



EXPLORE THE BIOSPHERE

LOCH TROOL AND THE CREE VALLEY

Explore Loch Trool and the Cree Valley to discover the UNESCO Biosphere where you can experience nature and landscapes as well as the big Biosphere ideas of conservation, learning and development that inspire a positive future.

WHERE TO GO...

Loch Trool and Cree Valley is a two-way route about 14 miles (22 km) long linking Loch Trool to Newton Stewart.

The quiet road follows the National Byway/ National Cycle Route 7 along the Wood of Cree road.

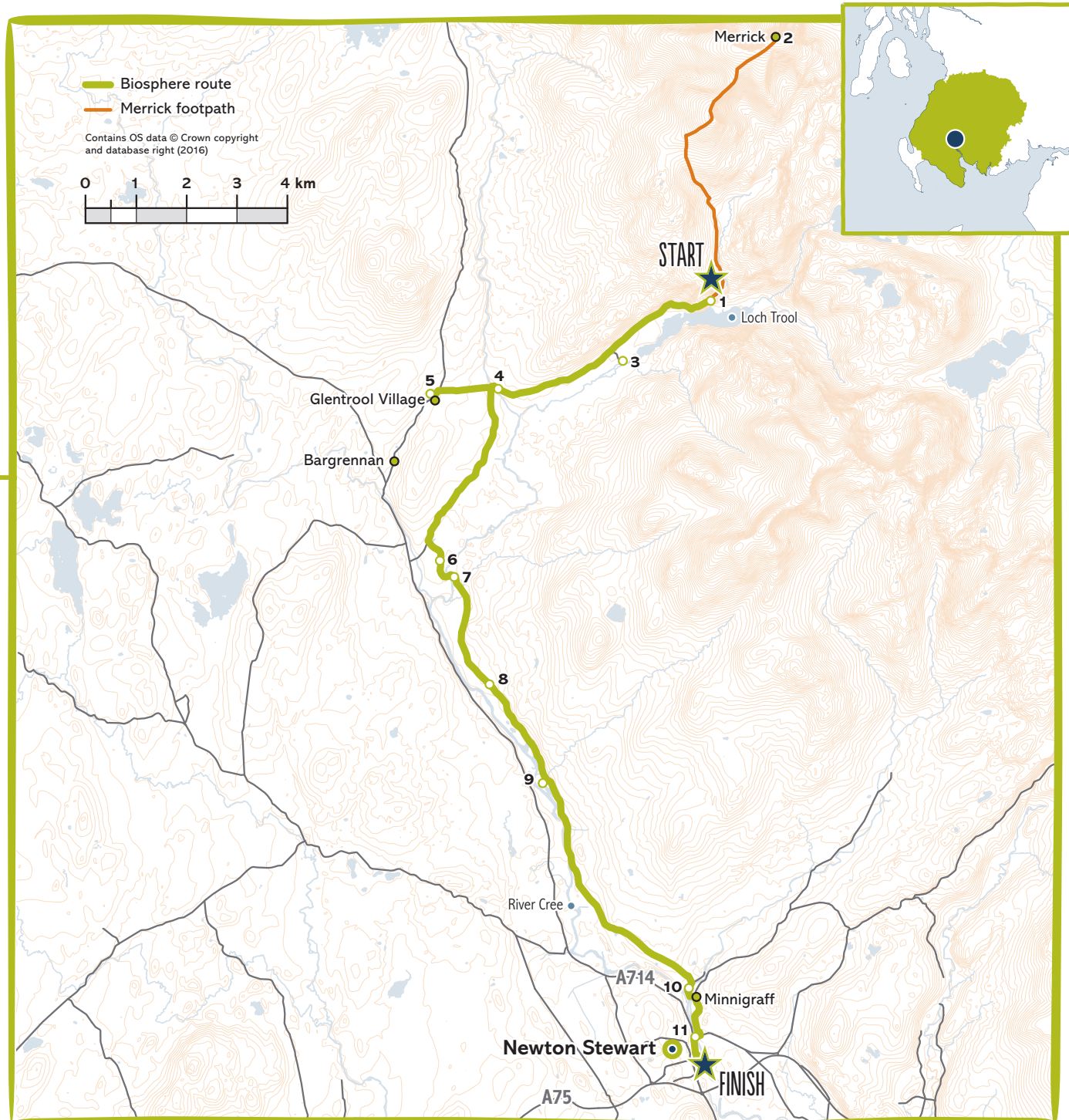
Find Loch Trool by turning off the A714 Newton Stewart and follow signs to Loch Trool and Bruce's Stone. (NX41483 80357)

Find Newton Stewart by turning off the A75 to the Riverside car park. (NX41227 66314)

Facilities are available at the Belted Galloway Café in Newton Stewart or the Café at Glentrool at either end of this route.



GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
BIOSPHERE



1 BRUCE'S STONE

Take a very short walk from the car park to the granite boulder commemorating a skirmish between Robert the Bruce's men and an English army during the Scottish Wars of Independence. You will be rewarded with stunning views of Loch Trool and ancient oak woodlands stretching out below you.



5 GLENTROOL ART & CRAFTS

In the centre of Glentrool Village an art and crafts gallery is a project run by Glentrool and Bargrennan Community Trust to benefit the local community. It supports local artists and crafters by allowing them to exhibit in an affordable studio space.



2 MIGHTY MERRICK

Bruce's Stone is also the starting point for a 14km walk to the top of the Merrick and back. This is a strenuous walk into the spectacular wilderness of the Galloway Hills and only suitable for people who are active and well prepared.



6 OLD BRIDGE OF MINNOCH

Park at Brighton Woods and follow the waymarks for the Southern Upland Way along the west side of the Water of Minnoch for about 30 minutes before turning down to the river (take a map so as not to miss the turning) and you will be treated with this ancient bridge.

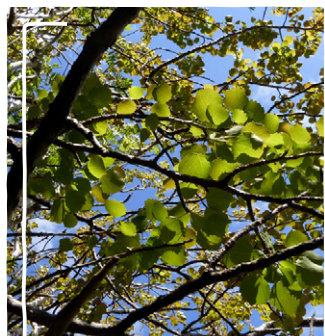
3 FRESH VIEW

Turn off the single track road between Bruce's Stone and Café at Glentrool sign posted to Caldots House and park at the bridge. Follow the track across the bridge to discover low benches designed to help you experience the sights, sounds and smells of the forest.



7 RED SQUIRREL STRONGHOLD

Cree Valley woodlands are a stronghold for the Red squirrel, a Biosphere High Focus species, but they are threatened by the introduced Grey squirrel that competes with them for food and also carries a fatal disease. The populations of Red squirrels are being closely monitored by volunteers and conservation organisations.



4 MONTANE DEMONSTRATION

In the Forestry Commission car park a raised bed allows you to take a closer look at plants that flourish in the harsh conditions on the hills including low growing scrub that creeps above the treeline.



8 PRECIOUS WOODLAND

Volunteers with Cree Valley Community Woodland Trust are essential to the management of broadleaf woodlands in the area. Regular volunteer activities mean participants can make new friends and enjoy healthy exercise in the fresh air and wonderful scenery of the Cree Valley.



9 WOOD OF CREE

The RSPB reserve really comes alive in the spring, with a carpet of bluebells on the ground and birdsong in the air. This oak woodland provides a favourite breeding site for summer migrant birds including Redstart, Pied flycatcher and Wood warblers.

10 GRAVEYARD RAVENS

Monigaff Church graveyard has been in existence for over 1,000 years. Within the ruins of the old church you can find the heraldic symbol of Patrick McClurg whose ancestor proved his fighting skill to Robert the Bruce by killing 2 ravens with one arrow.



11 PROTECTING THE SPARLING

The Sparling, or Smelt, are a fish that live in the Solway Estuary and although once common they now only make an annual migration up the River Cree to spawn. Research has established that there are a good number of fish but there is no natural return to other rivers.



Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
member of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

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