



Neolithic Studies Group Spring Meeting Dumfries and Galloway, South West Scotland

10-12 May 2019

This year's Spring Meeting will take place in south west Scotland, starting on the evening of Friday 10th May and concluding mid-afternoon on Sunday 12th May. The meeting will be based in Kirkcudbright, a small and picturesque town on the Solway coast, well-known for its fine medieval castle and elegant townhouses, and much favoured by generations of creative artists and writers. This year's organisers are Rosemary Stewart pebble@freeuk.com and Angela Gannon angela.gannon@hes.scot

On Friday evening, the Selkirk Arms Hotel will play host to some short introductory talks where a finger buffet will be served with tea and coffee (<https://www.selkirkarmshotel.co.uk/>). The following morning, we will depart from Kirkcudbright and head west beginning our site visits at Dunragit then going to Mid Gleniron chambered cairns and the standing stones and cup and ring markings at Drumtroddan before stopping for lunch in Wigtown. In the afternoon we plan to visit Torhousekie stone circle and walk off our lunch with a stroll through forestry plantations to Bargrennan chambered cairn. We aim to return to Kirkcudbright by 6pm providing enough time for everyone to relax/explore the town and change for dinner. We have arranged a fixed price dinner menu at the Selkirk Arms Hotel and if you'd like to join us, please let us know on the attached booking form; of course, you are welcome to make your own supper arrangements. On Sunday, we will visit the chambered cairns at Cairnholy then head east towards Dumfries to see the Twelve Apostles stone circle and consider the landscape setting of the adjacent Holywood cursus, visible only as cropmarks from the air. The group will then disband.

We plan to travel together by coach on Saturday and by pooling available cars on Sunday. For those not traveling by car, it may be possible to collect/drop off in Dumfries. To this end, it would be really useful if you could provide an indication of your travel arrangements on the attached booking form.

Dumfries and Galloway is a remarkably large area and the landscape combines rugged mountains and moorland with gentle undulating pastures, a rocky shoreline and sandy beaches. Most of the sites we will visit are easily accessible on foot though a small number will involve walking along rough tracks and across unimproved ground so a reasonable level of fitness will be required. The weather here can also change very quickly, so be prepared for all eventualities and bring your walking boots and waterproofs as well as sun block and midge repellent.

Cost will be £40 and is based on a group of 25. This cost covers the buffet and talks on Friday evening and coach travel on the Saturday.

Please use the booking form attached and make sure you return it by **Friday 12th April**.

Numbers are restricted to 25 - so first come, first served!

Provisional programme

FRIDAY 10th MAY

Group arrives in Kirkcudbright

7-9pm Introductory talks on the Neolithic archaeology of the area, including a finger buffet with tea and coffee.

Selkirk Arms Hotel, High Street, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4JG

SATURDAY 11th MAY

9am Depart Kirkcudbright **Dunragit** mound and cropmark complex;
Mid Gleniron chambered cairns;
Drumtroddan cup and ring markings and standing stones

1pm Lunch Wigtown (own arrangements but there are lots of good cafes)

2pm Depart Wigtown **Torhousekie** stone circle;
White Cairn Bargrennan chambered cairn

6pm Return to Kirkcudbright

7.30pm Meet in the Burns Room, Selkirk Arms Hotel, for pre-dinner drinks (not included)

8pm Dinner at the Selkirk Arms Hotel. We have negotiated a fixed price menu which will cost £19 for 2 courses and £25 for 3 courses per person (excluding tea or coffee; not included)

SUNDAY 12th MAY

9am Depart Kirkcudbright **Cairnholy** chambered cairns;
Twelve Apostles stone circle;
Hollywood cropmark cursus

1pm Lunch (bring own packed lunch)

2pm Group disperses

NB All site visits are subject to change and are dependent on timing constraints and weather. Additional sites may be added if time permits.

TRAVEL TO KIRKCUDBRIGHT

BY AIR

Edinburgh, Glasgow and Newcastle airports are all around a 3 hour drive to/from Kirkcudbright.

BY BUS

By bus from Dumfries

http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/20310/501-502-Dumfries-Dalbeattie-Castle-Douglas-Kirkcudbright/pdf/Service_501_502_200818.pdf?m=636711556285930000

By bus from Glasgow and Dumfries

<https://bustimes.org/services/x74-dumfries-glasgow>

By bus from Edinburgh and Dumfries

<https://bustimes.org/services/101-dumfries-edinburgh>

By bus from Carlisle and Dumfries

<https://bustimes.org/services/79-carlisle-dumfries-2>

BY CAR

Kirkcudbright is accessible from the A75 Gretna to Stranraer main road by a number of A-class roads including the A711, A 762 and A755. To the east at Gretna, the A75 connects with the M74 and to the west at Stranraer, the A75 links to the port of Cairnryan with ferry services to Northern Ireland.

BY RAIL

By rail via Carlisle and Dumfries

There are Scotrail connections from the west coast main line at Carlisle to Dumfries

http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/18161/ScotRail-Glasgow-Dumfries-Carlisle-Newcastle/pdf/ScotRail_dfs-Glw.pdf?m=636721900287230000

By rail via Lockerbie and Dumfries

Lockerbie is also on the west coast main line and there are bus connections to Dumfries

http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/19959/81-381-Lockerbie-Lochmaben-Dumfries/pdf/Service_81-381_2418.pdf?m=636564541219130000

For both Carlisle and Lockerbie, a Virgin/Transpennine summary timetable which operates until 18 May 2019 is available here:

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/20099/Virgin-First-Trans-Pennine-Summary-of-service-from-Lockerbie-Carlisle/pdf/Transpen-virgin.pdf?m=636802355430570000>

ACCOMMODATION

Kirkcudbright

There is a wide range of accommodation options available in and around Kirkcudbright including hotels, guesthouses and self-catering cottages. If you are not travelling by car, please ensure you stay within easy walking distance of Kirkcudbright town centre. Useful search sites include:

<https://www.booking.com/city/gb/kirkcudbright.en-gb.html>

<https://www.dumfries-and-galloway.co.uk/accommodation/hotels/kirkcudbright.htm>

<https://www.airbnb.co.uk/s/Kirkcudbright>

<https://www.dumfries-and-galloway.co.uk/accommodation/index.htm>



Neolithic Studies Group Spring Meeting to South West Scotland

10th-12th May

Booking Form

Name:

Address:

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Postcode:

Email address:

(email will be the main means of contact)

If booking more than one place, please give additional names and contact details below:

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Proposed Travel Arrangements:

Saturday night dinner: YES / NO (£19/£25 to be paid on the day)

Payment Method: Cheque (enclosed) Bank Credit Transfer

Cheques should be made payable to **Neolithic Studies Group**. Bank credit transfers should be paid to Sort code: **09-01-52**, Account number: **72613800**, quoting your **surname** followed by **S19** as the reference.

Please send completed forms and cheque payments of £40 to:

Angela Gannon, Historic Environment Scotland, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh, EH8 9NX or email forms to: angela.gannon@hes.scot

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I do not consent to my photograph being used as described above.

Signed

Completed forms must be received by Friday 12th April