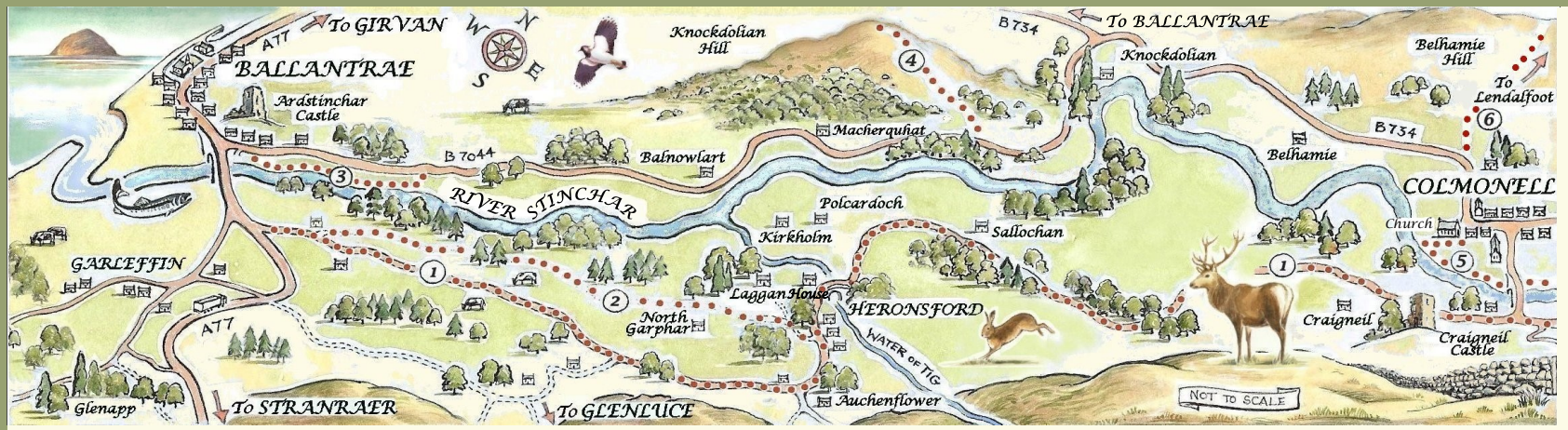


WALKS AROUND THE STINCHAR VALLEY

Walk 1 Ballantrae to Pinwherry - The Old Coach Road 8 ¾ miles

Leaving Ballantrae on the A77, 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 back to Ailsa Craig. After 1 ½ 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, where the church has outstanding stained glass windows by Louis Davis. The road continues up the valley, becoming untarred after Dalreoch Farm, and eventually a track along the shoulder of the hill (may be muddy). Some of the finest views of the whole valley, looking back down to Knockdolian, can be seen from this stretch. Pass by Pinwherry Wood before descending to join the main road (A714) just south of Pinwherry itself. Pinwherry Castle can be seen among trees to the right of the road. Buses run from the junction just north of the village back to Ballantrae.

Walk 2 Ballantrae to Lagganhouse 3 miles.

Start out as for walk 1. About ¼ mile from the main road, after Laggan Dairy and a lodge house with iron gates, turn in at the wide gravel entrance on the left leading down through the woods. A track of about 1 ½ miles leads to Lagganhouse Country Park where you can turn right to follow the lane back to Ballantrae.

View from Almont

Walk 3 Ballantrae River Walk ¾ mile

Leave the village on the B7044, past the ruins of Ardstinchar Castle, built in the mid 15th century, and home of Hugh Kennedy, Scottish Captain to Joan of Arc. A sign & steps on the right lead down to the wide, well mown grassy path beside the river. Narrower at the end with a fairly steep climb through the wood to re-join the road.

Walk 4 Knockdolian Hill ¾ mile

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, up across a field to a second gate, then you are on the open hill to make your way to the top. Great views to Arran, Ailsa Craig & Ireland.

View from the Old Coach Road

Walk 5 Colmonell River Walk and Clachanton Walk. 1 ½ miles Signposted on the gate between two houses at the entrance to Manse Road, near the church, the path leads down to the field below. Keep to the right edge of the field to a small gate, then follow the river bank upstream to the bridge & a ramp up to the road. Go down steps on the other side of the road — the Clachanton Walk then continues along the riverbank, round a field, and back up to join the main road next to the gate of the cemetery. As well as wildlife, look out for many different kinds of fruit trees on these walks.

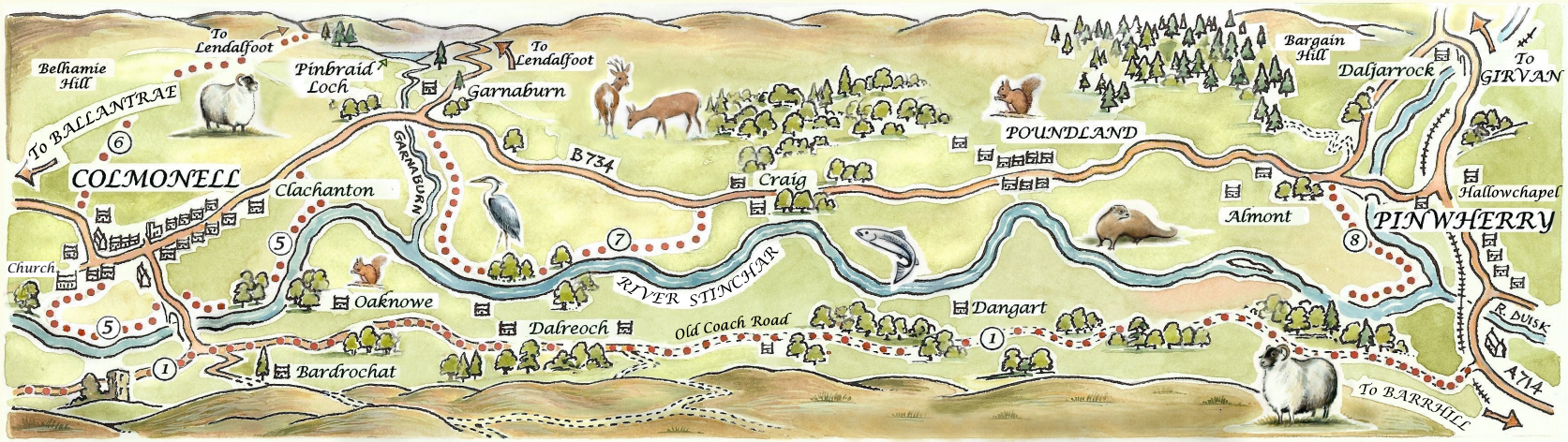
Walk 6 Colmonell to Lendalfoot 3½ miles

S.V.Trails sign - "via Knockormal" at first corner west of village. Walk up beside wall to the large rock known as the Deaf Stane. Continue on track to waymarker post, then follow arrow straight uphill till reaching a tall stile over wall at back of hill. Cross a short boggy area to a stile at the next wall, then straight over the field till you see track leading down over the burn. View of Pinbraid Loch on your right. Follow track to the Garnaburn road, to either turn left to Lendalfoot or return to Colmonell. Usually cattle on this walk.

Walk 7 Garnaburn River Walk 1 mile

Take the track downhill opposite the Garnaburn road end. From the gate, cross field to stile, then round edge of the 2 big fields beside the Garna burn and the river. Stile over fence between the 2 fields. Another stile, marked "Kelly's Way", takes you onto the road at the end of walk.

Walk 8 Hallowchapel River Walk ¾ mile

Starts at the gate opposite the road junction. It follows a track leading to the Waters Meetings where the River Duisk joins the Stinchar, then turns into a grass path beside the river bank.

There are also good woodland walks at Glenapp, near Ballantrae, and longer ones over the hills to Glenluce. Fine views are to be had on the Garnaburn and Bardrochat hill roads.