



# The Hugh Paton Path

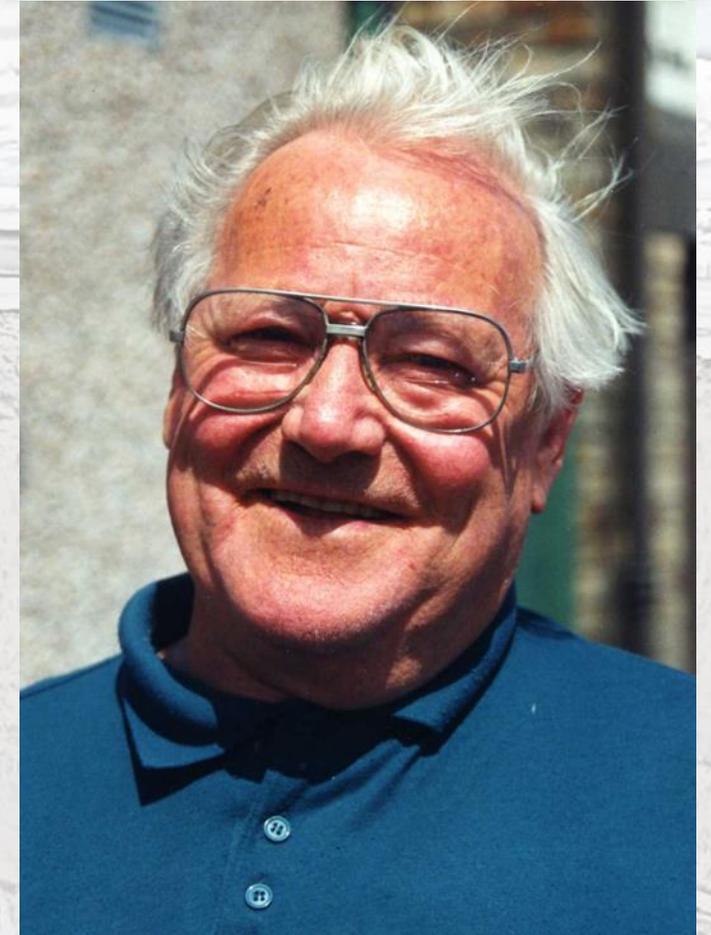
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Auchencairn Community Council  
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## **This is Hugh Paton.**

**Hugh bought Torr Farm in 1947. He was a local farmers son who was born and raised at Chapelcroft, a few miles away towards Palnackie. Previously it had been owned by the Ovens family for three generations. They were a merchant family from Galashiels who bought it in 1867. Tom Ovens immediately set about draining the low ground and set up a brick works on the shore to make bricks and drainage tiles.**

**The remains of a breakwater are still visible near the pedestrian gate half way along.**

**Hugh died in 1999, two years before the path that's named for him was created.**

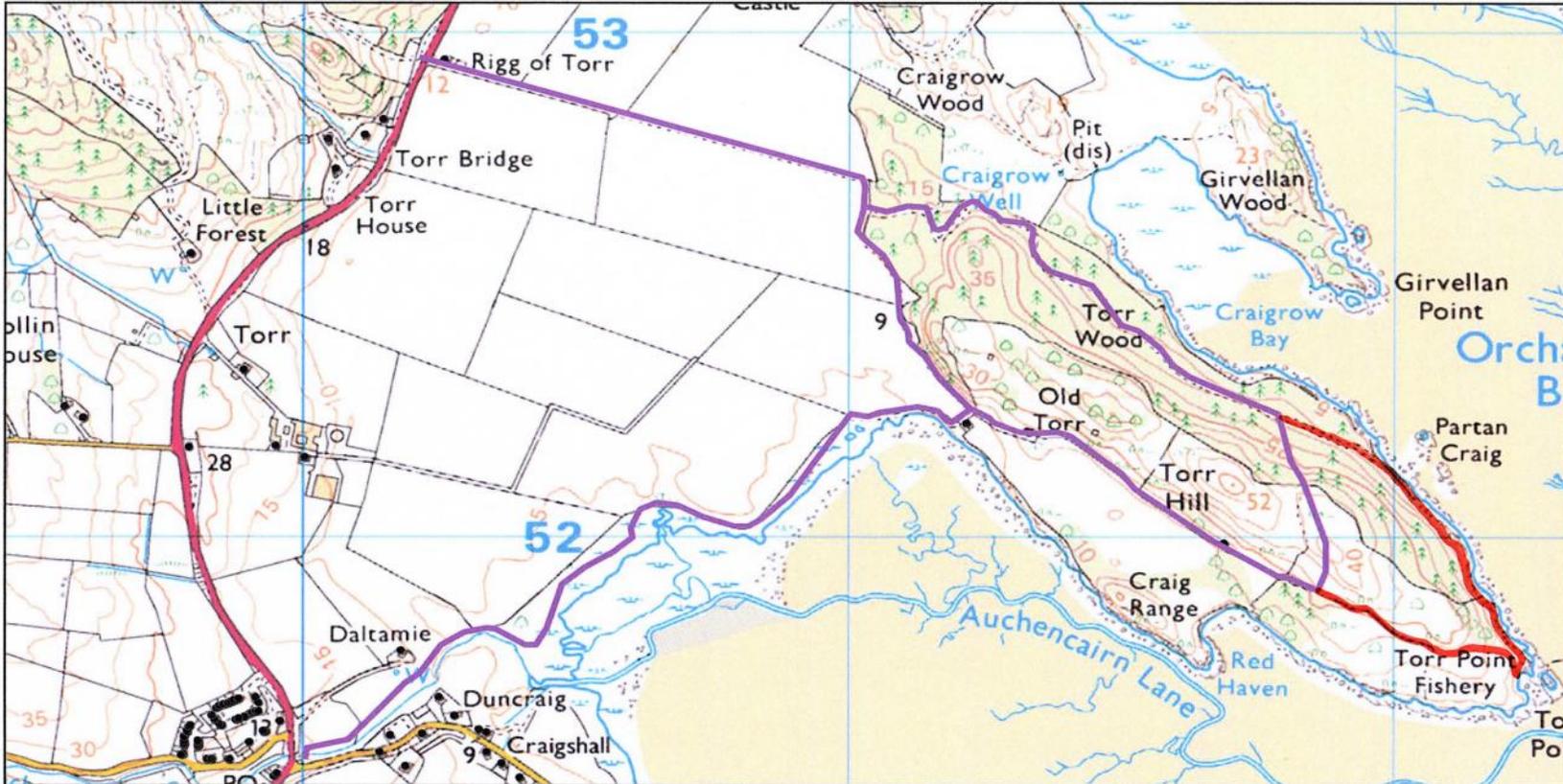


There has long been a path across Auchencairn Bay.

This map, perhaps dating from the 1860s when Tom Ovens bought Torr Farm, shows a path running from the village, past Daltamie and on towards Orchardton, so not the line of the Hugh Paton Path.

But there can be little doubt that the path had been used for many years before that.

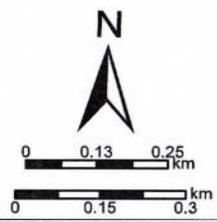




### Core Path 12 Auchencairn



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**This map shows the route of the Hugh Paton Path, adopted by Dumfries and Galloway Council as Core Path 12.**

**It also shows the extended route, beyond the Core Path, that takes you from Red Haven to Torr Point and then back to the Core Path via the little shoreline path past Partan Craig.**

**The path is affected by high tides, particularly at the Boat Field at the eastern end of the Bay. This picture, from 1967, shows what can happen if there is a really high tide.**



**And events like that can have an impact on farming practice as the combine steers round the stranded boat!**





**And of course the high tides can be dangerous for people too.**

**So please don't think of paddling at Red Haven when the seas are roaring in like this.**

**High tides like this can also make the path dangerous and impassable. Check the tides and please don't take risks.**



**After 20 years, constant use and the effects of weather and high tides had taken their toll. Boards were broken, the anti-slip wire netting had itself become a trip hazard, wetter winters were turning parts of the path into a mud-bath and for some, particularly the less able, walking the path was no longer the pleasure it should be.**

**So, working with Dumfries & Galloway Council Access Team the Auchencairn Community Council planned a major up-grade and sought grants to help pay for it.**

**The result was a funding partnership between D&G Council and Auchencairn CC which allowed the much-needed maintenance and the new lengths of boardwalk to be completed under one contract managed by D&G Council.**

**Follow the story to see the difference it has made.....**

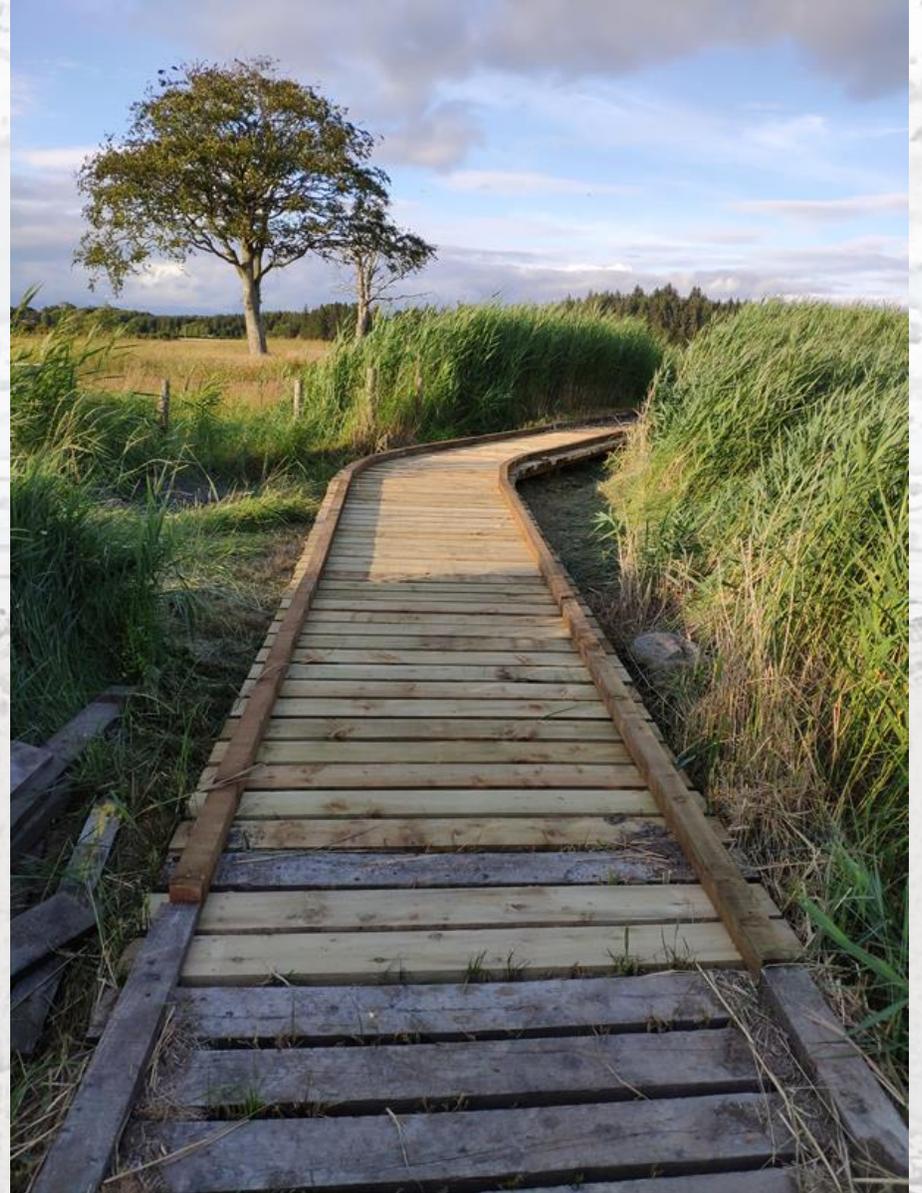


In the next few slides we show you examples of the path before and after GTR did the maintenance and improvement work.....





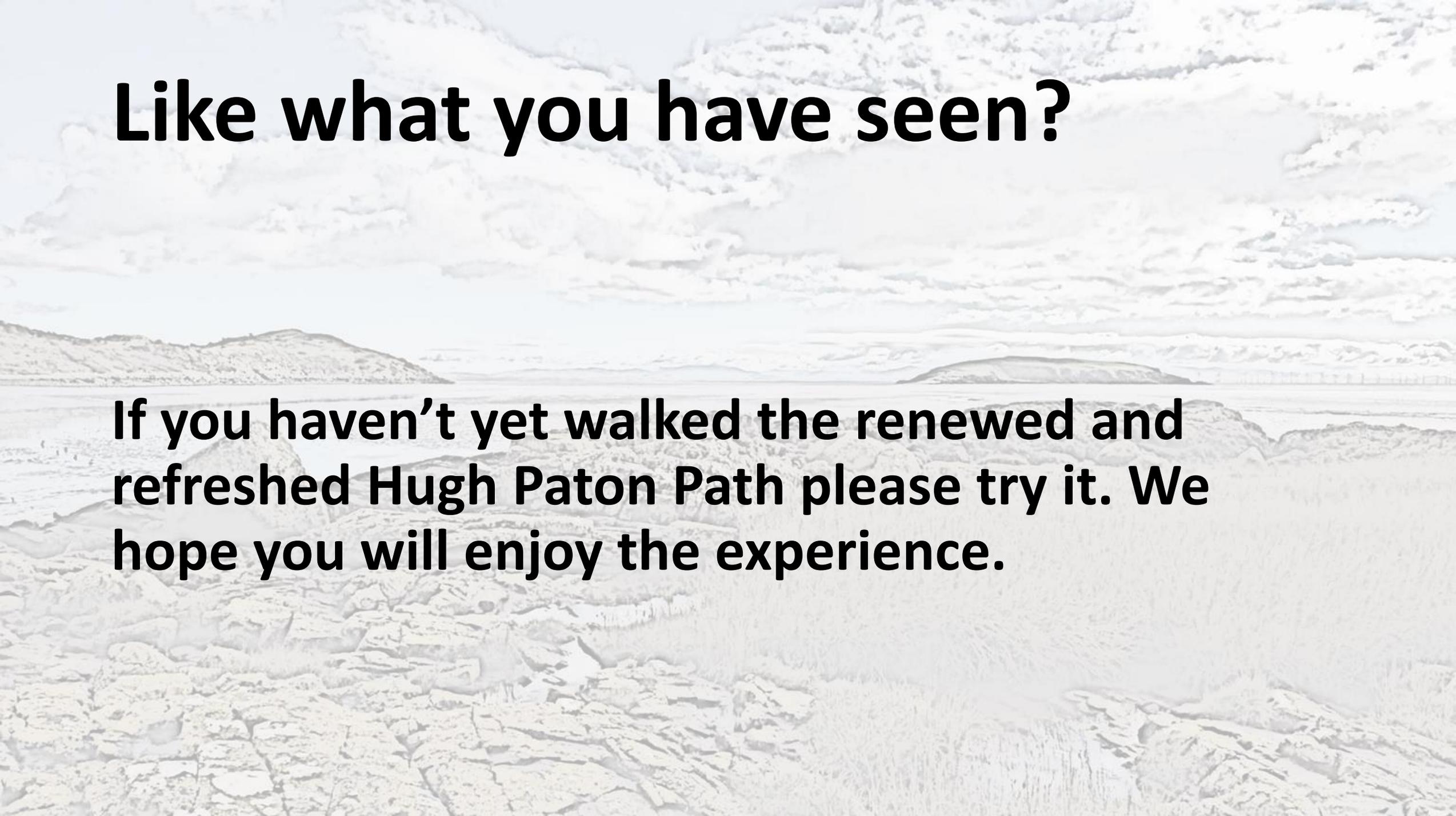










A scenic view of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, a path of light-colored rocks and pebbles leads down towards the water. The middle ground shows a calm sea meeting a hazy, distant shoreline with low hills. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall tone is bright and airy.

# **Like what you have seen?**

**If you haven't yet walked the renewed and refreshed Hugh Paton Path please try it. We hope you will enjoy the experience.**

# **Thanks go to.....**

**The National Lottery Community Fund for substantial grant aid for the new boardwalks**

**Dumfries and Galloway Council for a grant for boardwalk from the Coastal Benefit Fund.**

**The Council's Access Team for their help and advice and for managing the works contract.**

**The Torr Farm team for their positive support and for allowing access to the contractors.**

**The management and staff of GTR for carrying out the maintenance and improvement work.**

**And to all the path-walkers who observed the health and safety precautions during the contract work.**