

# WELCOME TO OUR UNESCO BIOSPHERE!

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire was designated a UNESCO Biosphere in 2012. Internationally recognised as a world class environment for people and nature, our Biosphere covers more than 5,200 km<sup>2</sup> of southwest Scotland, following the rivers that flow out of the Galloway Hills through forests and farmland, villages and towns, all the way to a ruggedly scenic coast. It is a place for adventure, discovery and inspiration, where we work together to support wildlife, build stronger communities, and find sustainable ways to live.



Ev'n winter bleak has charms to me,  
When winds rave thro' the naked tree;  
Or frosts on hills of Ochiltree  
Are hoary gray;  
Or blinding drifts wild-furious flee,  
Dark'ning the day!

Ochiltree is mentioned in  
Robert Burns' poem *Winsome Willie*



We and the Biosphere businesses are committed to sustainable tourism. Look out for our Proud Supporter and Biosphere Certification Mark logos as you explore.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO  
CONTACT OUR TEAM, EMAIL  
[INFO@GSABIOSPHERE.ORG.UK](mailto:info@gsabiosphere.org.uk)

FOR NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT  
[WWW.GSABIOSPHERE.ORG.UK](http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk)

GALLOWAY & SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE UNESCO BIOSPHERE,  
KIRKROUGHTREE COURTYARD, STRONORD, NEWTON STEWART, DG8 7BE  
REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY SC044137



## GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE

### OCHILTREE HERITAGE WALK



## BIOSPHERE WALKS

[WWW.GSABIOSPHERE.ORG.UK](http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk)



- 1 The House with the Green Shutters was a bestselling novel by George Douglas Brown, who was born there.
- 2 The Market Cross gave Ochiltree the power to trade. Used through history as a meeting point, not least for Sir Robert Colville of Ochiltree, who raised his standard here in 1513 before departing for the battle of Flodden. The Covenanters met here before marching to Edinburgh and the battle of Rullion Green in 1666.

- 5 Ochiltree was the scene of a witch trial in 1649. The accused, Janet Wallace, was dunked into the Lugar Water. She survived the dunking, meaning she was considered guilty of being a witch. She was probably executed in Ochiltree.

    
**Ochiltree Hub**  
 start & finish

- 3 The Old Cemetery was the site of the Chapel of St Conal, probably established before the 12th century, and was in use until the mid 17th century before it was demolished. An unmarked grave of a Waterloo hero lies amongst the aged stones. There is also a memorial to William and Patrick Simpson, friends of Robert Burns.
- 4 The Old Brig over the Lugar Water was built in 1867 after the previous brig was washed away.

- 6 The Old Mill processed grain and was powered by water diverted along the lade from the river. A former sawmill, now a house, is situated further along the lade.
- 7 The War Memorial stands on the site of the former South Church having been relocated from the corner of Main Street in 1973. It is dedicated to all those killed in action including 48 men from the Ochiltree area, killed in the First and Second World Wars.

## HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

The great Scottish Reformer, John Knox, visited Ochiltree a number of times in the 16th century. In March 1564 Knox, aged 51, married Margaret Stewart, aged 17 (his second wife) at Ochiltree. The wedding took place at Ochiltree House which stood near to the dam.

Ochiltree is a conservation village that once thrived with artisans and trades thanks to its strategic location between Auchinleck and Dumfries House Estates, which provided plenty of work.

The singer John Hendry Blair, known as Johnny Cymbal (1945-1993) was born in Ochiltree. His most famous song was *Mr Bass Man* in 1963 but he had an illustrious career writing and producing songs in the USA.

Visit the Barony A-Frame, a remnant of Ayrshire's mining heritage. The site is well worth a visit to see how mining affected communities and the landscape of Ayrshire. Ochiltree became a mining village in the 1950s.

Ochiltree is a Biosphere Community. Scan here to find out more about what makes Ochiltree such a special place.

