

## Castle Loch – Walk 3 – Distance 5.6 kilometres – about 1 hour 30 minutes

### Description:

From the Town Hall walk south along the High Street to the Church, cross the B7020 for Dalton & Annan and continue along the A709 Dumfries—Lockerbie Road, pass the War Memorial and enter Victory Park through the metal gate in the hedge, turn left and follow the path into and through Annandale Sailing Club. This takes you onto a pavement alongside the A709 for a short distance where you turn into a woodland path after the last house.

Follow this path to Lochfield Car Park and continue on to Lochfield Cottage which is owned by Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust. From here the path is well-defined and leads you through woodland to a bridge crossing Innerfield Burn. From here you cross the edge of Lochside Plantation and follow the path into Kirkhirst Plantation (do not follow the former farm track).

As you leave the woods you rejoin Lochside Plantation following the field boundary west till you reach Valison Burn. At this point, you will find a well-maintained raised wooden walkway leading you through Castle Wood. Part way along is a branch to a Bird Hide.

Following the walkway to its end, you will find yourself at Lochmaben Castle. Note the ditches on either side of the track which offered protection to the Outer Ward of Lochmaben Castle. The castle is the best preserved Edwardian Peel in Scotland.

At the small car park, on the right, a visit to Lochmaben Castle is recommended by continuing on the road to the larger car park. (Opposite the small car park there is a “Robert the Bruce Trail” information board and another board, at the castle, describing its history).

To continue the walk follow the Castle access road, initially southward but turning right to pass Castle Mains Farm – continue until you reach a metal walking gate on the right and re-enter Castle Wood. Continue to follow the path until you see a sandstone cottage across the B7020 road opposite, just after this you will cross a bridge over the Vendace Burn and see a metal gate on the left – go through this gate, taking care crossing the road, and through another gate opposite. Follow the narrow path which curves right and climbs up the hill between two farm fences until you reach the gate at the end.

Once through the gate, Castlehill Farm is on your left, immediately after you pass the farmhouse and reach Lochmaben Golf Course (look and listen for stray gold balls coming your way) go through a metal gate on your left and down the narrow sloping path to the bottom of the hill. Just before the Vendace Burn turn right and walk through a wooded avenue and pick up a path along the edge of the Kirk Loch which will lead you to the campsite.

Pass through the middle of the campsite exit cross into Well Vennel and left at the top into the High Street where you will see the Town Hall.

**Credits:** Paul Gow, Tom Russell and David Mair of the Lochmaben Initiative and Robert Togneri for editing and production



The QR Code on the left will take you to the Walks Page where you will find more information and an interactive map.

[www.lochmaben.net](http://www.lochmaben.net)

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