

DIRECTIONS TO SDSO

Please dress very warmly, as it can get very cold here outdoors at this time of year.

Directions to the Observatory are as follows and assumes travel from Ayr. (please use our directions rather than relying on sat-nav and postcode, which can direct you to the wrong location):



Access is from the A713, just south of Dalmellington. **Do not take the road signposted 'Straiton/Galloway Forest Park' as you are on the wrong side of Dalmellington – you need to continue on the A713 out the other side of the village.**

1. Leaving Dalmellington, travel south on the A713, following signs for 'Carsphairn' and the 'Galloway Tourist Route'
2. After approximately 1 mile, take the right hand turn which is signposted 'Galloway Forest Park' and 'Loch Doon and Castle'.
3. On taking this right hand turn you will cross a stone bridge and you will be on a single lane road.
4. Follow this road straight on.
5. After approximately 1 mile you will cross a cattle grid.
6. After approximately a further ½ mile, at a small crossroads, you will see a sign for SDSO pointing to your right.
7. Take this right turn – you will now be on a single lane forestry track – **max speed 10mph**. Follow this track straight on for approximately 0.3 miles and you will come to a wooden gate.
8. Open the gate and follow the road over a flat wooden bridge (with no sides).
9. Follow the track straight on for approximately 0.4 miles and you will reach another junction.
10. Take the road to the left, leading up a steep hill
(**do not take the road leading straight on as this will take you to a dead end**).
11. After approximately 0.1 miles you will come to a metal deer gate. Pass through this gateway and follow the track uphill.
12. After approximately 0.2 miles you will come to a right hand hairpin bend. Follow the track to the right around the bend (ignore the left hand turn up a steep hill, which is unsuitable for standard vehicle use).
13. After approximately a further 0.4 miles you will come to a sharp left hand corner.
14. Continue on the track and you will see the Observatory appear ahead of you.
15. Just before you reach the building, take the right hand fork, over a small hill, and you will find the visitor car park area ahead of you.

Please take care, use low gear and drive slowly (max speed 10mph), as the road is steep, narrow and rougher than a tarmac surface, but it is easily passable with care.

Please be aware that vehicles are brought on to Observatory land entirely at the drivers own risk.