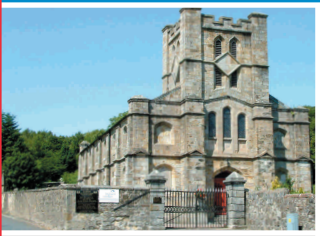
Route 1 - Cairn Table Walk

The Cairn Table Walk starts from the Walkers' car park at the top of Furnace Road. As Cairn Table is the chief 'mountain' in Ayrshire rising to 1944 feet (648m), it is more of a climb than a walk. The route follows what is known locally as the March fence.

On a clear day the Isle of Arran and Ben Lomond can be seen on the horizon. A cairn on top was built in 1920 in memory of the men and women of the village who fell or served in the Great War. It was built in line with two smaller cairns. On the route back down, you will also pass Macadam's Cairn erected in memory of John Loudoun Macadam, the famous road builder responsible for the first tar macadam road. Cairn Table has been called the hill of a hundred springs. Down the western side is a fine spring of pure water named Cairn Table Cauldron (or the boiling well). The route is also over a grouse moor and like other walks is a sanctuary for bird life. In season you could spot the golden plover, lapwing, curlew, snipe, skylark and hen harrier.















Route 2 - Tibbie's Brig Walk

Tibbie's Brig was once called Garpel Bridge, but was renamed in memory of the Muirkirk worthy, Tibbie Pagan, who was popular for her singing and poetry. She published a volume in 1803 which included one of her best known poems – "Ca the Yowes tae the Knowes". The walk to Tibbie's Brig starts at the Walkers' car park. It goes past Kames race track and the 'Cauld Water Spout'. The 'brig' fords the Garpel Water on the old drover's road to Sanquhar. At this point you will see the cairn that was erected in 1931 on the site of Tibbie Pagan's house. Next, you will get to the 'Sanquhar Brig'. This was a vital link on the "great new road from Glasgow to Strathaven then by Muirkirk to Sanquhar to Dumfries." (1793 Statistical Account of Scotland).
The route goes back to the Walkers' car park via Macadam's Cairn.



Route 3 - John Brown's Walk

This walk can be accessed from the B743 Muirkirk to Strathaven road. It takes you over the moorlands from Priesthill Farm to the place where the Covenanter, John Brown was fatally shot by Graham of Claverhouse in 1685. Just like the other 82 local covenanters who died for their faith, a monument has been erected in memory of this local martyr. It was erected in 1825 by the Rev. John Milwaine.

Route 4 - River Ayr Way

The River Ayr Way is a 66km route which follows the River Ayr from its source at Glenbuck to the sea at Ayr. Seven local path networks around the villages of Muirkirk, Sorn, Catrine, Mauchline, Annbank, Mossblown, Tarbolton, and Coylton have also been developed to provide local connections and circular routes to further enhance the walking experience in Ayrshire.The Route enters Muirkirk from its source at Glenbuck, on the dismantled railway line that once ran to Douglas in South Lanarkshire. This section of the route lies on the edge of the Muirkirk Uplands Special Protected Area, designated for its diverse mix of upland birds. If you are lucky you could see hen harriers or black grouse. The route continues on the dismantled railway line, skirting the south of Muirkirk and then meets the River Ayr before entering Airds Moss RSPB Reserve and heading to Sorn.

Route 5 - Burnfoot Moor Walk

This route starts at the top of the Smallburn Community Woodland site and takes you deep into the forest plantations to the north of Muirkirk. The path takes you through the former Burnfoot Opencast Coal Site, which has been restored to encourage more wildlife to the area and includes tree planting and ponds. Carrying on from this site, you will pick up the forest ride past the Long Stone of Convention, another memorial to the convenanting heritage of the area. After crossing the Greenock Water, the route then meets a very quiet road, which brings you in a circuit to join the River Ayr Way and back into Muirkirk.





