track sections

12km/7½ miles

Allow 3½ hours

Upland paths (soft in places) and minor roads. Gates and stiles

Strenuous

Boots recommended

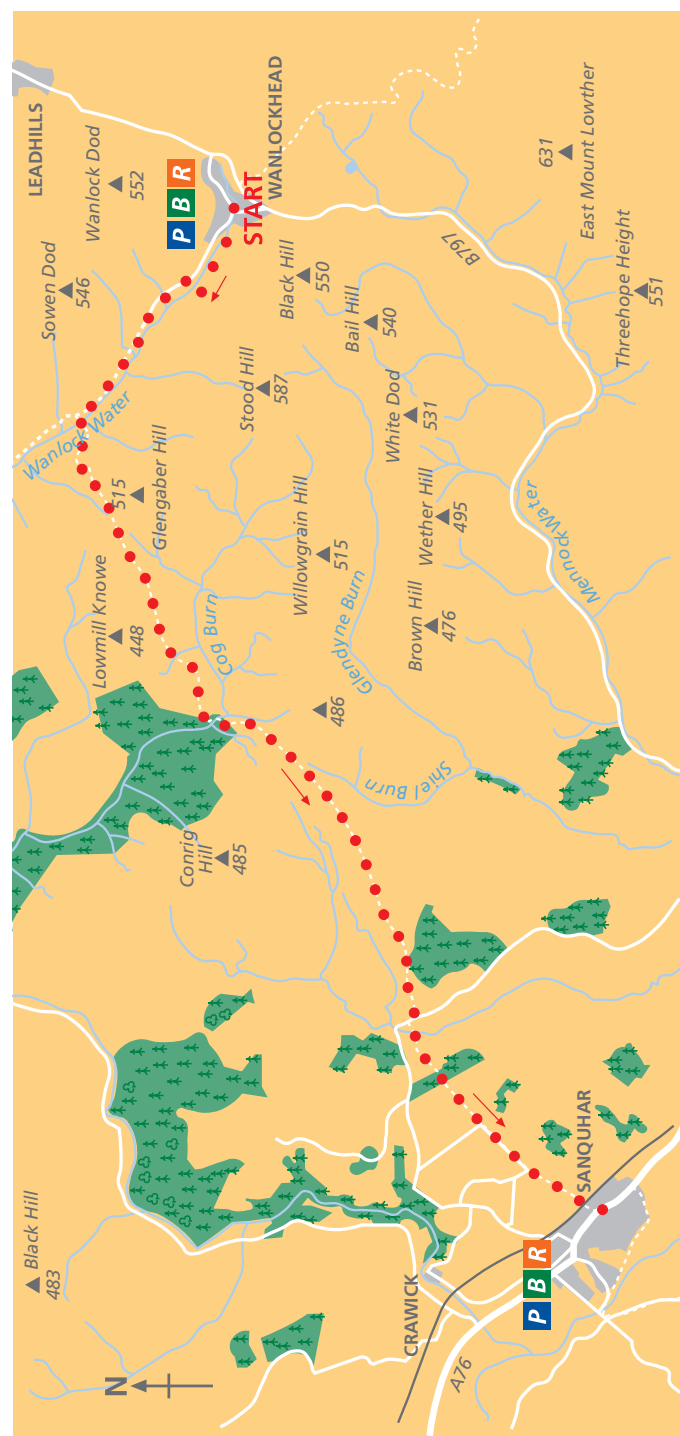
PARKING From Dumfries follow the A76 Glasgow Road to Sanquhar. Continue along the High Street and find a parking space in one of the car parks.

START Catch the Wanlockhead bus from the shelter on the post office side of the High Street. Bus times are available from the Tourist Information Centre inside the world's oldest working post office. Alight from the bus at the stop opposite the Museum of Lead Mining in Wanlockhead. This is well worth a visit before you set out along the Southern Upland Way. The interesting industrial heritage sites along this route will be more rewarding with your new found knowledge.

Cross the road and the burn below the museum and turn left along the Southern Upland Way. Pass the Lochnell mine, the beam engine and the churchyard and continue along the quiet road alongside Wanlock Water. At the water works the tarred road finishes. Continue along the track to the fingerpost, cross the footbridge and climb the stile to the open hill.

Follow the waymark post past the corrugated sheepfold on the track that zigzags uphill. At the top cross the fence at the stile and follow the causeway to another stile followed by a series of burn crossings. In early summer the sky is busy with energetic flight and intense song of skylarks that dart out from vegetation at the sides of the path. Soon you will see a stone sheep shelter and a ruined steading. Cross the stile and turn right along the track away from the ruin to descend towards the forest. Climb the stile by the fingerpost and turn left along the forest road. Cross the burn and pass the lay-by before turning left off the forest road to reach another stile. Walk uphill following waymarkers and, as you near the top, enjoy the opening vista of Upper Nithsdale. Climb the stile to reach the downhill path following the fence line. After a long straight section the fence turns to the left but the Southern Upland Way waymarkers and stiles lead you to a track on the right of the plantation. Join the tarmac road after the farmhouse and turn left over the stile, just before the gate and cattle grid across the road.

Descend the slope to the footbridge and cross to the stile followed by boardwalks. The route climbs to a replanted wood. Follow the waymarkers, stiles and kissing gates to reach the track running past the public water supply. When the track turns right take the path straight ahead to drop into Sanquhar down the steep and wide Cow's Wynd. Pass under the railway to reach the High Street and turn right to the Tolbooth.



Map © Crown Copyright and Database right 2013. All rights reserved.
Ordnance Survey licence 100016994

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.