

## 4. A STROLL THROUGH THE TOWN LENGTH: 2 km.

This is not an arduous walk, but it is ideal for a short stroll, and as it is on paths and footpaths, wheelchair access is possible. It passes some of the town's most picturesque gardens, and florally decorated houses.

Leave the High Street by Church Place beside St. Andrew's Church. At the end of this short street turn left into Buccleuch Street. The street descends gradually and is replaced by a narrow path heading towards the river. (If using a wheelchair, then leave the High Street by Church Street opposite the war memorial.)

At the riverside, turn right, and then right again at the far end of the playing fields. This path returns to the town via Reid Street. On reaching the main road, turn left into Academy Road and then right into Harthope Place. Turn right into Grange Road and follow it round St. Mary's Church as it returns to the main road.

Here, turn left, and then left again into Eastgate, which is one of Moffat's oldest streets. The high wall on your left after several hundred yards is the boundary wall of Dowding House, now R.A.F. Association sheltered housing but once St. Ninian's School, a boys' boarding school.

At the end of Eastgate, turn right into Well Street then left into Chapel Street (Scotland's shortest?), and left into Star Street. At the end of this narrow lane, turn right at Matchett's electrical shop and the old bakehouse into Well Road, and then right into Burnside. At the end of the road, by the Old Police Station, turn right into Holm Street which leads back to the High Street.

## 5. THE GOLF COURSE HILL LENGTH: 3 km.

This is a short walk, although the path is quite steep, but it is well worth doing for it offers the best views of Moffat's situation nestling in the hills of Upper Annandale.

From the High Street, leave the town past Station Park. About 200 metres beyond the bridge over the River Annan, turn right into Chapel Brae. Immediately past the road which gives access to several new houses on the left, a rough footpath climbs the hill. As you climb, tantalising views of the town appear between the trees, but it is worth climbing higher, through the kissing gate, and then bearing right towards the golf course. A rustic sign warns of the dangers of errant golf balls.

From here the path is very indistinct, but you should keep close to the boundary fence as you continue to climb. From near the top of the hill a panorama extending through more than 180° can be seen, from the Devil's Beef Tub in the north to the A74(M) and the main railway line striking through Annandale to the south.

Return by the same route. However, a right of way exists over the hill to the very pretty Garpol Glen. At the end of the golf course, cross the boundary fence and head diagonally right across the field. A stile now gives access to the underpass by which you can cross the A74(M), but you have to cross the parallel minor road conventionally. Take the side road which crosses the Evan Water towards Auchin Castle and turn left as soon as you cross the railway bridge. This track leads to two houses which you pass on your left and then crosses a field. It is easily followed, but becomes less distinct on entering the woods.



Ref. Take5Gtl/Silver Grey

Printed by

Elliott Services

01683 220584

[www.moffat-elliott-services.co.uk](http://www.moffat-elliott-services.co.uk)

# TAKE 5 GENTLE WALKS AROUND MOFFAT



*None of these walks could be described as strenuous. Each could be undertaken in an evening, perhaps after dinner when the light of the setting sun on the Moffat Hills displays them in all their glory, and they will give the visitor who is staying only a short time in Moffat a glimpse of the beautiful scenery which the town enjoys.*

NOT ALL OF THE WALKS IN THIS SERIES ARE ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY, AND WALKERS SHOULD RESPECT THE COUNTRYSIDE AND PRACTISE THE COUNTRY CODE AT ALL TIMES. ALL DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE. THE SERIES IS WRITTEN BY ANDY ARMSTRONG

# 1. *THE WATERSIDE* LENGTH: 2.2 km.

The Waterside Walk starts beside the car park at the south end of the town, opposite Station Park. It is not paved, but the surface is generally good and special footwear should not be necessary even after heavy rain. The path follows the River Annan which rises in the Devil's Beef Tub to the north of Moffat and flows south towards the Solway Firth.

By following the path as far as the bridge which takes the A701 to Edinburgh across the river, it is possible to do a circular walk returning by the pavement into town, past the old Moffat Academy and down the High Street.

From the path several paths run across the flat land back to the town centre and it is easy to adapt the length of the walk to the time available.

Wheelchair access is possible except where the waterside path meets the A701. Here a flight of steps takes walkers up to road level.

The path takes on a different character in each season. In spring, snowdrops, daffodils and primroses abound. In summer, a rich variety of trees provide welcome shade on hot days and in autumn, the tree colouring can be magnificent. At all times of year there are views across the school playing fields to the town, the Gallow Hill and the Moffat Hills beyond.

# 2. *THE UPPER WATERSIDE* LENGTH: 3.5 km.

Walk north from the High Street towards Edinburgh, along Academy Road and Edinburgh Road, as far as the Sports Centre. Enter Hope Johnstone Park but continue to follow the direction of the road until you reach a fence beside the river. Cross the fence by the stile and turn right.

The river follows a more natural course in this section and this is reflected in the quality of the path. A clear path is marked, but it is not suitable for those with walking difficulties, and in winter time can be quite muddy. At other times, however, the walker will be rewarded not only by fine views of Upper Annandale and its surrounding hills, but also by glimpses of the wildlife which inhabits the river bank. For instance, Kingfishers are not an uncommon sight.

The land to the right of the path is private, but if you continue as far as Adamsholm Cottage, access to which is by a ford, a kissing gate to the right leads into a field which can be crossed to join Old Edinburgh Road. On reaching the road, turn right again to return to the town. Old Edinburgh Road becomes Beechgrove which leads into the town by the old Academy. This is a popular road with visitors to Moffat, but there is no evidence now of Moffat's most prestigious building, the 300 bedroom Hydropathic Hotel, built in 1878 and demolished shortly after it was destroyed by fire in 1921.

It is easily possible to combine this walk with the previous one and complete a circuit from Station Park, along both sections of the riverside, returning by pavement to the High Street.

# 3. *TANK WOOD* LENGTH: 1.75 km.

From the High Street turn into Well Street beside the War Memorial. At the end of Well Street head up the hill of Old Well Road. Dowding House, once St. Ninian's School, is on the left and the Old Well Theatre, home of the Upper Annandale Dramatic Society, is on the right. Continue on Old Well Road as it passes the gate to Larchhill and rises steadily with a high wall to the left.

When the paved road ends, turn right. (The path to the left returns to the town behind Moffat Academy; the path straight ahead leads on to the Gallow Hill.) In summer, harebells blossom along this path and in autumn it is a favourite spot for picking blackberries. On reaching a kissing gate on your right, turn into Tank Wood. A plaque behind the wall records the generosity of William Tait, a former Town Clerk of Moffat, who gave the wood to the town, its name coming from the water tank which was built here to provide water for the public baths in the High Street, now the Town Hall.

Tank Wood is a wood of mixed deciduous and conifer trees. Turn right at the bottom on to what is known locally as the Cinder Path. This leads to Hartfell Crescent, a splendid crescent of Victorian houses each with fine views to the hills. At the end of the crescent, turn left into Old Well Road, the circuit having been completed.