

Walks From The Town No 4
Coates Hill - Auchencas – Garpol Glen
Length: 5 miles Duration: 1.45 to 2.30 hours

5. When you come to the T junction at the gatehouse take the left hand road and keep to the road as it takes you uphill through woodland. (The right hand road would lead you to Auchencastle Hotel.)

6. After a while you reach a track leading off to the left signposted Lawesknowe. This is a working farm so as always, please respect the interests of the farmer. Proceed along the track and through the farm gate and keeping to the left of the farmhouse continue along the farm track ahead of you. This will lead you down to the bottom field which contains the ruins of Auchencas. Be careful as the field may contain livestock, if you are nervous around livestock, or if in any doubt do not enter the field. The castle dates from the 13th century and was built by Sir Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray and friend of Robert the Bruce, who gave Sir Thomas the title of Lord of Annandale. The castle was square in shape and had circular turret towers at its corners. Only the remnants of the castle walls can be seen but part of one of the turret towers survives. The castle holds a commanding view over Upper Annandale.

7. From the castle site head back to the track on the right hand side of the field and continue through the farm gate. Following this path (which can be a little overgrown in summer) takes you to the wooded and steeply sloped Garpol Glen and the falls of Garpol Linn. Care must be taken here as there is no longer a defined path to the falls. There has also been a lot tree felling here recently. This was once a popular place for walking but none of the paths have been maintained. It is a beautiful spot by the linn and the upper waterfall is quite spectacular when the burn is in spate; worth the trouble if you can get to it.

8. From Garpol Glen simply retrace your steps and head back to Moffat.

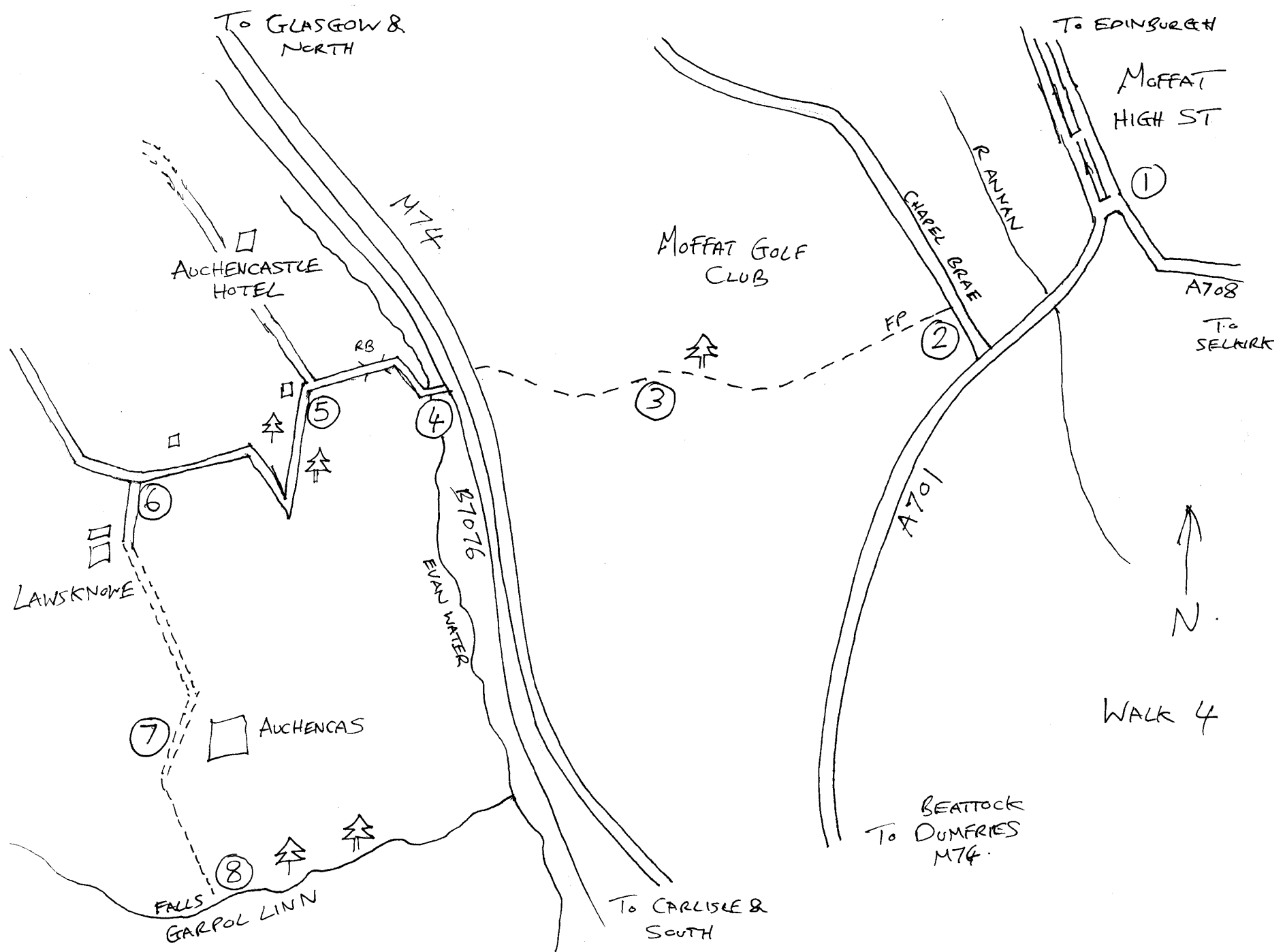
An undulating out and back walk that crosses over Coates Hill to the Evan Water, then heads uphill to the ruins of Auchencas, a 13th century castle, and the waterfalls at Garpol Glen. This walk involves roads, fields and tracks. Boots are required. Please note there could be cattle in the field where Auchencas is situated. Also the slopes around the falls at Garpol Glen are steep and hazardous; please be extremely careful around the area of the waterfalls.

1. Starting the walk in High St, head south along the A701 signposted as M74 and Dumfries. Opposite St Andrew's Church is the Moffat Museum which is open from March to October, free to enter and well worth a visit. Once past the car park on the right continue until you come to a right turn called Chapel Brae.

2. Shortly after turning up Chapel Brae you'll see a signposted footpath on the left for Coates Hill and Evan Water. Take this footpath and head up the steps. The clearly defined path takes you over Coates Hill giving you views southward towards Dumfries, Moffat's golf course is on your right.

3. The path leads you out into open fields. Follow the way-marker posts down the hillside. Avoiding any boggy patches make your way downhill to the stile at the bottom. This leads you to an underpass that allows you to cross the M74 motorway. Emerging from the underpass onto the B road that runs parallel to it, almost straight ahead of you is the turning for Auchencastle Hotel.

4. Take the hotel road which crosses the Evan Water. This river forms further up the valley near Beattock Summit and flows down to join The Annan a couple of miles south of Moffat. The road then crosses the West Coast main railway line at a section of line famous for its ascent to Beattock Summit. In the days of steam locomotives trains often used to have assistance from a banking engine that would help push the train from Beattock Station to the top of the summit (for simplicity the railway has been omitted from the plan, but just here it runs adjacent to the river).



To GLASGOW & NORTH

To EDINBURGH

AUCHENCASTLE HOTEL

MOFFAT GOLF CLUB

MOFFAT HIGH ST

N74

CHAPEL BRAE

RANNAN

A708

To SELKIRK

RB

FP

LAWSKNOWE

N

EUAN WATER

A701

WALK 4

AUCHENCAS

BEATOCK
To DUMFRIES
M74

FALLS
GARPOL LINN

To CARLISLE & SOUTH