

East Tarbet to Portankil Walk

Distance: 4.25km/2 miles

Time: 1 and a half hours

Grid Ref: NX 14408 30878

Head for the Mull of Galloway, passing the Mull of Galloway Farm. Just after you cross a cattle grid, look out for a road down to your left, leading to a parking area in East Tarbet bay. The road is rough and uneven in places.

From the bay walk upwards to the left until you reach a dyke. Follow the way marked posts, northwards, through two gates and over a stile at a dyke.

The east side of the Mull is very different from its west coast. Steep, grassy slopes end in vertical layers of greywacke, a type of sandstone pushed upwards from the seabed 400-500 million years ago. There are fabulous views to the Mull of Galloway lighthouse at the very tip of the Rhins, and north to Maryport and Cailiness Point. On a clear day

you can see Scare Rocks in Luce Bay, home to thousands of pairs of nesting gannets. These large sea birds often hunt along the coastline, diving steeply to spear unwary fish.

Heading inland at Portankil, follow Kirk Burn upstream using a stile to go over fencing, and soon you will pass the remains of Kirkmaiden Church, now covered in grass. It was replaced in the 17th Century by the church which stands today in Kirkmaiden village.

The narrow road to the Mull leads you back to East Tarbet Bay. In the past, paraffin and other supplies for the lighthouse keepers were brought by boat and stored in the stone building here.

Please note that all walk times are approximate and appropriate footwear should be worn. Always advise someone of your intended route and provide an estimate of when you will return. Care should be taken around the coastal routes and we would ask you to adhere to the countryside code at all times.

Please be especially aware of gates and mindful of farm property and livestock.

All walks are undertaken entirely at your own risk and Mull of Galloway Trust and South Rhins Community Development Trust accepts no responsibility or liability. It is the walkers own responsibility to check information and carry a compass and detailed map. We do not give any warranty, as to the accuracy of any of the information of the walks on the site. It is each walker's responsibility to ensure that the walk and the weather conditions are within their capabilities.