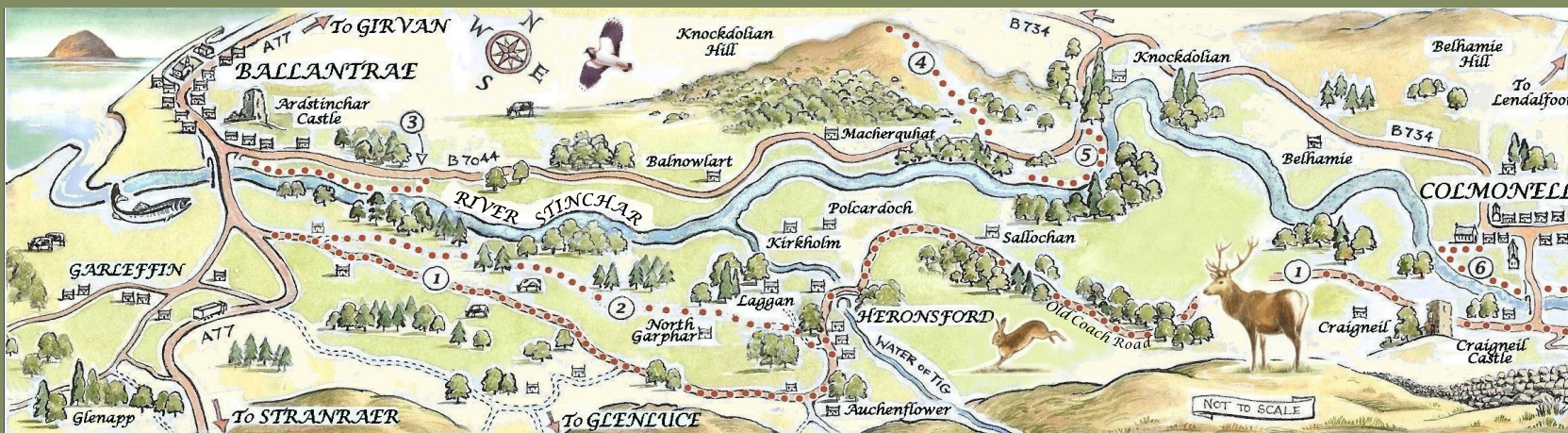


WALKS AROUND THE STINCHAR VALLEY



Walk 1 Ballantrae to Pinwherry - The Old Coach Road 8 3/4 miles

Leaving Ballantrae, walk south across the River Stinchar. Take the first left, a quiet, meandering, single track road, enjoying wonderful views of the hill of Knockdolian and Ailsa Craig. After 1 1/2 miles, turn left at the T junction - you are now on the old coach road that drops down to the hamlet of Heronsford in the beautiful Tig Valley. Continue along the road, through both open countryside and oak and birch woodland, passing the ruins of Craigneil Castle on your right. The village of Colmonell will be seen across the valley on your left. The single track road continues up the valley, becoming an untarred road after Dalreoch Farm, and eventually a track along the shoulder of the hill. Some of the finest views of the whole valley, looking down to Knockdolian, can be seen from this stretch. Pass by Pinwherry Wood before descending to join the main road just south of Pinwherry itself. Buses run from the junction just north of the village back to Ballantrae.

Walk 2 Ballantrae to Laggan 1 1/2 miles

Start out as for walk 1. About 1/4 mile from the main road, just after Laggan Dairy, turn in at large iron gates, and walk past the lodge to join the track through the woods. A grass track of about 1 1/2 miles leads to Laggan House Leisure Centre where you can turn right to follow the road back to Ballantrae.

Walk 3 Ballantrae River Walk 3/4 mile

Leave the village on the B7044 past the ruins of Ardstinchar Castle, built in 1421. After about 150 yards the River Walk sign is on the right. It leads down steps then follows the river upstream, with a steep climb through a wood to rejoin the road.

Walk 4 Knockdolian Hill Ascent of 800ft

A "Stinchar Valley Trails" signpost is on the right of the road on the B7044 about 3 miles from Ballantrae. The way leads through a gate, across a field, then you are on the open hill to make your way to the top.

Walk 5 Knockdolian River Walk 3/4 mile

Wooden signpost on the B7044 about 1/4 mile from the junction with the B734. Way leads down a track and then along the field beside a very beautiful part of the river. Return by the same path.



View from the Old Coach Road

Walk 6 Colmonell River Walk and Clachanton Walk. 1 1/2 miles

Signposted on a gate near the church in Manse Road, the path leads down between the houses to the fields below. It follows the river bank upstream, with steep steps up and over the road beside the bridge. The Clachanton Walk then continues round 2 fields and back to the road. This part of the route is also a tree trail.

Walk 7 Garnaburn River Walk

Take the track opposite the Garnaburn road end, and then follow the burn and the river round the side of the fields. As on all the river walks, look out for dippers, herons, mallard and teal, as well as hares and even the occasional otter.

Walk 8 Hallowchapel River Walk

The path is signposted opposite the road junction. It follows a track leading to the Waters Meetings where the River Duisik joins the Stinchar, then turns into a grass path beside the river bank.

There are also good walks at Glenapp, near Ballantrae, and longer ones over the hills to Glenluce. A walk is planned from Colmonell to Lendalfoot via Belhamie Hill and Knockmortal. Fine views are to be had on the Garnaburn and Bardrochat hill roads.

