

Are We There Yet? The Great Gallovidian Milestone Hunt



78 milestone
locations surveyed

18 still standing

Five of these are
marked on the 1st
Edition Ordnance
Survey maps -
meaning that they've
been standing in
those locations for at
least 170 years!

THE MILESTONES OF THE GALLOWAY GLENS

**We want to challenge you to
a bit of a treasure hunt...
for milestones!**

Did you know that these stoic
waymarkers can be hundreds of
years old?

Milestones have been around
since Roman times, but their
heyday really began in the
1700s. They were designed
not only to inform
travellers of directions
and distances, but to
help coaches keep to
schedule. At the height of
their era, there were 20,000
miles of roads with milestones
across Britain.

Check out The Milestone Society
website (www.milestonesociety.co.uk)
for more details on their history.

CAN YOU HELP US FIND OUT HOW MANY STILL STAND WITHIN THE GALLOWAY GLENS?

We can create a map of where the milestones once sat, but
we need your help to find out if they're still there and what
condition they're in. Some photos would be great too!

Are We There Yet? was delivered as part of Can You
Dig It, the community archaeology project of the
Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

- Still standing
- No longer there



MS12



MS12 (NX 64209 77640) sits along the A713 giving a distance to Dalry of 3 miles and to Parton Station at 6 miles. Lesson learned at this one – worth double checking a location during the winter months. The vegetation along many road verges will be thickest during the summer so you might need the leaves to fall before spotting any milestones hiding in their midst.

Did you know?



There is a **Milestone Society**. A charity dedicated to “identify, record, research, conserve and interpret for public benefit the milestones and other waymarkers of the British Isles”. It was set up in 2001 and since then its members have recorded over 31,000 milestones, other waymarkers and tollhouses.

You can find out a lot of information about milestones on their website at

www.milestonesociety.co.uk

MS13



MS13 (NX 64601 76181) sits along the A713 giving a distance to Dalry of 4 miles and to Parton Station at 5 miles. Discovered by Elliot who thought that they looked 'similar to milestones guiding the way to Killywhan Station from New Abbey' so perhaps commissioned by the railway company.

The chunky-looking **MS14** (NX 65480 74863) also sits along the A713. It was found by David just to the south of the turn-off for the 'Hidden Road'. The stone gives a distance of 5 miles to Dalry and 4 miles to Parton Station.

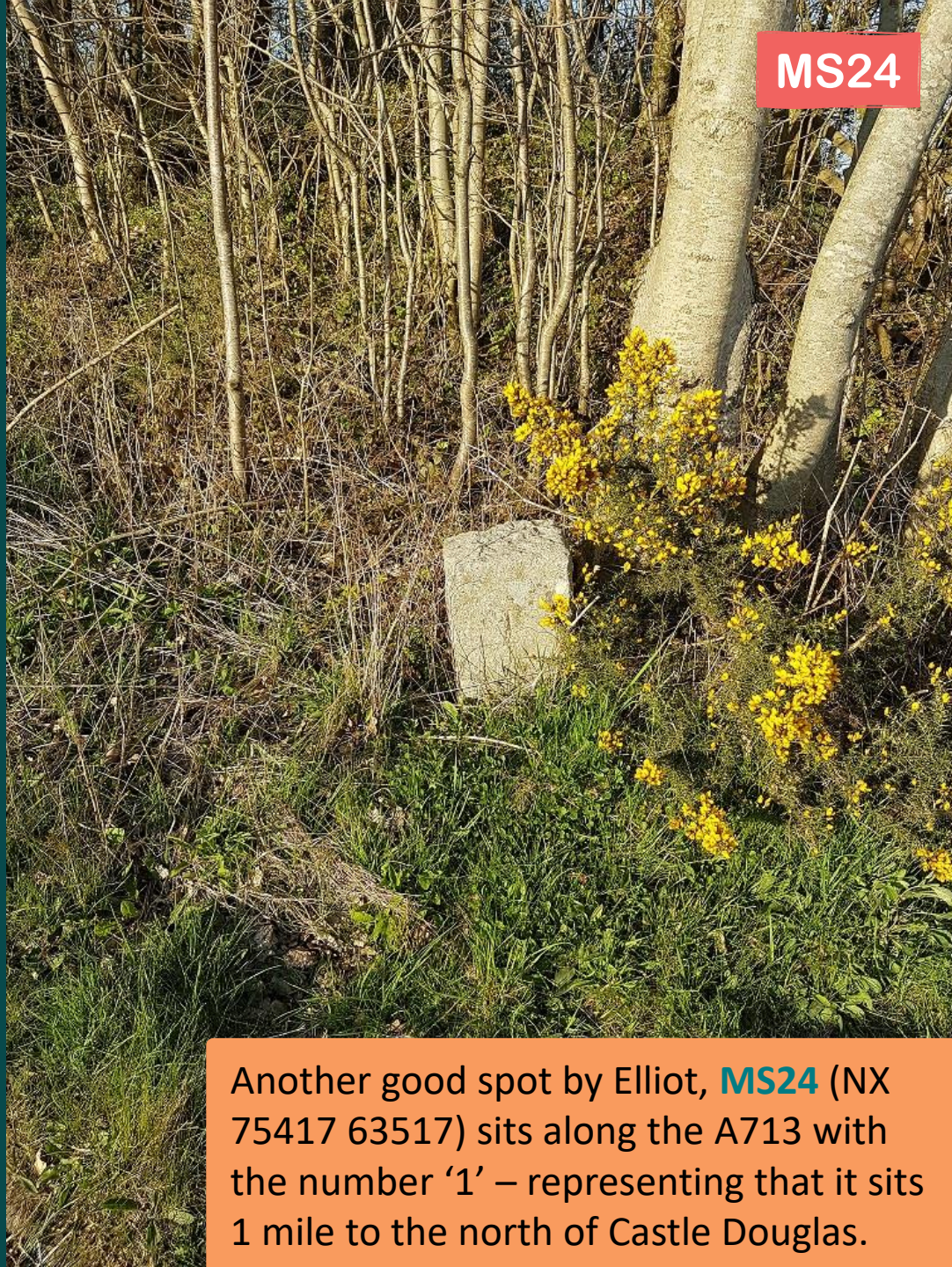


MS14

A photograph showing a stone wall made of stacked grey stones. In the foreground, a large, rectangular, weathered stone marker stands on a grassy verge. The ground is covered with dry grass and some fallen leaves.

MS18

You might well spot **MS18** (NX 69145 70126) as you drive along the A713 through Parton – it sits along the tidy grass verge to your left as you come into the village from the north. A simple ‘7’ represents 7 miles to Castle Douglas.

A photograph of a stone marker, similar to the one in the first image, situated in a wooded area. The marker is partially obscured by tall grass and yellow wildflowers. In the background, several thin tree trunks are visible.

MS24

Another good spot by Elliot, **MS24** (NX 75417 63517) sits along the A713 with the number ‘1’ – representing that it sits 1 mile to the north of Castle Douglas.

MS25



Did you know?

Before the days of trains and cars, the 400-mile journey between Edinburgh and London would have taken 16 days!



Located on the pavement outside NFU Mutual Insurance Company in Castle Douglas, **MS25** (NX 76709 62683) was recorded by both Claire and Elliot. 'J. Affleck, Dumfries' can be found at the bottom of the top plate. 348 miles to London would have been quite a journey back then.





MS27



A slightly tricky one – **MS27** (NX 55041 76117) sits along the A712 near Clatteringshaws. Mapping shows its location at a layby further down the road from this spot and a slab sitting flush to the ground there might represent its original site. Eagle-eyed Keith spotted this stone at the coach layby for the visitor centre though, which looks like it could be a good contender!



MS30

Located in a slightly more rugged setting, David recorded **MS30** (NX 59350 77430) along the A712 which leads to Clatteringshaws Loch – a position that it appears to have held for at least 170 years! It has a '27' for 27 miles to Dumfries.

MS33



Sitting at the top end of New Galloway, **MS33** (NX 63431 77803) displays either a '24' or '29'. No name is shown but Keith observed that it's likely to be Dumfries, so probably 24.

Also in New Galloway, **MS36** (NX 63406 77674) sits on the pavement just in front of The Smithy displaying 'Dalry 3¾' and 'NG Stn 5'. Keith noted that: 'NG Stn appears to have been New Galloway railway station, which was located to the south in the village of Mossdale! Much of the original station can still be seen, including the platform and original station building, now a private dwelling. The station and line were closed in 1965.'



MS36

MS37



Did you know?

From 1706 to the 1840s, Turnpike Trusts were set up to raise money for building stretches of road. They introduced tolls for using the roads, something which had been free until this point, which led to anti-turnpike riots across Britain.

In Wales, these became known as the 'Rebecca Riots' where male rioters would dress up as women and tear down the tollgates.



MS38



MS39

MS37 (NX 63347 76090), **MS38** (NX 64096 74691) and **MS39** (NX 65042 73421) all sit along the A762 between New Galloway and Mossdale. They continue the run of milestones down to where the railway station was located at Mossdale.

MS39 was a little hard to find at first but Peter was determined and finally spotted it as having been knocked over. As proof of how solid they are though, it's still in good condition!

Sent in by Jo, **MS40** (NX 65437 71947) sits along the A762 and is the last in the run towards New Galloway Station that once sat 1 mile to the south. Jo spotted though that the milestone appears to have been moved to the opposite side of the road from where it was originally located, likely due to the construction of the cottages close to the roadside in the late 20th century.



MS40



MS56

Marking the 2 miles to Castle Douglas, **MS56** (NX 76663 65919) has moved a few metres back from the roadside to become a beautiful addition to the border of a raised flower bed! It's been well taken care of though and you can still see it from the road.



MS69

MS69 (NX 76886 58553) sits along the B727 at the southwest end of Gelston. It has the number '19' – the distance to Dumfries.



MS74

This was a good spot by Keith – **MS74** (NX 69520 53647) is hidden in long grass behind metal railings, within the grounds of Tongland Power Station. He couldn't make out an inscription but spotted what looks to be a benchmark on top.



MS76 (NX 68282 51064) doesn't actually appear on the older mapping so its existence was brought to our attention by our surveyors. Keith took these images – it sits just against the wall to the south of Greyfriars Church, right at the centre of Kirkcudbright. The '27' seems to represent the distance to Dumfries. This must have been obvious enough not to label it at the time!



MS76

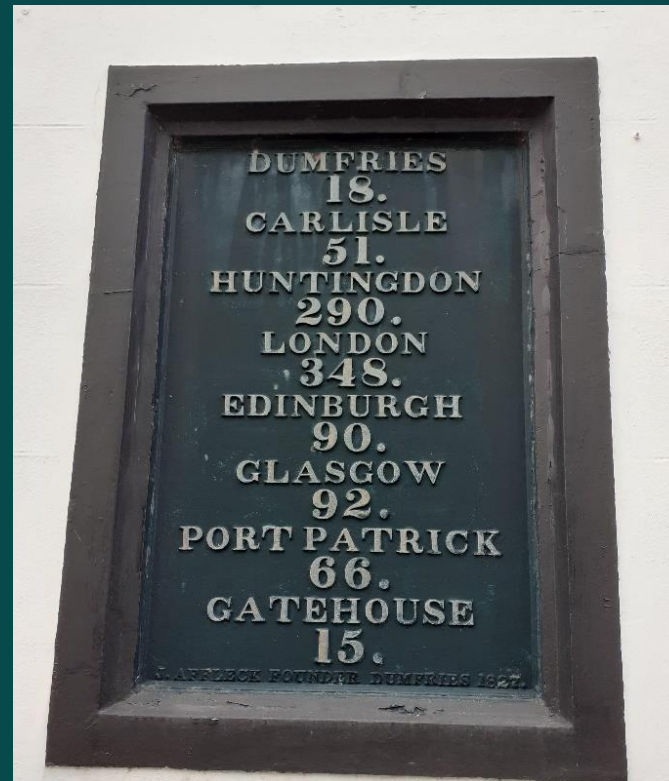


We didn't originally have **MS77** (NX 76338 62218) on our map, but Claire spotted it set into the wall of the Douglas Arms Hotel in Castle Douglas.

Cast iron, it has an inscription at the base – 'J. Affleck Founder Dumfries 1827', presumably the same J. Affleck who created the plates on MS25, also in Castle Douglas.

So 1827 makes MS25 and MS77 nearly 200 years old – looking not bad for their age!

MS77



Did you know?

Many milestones were removed or defaced in World War II to baffle potential German invaders and it is thought that only 9,000 of them still survive today across the whole of Britain.



THANK YOU to all the volunteer surveyors:

David Bartholomew, Lyn Ferguson, David G, Jo Gallant,
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Ian Steele and Sarah Steele

