

THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY

About the Author

Alan has trekked in more than 30 countries within Europe, Asia, North and South America, Africa and Australasia, and for 17 years led organised walking holidays in several European countries. He has written more than a dozen walking guidebooks, several on long-distance mountain routes in France. His longer solo walks include a Grand Traverse of the European Alps between Nice and Vienna (1510 miles), the Pilgrim's Trail from Le Puy to Santiago de Compostela (960 miles) and a Coast-to-Coast across the French Pyrenees (540 miles). A Munroist and erstwhile National Secretary and Long Distance Path Information Officer of the Long Distance Walkers Association, Alan now lives at the foot of the Moffat Hills in Scotland, in the heart of the Southern Uplands.

Alan's first encounter with the Southern Upland Way was in 1995, when he backpacked the full length of the trail. A decade later he repeated the complete route a second time, this time mainly using bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation, in order to research this guidebook. He has travelled extensively on foot in most areas of the Southern Uplands, having climbed all of the Donalds and most of the other hills above 500m in height, and traversed them from south to north in 2003 as part of his walk between Land's End and John o' Groats.

Other Cicerone guides by the author

The John Muir Trail (California, USA)

The Robert Louis Stevenson Trail (Cévennes, France)

The Grand Traverse of the Massif Central

The Speyside Way

Tour of the Queyras (French and Italian Alps)

Trekking in the Alps (contributing author)

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Ronald Turnbull has written several books for Cicerone Press, including *Walking in the Southern Uplands* and *The Book of the Bivvy*. He lives in the Lowther Hills, alongside the Southern Upland Way, which he first walked in 1986 just after it opened.

THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY

SCOTLAND'S COAST TO COAST TRAIL

by Alan Castle,
updated by Ronald Turnbull

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www.cicerone.co.uk

© Alan Castle and Ronald Turnbull 2018
Second edition 2018
ISBN: 978 1 85284 993 1
First edition 2007

Printed in China on behalf of Latitude Press Ltd
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.
All photographs are by the updater unless otherwise stated.



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Acknowledgements

I am particularly indebted to Andrew Case of southernuplandway.com for help with the accommodation logistics during my research along the Way, and to Richard Mearns, Dumfries & Galloway Council SUW Ranger, who provided much updated information on the route, especially on the various changes to the line of the SUW over recent years. I would also like to thank Mike Baker, Scottish Borders Council SUW Ranger, and Jude Allison of Dumfries & Galloway Tourist Board for information and support. Thanks go also to the various owners and staff of the hotels and bed and breakfast establishments who provided me with accommodation and meals, often at reduced prices, and in particular to the proprietors of the Plantings Inn, Castle Kennedy, the Butchach Bed & Breakfast, New Luce, House o' Hill Hotel, Bargrennan, Blackaddie House Hotel, Sanquhar, the Garage Bed & Breakfast, Wanlockhead and the Camping and Caravanning Club. Finally, a thank you to the Stair Estates for help given during my visit to Castle Kennedy Gardens.

I am grateful, as always, to my wife, Beryl Castle, for all her advice, support and encouragement during the planning, research and writing of this guidebook.

Ronald Turnbull (2018) thanks in particular Ross Gemmell, Dumfries & Galloway path ranger, for much helpful advice and information as well as for his continuing hard work maintaining the wetter and more fragile western part of the SUW.

Front cover: Rainbow over Innerleithen, from Fethan Hill (Stage 10)

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Route symbols on OS map extracts

	route		start point
	alternative route/detour		finish point
	direction of walk		alternative finish point

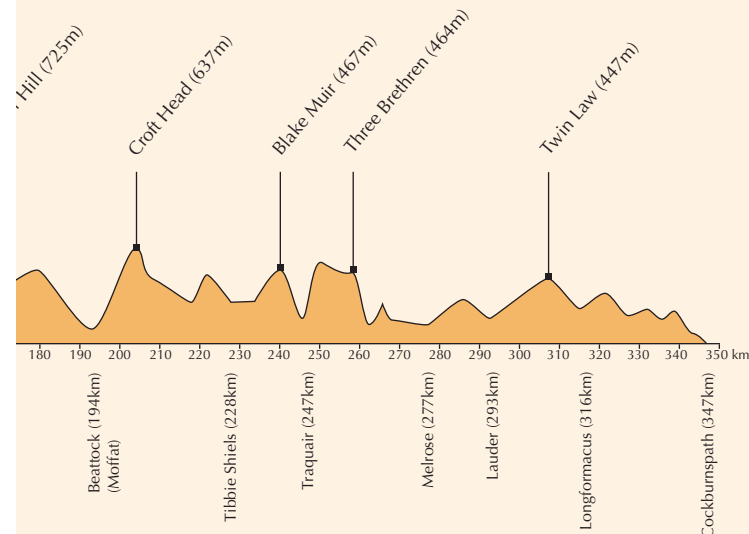
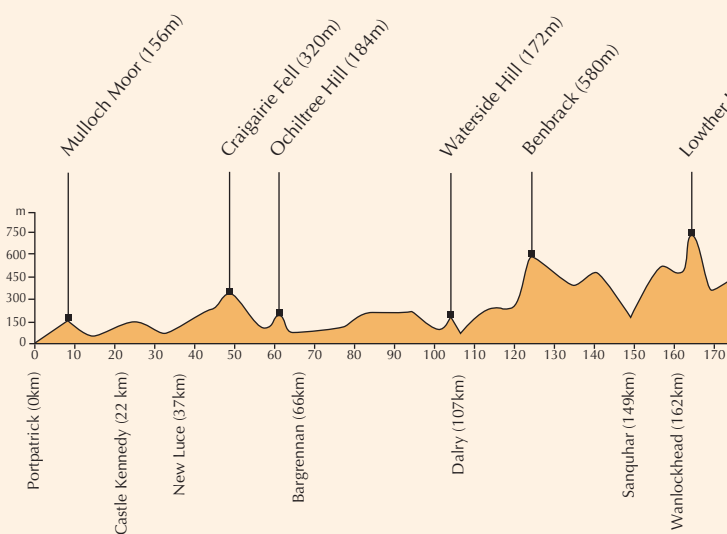
GPX files for all routes can be downloaded free at www.cicerone.co.uk/993/GPX.
For OS symbols key see OS maps

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Profile of the Southern Upland Way





ROUTE SUMMARY TABLE

Stage	Start	Distance		Ascent		Page
		km	miles	m	ft	
Stage 1	Portpatrick	21.9	13.6	350	1200	38
Stage 2	Castle Kennedy	15	9.3	300	900	47
Stage 3	New Luce (road near)	28.8	17.9	450	1500	55
Stage 4	Bargrennan	28.7	17.8	600	2000	66
Stage 5	Craigenbay pick-up point 1	25.2	15.7	550	1900	76
Stage 6	Stroanpatrick pick-up point 2	29.2	18.1	700	2300	84
Stage 7	Sanquhar	21	13.0	1000	3400	94
Stage 8	Dalveen Pass pick-up point 3	24.2	15.0	550	1900	104
Stage 9	Beattock/Moffat	25.6	15.9	750	2500	121
Stage 10	Scabcleuch pick-up point 4	27.8	17.3	800	2600	132
Stage 11	Traquair	29.6	18.4	850	2800	144
Stage 12	Melrose	16.1	10.0	350	1200	158
Stage 13	Lauder	23.4	14.5	550	1800	163
Stage 14	Longformacus	30.1	18.7	650	2200	170
Total		347	215	8500	28000	

Previous editions of this book have given the Southern Upland Way 341 km (212 miles). The slight increase here reflects greater accuracy using GPS data. The Southern Upland Way hasn't been extended – in fact, recent improvements have taken 0.5km off it!

With the closure of the Tibbie Shiels Inn, it's not always possible to create day stages of a comfortable distance based around current accommodation options. This chart, and this new edition, show the Way broken down into 14 day stages of comfortable length, as used by commercial pick-up and drop-off services. Note that not all day stage ends have accommodation or facilities. Please refer to the Itinerary planner (Appendix A) for details of where you can find accommodation along the SUW (as well as the distances between intermediate points).

Waymarks kist and cairn, Ettrick Head (see 'Waymarking and navigation' and Stage 9)



INTRODUCTION



Heading up to the Cogs pass above Sanquhar (Stage 7)

THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY

The best long-distance walking trails have two characteristics that make them great: a succession of dramatic landscapes coupled with a broad selection of interesting places to visit along the way. The Southern Upland Way (SUW), Scotland's Coast to Coast Walk, scores highly on both. As the SUW cuts across the grain of the country many different landscapes are unveiled: coastal cliffs, high moorland, rolling hills, remote mountains, forests, lochs, mountain streams, majestic rivers and sylvan valleys abounding in wildlife. The SUW passes through regions that are exceedingly rich in archaeological and historical associations, from prehistoric standing stones to monuments commemorating the Killing Times of the

17th-century Covenanters. There are formal gardens and stately homes to visit en route as well as some of the more elegant towns of Dumfries & Galloway and the Borders, such as Moffat and Melrose, the latter with its famous abbey – so many places of interest to stimulate and delight the visitor. Long-distance walking is all about exploring new territory and at a pace where it can be fully savoured. The Southern Uplands of Scotland are probably the least visited area of Britain, and it is likely that most walkers who venture out from Portpatrick on the west coast will be discovering an area that for them was hitherto unknown: they will be pleasantly surprised. The SUW has it all! If you choose this trail for your annual walking holiday then you will certainly not be disappointed.

The 347km (215 mile) long SUW, Scotland's longest Great Trail, starts out from the west coast of Scotland at the picturesque old harbour of Portpatrick. After a few kilometres following the dramatic cliff tops north of Portpatrick, the SUW swings inland to begin its long journey eastward, firstly across the narrow Rhins peninsula. Kennedy Gardens, ablaze with rhododendrons and azaleas in season, is passed en route for New Luce, where the story of the Covenanters and the Killing Times starts to unfold. A crossing of the remote and beautiful Galloway Hills follows, through Bargrennan and on to dramatic Loch Trool, site of one of Robert the Bruce's victories over the English in 1307. After Clatteringshaws Loch comes friendly St John's Town of Dalry. Here, walkers stock up for the long section of the Way across the hills to Sanquhar, where Britain's oldest post office dating from 1763 will be seen in the High Street. Wanlockhead at 425m (1394ft) is Britain's highest village and home to the Museum of Scottish Lead Mining, where time may be taken off from the route to visit an old lead mine. The SUW, in a superb high-level section, now climbs to its highest point at 712m (2335ft) on the Lowther Hills before dropping to the Evan and Annandale Valleys, where a full day off from the route could be well spent exploring Moffat and its beautiful environs.

A crossing of the Ettrick Hills, with a second visit to the 600m (2000ft) contour over Capel Fell, leads

out of Dumfries & Galloway and into the Scottish Borders. A walk along the shores of St Mary's Loch, southern Scotland's longest, and haunt of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, one of Scotland's celebrated poets, leads on to Traquair with its stately home which has strong associations with the Jacobites. An ancient drove road takes the SUW to the tranquil River Tweed, beloved of anglers, and on to Melrose, which with its ancient abbey ruins, formal gardens and Walter Scott associations is another place where first time visitors may wish to linger a while. The triplet of the Eildon Hills dominates the landscape hereabouts as the walk continues north-eastwards to reach 'Royal' Lauder, where Thirlestane Castle and Gardens may be visited. A long crossing of the wild and lonely Lammermuir Hills leads to the pretty village of Longformacus, after which a more gentle landscape, rich arable countryside, leads to a final section along the cliffs of the east coast and into Cockburnspath, the eastern terminus of the SUW.

The SUW traverses most of the major habitat types found in southern Scotland, including coastal cliffs, open moorland, hill and mountain, farmland, parkland, deciduous and coniferous woodland, riverbanks and lochsides. The wildlife associated with these habitats will be seen at any time of the year, but spring, when the birds are in full song and when the wildflowers are at their best, is particularly rewarding for nature lovers.

One false impression of the SUW needs to be dispelled. Some people believe that there are huge tracts of the trail through massive forestry plantations of Sitka spruce. It is true, alas, that there are far too many forestry plantations in southern Scotland and the SUW certainly does pass through several of them. BUT, since the Way was first opened in 1994, many stretches have been re-aligned out of the plantations – culminating in 2018 with the magnificent higher-level line taken over the Ettrick hills. Today, by far the majority of the route is outside these forests and on open hillside or in pleasant rural valleys. For example, the last 90km (56 miles) of the SUW from Minch Moor east of Traquair to Cockburnspath on the coast is devoid of any large plantations, and the first two stages of the SUW in the west from Portpatrick to New Luce, a distance of

around 41km (25 miles), are more or less free of forestry.

Hopefully by now your appetite for the SUW has been well and truly whetted. So you now want to walk the SUW, but how do you realise your ambition? The introductory sections that follow will help you in planning and arriving at the start of the walk, Portpatrick, and from there the route description should safely guide you day by day on the SUW 'Over the hill to Away!'

WEST TO EAST OR EAST TO WEST?

A west to east traverse, as described in this guide, is the direction of choice. The depressions that come all too frequently across the Atlantic bring moisture-laden air from the southwest and dump much of it across



Abbotsford and the Tweed (Stage 11)

our mountains, hills and moors. So the chances are that if you walk from Portpatrick to Cockburnspath you will have the wind, and hence any unpleasant weather, at your back all the way. However, if you happen to be unlucky enough to choose a period when a bitterly cold north-easterly is blowing, which is not uncommon particularly in the winter months, then you may have reason to curse both my advice and your decision. But may the sun always be shining! From a scenic point of view the views are equally fine if the Trail is walked in either direction.

WHEN TO GO

You can walk the SUW at any time of the year, although during the winter months on the upland sections of the Trail, you will need the usual winter hillwalking gear, together with the appropriate experience. When the hills are plastered in snow and ice then crampons and ice axes must be carried. The Southern Uplands may not be the Highlands of the North, but the landscape here is nevertheless often rough and unforgiving, and once off the route of the SUW then few paths and fewer signposts are the norm.

Long-distance walkers tackling all or major sections of the route would be wise to confine their activities to the spring, summer or autumn months, from April to October, when the days are longer and the weather

conditions are (usually) less severe. Only the hardest, suitably experienced backpackers should consider walking the SUW in winter. An appreciable amount of the accommodation and other facilities that serve the Way will be closed from November to March, so winter hikers have little alternative than to backpack and camp wild for several nights. For a winter crossing, it is essential to be fully equipped and experienced enough to cope with short daylength, long, cold and dark winter nights, snow and ice on the route, and winter storms. Several of the long cross-country stages between towns and villages cannot be completed in the daylight available in a winter's day. Nevertheless a winter SUW completion would make for a very special and magical experience for well-equipped and experienced backpackers, but would be way beyond the 'comfort level' of most ramblers.

Summer has the advantage of generally warmer days, but as this is the period when the majority of people take their holidays there will be more competition for the available bed space in the area. Those who prefer solitude in the hills, moors and forests should not dismiss the main summer holiday time period as neither Dumfries & Galloway nor the Borders receive the number of walking visitors that often overcrowd the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and other areas south of the border. The Southern Uplands



Loch of the Lowes, Tibbie Shiels, and St Mary's Loch (Stage 10)

offer one of the few areas in these densely populated islands to get far away from the madding crowd at any time of the year.

Spring and autumn are the seasons of choice. High pressure is perhaps more common during the spring in Scotland, and days during May and June often (but not always!) present ideal walking conditions – bright, sunny and not overly warm. The general freshness and rebirth of life is stimulating during springtime and flower displays are a particular joy. A visit to the Kennedy Gardens (refer to Stage 2) passed at the western end of the SUW can be highly recommended at this time of year.

Autumn is a charming time of the year in southern Scotland, with its mellow colours and general feeling

of seasonal contentment. The heather moorland is a blaze of purple, and the landscape is at its driest of the year after the warmth of the summer sun and before the winter rains arrive. The romantic roar of stags can sometimes be heard during the annual rutting season in October. Accommodation tends to be less fully booked than in July and August, and days in early autumn are still of an adequate length for walking relatively long distances.

WAYS OF TACKLING THE SUW

For many, the challenge will be to walk the SUW from coast to coast as a continuous walk across Scotland. It forms the basis of a superb walking holiday of about two weeks' duration, carrying the minimum of equipment

STAGE 1

Portpatrick to Castle Kennedy

Start	Portpatrick
Finish	Castle Kennedy
Distance	21.9km (13.6 miles)
Ascent	350m

The walk starts with a highly scenic section of about 3.5km of coastal walking, along cliff tops and down to small coves and beaches. Some care is required on the cliff sections on the first half of this route from Portpatrick. At the Killantringan Lighthouse on Black Point the trail leaves the coast to head eastwards on minor lanes and tracks across the Rhins peninsula, reaching its high point on this stage at 156m (512ft) on Mulloch Moor. Knockquhasen Reservoir is passed on a moorland path to its south, after which the SUW descends towards Stranraer and Loch Ryan. The SUW does not enter Stranraer itself, although a diversion of less than a mile would allow a visit to this town, the capital of the Rhins and a former port to Larne and Belfast in Northern Ireland. The route skirts to the south of Stranraer, but offers good views down to the town and Loch Ryan. It then makes its way via narrow lanes, tracks and paths to Castle Kennedy, a small village on the A75, and home to the renowned and eponymous gardens.

This first stage of the SUW is a short one for a number of reasons. It allows walkers who arrive at lunchtime in Portpatrick to reach Castle Kennedy in the afternoon (although this would leave only a brief time to enjoy beautiful Portpatrick). Secondly it is never advisable to over-stretch yourself on the first day of a long walk, when your leg muscles and feet are unaccustomed to strenuous exercise and shoulders unused to the weight of a rucksack. Far better to walk yourself in over the first couple of days, rather than exhaust yourself early on in the adventure. There is plenty of opportunity to do just that in the days to come! Tomorrow is also a short day, designed to allow sufficient time to visit the Castle Kennedy Gardens. These two moderate days will hopefully have increased your fitness and you will then be prepared for the more rigorous days to come. Strong, fit and experienced walkers could nevertheless reach New Luce on the first day if they so desired.

PORTPATRICK



No more splendid starting place for the SUW can be imagined than pretty little Portpatrick on the rocky west coast of the Rhins peninsula. Portpatrick is a lovely small coastal town with its brightly painted blue, white and cream buildings huddled around an attractive horseshoe shaped bay and neat harbour. It makes a very pleasant place to spend the evening before venturing out on your long walk. There is plenty of accommodation on offer in the town, from harbourside hotels to B&Bs, but note that booking is well advised, particularly during the main summer season, as Portpatrick is a popular place for a holiday or short break.

You could be forgiven for thinking that you were in the Scottish Highlands or Islands from the surrounding landscape. Indeed the BBC in the early 2000s conned its viewers into believing that this area was one of the Hebridean Islands in a popular TV series, *Two Thousand Acres of Sky* (photographs of the cast of this series can be viewed by clients of one of the harbourside café/restaurants). Portpatrick and its harbour also wouldn't be out of place on the Cornish coast. If you are arriving here on the midday bus from Stranraer then there are several cafes and restaurants awaiting you, for lunch or tea and coffee before setting out on the Way. Although today the town is mainly of interest to tourists and television directors, in former times it was a major port to Ireland. Indeed the very name of the town, after the Irish patron saint,

indicates its importance for communications and trade with Ireland. In its heyday in 1812, 20,000 horses and cattle were imported here from the Irish port of Donaghadee, a mere 21 miles away across the North Channel. Troops were sent to Ireland from Britain via Portpatrick, the town having a large and permanent barracks, and many Covenanters sailed from here to safety in Ireland. It was also the Gretna Green for Ireland, offering a quick and easy marriage with few questions asked. Even Peter the Great is said to have spent a night here on his visit to Britain in 1698. But by the 1840s, with the invention of the large and faster steamship that soon superseded sail, Portpatrick fell rapidly into decline as Stranraer was developed.

To start the SUW, head for the north-west end of Portpatrick harbour (toilets) to reach a SUW information board, the first of many encountered along the Way, and the very first SUW wooden fingerpost, situated at the foot of a long flight of concrete steps heading up the coastal cliff. These mark the start of your 347km epic journey eastwards to Cockburnspath. But for the first few miles you stay with the west coast, enjoying an excellent coastal path. Note the various dates from historic, prehistoric and geological times marked on these steps. Head up to the huge **Portpatrick Hotel** with its Scottish Baronial architecture.

Take the good path at the top of the steps, heading, ironically, westwards at first and pulling away from Portpatrick. ◀ There are benches here if you wish to linger awhile to admire the view, which in clear conditions includes the Irish coastline as far south as the Mourne Mountains. The path at this point is protected from the steep drop down to the cliffs below by a sturdy wooden fence. Walk to the left of the British Telecom Radio Station, still on the good coastal path above the cliffs. When Portpatrick Golf Course comes into view, walk up a short flight of wooden steps then turn left along an asphalted drive alongside the golf course before soon leaving the hard surface for the continuing coastal path. The route descends over rocks to reach a sandy and shingle beach. Cross this to turn left around the next peninsula

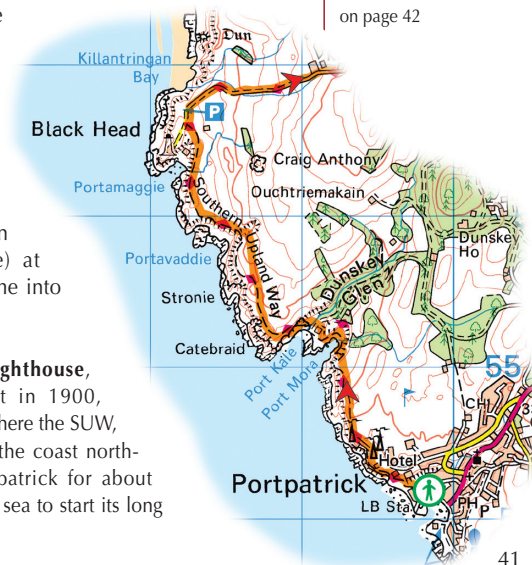
Special care is required on this first section of the SUW, along this rocky coastline, particularly in wet, windy or icy conditions.



Sea cliff north of Portpatrick

headland, soon dropping again to cross a wooden footbridge. Pass around the shoreline to pick up the path again as it passes behind two tall rock stacks, and so up steep rocky, chain-assisted steps, back onto the grassy coastal path, which is met at a stile. An excellent section follows where it is possible to stride out on green springy turf. Soon Killantringan Lighthouse (private) at **Black Head** will come into view.

Killantringan Lighthouse, which was built in 1900, marks the point where the SUW, having followed the coast northwards from Portpatrick for about 3.5km, leaves the sea to start its long



Map continues on page 42



Killantringan Lighthouse



Knock Bay from Killantringan Lighthouse (photo: Alan Castle)

As you turn inland be sure to enjoy the grand view of Knock Bay and the coastal cliffs to the north.

journey to the east coast. The lighthouse apparently did not do its job too well; in 1982 a cargo ship ran aground on the nearby rocks spilling toxic waste into the sea and polluting the nearby coast. Note that the lighthouse is private property and the occupants should not be disturbed.

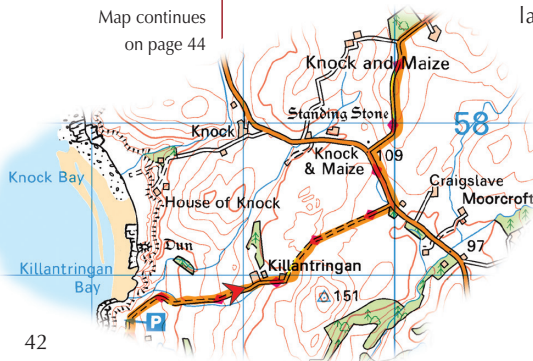
Head to the right of the lighthouse to join its tarmac access track at a SUW fingerpost that will direct you to the right and inland. At last you are on your long journey to the east coast! ◀

The narrow asphalted lane climbs gradually eastwards away from the coast, passing first Killantringan Farmhouse and then Killantringan Cottage, after which it levels and continues to a main road, the B738. Go left on this

usually fairly quiet road then after about 400m turn right onto a narrow lane that rises gently over a rounded green hill. Remain on this lane as it bends first to the left and then to the right to pass to the right of large Knockniemoak House. About 100m later, turn sharply right off this lane at a SUW fingerpost onto a gravel track by a pair of houses (Three Acres). Follow this track to the left of another solitary house and garage. Here the main track bends right, but keep ahead into a grassy one (a box formerly holding free SUW leaflets will be passed on your left). Go through a combination gate (a field gate with a smaller walkers' gate set into it) to enter pasture and climb to a SUW marker post at the top of a grassy hill. ▶

From this point, Mulloch Hill at 156m (512ft), the tip of the steep-sided volcanic island of Ailsa Craig in the Firth of Clyde to the north can just be seen on a clear day.

Map continues on page 44



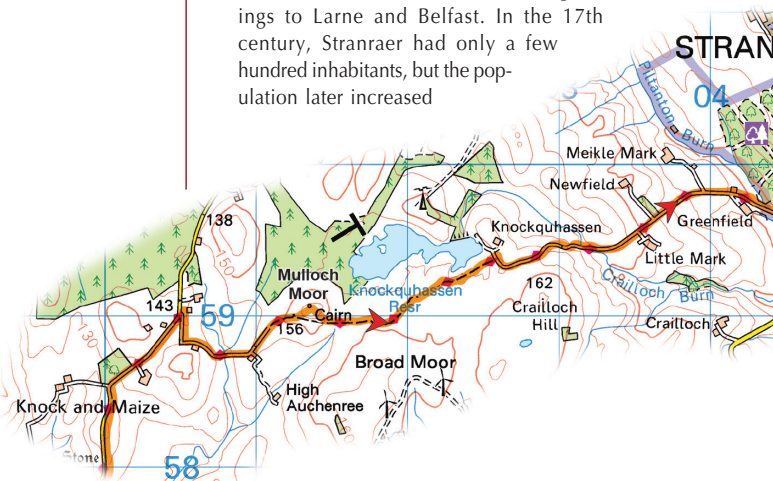
THE RHINS

The first stage of the SUW involves a crossing of the Rhins peninsula, properly known as the Rhins of Galloway. It has a very distinctive shape, an elongated hammerhead, a long and fairly narrow wedge of pastoral green countryside, which is only prevented from being an island by the low-lying isthmus between Loch Ryan to the north and Luce Bay to the south. The word 'Rhins' comes from the Old Irish word 'Rind' meaning a headland.

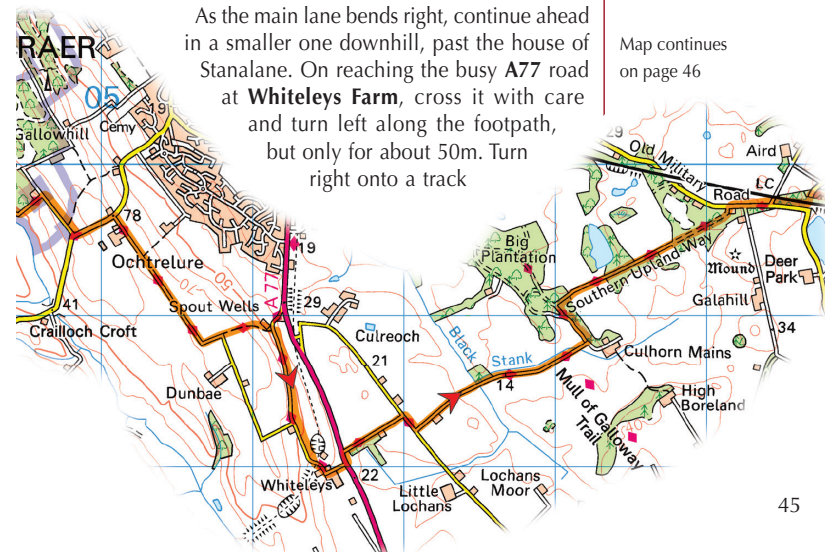
Bear right at the hilltop, down to a kissing gate onto the rushes and heather of **Broad Moor**. Follow a path eastward, now with a loch (**Knockquhassen Reservoir**) over to your left. This occasionally swampy path passes this loch, eventually emerging at a track. Turn right onto this track, which soon becomes a narrow metalled lane. Follow this gently downhill to cross **Piltanton Burn** at Greenfield Farm. The lane then bears left and climbs, later veering right to reach a minor road between Stranraer and Portpatrick. Turn left along this road, then after 250m, opposite Cottfield House, turn right onto a lane (there is a good view down to Stranraer and its sea loch, Loch Ryan, from here). The narrow lane runs dead straight for a kilometre before turning left. After about 100m, where the road bends sharply to the right, walk ahead on a grassy path between hedge and fence. This descends to a minor road where you should turn right (SUW fingerpost) uphill. ◀

You would turn left here if you wanted to divert into Stranraer.

The largest town in Galloway is **Stranraer** (pronounced 'Stran-ree'). In the mid 19th century, it took over from Portpatrick as the main port from Scotland to Northern Ireland with regular sailings to Larne and Belfast. In the 17th century, Stranraer had only a few hundred inhabitants, but the population later increased



dramatically with the introduction of larger sea-faring craft which found the deep waters of Loch Ryan more suitable for anchorage than the shallow harbour of Portpatrick. It has now itself been superseded by the purpose built ferry terminal at Cairnryan, 11km to the north. The SUW does not enter the town, but there are good views down to it and Loch Ryan as the Way skirts to the south. There is plentiful accommodation and many shops in the town, which can be reached by a short detour off route, or by bus along the A75 from Castle Kennedy. Notable buildings include the 16th century castle, used as a prison house during the Killing Times (see Stage 3), and the North-West Castle, home of the famous Arctic explorer Sir John Ross in the early 19th century. Stranraer Museum (open daily except Sunday, all year, free admission), which details the history of Wigtownshire, is housed in the Old Town Hall, which dates from 1776. The Tourist Office (or www.stranraer.org) has an excellent 'town trail' leaflet that will allow you to learn much more about the town as you wander its streets.



As the main lane bends right, continue ahead in a smaller one downhill, past the house of Stanalane. On reaching the busy A77 road at **Whiteleys Farm**, cross it with care and turn left along the footpath, but only for about 50m. Turn right onto a track

Map continues on page 46



alongside trees. Follow this to another lane where you should turn right, then left after about 150m onto another minor lane. Descend and continue until you reach a wide gravel track at a T-junction. Turn left here, with a wood now on your right.

After about 250m turn right onto another track through the wood, then out into an open area before re-entering woodland. Continue

on this pleasant track until it reaches a minor road at a T-junction. Turn right along this narrow lane and continue for about 350m to another T-junction. Turn left here to pass under a railway line and then turn right, off the lane, onto a path through woodland. This follows the course of the railway line, which is a little over to the right. Eventually the buildings of Castle Kennedy will become visible through the trees over to the left. A SUW information board is met at the edge of a housing estate. Continue straight on (east) passing Castle Kennedy School on your left, then bear left to reach the very busy A75 trunk road, opposite the entrance to **Castle Kennedy Gardens**. For the SUW you'll carry on along the drive of Castle Kennedy Gardens. Note that there is a Spar convenience store in the petrol station here.

The Kennedys were the most powerful family in the area from the middle of the 15th century until the time of the Covenanters in the 1680s. The present settlement of **Castle Kennedy** is named after the family seat, the castle built by the Kennedys in around 1607. The estates were later acquired by the Dalrymples of Stair. Only the ruins of the castle remain today, following a disastrous accidental fire in 1716.

STAGE 2

Castle Kennedy to New Luce

Start	Castle Kennedy
Finish	New Luce (road near)
Distance	15km (9.3 miles) + 1.6km (1 mile)
Ascent	300m

The highlight of the Way in this area is Castle Kennedy Gardens, and you should make time for a visit. If you spend the morning in the Gardens (and an early start is not required as the Gardens do not open until 10am) then this section of the SUW can comfortably be accomplished in an afternoon, particularly if you opt for the shorter, direct route into New Luce from Cruise Farm.

After the Gardens, the Way heads eastwards offering a final glimpse of the west coast. Take a long last look at Loch Ryan, for you will not see the sea again until the Scottish east coast is reached a little before Cockburnspath. The trail follows a wooded path around the edge of bleak Airyolland Moss, then crosses the railway line between Stranraer and Glasgow before heading off across a section of the equally desolate moorland of Kilhern Moss, an area rich in archaeological history. Finally the SUW is temporarily left behind for a gentle descent to the charming village of New Luce. Sleep well tonight, for tomorrow the walk will continue in earnest.

ALTERNATIVES

The official SUW bypasses to the south of New Luce. Many of you will want to visit the village, for its pub and small shop (not to mention its intrinsic charm!). Just 4.5km out of Castle Kennedy you can continue ahead on the minor road, but this is strictly for the desperate, giving a soul (and sole) destroying 5km of tarmac. It's better to divert north from Cruise Farm, just after crossing the Water of Luce, then you can rejoin the Way by a lane westwards out of the village. Purists will follow the full bypass to the end of this stage before doubling back east along the third lane: they will thus enjoy a fine section of wild moorland over Kilhern Moss.