

Dumfries & Galloway

is renowned for the birdwatching opportunities provided along the shores of the inner Solway Firth – and rightly so. The Solway is one of the most important estuaries in Britain holding up to 40,000 wildfowl and 83,000 waders during the winter period

This is the 4th Edition of a hugely popular booklet collated by Dumfries and Galloway Council Ranger Service. There have been new reserves created since the 3rd edition, whereas others have been upgraded with new facilities since the last publication in 2004.

Few birdwatchers take the time to explore inland parts of Dumfries and Galloway or visit at a different time of year, yet the region offers such a range of habitats that there is good birdwatching in every season. This booklet gives an introduction to the best and most easily accessible birdwatching sites in Dumfries and Galloway.

Key to abbreviations and symbols

DGC	Dumfries and Galloway Council
FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NSA	National Scenic Area
NTS	National Trust for Scotland
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SNH	Scottish National Heritage
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
WWT	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

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Birdwatching site



Viewing from car



Disabled access



Hide



Closed Circuit TV



WIGTOWNSHIRE

The Rhins of Galloway

The Rhins is especially noted for the breeding seabird colonies at the Mull of Galloway and the overwintering species that frequent Loch Ryan. Corsewall Point, at the northern tip of the peninsula, is the best autumn seawatching site in Dumfries and Galloway.



1. Mull of Galloway RSPB reserve



Habitats: Coastal cliffs, maritime heath.

Birds: Largest mainland seabird colony in southwest Scotland: Fulmar, Guillemot, Razorbill, Kittiwake, Shag, Black Guillemot and a few Puffins. Offshore there may be Gannets, petrels and shearwaters. Breeding Peregrine, Kestrel, Stonechat, Wheatear and Rock Pipit.

Facilities: The RSPB reserve lies beyond the lighthouse wall, and is open at all times. The Visitor centre opens daily, 10am - 5pm, from Easter until mid-October. Live CCTV of the seabird colony. Toilets, café and shop near lighthouse. Disabled parking bay next to visitor centre.

How to get there: Follow A716 to Drummore, then by sign-posted minor roads.

Contact: 01776 840539 or 01671 404975.

www.rspb.org.uk/reserves



Guillemot

2. New England Bay and east Rhins coast roads



Habitats: Sand, shingle and boulder beaches, gorse scrub, woodland and farmland with secret glens.

Birds: Gannets, divers, Red-breasted Merganser, Eider, Shearwaters and terns offshore. Waders, Common Whitethroat, warblers, Stonechat, Wheatear, pipits, and Yellowhammer.

Facilities: Roadside parking affording excellent views. Public toilets at New England Bay, Ardwell and Drummore.

How to get there: The A716 closely follows the shore between Sandhead and Drummore. Taking the B7065 to Port Logan forms a good circular route to Drummore taking in the west Rhins coast.

3. Southern Upland Way, Portpatrick to Killantringan

Habitats: Coastal cliffs, pebble beach, scrub and farmland.

Birds: Black Guillemot nest in the harbour walls. Fulmar and Herring Gull nest on the cliffs. Look out for Peregrine, Raven, Rock Pipit, Linnet and Stonechat. Gannets and shearwaters offshore.

Facilities: Car parking at Portpatrick harbour and near Killantringan lighthouse. Toilets at Portpatrick. Signposted clifftop walk, steep in places.

How to get there: The start of the Southern Upland Way is at the north end of Portpatrick harbour. Killantringan lighthouse is reached by taking a minor road off the A764 leading north from Portpatrick.

4. Corsewall Point



Habitats: Rocky shore and cliff top walking.

Birds: Autumn seawatching site for Storm Petrel, Sabine's Gull, Gannet, skuas and shearwaters. Best during and immediately after strong northwesterly gales.

Facilities: Informal car parking.

How to get there: A718 north from Stranraer to Kirkcolm, then minor roads.

Eider Duck



Gannets

5. Loch Ryan



Habitats: Sea loch and mudflats, shingle spur.

Birds: Wintering divers, grebes, waders and wildfowl including Scaup and Brent Geese. Summer - Breeding terns.

Facilities: Paved and tarmac walks along the sea front at Stranraer suitable for disabled birdwatchers, views from parked cars at Wig Bay, Broadstone, Balyett and Innermessan. Information boards at Balyett, Wig Bay and Cairnryan. Toilets at Balyett and on the Stranraer Waterfront.

Access: Easy access at Wig Bay and Broadstone to Cairnryan is accessible to wheelchair users using a lochside cycle path. There are good views from the roadside at Wig Bay and all along the south eastern shore.

How to get there: A77 closely follows the south eastern shore. For western shore take A718 west from Stranraer, then north to Wig Bay.

Contact: DGC Ranger Service 01988402401.

The Machars

The two best birdwatching areas in this part of Wigtownshire are along the rocky coastline and at Wigtown Bay where there are mudflats and saltmarshes. The moorland areas around Mochrum Loch can also be worth a visit.

St Ninian's Cave



6. Castle Kennedy Gardens and White Loch

Habitats: Mature mixed woodland, formal gardens, two lochs.

Birds: Woodland birds and wildfowl, especially Greylag and Canada Geese.

Facilities: Shop, tearoom and toilets. Open April to September (admission charge).

How to get there: Signposted from A75.

Contact: 01776 702024.
www.castlekennedygardens.co.uk

7. Luce Bay shore road – Auchenmalg to Monreith

Habitats: Predominantly shingle beaches with maritime cliff and slope.

Status: Luce bay is a Special Area of Conservation.

Birds: Stonechat, Common and Lesser Whitethroat, Pied Wagtail, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Curlew, Cormorant. Gannets and terns offshore. Finch flocks on the strand-line in winter.

Facilities: Information boards at lay-bys, shops, hotels at Port William. Public Toilets at Stairhaven, Port William and Monreith.

Access: Cliff top path south from Stairhaven to Auchenmalg (5 miles return). Numerous lay-bys along A747.

8. Isle of Whithorn to St. Ninian's Cave

Habitats: Coastal cliffs and shingle, maritime heath and low scrub.

Birds: Black Guillemot, Shag, Fulmar, Peregrine, Raven and Twite.



Facilities: Coastal footpath, (4 miles return – 5.5 miles if starting from Kidsdale). Car park, toilets and hotels at the Isle of Whithorn.

Access: On the B7004 from Whithorn follow road signs to St. Ninian's Cave, (leave car at Kidsdale car park for a longer walk incorporating 1.5 mile woodland stretch). Parking also available at Isle of Whithorn.

9. Garlieston Bay and Craggleton Bay

Habitats: Rocky shore and broadleaved woodland.

Birds: Oystercatcher, Turnstone, Redshank, occasional Greenshank, Cormorant, Black Guillemot and House Martins on Craggleton cliffs.

Facilities: Toilets and car parking in Garlieston and parking at Galloway House Gardens.

How to get there: Follow B7004 south from Wigtown to Garlieston. At crossroads take minor road opposite into the grounds of Galloway House for Craggleton Bay, or turn left for Garlieston Bay.



Osprey

10. Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve



Habitats: Saltmarsh, mudflats and sandflats. Freshwater wetland.

Status: The largest LNR in Britain with the largest area of saltmarsh and mudflats on the outer Solway.

Birds: Internationally important for wintering Pink-footed Geese and nationally important for Pintail, Whooper Swan and Curlew. Breeding and passage waders, ducks and terns.

Facilities: Hide at Wigtown harbour with views over the River Bladnoch, saltmarsh and freshwater wetland. The hide has access for the disabled. Information boards at the harbour, Martyrs' Stake and Carsluith Castle. Walks (mostly wheelchair accessible) starting from Wigtown Harbour and Martyrs' Stake.

Visitor Centre: Displays and a commanding view of the bay from Wigtown County Buildings (opening times Mon to Sat 10am to 5pm, special 7.30pm opening on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; Sunday 2pm to 5pm). CCTV of Ospreys breeding in Galloway during summer and wetland birds in winter. Accessible to wheelchair users.

Access: Roadside lay-bys on A75 near Creetown and Carsluith, parking at Martyrs' Stake and Wigtown harbour.

How to get there: The A75 follows the eastern shore and for west shore follow A714 from Newton Stewart to Wigtown.

Contact: DGC Ranger Service 01988 402401 email wblnr@dumgal.gov.uk and www.dgcommunity.net/wblnr

11 Kirroughtree Forest Papy Ha' Bird Trail, FCS

Habitats: Broadleaved and coniferous woodland, scrub and streamside meadow.

Birds: Tawny Owl, Buzzard, Siskin, Common Crossbill, Great Spotted Woodpecker and several warbler species, including Wood Warbler and Common Whitethroat.

Facilities: Car park, visitor centre with wildlife on CCTV, tearoom, toilets, signposted 3.5 and 5 mile footpaths. Leaflet available. Forest drive from Easter to end of October (admission charge).

How to get there: 4 miles east of Newton Stewart. Kirroughtree Forest is signposted off A75 at Palnure.

Contact: Forestry Commission Scotland 01671 402420

Siskin



Stonechat

12. Wood of Cree & Barclye Farm RSPB Reserve

Habitats: Ancient oak woodland, scrub, freshwater marsh, new woodland planting, pasture woodland.

Birds: Important numbers of breeding Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and Wood Warbler, as well as Spotted Flycatcher, Nuthatch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Tawny Owl, Sparrowhawk and a suite of woodland birds. Tree Pipit, Grasshopper Warbler, Whitethroat, Blackcap and Garden Warbler breed on the scrubland trail. Reed Bunting, Willow Tit, Grey Wagtail and Sedge Warbler breed close to the river, and can be seen from the otter platform. Occasional Osprey.

The reserve extension at Barclye Farm supports breeding Tree Pipit, Redstart, Spotted Flycatcher, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear, Snipe and Curlew, and wintering thrushes.

Facilities: Car park, information board, otter viewing platform, 1 mile signposted trail with 1 mile extension. Please contact RSPB for information on access and facilities at Barclye Farm.

How to get there: The reserve lies on the east bank of the River Cree 4 miles north of Newton Stewart. Take minor roads from Minnigaff to Glentrool, or from the A714 just south of Bargrennan.

Contact: 01671 404975
www.rspb.org.uk/reserves



Loch Ken

Stewartry of Kirkcudbright

The Stewartry has a tremendous variety of habitats – high barren hills, remote lochs, tumbling rivers, swathes of conifer plantation, pockets of oak woodland, fertile lowlands and a rugged coastline – Scotland in miniature. It's easy to see a wide range of bird species in a short period.

13. Glentool, part of Galloway Forest Park

Habitats: Coniferous and broadleaved woodland, heather moorland, freshwater lochs and burns.



Loch Trool

Birds: Siskin, Common Crossbill, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Buzzard, Pied Flycatcher and Redstart. In moorland areas: Wheatear, Dipper, Peregrine and Raven.

Facilities: Car parks at Bruce's Stone, Caldons and Stroan Bridge visitor centre. Waymarked trails, including circular footpath around Loch Trool that incorporates part of the Southern Upland Way. Information boards at Stroan Bridge and Caldons.

How to get there: 10 miles north of Newton Stewart. Signposted from Bargrennan and Glentool Village.

Contact: Forestry Commission Scotland 01671 402420

14. Southern Upland Way – Manquhill circular walk

Habitats: Conifer and broadleaved plantation (private forestry), ponds and hill grazing.

Birds: Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Raven, Kestrel, Curlew. In winter, Merlin and Hen Harrier.

Facilities: Car park near east side of Stroanfreggan Bridge.

Access: 5.5 or 7.5 mile circular walks incorporating part of the Southern Upland Way.

How to get there: On B729 Moniaive to Carsphairn road at NX 646918.

15. Raiders Road Forest Drive FCS



Habitats: Conifer plantation, birch woodland, loch and river.

Birds: Siskin, Common Crossbill, Red Kite, Buzzard, Grey Wagtail, Dipper, Common Sandpiper, Nightjar. Waterfowl on Loch Stroan, including Great Crested Grebe and Goldeneye.



Tawny Owl

Facilities: Clatteringshaws Forest Wildlife Centre at Clatteringshaws with tearoom and toilets. Information board and toilets near mid-point of drive. Leaflet available.

Access: Untarred forest road open Easter to end of October (admission charge).

How to get there: Off A712 at Clatteringshaws Dam, or off A762 at Mossdale.

Contact: Forestry Commission Scotland 01671 402420.

16. Carstramon Woods SWT

Habitats: Broadleaved woodland with many oaks and springtime Bluebells.



Pied Flycatcher

Birds: Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, Buzzard.

Facilities: Information board and footpaths. Limited parking.

How to get there: Minor roads for 2.5 miles north of Gatehouse of Fleet.

17. Cally Woods FCS

Habitats: Oak woodland and mixed forest.

Birds: Great Spotted Woodpecker, Buzzard, Jay, Woodcock.

Facilities: Car park, waymarked trails, unmanned visitor centre

How to get there: Drive towards Cally Palace Hotel, entrance off old A75 at east end of Gatehouse.

Contact: Forestry Commission Scotland 01671 402420.

18. Balcarry Heughs

Habitats: Coastal cliffs, farmland, woodland, scrub and freshwater loch.

Birds: Fulmar, Cormorant, Guillemot, Razorbill, Kittiwake, Rock Pipit, Linnet, Stonechat.

Facilities: Car park at road end, information board with map.

Access: Circular walk includes Loch Mackie and Rascarrel Bay. Steep cliffs, take care.



Cormorant

How to get there: Take minor road southwards from Auchencairn to Balcarry car park. There are also birdwatching opportunities along the shore road to Balcarry (Shelduck, waders and gulls).

19. Doach Woods FCS

Habitats: Conifer forest, including 40m high Douglas Firs.

Birds: Siskin, Common Crossbill, Buzzard, Raven, Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Facilities: Car park, waymarked trails, viewpoint, leaflet.

How to get there: Car park on B736, 4 miles south of Castle Douglas.

Contact: Forestry Commission Scotland (Conservation Manager) 01387 860247.



View from Doach Woods

20. Carlingwark Loch



Habitats: Freshwater loch, willow carr, alder carr and reedbeds.

Birds: Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, Coot and other waterfowl. Moulting Mute Swans in July and August.

Facilities: Car park in Lochside Park, information board and toilets. 3.5 mile circular walk along which there is a small wildlife viewing hide overlooking a secluded part of the loch.



Carlingwark Loch

How to get there: Adjacent to the south end of Castle Douglas.

Contact: DGC Ranger Service 01556 505479.

21. Threave Estate and Wildfowl Reserve NTS



Habitats: Farmland, woodland, marshes, river, old railway-line.

Birds: Greylag, Pink-footed and Greenland white-fronted Geese. Whooper Swans and other wildfowl, including occasional Smew. Summer visitors include Osprey, Pied Flycatcher, Common Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler. Wintering raptors.



Greenland White-fronted Geese

Facilities: Countryside Centre and woodland hide at Threave Gardens. Car park at Kelton Mains farm for Threave Castle; five hides. Admission charges for gardens and castle (Historic Scotland).

Access: Circular estate walk from Threave Gardens. Riverside hides and Blackpark Marshes reached from footpath to Threave Castle; Lamb Island hide access from old railway-line section of estate walk. All ability access to one riverside hide from the Threave Castle car park.

How to get there: Threave Castle and Gardens are signposted at roundabout at west end of Castle Douglas bypass.

Contact: National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service 0844 493 2244.

22. Galloway Kite Trail around Loch Ken and vicinity



Habitats: Farmland, woodland, freshwater loch, river, marshes

Birds: Red Kites (first released in Galloway in 2001). Wintering Greenland White-fronted Geese. Breeding woodland birds, waders and wildfowl. Occasional Osprey and other raptors.

Facilities: Signposted vehicle / cycle trail, with waymarked walks, information points and viewing locations, including roadside viewpoints by A713 and from A762 near Mossdale, trail leaflet. Secret Cages where kites were kept and released. Kite feeding station at Bellymack Hill Farm, near Laurieston,

open all day, feeding at 2pm (admission charge).

How to get there: The Trail is signposted off the A75 near Castle Douglas, and from A713 at Ken Bridge. Trail guide leaflets are available at TICs, information points and various businesses around the trail.

Contact: RSPB 01556 670464 (office hours only). www.gallowaykitetrail.com

23. Red Kite Feeding Station



Facilities: Hide; car park (small admission charge to feeding station).

Daily at 2.00pm food is put out and attracts wild Red Kites in good numbers. Buzzards and Ravens can also be seen.

Bellymack Hill Farm on the outskirts of Laurieston village (east) on the B795 Tel: 01644 450202.



Red Kite



24. Loch Ken/ River Dee Marshes RSPB Reserve



Habitats: Mixed broadleaved woodland, fen, marsh, open water.

Birds: Breeding Willow Tit, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Wood Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Red Kite, Sparrowhawk, Water Rail, Grasshopper Warbler, Snipe, Redshank, Lapwing. Greenland White-fronted Geese on nearby farmland in winter.

Facilities: Car park at Mains of Duchrae, information board, illustrated trail, two hides (1 and 1.5 miles from car park), disabled parking bay at hide, wheelchair access to hide, goose viewing platform (0.5 miles from car park).

How to get there: The reserve lies on the west side of the Loch Ken/River Dee and is reached by a minor road off the B795 north of Glenlochar. If you stop en-route please do not park in the passing places.

Contact: 01671 404975.
www.rspb.org.uk/reserves

25. Knowetop Lochs

Habitats: Freshwater lochs, birch woodland, fenland, heathland and sphagnum bog.

Birds: Greylag Goose, Water Rail, Woodcock, Sedge Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Willow Tit, Raven and Crossbill.

Facilities: Lay-by near main entrance.

How to get there: 4 miles west of Corsock on the A712.

Contact: Scottish Wildlife Trust 0131 312 7765.

26. Auchenreoch Loch

Habitats: Freshwater loch and fringe of woodland.

Birds: Mute Swan, Greylag Geese, Goosander and other ducks. Occasional Smew in winter.

Facilities: Lay-bys at western end. Do not attempt to park at east end.

How to get there: 1 mile west of Crocketford on A75.



27. Milton Loch

Habitats: Freshwater loch, emergent vegetation, farmland.

Birds: Wintering ducks and geese. Reed Bunting and Great Crested Grebe.

Facilities: Limited roadside parking.

How to get there: Take minor road southwards from Crocketford on A75.



Wigeon

28. Loch Arthur



Habitats: Freshwater loch, emergent vegetation, broadleaved and coniferous woodland.

Birds: Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, wintering ducks and geese.

Facilities: Roadside parking.

How to get there: A711 to Beeswing, then take minor road half mile eastwards towards New Abbey.



Great Crested Grebe

29. Mabie Forest FCS



Habitats: Coniferous and broadleaved woodland, freshwater loch.

Birds: Siskin, Common Crossbill, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Jay, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Raven, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker and Wood Warbler.

Facilities: Pay car park, toilets, picnic site with barbecue pits, waymarked trails, cycle routes, leaflet. Hide at Lochaber Loch.

How to get there: 5 miles southwest of Dumfries. Signposted off A710 Dumfries / New Abbey road.

Contact: Forestry Commission Scotland (Conservation Manager) 01387 860247.

30. Dalbeattie Forest FCS



Habitats: Coniferous and broadleaved woodland, freshwater loch.

Birds: Siskin, Common Crossbill, Coal Tit, Heron, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler.



Chaffinch

Facilities: Car park, waymarked trails, cycle routes, all-abilities trail.

How to get there: On southern edge of Dalbeattie, off A710 to Sandyhills.

Contact: Forestry Commission Scotland (Conservation Manager) 01387 860247.

31. Rockcliffe NTS

Habitats: Estuary, rocky shore, woodland meadow and scrub. Restricted access to Rough Island during May and June because of breeding birds.



Ringed Plover

Birds: Scaup, and Red-throated Diver in winter. Large numbers of scoters on Solway but usually rather distant. Greenshank regular, except mid summer. Breeding Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher, Common Whitethroat.

Facilities: Car parks, disabled toilet, signposted footpaths, viewpoints.

How to get there: Off the A710 towards Rockcliffe. (Please use car parks provided).

Contact: National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service (0844 493 2244).

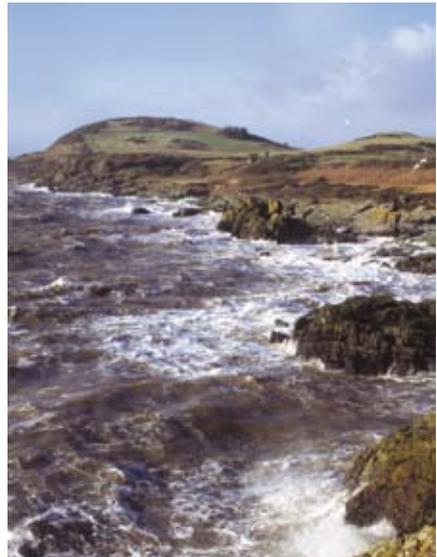
32. Rockcliffe to Sandyhills

Habitats: Coastal cliffs, scrub and farmland.

Birds: Especially noted for the large colony of breeding Cormorants at Port O'Warren. Also Fulmar, Guillemot, Razorbill, Rock Pipit and Raven.

Facilities: Signposted coastal footpath; car parks and toilets at both ends.

How to get there: Off the A710 towards Rockcliffe or off A710 towards Sandyhills to start from here. (Please use car parks provided).



Colvend Coastline



Blackshaw Caerlaverock

The Inner Solway

The Solway flats and marshes are internationally important for ten species of overwintering waterfowl (Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, Pintail, Scaup, Oystercatcher, Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew and Redshank) and nationally important for a further nine species (Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Shelduck, Teal, Common Scoter, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Grey Plover and Sanderling).

Some of these species, and a few others, have a limited distribution in Dumfries and Galloway: the inner Solway area is the best places to see Barnacle Goose, Whooper Swan, Bar-tailed Godwit, Knot, Purple Sandpiper, Sanderling and skuas.

33. Mersehead RSPB Reserve



Habitats: Wetland, saltmarsh, sand dunes, sandflats and arable rotation/ grassland.



Barnacle Geese

Birds: Internationally important for wintering Svalbard Barnacle Geese, Pintail and Teal. Other wildfowl include Pink-footed Geese, Whooper Swan, Wigeon, Shoveler and Shelduck. Peregrine, Hen Harrier and Merlin. Passage/wintering waders and finch flocks. Good numbers of breeding wetland waders and Skylark. Reed Warbler and Water Rail have colonised. Seabirds and sea-duck offshore.

Facilities: Visitor Centre, two hides, wetland and coastal trails. Sulwath Centre (education/training/ volunteering).

How to get there: Signposted minor road off A710 at Caulkerbush.

Contact: 01387 780 579 / 298.
mersehead@rspb.org.uk

34. Southernness

Habitats: Sand and mudflats, rocky shore, maritime heath and sand dunes.

Birds: One of the best places on the Solway to see wintering waders, especially flocks of Knot, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Oystercatcher. The Purple Sandpipers, divers, grebes, auks, scoters and other sea ducks are best seen opposite the lighthouse.

Facilities: Parking and toilets in Southernness village.



Oystercatcher

35. Carsethorn

Habitats: Mudflats, mussel beds and reedbed.

Birds: One of the few places in Britain to see large numbers of wintering Scaup and Pintail. Also other winter ducks, Little Egrets, grebes and waders (especially Redshank). The Merse of Drumburn Bay is good for Geese in February – March. Whimbrel in spring.

Facilities: Viewpoint and information boards at Drumburn. Car park and toilets in Carsethorn.

How to get there: Signposted at Kirkbean on the A710 Dumfries-Dalbeattie coast road.

36. Glencaple

Habitats: Tidal river, reedbeds, estuary and saltmarsh.

Birds: Wintering Goldeneye and grebes. Good numbers of Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese in February. Black-tailed Godwit on spring passage.

Facilities: Several roadside lay-bys, parking on pier.

How to get there: Follow B725 southwards from Dumfries through Glencaple.

37. Caerlaverock NNR

Habitats: Saltmarsh (Merse), mudflats, reedbeds, fresh water wetland.



Short-eared Owl

Birds: Barnacle, Greylag and Pink-footed Geese, Pintail, Shelduck, Scaup, Teal, Knot, Curlew, Redshank, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Water Rail,

Twite, Short-eared Owl, Peregrine, Hen Harrier, Swallow, Sand Martin, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Reed Bunting, Pied Wagtail, Warblers and Osprey.



Dunlin

Facilities: Free access, and information point. Car parks, information panels, viewing hides, viewing platform, raised boardwalks on trails.

- Manned visitor room containing information panels and DVD, (Hollands Farm Road, Blackshaw). Open during office hours.

How to get there: Castle Corner car park off B725 approximately 3 miles south of Glencaple. Hollands access point is signposted approximately 1 along Blackshaw road.

Contact: Caerlaverock NNR Office 01387 770275

38. WWT Caerlaverock Wetlands Centre



Habitats: Farmland and ponds managed for wildfowl, saltmarsh and summer meadows.

Birds: Internationally important for the wintering Svalbard population



Whooper Swan

of Barnacle Geese. Also in winter, Whooper Swan, many species of ducks, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Peregrine, Merlin, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl. Wild swans are fed at 11am and 2pm (Oct-March). In summer Ospreys fish the Solway in front of the hides with live CCTV images from their nest at the centre. Also breeding Barn Owls and House Martins on CCTV. Summer meadow and river walks.

Facilities: 1400-acre nature reserve with numerous observation hides and towers that are adjacent to ponds, fields and saltmarsh. Excellent visitor facilities, including fair-trade coffee shop and gift shop (optical equipment, bird books, gifts etc). Sheltered picnic area. Binoculars for hire. Extensive access for the disabled.

Overnight accommodation available. Open all year, except 25 December (admission charge).

How to get there: Located 8 miles south of Dumfries. Signposted from A75 at Annan and from St Michael's Church in Dumfries (to begin with, follow signs for hospital).

Contact: 01387 770200.

39. Powfoot

Habitats: Sand and mudflats.

Birds: Wintering waders and ducks include Golden Plover, Lapwing, Curlew, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Shelduck and Scaup.

Facilities: Car park, toilets (in summer).

How to get there: Off B724 Dumfries-Annan road, signposted at Cummertrees.



Tufted Duck

40. Seafield

Habitats: Sand and mudflats.

Birds: Especially noted for spring passage of Arctic, Long-tailed and Pomarine Skua making eastwards overland to the east coast. Whimbrel in spring. Some wintering waders.



Powfoot

Facilities: Limited car parking.

How to get there: Minor roads leading southeast from Annan.

41. Browhouses

Habitats: Mudflats, stony beach, farmland.

Birds: The best site on the north Solway for uncommon migrant waders in spring and autumn: Ruff, Greenshank, Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper. Occasional Little Gull. Winter waders, Shelduck.

Facilities: Informal car parking (please keep away from front of houses).



Knot Landing

How to get there: Minor road leading south from A75 midway between Annan and Gretna.

Inland Dumfriesshire

The high hills to the north and east of the county are the haunt of Raven and Peregrine. On the lower ground are numerous lochs and rivers with attendant waterfowl, as well as coniferous and broadleaved woodland with a variety of songbirds.



42. Hoddom Estate

Habitats: Broadleaved and coniferous woodland beside the River Annan.

Birds: Heron, Kingfisher, Goosander and woodland species including Nuthatch.

Facilities: Car park, picnic tables, waymarked trails, information boards, Ranger Service.

How to get there: Junction of B723 and B725 at Hoddom Bridge, 4 miles northwest of Annan.

Contact: Estate Office 01576 300244

Facilities: Footpaths, board walk, information boards, leaflet. One hide at southeast of loch, accessed from Lochmaben Castle

Access: Good views from fishing piers for disabled on A709 Lochmaben-Lockerbie road, and the B7020 Lochmaben-Annan road. Also views from Car park behind Lochmaben bowling-green.

How to get there: Adjacent to southeast end of Lochmaben.

Contact: DGC Ranger Service 01387 260366

43. Castle Loch Local Nature Reserve



Habitats: The largest natural freshwater loch in Dumfriesshire. Willow and alder carr, oak woodland and grazed marshland.



Pink-footed Goose

Birds: Internationally important for roosting Pink-footed Geese, nationally important for Greylag Geese and Goosander. Other wildfowl include Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Mallard, Teal, Goldeneye and Smew. Resident Kingfisher, Nuthatch, Willow Tit and Reed Warbler in summer.



Castle Loch, Lochmaben

44. Eskrigg Nature Reserve



Habitats: Freshwater pond, wetland and scrub, heathland, grassland and coniferous woodland.

Birds: Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Kingfisher, Raven, Barn Owl, Buzzard. Woodland species include Great Spotted Woodpecker, Crossbill, Goldcrest, Tree Creeper, and Nuthatch.



Buzzard

Facilities: Parking available at the Cemetery Lodge. Bird hides, boardwalk, interpretation trail and well stocked feeders exploited by a variety of wildlife (including red squirrel).

How to get there: Park in the cemetery car park for the Nature Reserve. Parking closer to the reserve for the young, elderly and disabled can be arranged by phoning the reserve manager in advance. On the opposite side of the road to the Cemetery Lodge is a forest track. Follow that for roughly 400m until you see the nature reserve sign.

Contact: Jim Rae (Voluntary Reserve Manager) 01576 203314.

45. Glenkiln Reservoir

Habitats: Freshwater loch, sheep-grazed pasture, woodland.

Birds: Canada Geese, Black Swan, wintering ducks including Goosander. Wheatear and Whinchat on surrounding moorland in summer.

Facilities: Roadside parking.

How to get there: 8 miles west of Dumfries north of A75; take minor road leading through Shawhead.

46. River Nith at the Whitesands in Dumfries



Habitats: River (and shingle bank when water is low).

Birds: An excellent place for getting close to wintering Goosander and Goldeneye. Also Heron, Kingfisher, Pied and Grey Wagtails, gulls.



Kingfisher

Facilities: Car parking, toilets, and easy walking up and down both sides of the river, with the opportunity to continue up the 'Burns Walk' to see Sand Martin and Common Sandpiper.

Contact: DGC Ranger Service 01387 260129.



The Caul at Whitesands Dumfries



Common Sandpiper

47. Ae Forest FCS

Habitats: Coniferous forest; riverside scrub and shingle.

Birds: Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Siskin, Common Crossbill, Dipper, Common Sandpiper, Raven.

Facilities: Car park, picnic site, waymarked trails.

How to get there: 10 miles north of Dumfries. Signposted off A701 at Ae Bridge.

Contact: Forestry Commission Scotland (Conservation Manager) 01387 860247.

48. Applegarthtown Wildlife Sanctuary, Lockerbie



Habitats: Freshwater pond, wetland and scrub.

Birds: An award-winning Crown Estates site renowned for its man-made Sand Martin nesting bank. Breeding and wintering flocks of Tree Sparrows. Various ducks and waders, Black Headed Gull, Reed Bunting, and Water Rail in winter.

Facilities: Car park, disabled access and viewing hide, CCTV seasonal and by arrangement.

How to get there: From Lockerbie travel north on B7076. Turn right at sign for Sibbaldbie/Boreland/Eskdalemuir, then left over motorway towards Applegarth Church.

From Lochmaben, take B7020 northwards for 1.5 miles to Kinnel Bridge, take right fork for one mile to Millhousebridge, turn right for one mile to Applegarthtown. The signpost to the sanctuary is just past the turning to the church. Parking at NY104840.

Contact: Estate Office 01576 203153.



Water Rail

49. Drumlanrig Country Park



Habitats: Broadleaved, coniferous and mixed woodland, parkland, small lochs.

Birds: Woodland species including Buzzard, Redstart, Nuthatch, Willow Warbler.



Drumlanrig Castle

Facilities: Visitor centre with ranger service, CCTV on a range of wildlife that may include Barn Owl, waymarked trails 1 to 4 miles long (Admission charge to country park).

How to get there: Signposted off A76 three miles north of Thornhill.

Contact: Buccleuch Countryside Service 01848 331555.
www.buccleuch.com

50. Southern Upland Way at Wanlockhead

Habitats: Sheep-grazed heather moorland, managed for grouse.

Birds: Red Grouse, Ring Ouzel, Wheatear, Meadow Pipit and Skylark can be seen and heard in and around the village. Hen Harrier, Merlin and Peregrine nearby.

Facilities: Waymarked Southern Upland Way leading westwards and eastwards onto heather moorland.

The Museum of Scottish Lead Mining has a café, shop and information board.



Skylark

Access: Some restrictions during grouse shooting season from 12 August.



Lowther Hills

51. Moffat Community Nature Reserve – (formerly Dyke Farm Quarry Nature Reserve)

Habitats: Freshwater pond, seasonal wetlands, young broadleaf plantations, mature pine.

Birds: An old quarry pit now managed by the Moffat Community Nature Reserve Management Group. Various species of wildfowl and waders, plus woodland species. Osprey seen in summer passing through.

Facilities: Paths, bird hides, interpretation boards, car park, picnic benches.

How to get there: From Moffat; Leave Moffat travelling towards Dumfries on the A701. Take your first left and pass through 2 sets of metal farm gates.

From M74; Come off M74 and head for Moffat on A701. Pass Lochhouse Tower, and take your next right. Pass through 2 sets of metal farm gates. (Please leave the gates as you find them).

Contact: Moffat and District Community Initiative Tel: 01683 220227.

52. Dyke Farm Nature Reserve, Moffat



Habitats: Freshwater ponds, scrubby woodland and two Sand Martin banks.

Birds: Over 100 bird species have been recorded at this small reserve (managed by Moffat & District Wildlife Club): ducks, Heron, Reed Bunting, Willow Tit, Siskin, Redpoll and warblers.



Willow Tit

Facilities & Access: Two hides, locked at all times. For access phone 01683 220546 or 01683 221374 (or

check in at A.M.Grieves Newsagents, High Street, Moffat).

How to get there: On outskirts of Moffat. Directions on enquiry.

53. Grey Mare's Tail

Habitats: Spectacular waterfall, upland loch, rough grassland, heather moorland and crags.

Birds: Peregrine, Raven, Red Grouse, Black Grouse, Ring Ouzel, Wheatear, Meadow Pipit, Grey Wagtail, Dipper, Common Gull and Common Sandpiper. Dotterel occasionally seen on passage.

Facilities: Ranger Service, car park, level path to waterfall viewpoint (but footpaths and surrounding terrain difficult). CCTV viewing of nesting Peregrines April-July. Due to the challenging nature of the terrain, please heed all warning notices.

How to get there: 10 miles northeast of Moffat on A708 to Selkirk.

Contact: National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service 0844 493 2249 or 07713 786230



Dipper

54. Eskdalemuir area

Habitats: Open moorland, conifer forest.

Birds: Peregrine, Raven, Breeding Curlew, Oystercatcher, Common Sandpiper, plus woodland species.

How to get there: B723 Boreland to Eskdalemuir and B709 Langholm to Ettrick, via Eskdalemuir.



Red Grouse

55. Langholm - Newcastleton

Habitats: Heather moorland, open countryside.

Birds: Hen Harrier, Merlin, Buzzard, Red Grouse, Ring Ouzel, Wheatear.

How to get there: Drive the unclassified minor road between Langholm and Newcastleton.



Wheatear



Peregrine Falcon

Dumfries & Galloway Council employ 4 Area Rangers who cover the whole of Dumfries & Galloway alongside 1 footpath maintenance Ranger, 1 Southern Upland Way Ranger and also 1 Seasonal Ranger.

Other Rangers and Wardens work from Private Estates, for charities, and many individuals put in their own time to help run small reserves dotted throughout the region.

If anyone would like to be put in touch with any Ranger or Warden working in Dumfries & Galloway, the Council area Rangers can do that. Below is a list of the Council area Rangers from West to East with an accompanying map, who can assist with any general queries, and inform you of any forthcoming walks or events.



Wigtownshire	Stewartry	Nithsdale	Annandale & Eskdale
<p>Elizabeth Tindal County Buildings, Wigtown. Newton Stewart. DG8 9JH 01988 402401 07702 212728 Elizabeth.Tindal@ dumgal.gov.uk</p>	<p>Keith Kirk Carlingwark Cottage, The Buchan, Castle Douglas. DG7 1TH 01556 505479 07850 157661 Keith.Kirk@dumgal. gov.uk</p>	<p>Tom Henry Militia House, English Street, Dumfries. DG1 2HR 01387 260129 07702 250958 Tom.Henry@ dumgal.gov.uk</p>	<p>Ross Gemmell Militia House, English Street, Dumfries. DG1 2HR 01387 260366 07834 567893 Ross.Gemmell@ dumgal.gov.uk</p>



Useful Addresses

Visit Scotland, 64 Whitesands,
Dumfries DG1 2RS t: 01387 253862
www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.
co.uk or
www.visitsouthernscotland.com

Forestry Commission Scotland

Ae Forest District, Ae Village,
Parkgate Dumfries DG1 1QB
t: 01387 860247
Galloway Forest District,
Creebridge, Newton Stewart
t: 01671 402420
www.forestry.gov.uk

National Trust for Scotland,

Threave Gardens, Castle Douglas
DG7 1RX t: 0844 4932245 (for all
Dumfries and Galloway properties).
For Rangers t: 0844 4932244.
www.nts.org.uk

RSPB Scotland (Local Office),

The Old School, Crossmichael, Castle
Douglas, DG7 3AP. t: 01556 670464.
www.rspb.org.uk/scotland

Scottish Natural Heritage, Carmont
House, The Crichton, Bankend Road,
Dumfries DG1 4ZF t: 01387 247010;
and SNH, Galloway Office, Holmepark
Industrial Estate, New Galloway Road,
Minnigaff, Newton Stewart. DG8 6BF
t: 01671 401075. www.snh.org.uk

The Crown Estate, Forestry Office,
Dryfeholm, Lockerbie, Dumfries,
DG11 1SU. t: 01576 203153.
www.thecrownestate.co.uk

Scottish Ornithologists' Club,

Scottish Birdwatchers Club, Waterston
House, Aberlady, East Lothian. EH32
OPY. t: 01875 871330

Scottish Wildlife Trust,

Cramond House, Cramond
Glebe Road, Edinburgh EH4 6NS
t: 0131 312 7765. www.swt.org.uk

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust,

Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock,
Dumfries DG1 4RS t: 01387 770200.
www.wwt.org.uk/visit/caerlaverock

RSPB Galloway Local Group, SOC Members' Groups, SWT Groups –

contact relevant HQs (see above). For
Wildlife Clubs at Langholm, Lockerbie
and Moffat contact Dumfries &
Galloway Council Ranger Service for
current information.

Local Bird Recorder: Paul Collin,
Gairland, Old Edinburgh Road,
Minnigaff, Newton Stewart.



Yellowhammer

Additional Literature

The Birds in Wigtownshire. A guide to their status and distribution by R.C. Dickson, 1992. G.C. Book Publishers Ltd., Wigtown. ISBN 1 872350356.

Dumfries and Galloway Bird Report. Produced annually; available from Duncan Irving, 12 Great Eastern Drive, Glencaple, Dumfries. DG1 4QZ.

For the Current Countryside Events. Free booklet available from Dumfries & Galloway Council Ranger Service and Tourist Information Centres.

Welcome to Wildlife in Dumfries & Galloway Free booklet available from Scottish Natural Heritage and other outlets.

Tourist Information

Pop into any of our Tourist Information Centres, where our knowledgeable, friendly staff will be able to advise you about things to see and do and help you book accommodation. You can pick up a range of leaflets on outdoor activities or alternatively log on to www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk



Kestrel

Wildlife Websites

www.dumfriesandgallowaynaturalhistory.co.uk for local wildlife information.

www.dgcommunity.net/wblnr

www.dumgal.gov.uk/rangers

www.dumgal.gov.uk/biodiversity for Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

For any general enquiries or further copies of this booklet contact:
Dumfries & Galloway Council Ranger Service, Militia House, English Street, Dumfries DG1 2HR.
01387 260366



Swallow

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