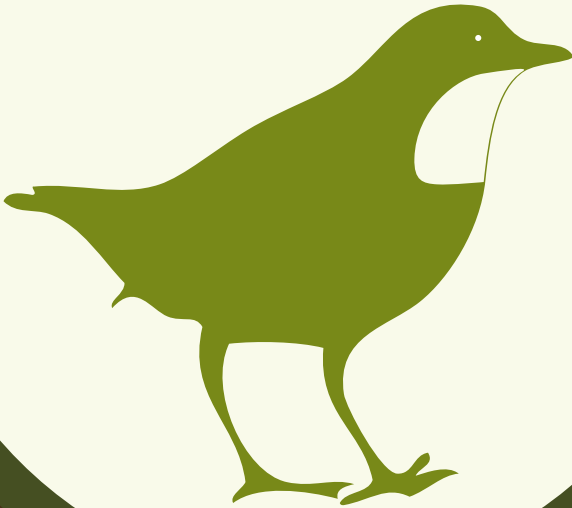


EAST AYRSHIRE
COALFIELD



ENVIRONMENT
INITIATIVE

GLEN AFTON ROUTE



This is a long walk along the Afton Water to the Dalhanna Farm track and back. The pretty riverside route is perfect for spotting wildlife, no wonder Robert Burns felt inspired to write *Flow gently, sweet Afton*.

*Flow gently, sweet Afton,
among thy green braes,
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy
praise.*

*How pleasant thy banks and
green valleys below,
Where wild in the woodlands
the primroses blow.*

The woodlands are ancient and atmospheric, look around you for the wild creatures that depend on it and enjoy the year round greenery provided by the mosses and ferns. As you near the Dalhanna Farm track you will exit the woodland into a field which, during spring and summer, is full of wildflowers such as yellow rattle, so called as its fruit is a dry capsule containing loose, rattling seeds when ripe.

On the way back you will pass the Robert Burns Cairn. Why not rest for a while where the famous bard may also have sat to contemplate and write his poems. Continue back to town along the road or on either bank of the Afton Water.

Time = 1 hour 45 minutes

Length approx. 4.6 miles or 7.41km

Route – Walk towards the river and follow the dipper waymarkers.

Follow the riverside path to the main road (A76). Cross at the pedestrian crossing and turn into Mason Avenue, towards the Greenhead playing fields from where the path follows the river

bank. Turn left to continue along the river at Danny's Brig, continuing upstream to Dalhanna Farm's track via a woodland path and through a meadow. Turn right along the farm track, then right again down the Afton Road back to New Cumnock. At the cemetery you can take a detour to the Knockshinnoch Disaster Memorial or just continue back to town, either along the road or by one or other bank of the Afton Water.

Note that the path is rough in places with some steps and grass routes through fields which can contain livestock.

Navigation (1 least skill/5 most skill) = 3

Stamina (1 least/5 most) = 3

Mobility (1 least/5 most) = 3

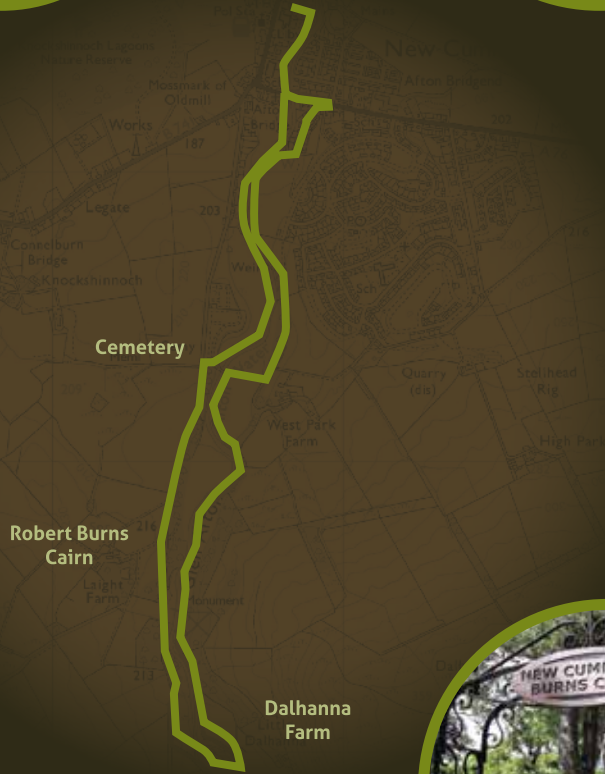
The East Ayrshire Coalfield Environment Initiative was able to improve these paths during 2012 thanks to funding from Ayrshire LEADER and the Cumnock and Doon Valley Minerals Trust.

The East Ayrshire Coalfield Environment Initiative (CEI) is a partnership between local authority, conservation bodies and industry, working together to enhance, conserve and promote the environment in East Ayrshire.

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