

Kirkmaiden Walk

Distance: 11.2km/7 miles

Time: Three and a half hours

Grid Ref: NX155304 NX 12444 36921

Kirkmaiden is the small hamlet on the B7065 between Port Logan and the Mull of Galloway, and is less than a mile from Drummore. Park your vehicle here, close to Kirkmaiden Kirk Covenant taking care not to block any entrances. The Old Kirk is well worth a visit, before or after your walk.

Take the turning just south of the Old Kirk, alongside a telephone box, and walk along the narrow minor road to the west. This road is mostly downhill and the views are good as you approach Castle Clanyard.

You will see the remains of Clanyard on your right. Clanyard Castle was the largest, most splendid castle in this area, residence of a branch of the Gordons of Kenmura and Lochinvar. Clanyard, or Clonyard, probably comes from the Norse word klungr for brambles, any rough ground, crags or rocks. The castle was still standing in 1850 and it still had its roof on. The McDoualls of Logan knocked the castle down to build a large, castle-like house with huge wings and towers, but this was knocked down in 1949. The castle

cellars were filled in to protect livestock.

Take a left turning to Castle Clanyard farm and walk along a concrete road, through the farm buildings, bearing to your left, and introduce yourself to any farm workers. A burn runs alongside this good track, on your left. The track runs uphill away from the farm and varies in its quality - mostly very good - and then becomes a grass one, which is good to walk on. Stop to take a breath and look back at the view.

After continuous rain this grassy track can be a little difficult but if you keep to its middle you will soon be through this wet area. There is one gate to negotiate - the dyke alongside it is easily climbed.

On reaching the road, turn left, and enjoy the scenery along this stretch of heather and gorse bordered narrow, quiet road. You are likely to see a lot of wildlife here, including deer. Your view to the left is of Castle Clanyard, Port Logan and the Irish Sea.

Before long you will reach the B7065 where you will turn left, reaching Kirkmaiden. This walk takes approximately one and a quarter hours.

All walks are undertaken entirely at your own risk and Mull of Galloway Trust and South Rhins Community Development Trust accepts no responsibility or liability. It is the walkers own responsibility to check information and carry a compass and detailed map. We do not give any warranty, as to the accuracy of any of the information of the walks on the site. It is each walker's responsibility to ensure that the walk and the weather conditions are within their capabilities.

Please note that all walk times are approximate and appropriate footwear should be worn. Always advise someone of your intended route and provide an estimate of when you will return. Care should be

taken around the coastal routes and we would ask you to adhere to the countryside code at all times. Please be especially aware of gates and be mindful of farm property and livestock.

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