

## **MULL OF GALLOWAY TRAIL**

### **MULTI-USE NOTES**



The Mull of Galloway Trail is a 37 mile long-distance route, combining the Loch Ryan Coastal Path with a recently developed 24 mile path between Stranraer and the Mull of Galloway. The route was established and is mainly managed by Stranraer Rotary Club who, in conjunction with Dumfries and Galloway Council, have over the past few years replaced some of the former stiles with self-closing gates and developed new sections of path to reduce the length on road. Overall, the trail offers great variety in both scenery and walking experience, showcasing some of the best of the eastern Rhins, but was developed and is still promoted primarily as a walking route.





These notes have been produced to help identify which sections of the trail are multi-use and to enable horse riders, cyclists and other potential route users decide for themselves which sections are suited to their intended use. The table below offers a quick summary, followed by location and details of restrictions. Riders should be aware that many of the sections along the beach or foreshore are hard going, even on foot, and some are impassable at high tide. Some of the sections on road can be hazardous, particularly the short section immediately south of Dyemill, and between Grennan and Drummore. Although the route is signed, waymarking is in many places discrete and in others confusing, and the latest edition OS map inaccurately marks the Mull of Galloway Trail in places. The leaflet produced by the Rotary Club may help with route finding. Copies of the route guide are available from Visitor Information in Stranraer or the village shop in Drummore.

<b><u>Route section</u></b>	<b><u>Accessibility</u></b>
Glenapp to Stranraer	No information available. Waymarked path understood to be pedestrian only
Stranraer to Culhorn Mains	Multi-use accessible
Culhorn Mains to High Barnultoach	Pedestrian only due to succession of stiles and a narrow plank footbridge. Minor road via Little Lochans provides potential alternative
High Barnultoach to Clayshant	Public road
Clayshant to Sandhead	Rough, uneven surface and rocky outcrop on undulating path between Clayshant and coast followed by sand dunes. Access down main track to Clayshant Quarry restricted by locked barrier. Narrow footbridge over Culmore Burn is very hard to circumvent other than by cutting down onto beach. Bridge over Sandmill Burn easily avoided over beach.
Sandhead to Dyemill	Pedestrian only due to stiles, kissing gate and steps
Dyemill to Ardwell	Mainly along foreshore, several narrow footbridges.
Ardwell to Logan Mills	Inaccessible for multi-use due to kissing gates, narrow path through wood with steep steps in places and rocky uneven path along foreshore
Logan Mills to New England Bay	90cm footbridge over Balkelzie Burn with steps either end. Beach may offer alternative at low tide. No other physical barriers, former kissing gates and stiles removed, but path narrow in places with protruding gorse stumps
New England Bay to Terally Bay	Mainly on foreshore or road verge. Access to beach inaccessible by walkers or riders on south side of Terally Bridge.
Terally Point to Kilstay Bay	Kissing gate off road onto new narrow path alongside Grennan Plantation, adjacent field gate unlocked at time of survey. 1.5 m





	self-closing gates either end of path south of plantation which is fenced from field, series of shallow, wide steps passable with care.
Kilstay Bay to Drummore	Short section of informal beaten earth/stone path between road and sea wall, remainder on public road – no pavement or verge, blind bends, fast traffic
Drummore to Maryport	Multi-use accessible
Maryport to East Tarbet	Pedestrian only due to several kissing gates on precipitous cliff-edge path north of Portankill and steep ladder stile over dyke east of Mull of Galloway Farm
East Tarbet to Mull of Galloway	No waymarked path, promoted route on coastal side of fence is steep, narrow and rough, over heavily poached ground with protruding wire stays supporting fence straining posts. Kissing gate in fence accessing Mull of Galloway car park. Whole of this section unsuitable for multi-use. Unfenced road provides alternative

### Culhorn Mains to High Barnultoch

Location/ OS GR	Description
NX 081587	12' metal field gate (unlocked) with wooden kissing gate adjacent leads onto beaten earth track parallel to east side of fence. 
NX082586	Wooden step stile over rickety line wire and mesh fence provides alternative option on west side of fence when bull in field to east
NX084584	Wooden step stile over line wire and net fence connects back to main path. 
NX084583	Narrow wooden kissing gate in march fence with wood immediately followed by narrow wooden double sleeper bridge sloped at angle across relatively deep ditch. Narrow parallel wooden posts either end at south side of bridge. Impassable with a horse

	
<p>NX084583</p>	<p>Wooden kissing gate in fenced boundary on south side of wood (no alternative), immediately followed by step stile over fence into adjacent field when bull grazing.</p> 
<p>NX085582</p>	<p>Wooden step stile over line wire fence provides access back onto main "path" west of fence. Barbed wire fence along south side of track to High Boreland prevents continuation east of fence if bull in field to west.</p> 
<p>NX087578</p>	<p>Electric fence across line of path enclosing horses. No alternative access other than electric fence post which slides to side, looped on rope</p> 

**Clayshant to Sandhead**

Location/OSGR	Description
NX111527	<p>Rock outcrop/boulders in line of path</p> 
NX113522	<p>Metal 46 cm wide footbridge across Culmore Burn with metal mesh side panels and long extension boardwalk impassable with a horse. It may be possible to avoid the bridge along the beach at low tide but links between the path and beach were not surveyed</p> 
NX103508	<p>Narrow 46 cm footbridge impassable with a horse. Burn splays out below bridge so other than at high tide, easily crossed on beach.</p> 
Sandhead north to Carisbrooke	<p>Promoted route follows foreshore, inaccessible at high tide. Mobile homes in holiday park come to edge of beach.</p> 








## Sandhead to Dyemill

Main route follows foreshore below breakwater, impassable beyond mid-tide level.




Alternative route uses overgrown path up steps onto road (avoided by linking onto road through car park), linking back with shoreline path off the bend in the road south of Sandhead. Further restrictions beyond this identified below

Location/OSGR	Description
Sandhead to Shore Cottages	Beaten earth path between parallel fences, narrow in places 
NX103488 Burn north of Shore Cottages	Narrow metal footbridge over Cairnwell Burn. Can be avoided along beach at low tide. 
Purdie's Point NX105486	Path re-routed due to cliff collapse during winter storms 2015. Path now crosses stocknet and barbed wire fence by wooden stile, no alternative.




		
NX185404	<p>Wooden step stile over fence into wood, no alternative.</p> 	
Wood east of Mull Hill	<p>Double wooden planks across burn, broken paving slab path continues downhill as steps. Unsuitable for multi-use</p>  	
Alwhibbie Glen NX105475	<p>Narrow indistinct path through wood with low branches and easily disturbed ground unsuitable for multi-use. Broken paving slab steps with wooden handrail on lower side lead down to road</p> 	
Dyemill to Drumantrae Bay	<p>Path follows beach/foreshore, very stony and limited space at high tide</p>	

	
NX107468	<p>Narrow wooden footbridge over ditch in line of path south of car park, impassable with horse. Alternative is to continue along road</p> 
Ringvinican to Ardwell	<p>Path runs along rocky foreshore. Sandy beach exposed at low tide.</p> 

### Ardwell to Logan Mills

Location/OS GR	Description
NX108452 Chapel Rossan track end	<p>Wooden kissing gate off road onto newly fenced path along field headland. Self-closing 1.5 m gate at southern end of track but no alternative to kissing gate. Only other option is to use road</p> 
Chapelrossan Bay to Longrigg Plantation	<p>Narrow fragile path through wood with steps, squeeze between trees, steps over dykes and kissing gates. Impassable with a horse</p>









<p>NX116435</p>	<p>Wooden footbridge over Balkelzie Burn. 90 cm wide. 1 step north end, 2 steps south end. It may be possible to ford the burn on the beach at low tide</p> 
<p>Logan Mills to Balgowan Point</p>	<p>Clearly defined beaten earth path runs parallel to coastal side of dyke. Uneven underfoot, remains of cut gorse stems in line of path may be concealed by grass. Gorse restricts path width in places.</p> 
<p>NX122428 north of Balgowan Point</p>	<p>Wooden waymark post signs re-routed path over remains of dyke onto landward side avoiding cliff collapse to south. Path beyond passable with care.</p> 



		
Terally Bay	<p>Waymark post signs route onto beach, impassable at high tide and no exit off beach at northern end due to rock armour.</p> 	

**Dungamen Bay to Drummore**

Location/OSGR	Description
NX126403 north end of Grennan Plantation	<p>Wooden kissing gate across new path along edge of wood west of road, adjacent 12' wooden field gate unlocked at time of survey.</p> 
Grennan Plantation	<p>Narrow unsurfaced informal path winds along edge of wood parallel to road below rocky crags. Shallow informal steps in places, path supported by sections of birch trunk. Stone outcrop restricts width of path in several places</p>  <p>Whindust surfaced path from southern edge of wood to former quarry entrance.</p>



<p>NX127395</p>	<p>Wooden slatted bridge with non-slip strips across ditch in line of whindust surfaced path leading to one-way self-closing metal bridlegate</p> 
<p>Grennan quarry road to Kilstay Bay</p>	<p>Newly created path parallel to road inside field fenced to inside with electrified linewire on inside. Uneven surface/rocks in line of path concealed by long grass</p>  <p>Shallow wooden steps passable with care</p>  <p>Self-closing 1.5 m gate across southern end of path</p>
<p>Kilstay Bay - Drummore</p>	<p>Path along road, very narrow pavement for part way tight along sea wall, then rough narrow verge to end of sea wall.</p> 

## Maryport to East Tarbet

Although most of this section is potentially multi-use accessible, several kissing gates and a ladder stile present obstructions to multi-use.

Location/OSGR	Description
Carrickcundie to Back Bay	<p>Wooden waymark post confirms path moves onto beach to get past rocky promontory. No alternative way around (for any user) at high tide</p> 
Headland above Back Bay NX141330	<p>Kissing gate leads onto very narrow cliff-top path which disappears after 20 m before reaching further kissing gate on coastal side of fence.</p>   <p>Wooden bridlegate leading into field (right of picture below left) and section of fence removed immediately beyond appear to offer alternative but no facility to rejoin path.</p>  
Kirk Burn, Portankill NX140325	<p>Wooden sleeper bridge over burn. Path beyond bridge badly eroded, narrow and precipitous. In dry weather it is easier to ford the burn, of at low tide cross on the beach (burn goes underground)</p>



	
NX141324	<p>New metal bridlegate in fence onto hill</p> 
NX143320	<p>Steep wooden ladder stile over dyke where path passes back onto coastal side. Path continues on coastal side of dyke</p> 
NX143312	<p>Metal bridlegate with metal fieldgate adjacent across end of track leading up to Youchtrie Heugh</p> 
East Tarbet to Mull of Galloway	<p>Route south remains on coastal side of fence, very narrow in places with metal stay wires across "path" at straining posts.</p>





VWG  
12.6.18 (based on survey spring 2017)