

We took a walk on the

Annandale Way

*We took a walk in Annandale
and at the end we asked,
'Can we walk the whole way?'*

*On the horizon the hills climbed so that
the sun could nest between them.*

*The Annan ran softly and smooth its golden
cool waters rustling like leaves.*



...For walkers after fairy tale dreams, there's nothing like the Annandale Way...

Hoddon Primary School



*...For walkers after
a life-changing
experience
there's nothing
better than the
Annandale Way...*

Hoddon Primary School

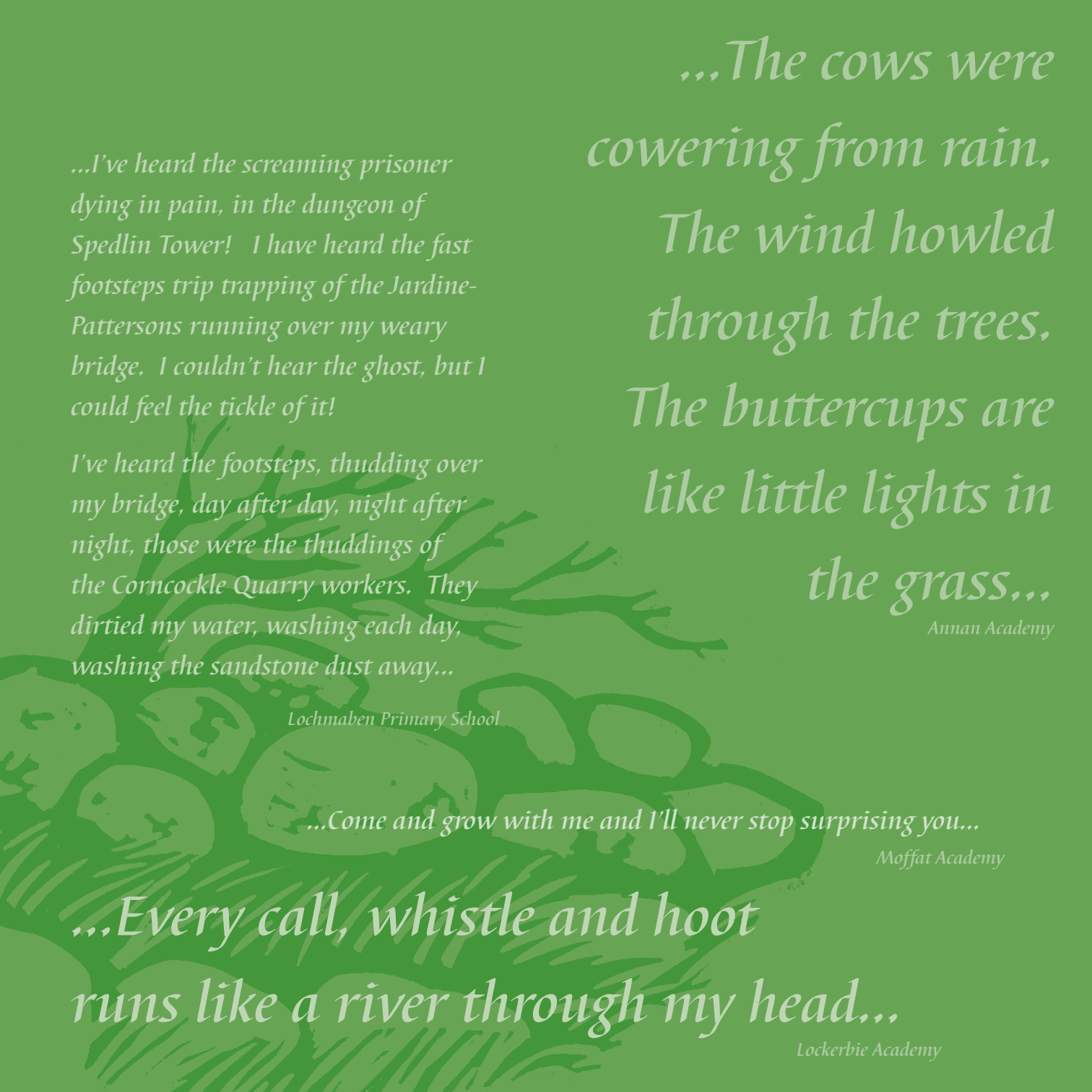
*...Annandale Way, Annandale Way,
What wonders lie within you today?
Annandale Way, Annandale Way,
There's lots of things that we can say.
There's your countryside filled with mystery.
There's your paths filled with history.
Annandale Way, Annandale Way,
when will you cease to amaze me?*

Annan Academy



*...For walkers after Landscapes! Surprises! Nature! Fun!
there's nothing better than the Annandale Way...*

Hoddon Primary School



*...The cows were
cowering from rain.
The wind howled
through the trees.
The buttercups are
like little lights in
the grass...*

Annan Academy

*...I've heard the screaming prisoner
dying in pain, in the dungeon of
Spedlin Tower! I have heard the fast
footsteps trip trapping of the Jardine-
Pattersons running over my weary
bridge. I couldn't hear the ghost, but I
could feel the tickle of it!*

*I've heard the footsteps, thudding over
my bridge, day after day, night after
night, those were the thuddings of
the Corncockle Quarry workers. They
dirtied my water, washing each day,
washing the sandstone dust away...*

Lochmaben Primary School

...Come and grow with me and I'll never stop surprising you...

Moffat Academy

*...Every call, whistle and hoot
runs like a river through my head...*

Lockerbie Academy

Welcome to the Annandale Way

Embark on a 55 mile journey through Annandale with an opportunity to delve into some of the cultural and industrial history of this ancient border region whilst immersing yourself in the tranquillity and beauty of a little explored corner of Scotland. The guide is designed to allow you to follow the Annandale Way from Source to Sea (north to south) or Sea to Source (south to north), whichever way you chose to go you will have the opportunity to experience the hospitality of the market towns of Annan and Moffat. You will also

have a choice, do you take the Eastern arm through the fabulous Scottish Wildlife Trust's Eskrigg Nature Reserve, spending a night in Lockerbie before continuing on through the wonderful Gallabery plantation or do you go for the more challenging route up over Joe Graham's monument which lends spectacular views across Annandale and past Castle Loch, with its sculpture trail, for a night in Lochmaben?

Whichever way you chose you're sure to encounter the warm hospitality of the locals and have experiences you're unlikely to forget.

The guide has been broken into easy sections which enable the Annandale Way to be covered comfortably in five days. You may however wish to extend some of your days and to run one section into another choosing alternative points to break your walk. Either way we have provided details of local accommodation providers and transport connections but we would advise checking these in advance as new accommodation may be available or bus times change.

Before embarking on the Annandale Way you should ensure you are suitably equipped for inclement weather and carrying the appropriate OS Maps 322 Annandale and 330 Moffat & St Mary's.

Some sections of the route do take in high hills and rough ground particularly the Devil's Beef Tub and Joe Graham's monument.



Annandale Way

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**

outdooraccess-scotland.com

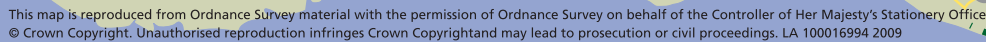
Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.

Visit outdooraccess-scotland.com or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.





Moffat – Devil's Beef Tub - Moffat

Distance: 22km [13½ miles]

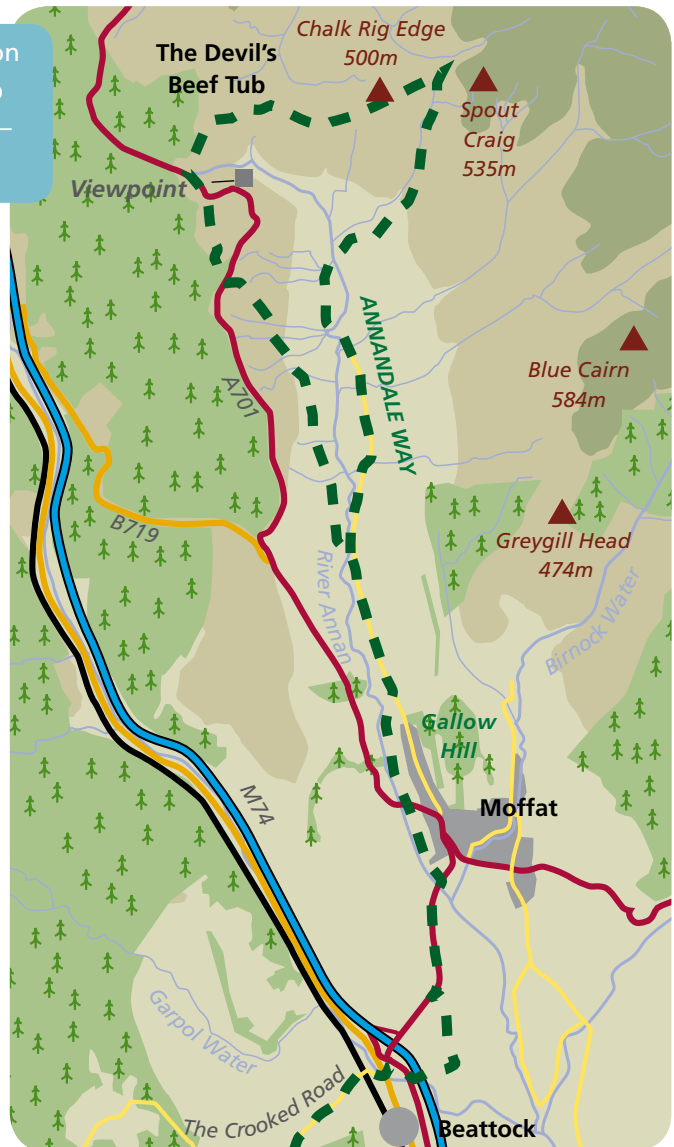
Upland Environment

The Devil's Beef Tub section of this walk involves steep climbs and rough ground – be prepared!

Route, described clockwise: Starting in the Station Park car park (OS Map 330 GR084,049), follow the youthful River Annan upstream from Moffat, and along the valley road turning off for Meikleholmside where you climb the old Edinburgh coach road.

Crossing the A701 takes you past a Roman watch tower and over Ericstane Hill, before you re-cross the road to begin your circumnavigation of the Devils Beef Tub corrie. Climb onto Annanhead Hill and a range that rims the upper limits of the Annan catchment. A spectacular view opens into the Beef Tub corries and down and down the green corridor of Annandale towards the Solway coast.

On the coll between Chalk Rig Edge and Spout Craig, you'll squelch across the watershed between the sources of the tributaries that feed the Annan and Tweed. This is the official start or finish of the Annandale Way. After you have celebrated, turn south into the valley here, following the rapidly growing waters in a gully that will spit you out below Corehead Farm. Here you meet a minor road that leads you back to Moffat, where a welcome for walkers awaits.



Come and grow with me and I'll never stop surprising you. • Moffat Academy

The Devil's Beef Tub. "It looks as if four hills were laying their heads together to shut out daylight from the dark hollow space between them. A damned deep, black, blackguard - looking abyss of a hole it is."
Sir Walter Scott



Black Knowe
549m

My infancy started at the top of the abyss,
rolling and gouging my way down the craig.
As I reach the valley after carving my way
down the hillside, I come to flat land.
I babble my way down to the sea, sandwiched
between hills like lions about to pounce.
Every mile I go I get closer and closer to my
destiny. To start the cycle again.

Moffat Academy



The bare Moffat Hills were once cloaked with native woodland. The Borders Forest Trust plan to restore such habitats. Currently only 2% of land in the Annan catchment is broad leafed woodland.

In hidden gullies of the Moffat Hills, small pockets of ash and hazel are survivors of ancient landscapes.

"Annan, Tweed and Clyde a'rise oot o' ae hillside" Border rhyme

Source of rivers Clyde and Tweed as well as Annan. At 49 miles, the Annan is the tenth longest river in Scotland, popular for sea trout and salmon fishing.

The Devil's Beef Tub: "It looks as if four hills were laying their heads together to shut out daylight from the dark hollow space between them. A damned deep, black, blackguard – looking abyss of a hole it is." Sir Walter Scott

Classic U-shaped glaciated valley.

Chalk Rig Edge 500m

Spout Craig 535m

Roman Watch Tower.

Stolen cattle hidden here.

A pele tower built at Corehead by Thomas Halliday. William Wallace was a regular visitor after his sister married into the family.

Hartfell Spa, discovered in 1748. Water containing Chalybeate exported to the West Indies. Copper mining also tried here in 1760's.

Hart Fell, a high point in Dumfriesshire (808m). Merlin said to have taken refuge in a cave here

Peregrine, Merlin and golden plover in the Moffat Hills.

Hills created by action of glacier and water over 10,000 years ago.

The same route through Annandale (and by Evan Water) used by Roman Invaders was followed by Telford's Carlisle to Glasgow road built in the 1820's, and now by the M74. The volume of traffic today can reach 80 decibels. The 1860's railway development came the same way.

Look up for the vapour trails of 500 flights a day over Annandale – a different kind of footprint.

Robin Jenkins was an evacuee to Moffat during WWII 'Guests of War' is set there.

During 1990's some stretches of the Evan Water were diverted for the M74 construction.

Otter walkways and features to encourage salmon spawning were included.

Son of Moffat Air Chief Marshal Lord High Dowding (1882-1970) was the architect of RAF victory in the Battle of Britain.

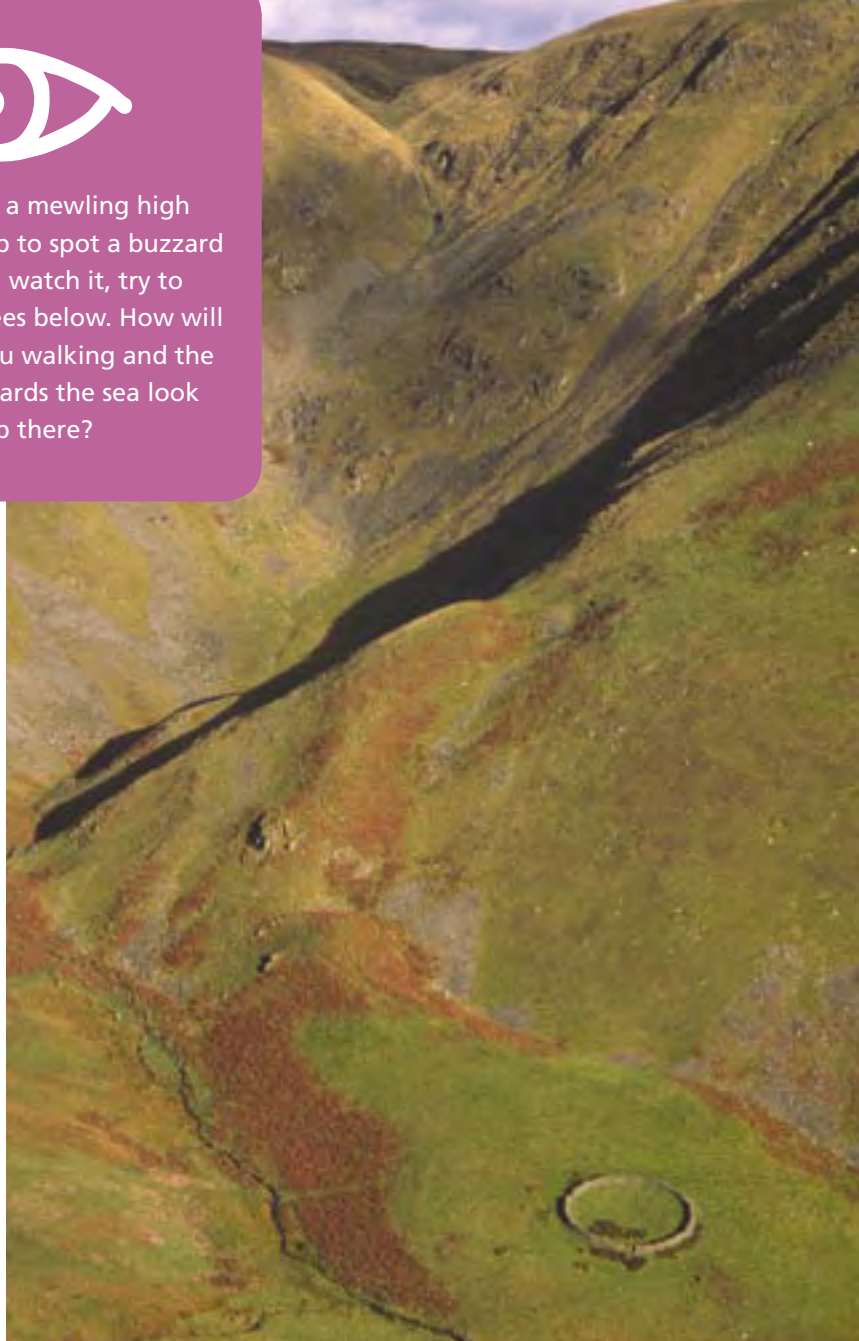
A popular spa town C18-C20. Served by it's own branch line 1883-1954. Now has 'Walkers are Welcome' status.



When you hear a mewling high above you, look up to spot a buzzard circling. As you watch it, try to imagine what it sees below. How will the landscape, you walking and the river rolling towards the sea look from up there?



The long grass is covering me up.
No-one can see me yet, but they
can feel me, squelch! But do they
know what I am yet? As I tumble
down the hills I laugh as all the
rocks tickle my feet and sides.
I have reached the bottom, now
I am happy, everyone can see me
for what I really am, a young,
energetic and healthy river.
Moffat Academy



Moffat – Devil's Beef Tub - Moffat

Moffat – St Ann's

Distance: 11km (7 miles)

(crossing point A701

1 mile north of St Ann's)

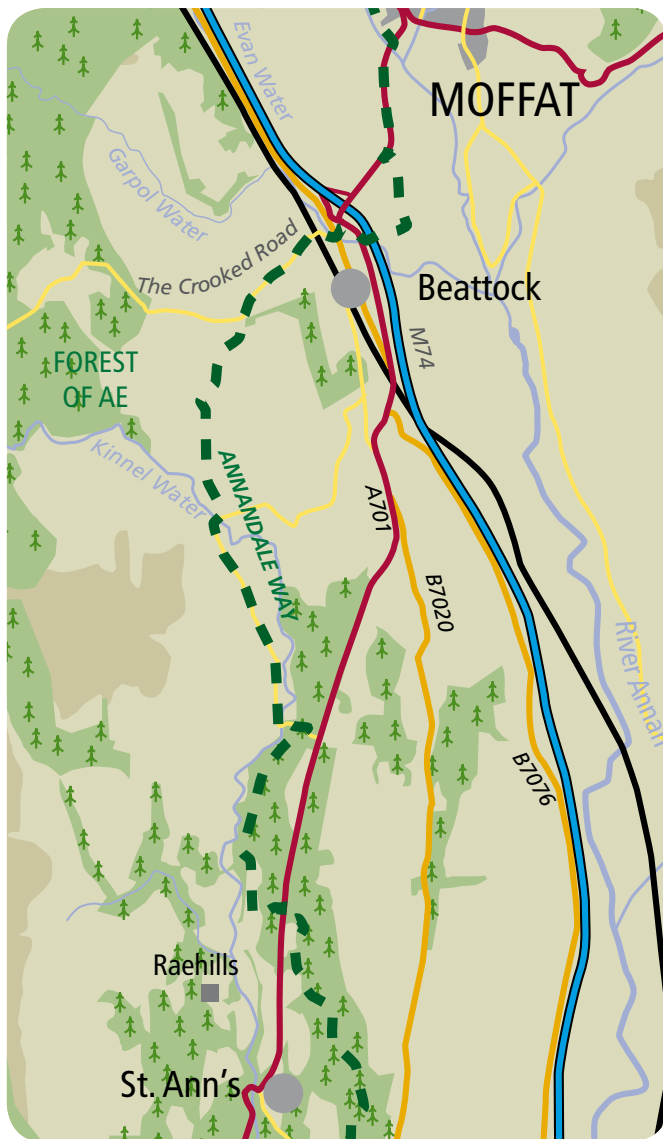
Source

Turn right out from the Moffat Station Park car park walking for about a mile on the A701, before turning left through the fields of Dyke Farm, marching first a Roman Road and then the Southern Upland Way under the M74 and through Beattock village. Climb 'the crooked road' and turn left onto an old drove road to drop to Cauldholm and the valley greened by the Kinnel Water, a tributary of the Annan. Follow a minor road and track through Edwardsrig Plantation, in sight of Raehills House and its classic parkland, until you reach the southbound A701 where a bus can be taken to your nights' accommodation.

to sea



EVAN WATER • *I'm lonely and trapped, like a bird that can't spread its wings* • Moffat Academy





THE FORGOTTEN RIVER • Now I see, under the motorway, the sad river..... and, if a river could cry, this one would.



Start your day a mile north of St Ann's on the A701 (OS Map 322 GR072, 953), leave the classic parkland of Raehills House, following the Kinnel Water through Edwardsrig Plantation and a minor road to Cauldholm. An old drove road then crosses hills towards Beattock fort. Turn right to join The Southern Upland Way, dropping to Beattock on 'the crooked road', and under the M74. Follow waymarkers across Dyke Farm fields once marched by Romans to your left, rejoining the A701 into Moffat.



Walking north, the Annandale Wayfarer starts to climb out of the green and pastoral lands which glitter with Friesian cows. The hills ahead rise and spread, roughening and browning in great muscular animal backs, promising a new kind of journey soon. Looking from the Crooked Road into the valley to the south of Moffat, the Annan is seen gathering strength in its rendezvous with the Evan Water from the north west and Moffat Water from the north east. Threewater Foot, a powerful symmetry.

Where I am writing this, a crisp packet falls... • Moffat Academy



The river is like the Roman soldiers who once walked this way – They marched and marched all night and day. • Moffat Academy





The Moffat ram dedicated to James Hogg, the "Ettrick Shepherd", poet & song writer (1770-1835). The fountain was gifted to Moffat in recognition of the importance of sheep farming and the wool trade



The woollen mill building was originally a slaughterhouse until the late 1950's, it then became a retail outlet with hand looms for visitors.



Forgotten places under the motorway make interesting habitats and hiding places.



Harestanes wind farm.



Conifer plantations make up 27% of land use in the Annan catchment. Sitka spruce is used for cheap furniture and many types of paper.



Salmon deposit their eggs in depressions in the bed. After fertilisation the female covers them with gravel.



Raehills House. Seat of Johnstone clan, who kept watch on the western border with England for 600 years.

St Ann's

Moffat



John Loudon McAdam (Tarmac) buried in Moffat in 1836.



Stones to the memory of James McGeorge and John Goodfellow, Guard and Driver of a Royal Mail coach, who lost their lives in a snowstorm north of the Devil's Beef Tub in 1831.

Beattock



Beattock gravels quarried for road construction since the Romans.

Annandale carries major electricity and gas lines.



Lochwood oakwoods – the pollarded trees are thought to be over 400 years old.



Lochwood Tower (Mid C15), first home of Johnstones.

River Annan

Route diversion

The veteran oaks of Lochwood.

'... contorted and gnarled into faces and withered limbs, offering any shape you'd care to see. They are bluebell-lit from below; moss-coated; fern-bearded.'



...As I join with more and more of my brothers, my memory merges with that of them... • Moffat Academy



Invent a character or think of someone very different from you. Walk as if you are them. What if you were a Roman or a Drover or a postman on a long delivery? Document what you do and experience on the walk.

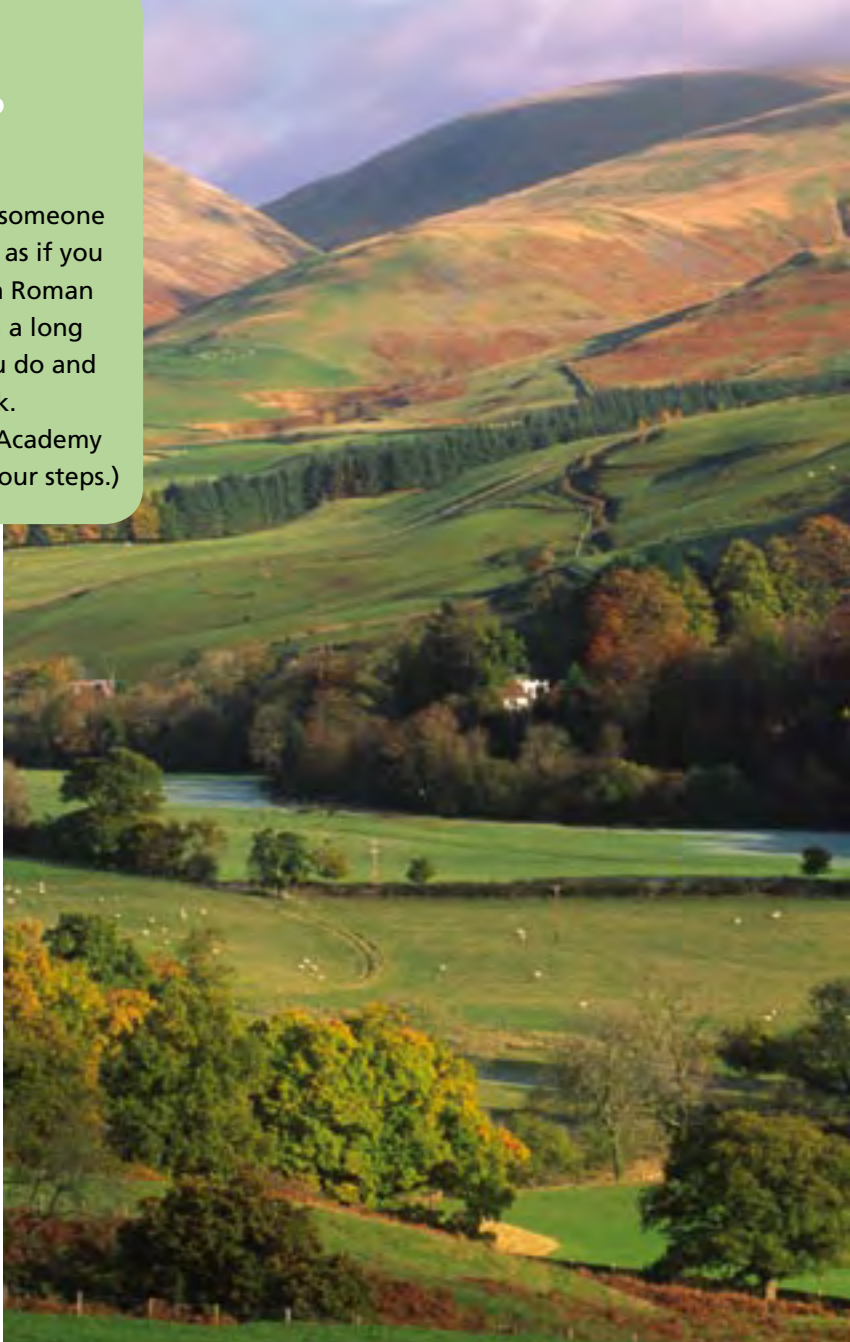
(Or do as pupils from Moffat Academy did and walk a poem with your steps.)



*On the way to Beattock
a rainbow hovered over the hill.*

*We marched a Roman road
like centurions
past an army of pylons
thinking a word rhythm in time
with our steps.*

*We burrowed under the M74
and met the Evan Water
wanting to be free from the rocks
which squeezed and corseted it.
We felt sad to see the river closed off
by the motorway,
but some of us
never knew it was there.
Moffat Academy*



Moffat – St Ann's

St Ann's – Lochmaben – Hoddom

Distance

St Ann's – Lochmaben 16 km (10 miles)

Lochmaben – Hoddom 22km (14 miles)

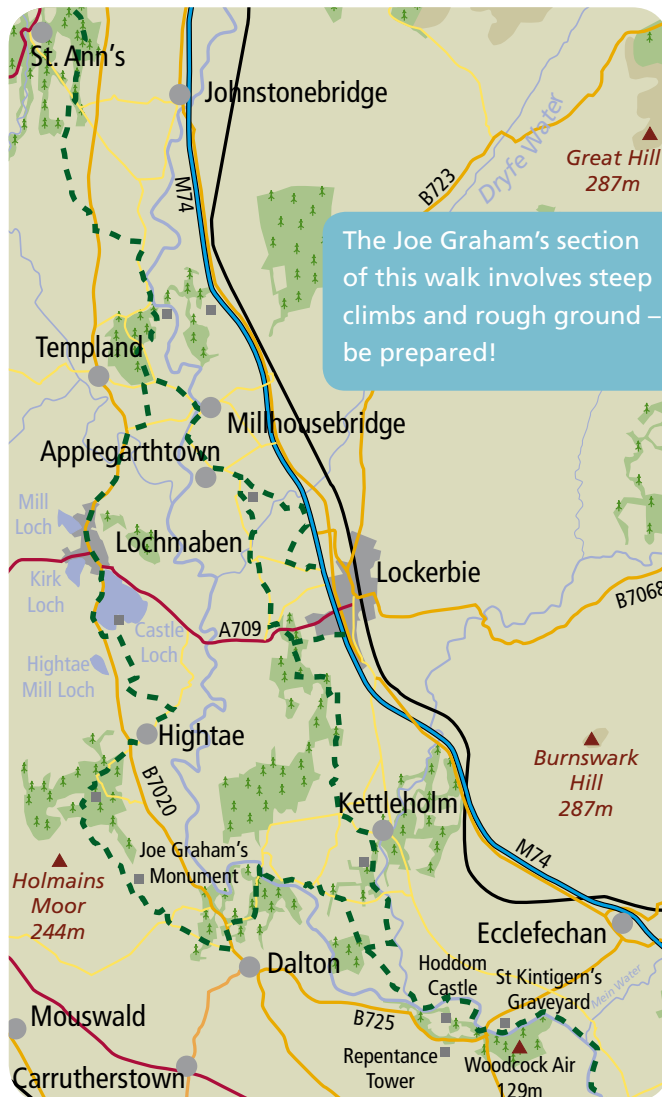


From the A701 one mile north of St Ann's (OS Map 322 GR072, 953) head up through Hazelbank Plantation, down to Blackburn Cottage and over the fields past Greenbeck and Heathfield farms. A series of minor roads, paths through pastureland, and plantation tracks bring you past Lochbrow, through Spedlin's Flow and Corncockle to Kinnel Bridge on the B7020, which is quite busy, walk 1½ miles into Lochmaben.

Departing Lochmaben follow the path beside Castle Loch and then through farmland to Hightae. From here a series of minor roads and forest track climb the slopes above Rammerscales House and out onto the open hill. Follow the waymarks over an old fort and up to Joe Graham's monument where the whole jigsaw of Annandale spreads, hill to sea. The Annandale Way now goes east, through the fields of Almagill farm crossing the Annan at Williamwath Bridge. (Note that you could opt to leave this road at Dormont and follow the riverside track instead.) After the bridge, take a path on the right, then tracks and small roads, keeping you east of the Annan past the ruins of St Mungo's Church, on through Sorrysike Moor and finding the river again at Brocklerigg. Follow the river until opposite Hoddom Castle, crossing on the Mainholm footbridge, either for the castle or Hoddom Bridge (B723). (OS Map 322 GR164,727)



You may wish to walk this section in two days, with a break in either Lochmaben or Hightae.



'I am the river Annan glowing and gleaming in the sun, If you want to see me, come with tea and a bun' • Lochmaben Primary



From Hoddum Bridge on the B723, (OS Map 322 GR164,727) follow a path along the south bank of the Annan, crossing at Mainholm footbridge. Then head along the river to Brocklerigg, leaving it to go on through Sorrysike Moor and along minor roads past the ruins of St Mungo's church until you reach Williamwath Bridge. After crossing the Annan, the official route follows the road left. Alternatively, turn right to follow the river, emerging back on route at Dormont. Follow minor roads before heading across the fields of Almagill farm and up the steep climb to Joe Graham's Monument where you are rewarded by the whole jigsaw of Annandale spreading below you, hill to sea. You then drop over an old fort and through the woodlands of Rammerscales along minor roads into Hightae and then over the fields and along the shores of Castle Loch into Lochmaben.

Follow the B7020 out of Lochmaben for 1½ miles (note it is quite busy) and turn right at Kinnel Bridge. Out of these lowlands formed by the junction of the Annan and Kinnel Water, a series of minor roads, paths through pastureland, and plantation tracks gently lead you towards the uplands, firstly through Corncockle Plantation and Spedlin's Flow, then past Lochbrow and over the fields of Heathfield, before heading up through Hazelbank plantation and finally emerging on the A701 one mile north of St Ann's. (OS Map GR322072, 953)



*I am the River Annan I am gleaming and gurgling.
I am the River Annan I trickle along.
I am the River Annan hear horses hooves moving.
I am the River Annan I am the home to many salmon.
I am the River Annan I see the birds sing
and flying in the sky.
I am the River Annan I see the trees swaying in the wind.
I am the River Annan I feel the stones basking
together on the surface.
I am the River Annan I smell the flowers
that grow on the river bank.
I hear the steam train carrying the sandstone.*

Lochmaben Primary School



I am the Annan River, the biggest of the land. the smaller ones go into me, to help me to expand. • Lochmaben Primary

For walkers after Lane

For walkers after Lane

Landscapes! Surprises! Nature! Fun! there's nothing better than the Annandale Way. • Hoddom Primary

River Milk

I brush the edges of the bank as I flow uniquely and my cold waters bond together into a shimmering mixture as it cascades freely and glows a sun kissed bronze colour as I calmly weave my way down with River Annan.

As we part I never lose hope because somewhere, someday we will meet again as the water never dies and keeps on going to new and exciting places to seek.

I gradually get bigger and stronger as I age and soon meet more rivers. As I set off to another place, my family takes over the river until I finally make my way back. It is spectacular how many places I have visited & will someday visit the whole world.

Hoddum Primary



Notice all the ways in which water crosses your path on its way to the river. Give each crossing its own name. This might depend on the colour of the water, the sounds it makes, or your manner of crossing, e.g. 'Linda's Leap' or 'Guinness Gargle'.



St Ann's – Lochmaben – Hoddum

St Ann's – Millhousebridge – Hoddom

Distance

St Ann's – Lockerbie 20km (12½ miles)

Lockerbie – Hoddom 14km (9 miles)

Source

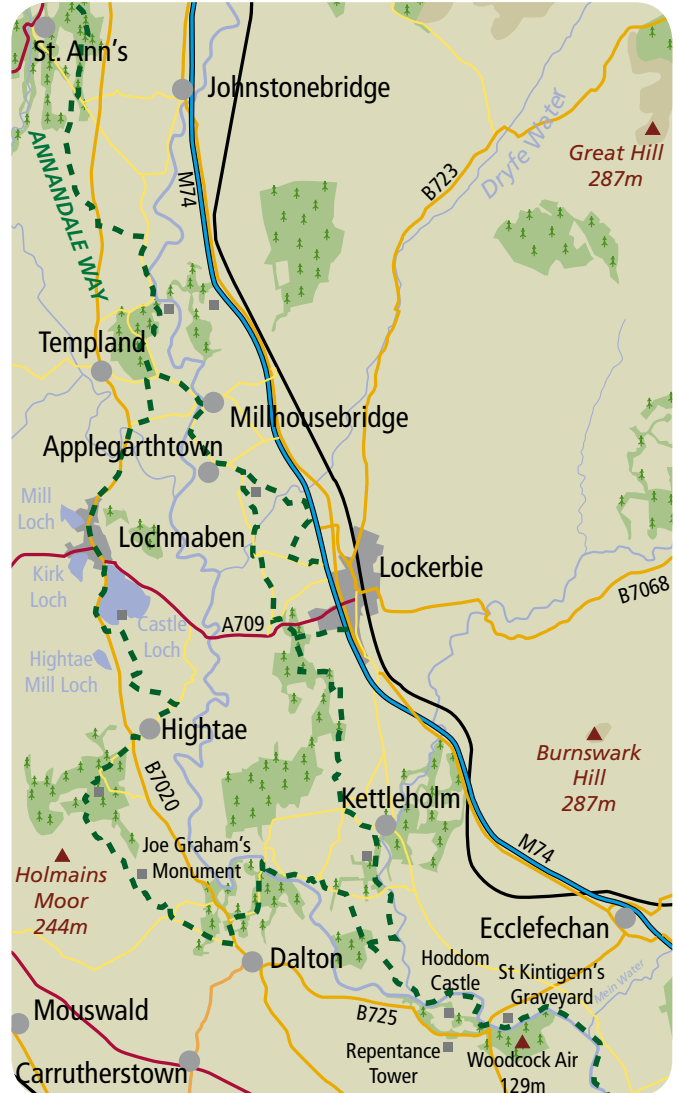
From the A701 one mile north of St Ann's (OS Map 322 GR072, 953) head up through Hazelbank Plantation, down to Blackburn Cottage and over fields past Greenbeck and Heathfield farms. A series of minor roads, paths through pastureland, and plantation bring you past Lochbrow, through Spedlin's Flow and Corncockle to the road between Templand and Millhousebridge. Turn left here, following the 'Lockerbie' sign, to Millhousebridge down the banks of the Annan. If, stopping in Lockerbie turn left after Applegarthtown leaving the Annandale Way, walking along quiet roads into the town. If you're carrying on turn right along the road through Gallaberry Plantation across Dryfe Water, along quiet roads to Lockerbie Memorial Garden. Here is a second opportunity to enter Lockerbie along the A709.

Continuing south, cross the main road through the plantation that makes up Eskrigg Nature Reserve. Follow on through Pilmur, Southfield along a minor road, drop towards Kettleholm where you turn right walking with the Water of Milk to your left and through the plantation past Milkbank Kennels. Carry on to Broom where a sharp right will see you rejoin the westward loop of the Annandale Way. Go through Brocklerigg Farm, just before the Milk joins the Annan and follow the river until opposite Hoddom Castle, crossing on the Mainholm footbridge, either for the castle or Hoddom Bridge on the B723. (OS Map 322 GR164,727).

to sea



You may wish to walk this section in two days, with a break in Lockerbie



...High Up; joyful as giants, Far off the Solway Firth shone like a crescent moon... Lockerbie Academy



From Hoddom Bridge on the B723 (OS Map 322 GR164,727), follow a path along the south bank of the Annan, crossing at Mainholm footbridge and onto Brocklerigg Farm. About 1km north of the farm take the easterly loop of the Annandale Way, signposted 'Lockerbie'. Soon you will have the Water of Milk to your right as you make your way north past Milkbank Kennels, Southfield, Firpark and on into the Eskrigg Nature Reserve. There are three opportunities to divert into Lockerbie, the first of these is in the Nature Reserve, a second along the A7009 and the final one after Gallaberry plantation.

If you ignore the Lockerbie diversions, you will cross the main road at the Memorial Gardens and follow minor roads over Dryfe Water, through Gallaberry and onto along the banks of the Annan into Millhousebridge. About 1km later, you rejoin the western loop of the Annandale Way. Out of these lowlands formed by the junction of the Annan and Kinnel Water, a series of minor roads, paths through pastureland, and plantation tracks gently lead you towards the uplands, firstly through Corncockle Plantation and Spedlin's Flow, then past Lochbrow and over the fields of Heathfield, before heading up through Hazelbank Plantation and finally emerging on the A701 one mile north of St Ann's. (OS Map GR322 072, 953)



Tracing the river along its path like a palm reader following the lifelines on an open, eager hand • Lockerbie Academy

A lingering taste of bad bread?

The lanes around Templand were once filled, dyke-to-dyke, with the heads of men walking to and from work at Corncockle Quarry. They transported the sandstone by rail, crossing the Annan on a now-rickety bridge just north of the infamous Spedlin's Tower. Perhaps the Quarry was named for the purple flower once abundant in cornfields but unwelcome because they made bread bitter-tasting or even poisonous.

The Templand area still murmurs with the terrible haunting of Spedlin's Tower and the Jardine Family by miller, James Porteus (c 1650). He was confined in the dungeon of the Tower by a forgetful Sir Alexander, where he accidentally starved to death. But not before he had chewed off his own hands. His crime? Some say he was imprisoned for baking bad bread

Lockerbie Academy.





Collect some objects which could have magic qualities (collecting may be in the form of sketching or a few words if the objects are too big to move!). Ask 'what if...?' e.g. What if leaves contain secret messages? What if a leaf floats downstream to Annan and a fisherman 'reads' it?

I rush across the stones,
Flicking up water.
Suddenly I come to flat
And struggle to make it across.
I'm downhill again,
Feeling the wind through my droplets,
Rushing, rushing from Moffat.

Down by Lochmaben,
Passing Lockerbie
Gliding through Annan.
I rise upwards,
As other waters join me
in my quest for freedom.
Then I sink back down again,
While the cattle drink from me.

I keep on swishing through the hills,
The light fading now and then,
As the stone crawls overhead,
When the people build bridges
to get across me.

I'm nearing the end of my life.
I was born in the Moffat hills but
I'm heading for the Solway,
Down to the firth.

Lockerbie Academy

Hoddom – Barnkirk Point - Annan

Distance: 17 (10½ miles)



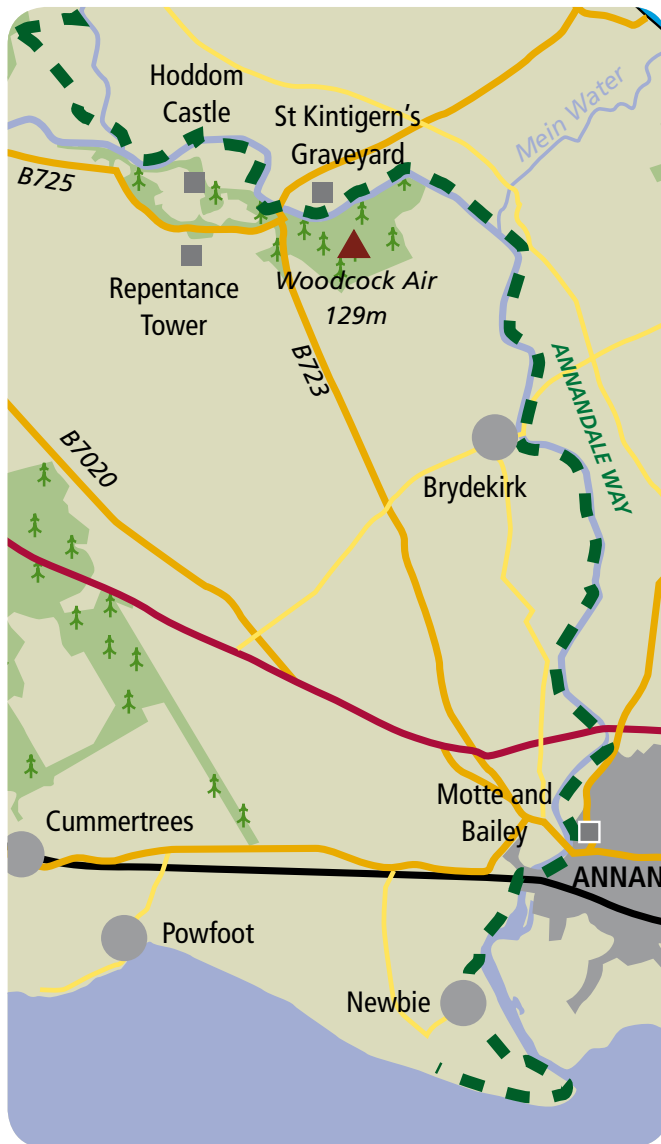
Source

From Hoddom Bridge on the B723 (OS Map 322 GR164,727) follow the path on the eastern bank, past Meinfoot farm and on into Brydekirk where the route crosses, to the Bridge and then follows the western bank along the wooded riverside path, until re-crossing again at the Cuthbertson Memorial Bridge for Annan town.

In Annan head up onto the main street cross the road and turn right towards the bridge, where some steps will drop you back down to the riverbank path. Keep heading south to the edge of town, cross the Annan for the final time on the Sustrans Bridge and head for Newbie. From there, a track leads to Barnkirk Point and your finish at Newbiebarns. (OS Map 322 GR179,645)



to sea



The Annandale way is like rain drops trickling through a tree of rivers. • Annan Academy



For this section you can either get a lift to the start at Newbiebarns (OS Map 322 GR179, 645), or walk out from Annan.

In Annan head along the main street towards the bridge, where some steps will drop you down to the riverbank path. Head south to the edge of town, crossing the Annan on the Sustrans Bridge and head for Newbie. From there, a track leads to Barnkirk Point and the official start at Newbiebarns, retrace your steps to Annan.

From Newbiebarns head out to Barnkirk point and follow the path north through to Newbie and then alongside the river towards Annan. Just after the railway bridge cross the river on the Sustrans bridge and follow the riverside path into Annan,

In Annan follow Bruce Street down to the car park on the Eastern bank of the river, where you can pick up the riverside path heading north.

At the Cuthbertson memorial bridge cross to the western bank and follow the woodland path on to Brydekirk.

Cross the river again to the eastern bank where the footpath takes you past Meinfoot farm and on to Hoddom Bridge on the B723 (OS Map 322 GR164,727).



A walking thought-line

The quiet site of St Kentigern's miracle, walled in pink stone. Graves carved with skulls and crossed-bones, winged souls, palm fronds, Bells and Irvings. Over the years what has been whispered over the wall from these sleepers to the river and then carried to the sea? The trees climbing Woodcock Air opposite sing sweet with morning birds.

The Annan here wide, slower than my walking pace, glossing over seal-backed rocks, frothing against pink gravel bays where paw-prints suggest otters.

An inlet for Mein Water, its banks defended with rubble, one fence already snatched away. A bird. A long bill. A turquoise wing flashing away in sunlight. Recognition. Joy lightening my step.

Brydekirk Bridge and the straight street guarded by a church on the hill. A model village for weavers. Then a woody path, cross-hatched with bluebells. A dog upending its paws to rub its back in the dewy grass. Mount Annan Estate peering down from the opposite bank, across an island.


The approach of suburbia and the river puts on its concrete girdle. A sudden smell of perfume in the park and people saying, 'where are ye?' into mobile phones. Men on benches.

Out onto merse, the river calls in its carved veins; sludgy brown creeks eeking through the grass. Low tide reveals a mud-coloured bicycle wedged in one. Beyond, an audacious line of yellow gorse, the pale blue outline of Cumbrian heights.

Solway salt air, wide water, pinky-brown and braided with the devil's currents. Lumpish Criffel a silhouette, leading the eye west, the waters opening towards Galloway and the Irish Sea.

Rubbing shoulders with grey-pink pebbles, bricks lie abandoned on the beach, edges rounded by the tumbling sea, but still named 'Whitehaven' and 'Sanquhar'. A flock of shelduck lift and circle into a furrowed, frowning sky. A sky that dwarfs and flattens the Earth here at Barnkirk Point.





*Spume and spray, spume and spray
Rises high on the Solway shore.
On the full tide white horses ride
Rearing aloft with mighty roar*

*B. T. Hawkins,
Annandale Observer,
Oct 28th 1904*



Tune up the senses by denying your sense of sight. Spend five minutes somewhere on your walk with eyes closed 'listening' to senses of sound, touch, smell. Then open your eyes. Hopefully you will have increased the other senses up to the 'volume' of sight.

**The wind is swirling in and out the branches,
the leaves are rustling on the tree and falling, the rain is
pouring and the wind is blowing,
the grass is swaying because of the wind,
the water has ripples because the air is pushing it and,
the buttercups are like little lights in the grass.**

Annan Academy

Hoddum – Barnkirk Point - Annan

From the Devil's Beef Tub to the Devil's Bath Tub

Written in partnership with Linda Cracknell

We took a walk on the Annandale Way

At Corehead, under the Devil's Beef Tub
glaciers cut into the hills thousands of years ago so they
now roll like camel humps and many valleys thread into one.
We smelt wet moss and felt attached to the shimmery small river
as it flowed gently past – glistening rocks and spongy grass.
We were nearing the end of our walk
but for the river it was just beginning.

On the way to Beattock a rainbow hovered over the hill.
We marched a Roman road like centurions
past an army of pylons
thinking a word rhythm in time with our steps.
We burrowed under the M74 and met the Evan Water
wanting to be free from the rock which squeezed and corseted it.
We felt sad to see the river closed off by the motorway,
but some of us never knew it was there.

S1 Moffat Academy

a rainbow hovered

Tall grand trees

Tall grand trees loomed over us,
others were down-hearted,
lifeless stumps.
We trudged towards the rickety bridge
that had holes like little eyes
spying on us from the river below.
It creaked as
we crept, afraid
we might fall deep, deep, deep.
The whistling wind wove through the trees
like the spirit of the baker chained
in Spedlin's Tower
for baking bad bread, and
left roaming there.

Birds whistled to each other
a soft lullaby.
The river was trickling,
then rushing, crashing, whooshing,
roaring like a tiger.
The sweet smell of
bright white hawthorn
tickled sneezes from us and
fresh, lush air hung
above the tree canopy.
We said to ourselves,
'We'll never make bad bread'.

P7 Lochmaben Primary

The gorse was like a blanket of mustard
on a bed of nails.

It smelt of coconut-butter,
taking us back to exotic holidays.

We saw many things. Cows were one,
sheep were two, and birds were three.

Joe Graham's monument rose,
a sharp needle from its hill
like a candle on a birthday cake.

From there we could see the huge belching monster
that is the cheese factory and
the Solway Firth shining like a crescent moon.

The Annan below was like a
wavy ribbon weaving continuously.

We could trace the river like a palm reader following
the lifelines on an open, eager hand,
telling us stories.

Mud, like marshmallows, squelched under our toes
tried to steal our shoes and set as cement.

Children were yelping, whooping, breaking
the silence with their joy.
Laughter tumbled down the hill
and the trees talked to one another in the wind.

The gazing eyes of a deserted house
inhabited by crows and bats
made us shiver as we passed.

Fighter-jet sounds
rumbled overhead like a giant's belly.

On the crest of a hill
sat the misty outline of wind turbines
near the steep volcano of Burnswark,
green and smooth on top.

We found a bird's leg full of decay,
the smell of young trees budding.
Our legs, tied down with kilogram weights,
grew tired from walking.

Some of us thought it a lonely place
because nobody else was there.

S1 Lockerbie Academy

garlic smiled

On the horizon the hills climbed
so that the sun could nest between them.
The Annan ran softly and smooth
its golden cool waters rustling like leaves.
We came to the glittering place
where it met the Water of Milk.
Families of water joined
and went on their way as one.
A huge heron flapped its wings.

We took a walk on the Annandale Way
and the towers of the old pink
Hoddom Castle
peered from above the forest
and lured us in.
Trees were around us like a cave,
leaves dripping with
bright blue raindrops,
a rainforest canopy, the smell of nature.
Wild garlic smiled at us.

Bluebells, giant hogweed and
wild rhubarb grew.
Birds scattered through the leaves,
one calling like a creaky door.
The river roared.
After Hoddom Bridge
buttercups spread over lush green grass
to lead us to the deserted graveyard
of Saint Kentigern.

We took a walk in Annandale
and at the end we asked,
'Can we walk the whole way?'

P6/7 Hoddom Primary

At Welldale, by the old piers,

it was just us, the wind,
the water and the curlews
where once had been shouting workers,
passengers hauling luggage for the 'Victoria',
shrimp boats chugging
and sandstone blocks banged aboard
to sail abroad.
Over the small stone bridge
lines of Cochran's men once cycled,
and we took a walk on the Annandale Way.

At Barnkirk Point, the tide was coming in,
pushing the river back upstream
instead of flowing to meet other waters
for the party of the Solway.
Warring waves drew
a spiral pattern on the surface,
rough rippling as if fingers
had been dragged through sand.
'Let me out!' the river called to the sea,
and we named this
deep and dangerous meeting place
the 'Devil's Bath Tub'.

When the tide turned,
allowing the Annan to flood the Solway mud,
the river lost itself
un-named, unnoticed, forgotten.
But we knew its waters would, in time,
be sucked skywards
to return as clouds
to the hills of the Devil's Beef Tub
fifty miles inland.

'You again!' the hills will say,
as they tear at the clouds, emptying them
so the waters begin their descent
and once again we call them 'Annan'.

S1 Annan Academy

belching monster

You again!

Embark on a 55 mile journey through
Annandale with an opportunity to delve into
some of the cultural and industrial history of this
ancient border region whilst immersing yourself
in the tranquillity and beauty of a little explored
corner of Scotland.

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Annandale Way

