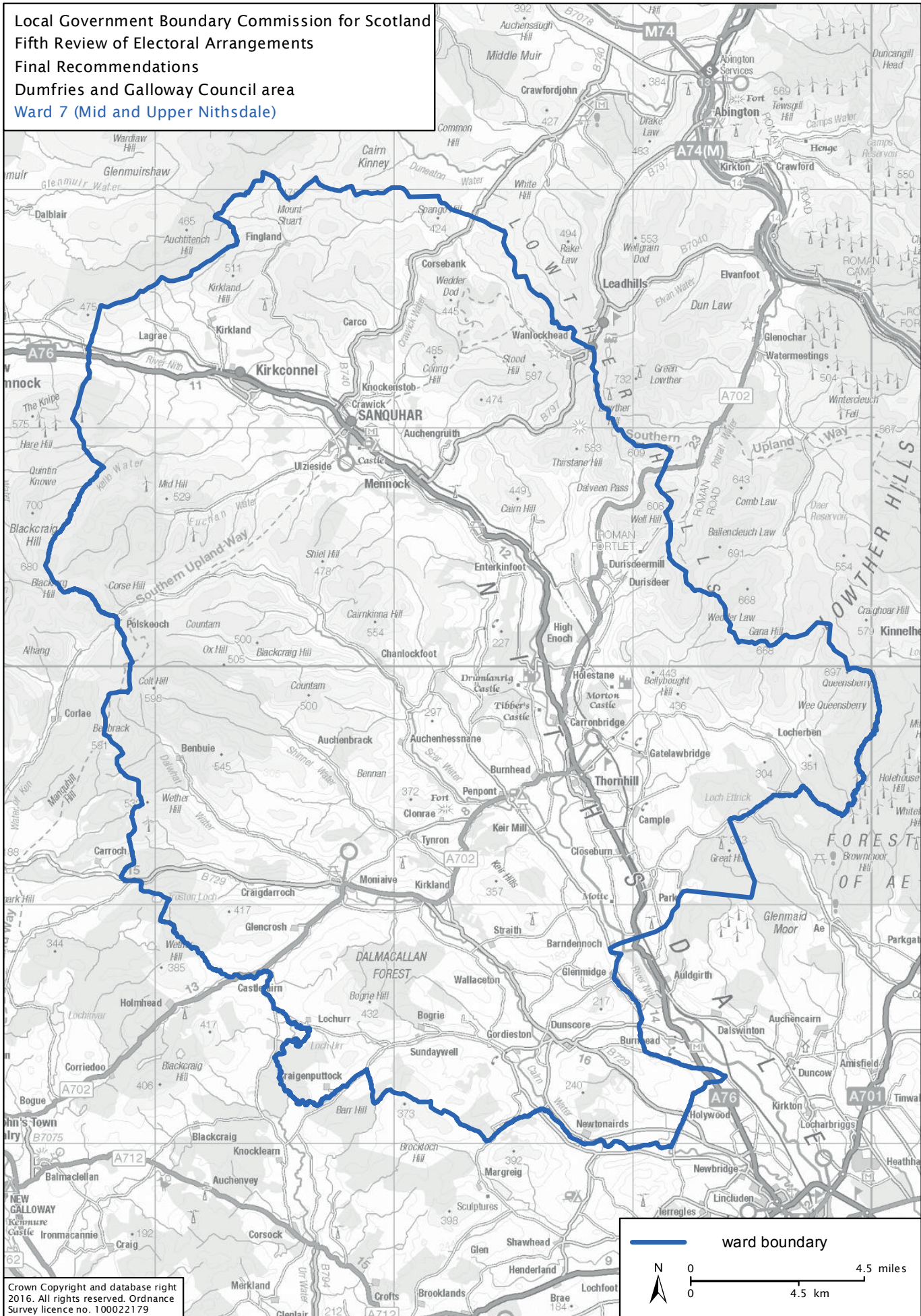


Mid and Upper Nithsdale **Ward 7 Profile**



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Key statistics - Main Settlements

Some details about the main towns and villages in the Mid and Upper Nithsdale Ward are given below.

Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Situated on the A76, these villages contain a number of facilities including Primary School, Customer Service Centre, Health Centre and Social Work Office, Activity and Resource Centre, Kirkconnel Resource Base, Hillview Leisure Centre as well as a number of shops. One of the region's largest employers, Brown's Food Group, is situated here and employs over 500 members of staff. Kirkconnel and Kelloholm is an ex-mining area. The population in 2011 was 2590.

Sanquhar is a former Royal Burgh which is also situated on the A76. The town has a number of facilities including Primary School, Secondary School, Swimming Pool, Town Hall, Customer Service Centre, Health Centre, Police and Fire Stations and a Community Centre. All of the shops are located on the High Street. The population of Sanquhar is 2370 Thornhill is a village located also on the A76. It has grown over the years into a village with a population of 1,790.

Thornhill is the largest village in the Mid Nithsdale area and is a local service centre with many residents from nearby smaller villages and hamlets making use of the facilities and amenities on offer in the village. Thornhill is home to a range of busy shops most of these independent. Thornhill has a number of facilities including Customer Service Centre, Wallace Hall Academy and Wallace Hall Primary School, Police Station and Fire Station.

Penpont is a small village that lies around 2 miles to the west of Thornhill on the A702 and contains a number of facilities including a primary school, post office and village hall, the population of Penpont is around 500.

Moniaive is a small village which lies just over 8 miles from Thornhill on the A702 and has a range of facilities including a primary school, post office, community hall and playcare facility. Moniaive is a popular visitor and tourist attraction. The population of the village itself is just over 500.

Primary Schools

Closeburn Primary	51
Dunscore Primary	47
Kelloholm Primary	166
Moniaive Primary	66
Penpont Primary	58
Sanquhar Primary	155
Wallace Hall Primary	171

Secondary School

Sanquhar Academy	261
Wallace Hall Academy	540

Burial Grounds

- Closeburn Burial Ground
- Closeburn Churchyard
- Dalgarnock, Kirkbog (closed)
- Durisdeer Burial Ground
- Durisdeer Churchyard
- Dunscore Burial Ground
- Glencairn Churchyard
- Greenhead, Thornhill (closed)
- Keir Burial Ground
- Old Keir Burial Ground (closed)
- Kirkbride Burial Ground, Durisdeer
- Kirkconnel Cemetery
- Kirkholm Cemetery
- Kirkland Burial Ground, near Moniaive (closed)
- Morton Burial Ground
- Penpont Churchyard
- Sanquhar Churchyard
- St Conal's Churchyard
- Old St Conal's Churchyard (closed)
- Tynron Churchyard
- Wanlockhead Burial Ground
- Old Wanlockhead Churchyard (closed)

Parks and Open Spaces

- Closeburn
- Gladstone Park, Penpont
- Macarra Park, Moniaive
- Keir Mill
- Blackmyre
- Thornhill Community Centre
- Muirhall Road
- Carronbridge
- Durisdeer Mill
- Renwick Place
- Bell Crescent
- Queensberry Square
- Lorimer Park
- Hyslop Street
- Scott Street
- Kirkland Drive
- St Conals Square
- Bowman Edgar
- Wanlockhead

NHS Facilities

- Thornhill Community Hospital
- Building Healthy Communities – Kelloholm

Police Scotland Facilities

- Sanquhar Police Station
- Thornhill Police Station

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Facilities

- Sanquhar Fire Station
- Thornhill Fire Station

Key Projects

Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Development Trust (KKDT)

The organisation has been formed to benefit the community of Kirkconnel and Kelloholm with the following objects: The advancement of community development including the advancement of rural regeneration. The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage. The provision of recreational activities with the object of improving conditions of life for the persons for whom the activities are primarily intended.

Skills and innovation Centre, the trust are looking to secure funding to build a skills and innovation centre in the centre of Kelloholm, they are awaiting feedback from their RCGF bid.

Housing, recently KKDT successfully Asset Transferred land from the Council at Niviston Road Kelloholm, the hope is to build accessible housing to enable the elderly to end their lives in their local community. Currently the housing stock does not accommodate elderly residents who wish to down size into more accessible housing. The trust hope to build 5 houses.

A' the Airts

A' the Airts contributes to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the communities of Upper Nithsdale by actively encouraging participation in a range of arts, crafts and related activities

A' the Airts have recently secured all the funding required to refurbish and extend their premises. The additional space will mean a greater deal to the local community.

Crawick Multiverse Trust

Nestled within the rolling hills of Upper Nithsdale in Dumfries and Galloway, this major land restoration project has transformed a former open cast coal mine into a spectacular artland and public amenity.

The ecology of the site, and the materials found within it, inspired its design which is based around space, astronomy and cosmology.

Today the site is cared for by the Crawick Multiverse Trust, a charity registered in Scotland (SCO39940).

The Trust have recently built their onsite premises the Coal Face, the trust are working hard to promote and encourage more visitors to the site.

Glenmucklock Pump Storage Hydro Scheme

In 2016 the Scottish Government gave consent for a pumped storage hydro scheme of up to 400MW on the Glenmuckloch site in Dumfries and Galloway.

The project would make a major contribution to energy provision and breathe life into the former opencast site, which has ceased commercial coaling and is now undergoing restoration works. It would also create over 250 jobs during a five-year construction programme and more than 15 long term local jobs when complete.

The proposed scheme has the potential to become a catalyst for industrial regeneration in the region; however, any proposal will require major financial investment from other partners to proceed.

Pumped storage hydro stores electricity in times of low demand and releases it on to the National Grid in peak demand periods, providing energy when required and also balancing local constraints on the electricity grid.

Old School Thornhill

The Old School Thornhill (OST) will provide space, activities and a public programme that stimulates ideas and supports our rural community and small businesses in DG3. The Trust are currently waiting on feedback from their RCGF bid.

KPT Development Trust

Penpont to Thornhill Active Travel Path: The aim of this path is to ensure that residents and visitors of all ages and abilities can travel safely between Penpont and Thornhill without encountering the obvious hazards that the A702 presents. This path will be a multi-user route, with a sealed surface, offering a pleasant accessible track for everyone – walkers, runners, cyclists and wheelchair users. There will be well-positioned benches to enjoy those stunning rural views.

To achieve this objective, the Trust are grateful to have received substantial funding from the Scottish Government through Sustrans, Scotland's Places for Everyone programme. The Tracks and Trails group work closely with Sustrans and have reached the developed design stage of the path, having appointed TP&E, a social enterprise consultancy firm. Working with Sustrans means that the path will be built to their exacting standards and in doing so, they will give 70% of the construction costs.

Nith Valley Leaf Trust

The NVLT is a Charitable Trust incorporated in 2009, set up to develop sustainable community development projects, based in Closeburn, Dumfries and Galloway.

The Trust recently CAT land from the council and built 3 passivhaus houses to let to local families.

The Trust have initiated the process of obtaining ownership of the school playing field in Closeburn from the Council.

It is the aspiration of the Trust to manage the field for the community to utilise the field for more purposes. The aim is to manage the field to a higher standard for sports and increased use for school activities and outdoor teaching space as well as events.

Currently it is understood that under community ownership:

- An installation of a shelter would be beneficial during wet weather
- Safety could be improved around the entrance
- Views could be improved
- Tree and grass management could be improved
- Damage caused by rabbit holes could be addressed directly
- Disused areas could be restored

Public Health Improvement

The Public Health Improvement (PHI) workforce is part of the Community Health and Social Care Directorate. One PHI team works regionally, in partnership with Health and Social Care, Third Sector, Local Authority and communities to agree strategic direction and lead on action to deliver a regional plan to improve population health and wellbeing. With a focus on reducing health inequalities, the regional PHI plan includes poverty and inequalities; food insecurity; mental health and wellbeing; tobacco, alcohol and drug use prevention and harm reduction; physical activity/re-ablement; diet and healthy weight; housing and homelessness; workplace health; children and young people's health and wellbeing; digital equality.

All other PHI practitioners are being located within 8 Home Teams developing across the region and will be focusing activity on early intervention and prevention with vulnerable communities and individuals; delivering and developing the Community Link Service; proactively engaging with colleagues, communities and partners to build and strengthen a 'community led' regional approach to PHI using community development methodology; and providing support for specific actions within the PHI Regional Plan and priority PHI issues.

NHS Home Teams

Home Teams will be fully integrated, multi-disciplinary teams placed at the heart of the community who will work closely with people, their family, friends, carers and the wider local community and services to enable people to live healthy and active lives and live at home for longer.

They will support people within their community to live at home, close to their home or in a homely setting, preventing hospital admission where appropriate or safely bring them home from hospital earlier. A "Home First" approach is the default position for everyone. Home Teams will also ensure that people are at the heart of any decisions and will encourage people to improve and maintain their health and wellbeing through good conversations.

Community Asset Transfers – Transfer of Ownership

- Land at Castle Crescent, Closeburn
- Land at Niviston Road, Kelloholm

Community Councils and Community Associations:

- Carronbridge Community Council – Established
- Closeburn Community Council – Established
- Dunscore Community Council – Established
- Durisdeer Community Council – Disestablished
- Glencairn Community Council – Established
- Keir Community Council – Established
- Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council – Established
- Penpont Community Council – Established
- Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District Community Council – Established
- Thornhill Community Council – Established
- Tynron Community Council – Established
- Wanlockhead Community Council – Disestablished

The following sources of funding have been drawn down in the ward

- Regionwide Community Fund Projects
- DGC Town Centre Investment
- Windfarm Community Benefit Funding - approx. £190k annually available
- Stove - Embers Project

Elected Members

Councillor Jim H Dempster
(Non Affiliated)

Councillor Tony Berretti
(Scottish National Party)

Councillor Andrew S Wood
(Scottish Conservative and Unionist Group)

MPs, MSP, and MSYPs List

MP David Mundell MP
(Conservative and Unionist Party)

david.mundell.mp@parliament.uk
Tel. 020 7219 4895

MSP Oliver Mundell MSP
(Scottish Conservative and Unionist)

oliver.mundell.msp@parliament.scot
Tel. 0131 348 5631

MSP Emma Harper

emma.harper.msp@parliament.scot
Tel. 01387 255334 or 0131 3486965

Nithsdale MSYPs

Ellie McConnachie
Ellie@dgyouthcouncil.com

Mid & Upper Nithsdale Ward Youth Councillor

Grace Bryden-Brown
Grace@dgyouthcouncil.com

Mid & Upper Nithsdale Ward Youth Councillor

Murrie Thomson
Murrie@dgyouthcouncil.com

Mid and Upper Nithsdale

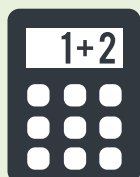
Current statistics are for year 2020 (latest statistics available)

*Trend is 10 year trend

Population 10,346



Poverty and Inequalities Data



Education and Skills

Percentage of population by Ward with no qualifications

17.2%

Regional average 15%



Employment

Employment deprived as % of working age population

9.2%

Regional average: 8.5%

Claimant Count Unemployment (all ages)

300

Regional average: 402

Child Poverty



Percentage of children in receipt of free school meals

25%

Regional Average: 19.25%

Child Poverty

36%

Regional average: 39.1%



Housing

Homelessness applications

4

Regional average: 6.5

Temporary accommodation tenancies

0

Regional average: 13.5

Full report and sources can be found here

<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/23800/Report-Poverty-and-Deprivation-in-Dumfries-and-Galloway-2020/pdf/Poverty-and-Deprivation-Position-Report.pdf?m=637424348890330000>

The following statistical information is sourced from the Improvement Service's Community Planning Outcome Profiling tool

Employment and Economic Growth

% of adults receiving out of work benefits



% of children living in poverty



Rate of depopulation



(inverse indicator)

	Current	Trend*	Current	Trend*	Current	Trend*
Upper Nithsdale	21.9%	+28.2%	25.8%	+40.4%	106%	+6.1%
Mid Nithsdale	9%	+40.7%	19.1%	-11.4%	95.5%	-0.4%
Thornhill	12.8%	+40.7%	18.2%	+34.4%	97.7%	+2.9%

Education



Positive Destinations

The percentage of school leavers who, within three months of leaving school, enter higher education, further education, employment or training.



Educational Attainment

(Average number of National 5 Qualification attained)

	Current	Trend*	Current	Trend*
Upper Nithsdale	100%	+20.8%	5.53	+0.9%
Mid Nithsdale	92.6%	4.8%	5.64	-3.9%
Thornhill	94.8%	+7%	6.18	+10.2%

Health and Wellbeing



Rate of death

For persons under the age of 75, per 100,000 head of population

Unplanned Hospital Admissions

Accident and Emergency attendances per 100,000 head of population



	Current	Trend*	Current	Trend*
Upper Nithsdale	503	+8.6%	29,818	+49.2%
Mid Nithsdale	302	-19.2%	22,763	+20.3%
Thornhill	344	+1.5%	24,214	+14.5%

Safer, Stronger Communities

Number of crimes per 100,000 head of population



	Current	Trend*
Upper Nithsdale	412	-34.8%
Mid Nithsdale	220	-25.5%
Thornhill	420	+31.7%

*10 year trend