

KEIR, PENPONT & TYNRON FOOTPATHS

Presented by KPT Tracks and Trails
A KPT Development Trust 'Connecting Our Communities' Group



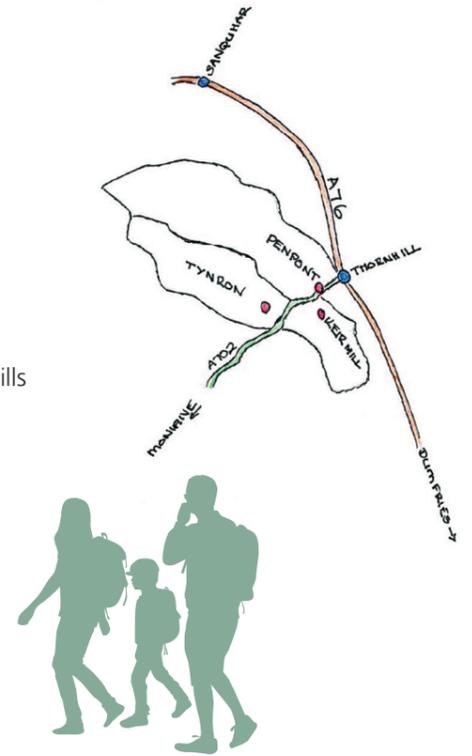
KPT Footpaths

WALK 2: TYNRON – KEIR

The KPT Community

HOME OF:

- The Keir Hills and the Scaur and Shinnel Glens
- The Bicycle
- Tynron Doon
- Andy Goldsworthy Artwork
- Views of the Nith Valley and Lowther Hills
- Tynron Conservation Area
- Spectacular Scenery
- Red Kites and Red Squirrels
- Covenanted History
- Cycling and Walking Routes



WALK 2: TYNRON – KEIR (CORE PATH 73)

An attractive and varied route between the villages of Tynron and Keir Mill, which meanders along quiet country roads, grassy paths, forestry track and open farmland, with fine views opening up at regular intervals from higher ground.



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An attractive and varied route between the villages of Tynron and Keir Mill, which meanders along quiet country roads, grassy paths, forestry track and open farmland, with fine views opening up at regular intervals from higher ground.

The route is often uneven underfoot with some boggy walking in places. There is access onto a public road, a number of gates and some steep ascents and descents. Unmade paths in places and access into open fields with livestock. Please do not park on the Estate and in gateways. Please be considerate when parking in the villages.



4.5 miles / 7.2 km
Allow 1.5–2 hours

Tynron Grid Reference:
NX 806 939 | DG3 4LE

Keir Mill Grid Reference:
NX 859 931 | DG3 4DE



KPT Footpaths

WALK 2: TYNRON – KEIR

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Situated in the Nithsdale area of Dumfries and Galloway, the villages of Keir Mill, Penpont and Tynron (KPT) fall partly in the Thornhill Uplands Regional Scenic Area. The northerly reaches of KPT lie in the Southern Uplands, where the historic parishes of Penpont and Tynron are bisected by the Scaur and the Shinnel rivers which tumble down dramatic lowland glens to Keir Mill, where they join the river Nith. The beautiful hills, dales and plains of the KPT area have a vibrant cultural, environmental and historical heritage just waiting to be explored, with walks and hikes for everyone.

The KPT Development Trust was founded in 2017 to benefit the larger KPT community, through contributions from the three villages plus funding from external sources.

WITH THANKS TO:

- The Prince's Countryside Fund
- KPT Joint Community Benefit Fund
- Keir, Penpont and Tynron Community Councils
- The residents of the communities of Keir, Penpont and Tynron

Route descriptions and maps by KPT Footpaths

Please respect the Scottish Outdoor Access Code:
www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot

- **Respect the interests of other people**
Respect the privacy, safety and livelihoods of those living or working in the outdoors, and the needs of other people enjoying the outdoors.
- **Care for the environment**
Look after the places you visit and enjoy, and leave the land as you find it.
- **Take responsibility for your own actions**
Remember that the outdoors cannot be made risk-free and act with care at all times for your own safety and that of others.

Please keep dogs on leads when around cattle and farmlands, and dispose of their mess responsibly.

1

This walk can begin from either Tynron or Keir Mill. If walking one way only, the 212 service bus is occasional but useful: see www.dumgal.gov.uk for timetables. The walk is in total approximately 4.5 miles / 7.2 km, and will take approximately 1.5–2 hours. Tynron is at Grid Reference NX 806 939, postcode DG3 4LE. Keir Mill is at Grid Reference NX 859 931, postcode DG3 4DE.



2

Beginning in the village of Tynron, a conservation area, pass the village hall and a row of cottages on your left. Restored by the National Trust for Scotland, traces of the sign for the old grocers and post office remain visible above a doorway. Legend has it that the local grocer blended and bottled 'Tynron Kirk whisky' here with water from a well. Core Path 126 leads from here to Tynron Doon, an Iron Age hillfort. In the churchyard of Tynron Parish Church, built in 1837 there is a 1685 Covenanter's grave. The walk begins at the Core Path sign on the first road to the right.



3

From here continue along the tarmac road for approximately 1 km with the Shinnel Water to your right. The road becomes a track and at its end, go through the wooden gate on the left. Turn right onto a grassy track which crosses fields of open pasture and looks over to the gentle hills of the lower Shinnel Glen and the Clone Road to Moniaive.

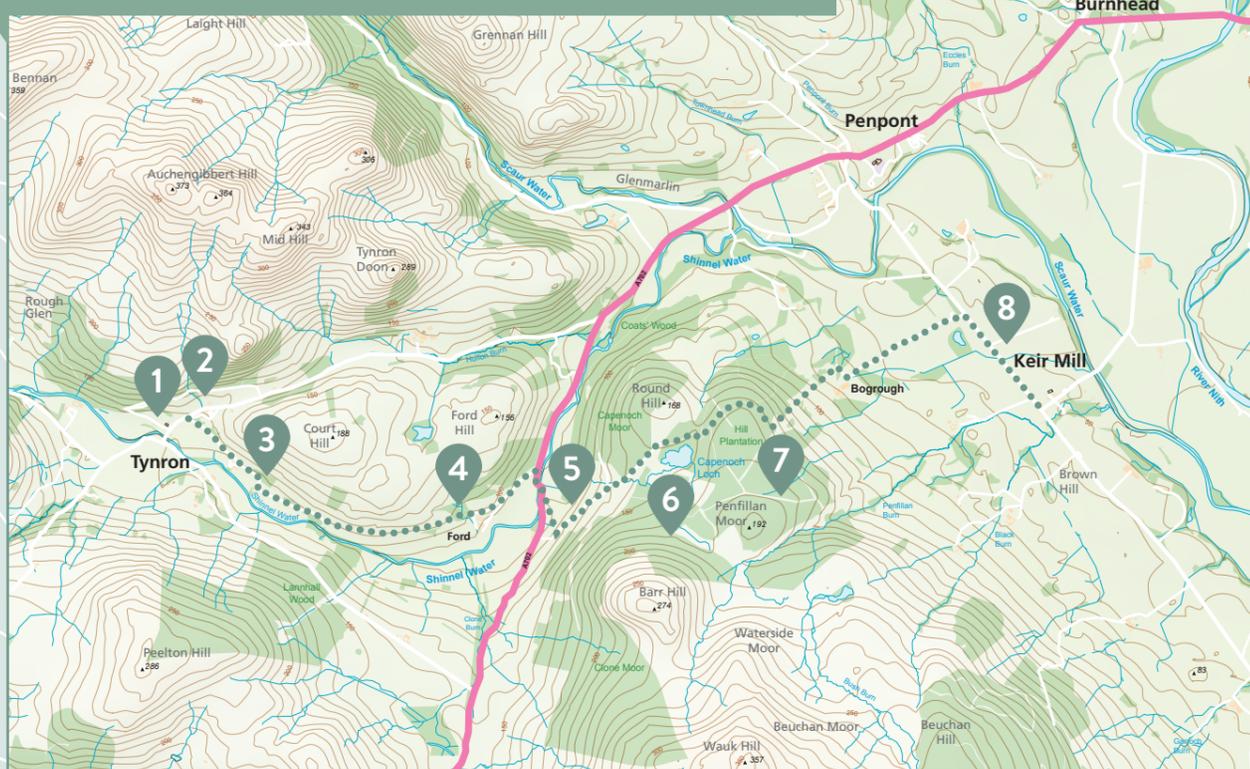


4

Along the grassy path you may see wild thyme, tormentil and smell the vanilla of gorse flowers before the track gently descends past farm buildings and onto a country lane. At the end of the lane, just before joining the A702, there is a Juniper Wood, a Special Area of Conservation.



WALK 2: TYNRON - KEIR (CORE PATH 73)



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6

Go through another gate with a fingerpost pointing into Capenoch woods, a commercial forest where the landscape changes as sections are felled, replanted and regrow. Capenoch Estate actively promotes conservation of habitat and wildlife and requests that visitors and their dogs do not disturb the ground-nesting birds on Capenoch Loch.

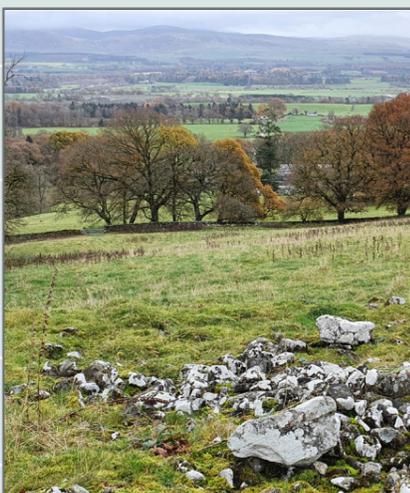


8

Go through another gate and pass by farm buildings on the right. Continue straight ahead and along the lane, turning right at the T-junction and Core Path sign. Continue along this straight section of road, passing on the right Courthill Smithy, home of the world's first pedal bicycle invented by Kirkpatrick Macmillan (1813–1878). Keir Mill village and its church, built in 1815 of local Capenoch ashlar stone are seen ahead. To the right lie the Keir Hills and to the left the Scaur Water winds its way to the River Nith. Kirkpatrick MacMillan is buried in the peaceful old graveyard overlooking the Scaur Water.

5

When the lane meets the main road turn right and cross the bridge over the Shinnel Water. Go through the gate at the Core Path sign on your left and follow the public footpath fingerpost until reaching the forestry road. Follow the track uphill to a viewpoint with bench and orientation table which identifies the hills seen from here, including a fine view of Tynron Doon. Go through the gate and continue along the track.



7

Continue uphill along the rough forest track. Take a right where the track forks at the finger post and go through the gate ahead into a field with orientation table and bench. Enjoy views down the Nith valley and over to the Lowther and Queensberry Hills. Continue down this stretch of open farmland, passing some Oak trees, which were once part of the Wood of Keyr, ancient woodland which originally extended from Capenoch to Auldgirth. At the bottom, go through a small gate and turn right.



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