

Kirk Loch – Walk 1 – Distance 3.4 kilometres – about 55 minutes

Description:

From the Town Hall (walk south along the High Street on the right or west side and turn right immediately after the baker's / café into Well Vennel. In 100 m arrive at the Caravan Site on the shores of the Kirk Loch.

The loch gets its name after the site of the original church which is in the old Churchyard. The tarmac area of the Caravan site was a public area known as Katie Waugh's Yard. The Caravan warden's hut was formerly a Curling Hut—a reminder of colder winters!

Straight ahead on the skyline, looking south-west, is Beacon Hill, one of a chain of hills from which fires were used to communicate warnings to different communities.

Continue to the shore of the loch and bear left to the corner where there is a "Public Footpath" sign. Follow this along the side of the loch with the Lochmaben Golf Course on the left.

Be aware of the danger of stray golf balls on this path!

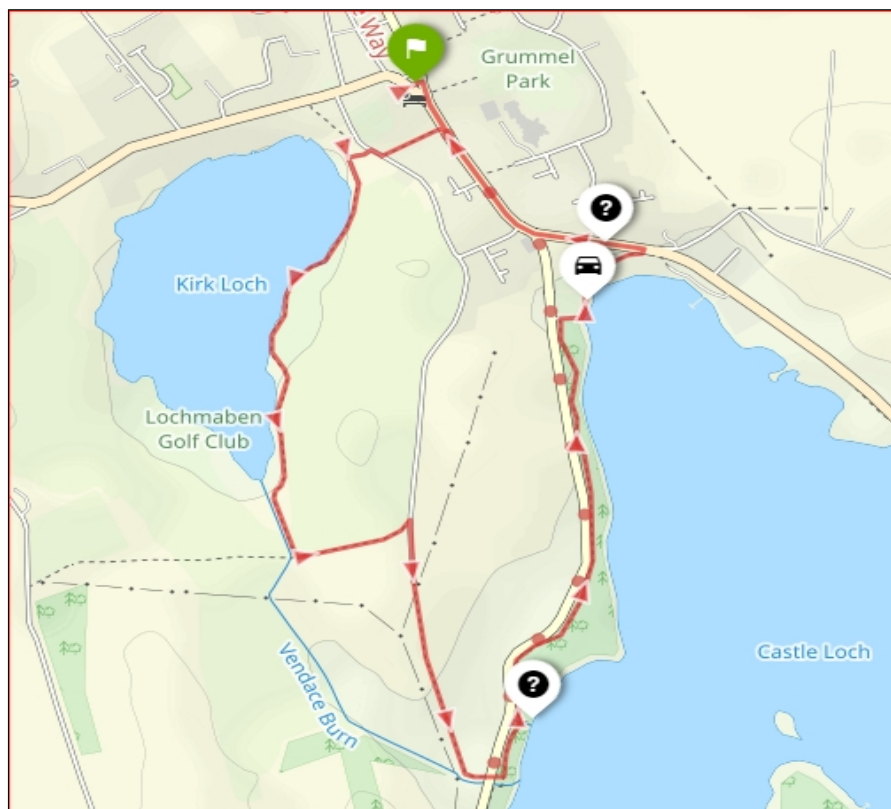
As you walk along the loch side you will notice the remains of wooden stakes in the water. *These are the remains of structures which were used during World War 2 when forces stationed at Halleaths Camp made extensive use of the lochs for military training and manoeuvres in preparation for the D-day landings.*

After 600 m turn slightly right onto a broader path through a small wood beside a stream, the Vendace Burn, flowing out of the Kirk Loch. In the far corner of the Golf Course go through a gate. Turn left on a path which rises between the Golf Course and a field and in 180 m reaches a gate and a road at Castlehill Farm.

Turn right and pass in front of the farmhouse and continue through a gate onto a grassy path between two fields. This path descends slightly and bears left to reach a gate on the B7020 Lochmaben-Dalton road. Cross the road and through another gate and almost immediately reach the Castle Loch path. At this point, there is the alternative of going right to continue around the Castle Loch visiting Lochmaben Castle and a Bird Hide.

Turn left here and follow this for 850 m until it reaches the B7020 again. This path is in the Castle Loch Local Nature Reserve and is also part of the Sculpture Trail. There is a viewing area over the loch with an information board. To return to the Town Hall turn right in front of the Bowling Green to the side of Castle Loch and then turn left through Victory Park to reach the High Street.

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.

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