Kirkbride Village
A brief guide to help you explore Kirkbride’s past and enjoy its present

Situated in a curve of the winding river Wampool, Kirkbride has a long and varied history, visible in many of its buildings and in the surrounding countryside. Vestiges of a Roman fort rub shoulders with World War II defensive works, while the Industrial Revolution and more modern development have also left their imprint.

Wildlife abounds in the surrounding countryside. Raised peat mosses north and south of the village are home to rare butterflies, moths and amphibians. Curlew, skylark and oystercatcher are year-round residents, and spectacular formations of migrating geese and swans are a thrilling sight in winter.

The Carlisle to Silloth railway opened in 1869 with the Sunday school building added in 1887. The Methodist chapel was built in 1865 on what is now called Chapel Bank, it was rebuilt in 1897 when the tower was removed. The original ‘primitive’ chapel was built in 1846 on what is now called Chapel Bank, it was rebuilt in 1897 when the tower was removed.

The village also boasted three chapels. The original ‘primitive’ chapel was built in 1846 on what is now called Chapel Bank, it was rebuilt in 1897 when the tower was removed.

The Methodist chapel was built in 1846 with the Sunday school building added in 1887.

Along west Lonning was the site of a Quaker meeting house, the building has been demolished but the burial site is still present as a cove of woodland on the left of the lonning.

Over the centuries this 13th century church has been called both St Bride’s and St Bridget’s. The stone used to build the church may have come from the nearby Roman fort and the church door has stone reuses to allow it to be secured from within for defensive purposes.

An interesting engraved plaque, below the east window of the church, records the succession of deaths from smallpox of the Reverend Lancelot Thompson’s six children in the summer of 1746.

Buildings of Interest
1. Bank House
2. St. Bride’s Church
3. Rectory
4. Tennis and Bowls Club
5. Wheatsheaf Cottage - former inn
6. Inglenook/Cross House - former shop
7. Bush Inn
8. Village Hall
9. Lilac Cottage - former cobbler
10. Station House - Kirkbride Station
11. Playground - former clayspit
12. Former Chapel
13. Former School House
14. Hawthorn House - former shop
15. Garage
16. Site of Blacksmith Shop
17. Post Office
18. Former Methodist Chapel
19. Memorial Garden
20. Former Corn Mill
21. Kirkbride House
22. Kirkbride School
23. Town Head Farm

The Carlisle to Silloth railway opened in 1869 and was very popular with day-trippers. It was the main method of transport for farmers’ livestock and crops and also provided a connection with the main line services at Carlisle.

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Welcome to Kirkbride

This leaflet describes 4 routes that are way-marked and well maintained. However, Kirkbride has an extensive network of public paths and many variations of walks linking these paths can be enjoyed.

In all cases it is important to be a welcome walker and remember that the countryside is where farmers earn their living so please respect their way of life.

- Take care not to disturb wildlife habitats
- Follow the footpaths around the edges of fields
- Take all litter home
- Prevent dogs from fouling footpaths and keep them under close control to prevent disturbance to stock and wildlife

Walking for Health

It has been shown that walking in the countryside is good for our physical and mental health. 20 minutes 3 times each week is the minimum recommended amount and the short footpath loops around the village are ideal for this.

Most people can benefit from becoming more active. If you are currently inactive, try walking for just 5 minutes initially and slowly increase the time and distance covered.

Your doctor’s surgery will be able to give you further advice if you have concerns.

Routes 1, 2 and 3 have no stiles

Suggested routes

Route 1. 1.5 miles (2.4 km)
Start: village shop
Route: bridleway, woods, open fields, return by next bridleway.
The section through the woods is lovely and passes a WWII pill-box, can be muddy in places when wet.

Route 2. 2 miles (3.2 km)
Start: playground/village shop
Route: through village, along paths behind houses, round turf field, Birch Hill, church, back through village.

This walk links up some of the old lonnings with hedgerows rich in plant and bird-life. It continues to the church then returns through the oldest part of the village. Good views to Northern Lakeland and the Solway can be seen. All crossing points have gates.

Route 3. 2.5 miles (4km)
Start: playground/village shop
Route: down road towards Wigton, bridleway, Powhill, airfield, bridleway.

This route follows bridleways and roads, all crossing points have gates available, it follows a quiet bridleway before passing the airfield and wartime buildings.

Route 4. 3 miles (4.8 km)
Start: village shop
Route: to Longland’s Head, up road to Shaw Hill, back down Monks’ Dyke.

This is a more challenging walk. After a wooded section to Longland’s Head the road is followed to Shaw Hill. The route then follows the ancient path along Monks Dyke back to Kirkbride, passing alongside Gribb’s water meadows, a Site of Special Scientific Interest for their rare wild flowers.

The path is rough underfoot in places and includes some steep banks and stiles.


drawings and images of wildlife species mentioned:
- Garlic mustard
- Barnacle geese
- Vetch

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