

New Galloway Golf Course Woodland Path

The woodland adjacent to the Golf Course is owned by the Golf Club. The path was at risk of becoming unusable due to growth of vegetation, fallen trees and the failure to maintain boardwalks and steps. The Club no longer has resources to maintain the footpath, but has agreed to have the work done by volunteers. Supported by a grant for materials from the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership to LING to cover work on footpaths at the Golf Course wood and at the Garroch Estate in Glenlee, volunteers have improved the footpath to make it usable and will continue to maintain it, including a bi-annual clearance of fern.

Start Point: Lay by on right past Club car park.

Grade: Moderate due to gradient

Distance: Approx. 0.7 mile for circular walk.

Description: The signed route is circular and can be walked in either direction. The path has been diverted in a few places to avoid hazardous bits and to make access easier. A path leading off the circular route near the highest point of the route goes through a gap in the wall to woodland owned by Mr Jamie Gordon who is happy for walkers to use the paths.

After the gap mentioned above the path follows a circular route initially running parallel to the Golf Course and descending to the valley with the Knocknairling Burn. After the steep descent turn left at the T junction and proceed to a plantation of mature conifers on your left. Climb the short bank and find an indistinct trail upwards until the path bears left across a short boggy area. Keep left at the next junction and you will arrive at the gap in the wall leading back into the Golf Course wood. Take a pair of secateurs with you to trim back the branches which constantly threaten to block the path .

Another alternative is to turn left after crossing through the wall and then left at the next intersection to take a steep descent to the A 762 and on the right you are close to the entrance to the Castle grounds. The castle is in a dangerous state so avoid getting close to the building; a circular walk around the mound is very rewarding.

Return to New Galloway by road or by retracing your previous route.