



# 24 DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY CARRIFRAN VALLEY

▶ Distance: 6 miles/10km ▶ Time: 5 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



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A touch of colour in Carrifran Valley.

PHOTO: GARY RICHARDSON



**CHOSEN BY...**  
**GARY RICHARDSON**

A challenging but rewarding walk through the re-wilded Carrifran Valley in the Moffat Hills. The first half is through the regenerated woodlands along the valley floor, the steep climb up the headwall to reach Firthhope Rigg is followed by an airy ridge walk to White Coomb, the 3rd highest summit in the Southern Uplands. The views throughout are stunning.

**1 Start**  
Leave car park via kissing gate and go R along track, signposted 'to the viewpoint'. There are good views of the descent route down from

Carrifran Gans, and its as steep as it looks. At the crossroads, go L along a rough track to reach a cross path.

**2 ¼ mile/0.4km**  
Keep straight ahead along track, this provides easy walking along the valley floor. During the last 18 years over ½ million trees and shrubs have been planted in the valley, in such a way that its hard to tell its not a natural woodland.

After about a mile you will come to a turf roof building with couple of benches outside. An ideal spot to stop and take in the views of the valley.

**3 1¼ miles/2km**  
Keep along the track which starts to peter out,

## PLAN YOUR WALK



### ROUTE

**Start/parking** small parking area for 4/5 cars, just off the A708, DG10 9LH, grid ref NT159115

**Is it for me?** Rough tracks/paths in places, with very steep ascents/descents  
**Stiles** 1

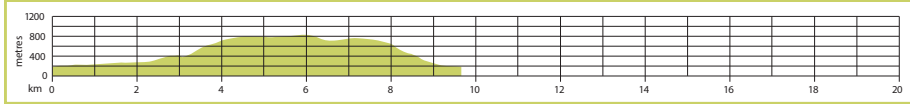
### PLANNING

- Nearest town** Moffat
- Refreshments** None on route, nearest in Moffat
- Public toilets** Moffat
- Public transport** None to the start of the walk
- Maps** OS Explorer 330; Landranger 79

soon to reach Carrifran Burn, cross this, which could be difficult in spate conditions. The track is now replaced with a faint path, keep R at the fork, its hard work through the knee-deep heather and grass to reach Games Gill at the head of the valley.



## GRADIENT PROFILE



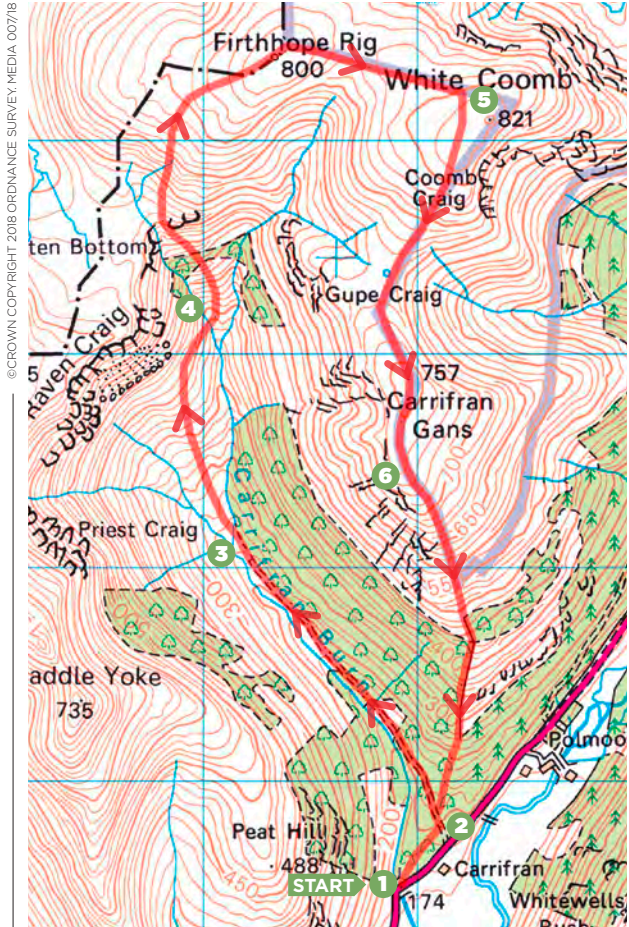
24 DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY  
CARRIFRAN VALLEY► OS Explorer map 330 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

**4** **2 miles/3.2km**  
Re-cross burn and then begin steep climb up grassy slopes ahead towards Firthope Rigg, a sketchy path goes off to R before doubling back towards burn. This eases the ascent a little, but final section is very steep. As angle eases keep along burn to reach Games Castle. The climbing isn't done yet, go R uphill to join an old wall/fence, follow this R up to the summit of Firthope Rigg. From there head N along fence for a short distance then to R at fence junction heading towards White Coomb, to eventually reach another fence junction on the summit.

**5** **3¼ miles/6km**  
From summit, head S along fence line, descend to a pool on the col, then it's a short pull up to the summit of Carrifran Gans. Keep heading southerly along fence to a corner which marks the start of the descent.

**6** **5 miles/8km**  
Follow the fence steeply downhill, the grand views of the Carrifran valley and Moffat Dale below give a good reason to stop and take in the views. Keep descending until you reach corner of second conifer plantation on the other side of the fence. Leave the fence here and head R down through open woodlands aiming for the sheep fold in the valley below, its rough going and boggy in

places so care is needed. The sheep fold is now a viewing point for the nature trail, its provides great views along the valley. Exit via the gap on the W side and follow the wall down to reach the rough track. Turn L and follow your outward route back to car park. **CW**



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DATE WALKED  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □TIME TAKEN  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □YOUR RATING  
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

**VIEW THE WALK ON  
OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
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