



## EXPLORE THE BIOSPHERE

### LOCH KEN AND THE RIVER DEE

Explore Loch Ken and the River Dee to discover the Biosphere where you can experience nature and landscapes as well as the big Biosphere ideas that inspire a positive future.

## WHERE TO GO...

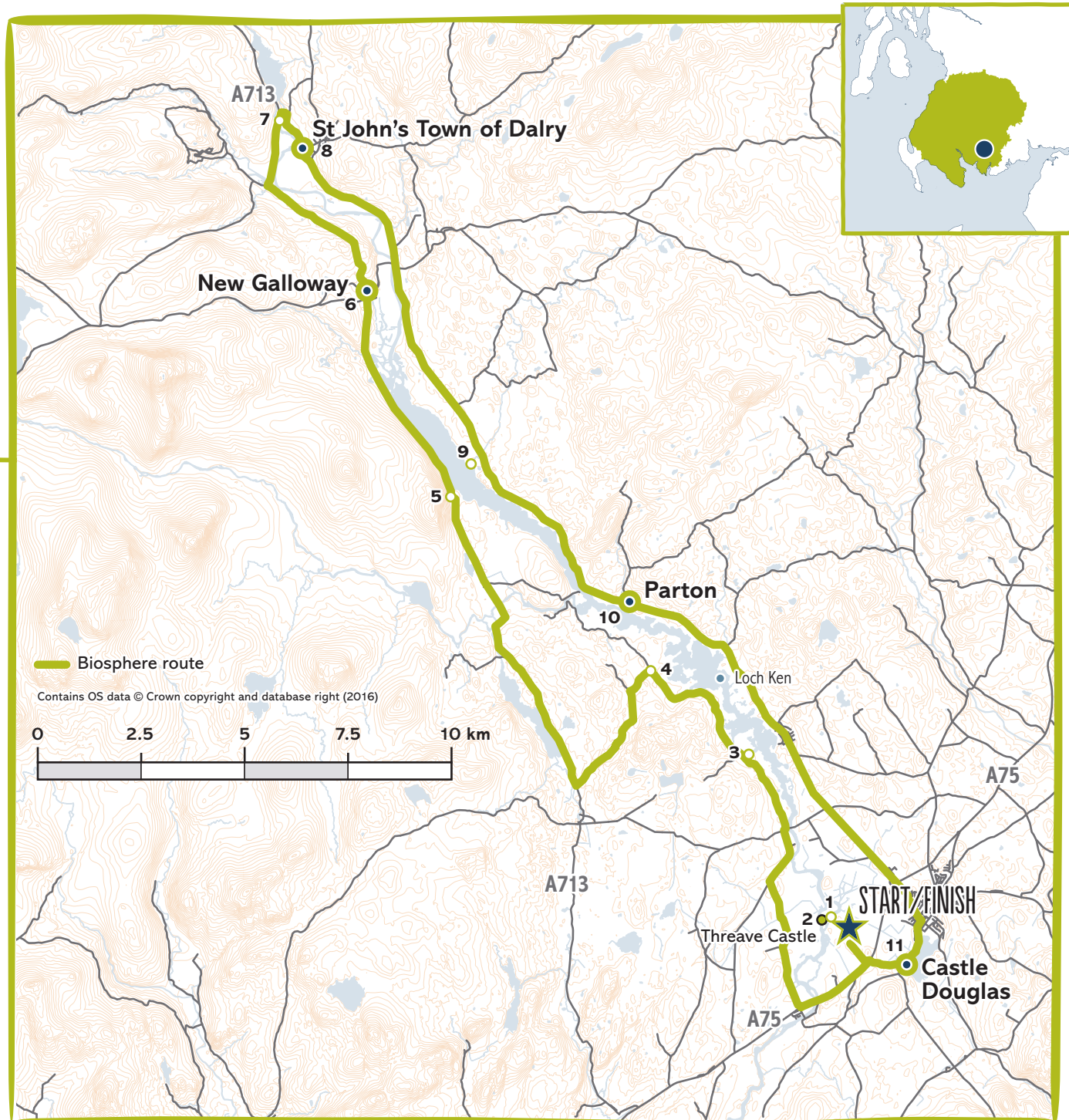
***Loch Ken and River Dee is a circular route from Castle Douglas about 35 miles (56 km) long following quiet roads on the west side of Loch Ken and returning on the A713 on the east side.***

Find Kelton mains by turning off the A75 on a roundabout on the Castle Douglas by-pass sign posted to Threave Castle / Kelton Mains which takes you to a car park. (NX745616)

There are several good places to eat on this route as well as Catstrand, Galloway Activity Centre and Threave Gardens there is the Ken Bridge Hotel and the Clachan Inn at Dalry.



GALLOWAY AND  
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE  
BIOSPHERE





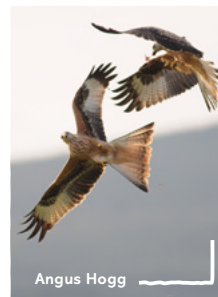
## 1 CONSERVATION SUCCESS

After a short walk from the car park at Kelton Mains on the NTS Threave Estate you reach the osprey viewing point on the banks of the river. From here you can see these magnificent birds bringing fish to their young throughout the summer months.



## 5 FLYING COLOURS

The short walk up the Bennan takes you to a viewpoint looking across Loch Ken and down to the 'secret cages' where red kites were kept during the re-introduction programme. A red kite feeding station at Bellymack Farm on the Galloway Kite Trail provides an opportunity to watch these stunning birds.



Angus Hogg

## 9 ECO ACTIVITY



Galloway Activity Centre has a team of adventure instructors specialise in providing exciting and memorable holidays in a safe and friendly atmosphere. You can stay in one of the off-grid ECO PODS and relax under the stars after an activity packed day enjoying the delights of Loch Ken.



## 2 ISLAND STRONGHOLD

The remains of Threave Castle are sited in a strategic and easily defended position on an island in the middle of the River Dee. You can enjoy the short boat trip across the river to reach this fascinating tower house which is now managed by Historic Environment Scotland.



## 6 GREEN VENUE

Catstrand is a contemporary arts centre and meeting place managed as a self-sustaining community centre that offers a range of high quality events, activities and facilities. It has a number of energy-efficient and renewable energy features and has been named as Scotland's Greenest Arts Venue.

## 10 SCIENTIFIC INSPIRATION

James Clerk Maxwell is one of the greatest scientists who have ever lived and is buried within the ruins of the Old Kirk which lies in the graveyard of Parton Parish Church. To Maxwell we owe some of the significant discoveries of our age and he is acclaimed as the father of modern physics.



## 3 WRITERS REST

The grave yard at Balmaghie Parish Church has many interesting headstones and is the resting place of Samuel Rutherford Crockett who produced a series of popular novels frequently inspired by the Galloway landscape that he knew so well.



## 7 WATER POWER

Earlstoun power station is part of the Galloway hydro-electric scheme that generates 'green' energy by harnessing the kinetic force of fast moving water.

A simple fish ladder which provides safe passage beyond the dam for Atlantic salmon, sea trout and brown trout.



## 11 GOING BATTY

The NTS Threave Gardens and Estate is home to Scotland's first bat reserve with two bat trails for you to explore and discover the secret lives of this often misunderstood creature.

The best time to see them is when they fly about at dusk but the gardens are worth a visit at daytime too!



Andrew Bielinski

## 4 WOODLAND REFUGE

The Ken-Dee Marshes RSPB reserve plays host winter visitors such as Greenland white-fronted and Icelandic greylag geese. In the spring migrants like redstart and pied flycatcher fly in to join resident birds like the rare willow tit in the wet woodland.



## 8 UPLAND CONNECTIONS

The Southern Upland Way is a long distance route connecting the west coast to the east coast

and passing through the heart of the Biosphere. Leaving St John's Town of Dalry the route winds up to the summit of Benbrack Hill that rewards you with a panorama of the Galloway Hills.

**Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership**  
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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere**  
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