

Robert Burns

Ellisland to Friar's Carse



Writers' Walks



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Ellisland to Friar's Carse

Along the river Nith, a beautiful and accessible walk. 2 miles. Paths. Level

Captain Robert Riddell of Glenriddel, the owner of Friar's Carse, became friendly with the poet when Burns was farming Ellisland. Riddell built a small summer house, called the 'Hermitage' in a secluded part of Friars Carse estate, just a few fields away from Ellisland. Burns often used the building for writing poetry.

Life is but a day at most,
Sprung from night, in darkness lost;
Hope not sunshine every hour,
Fear not clouds will always lour.

Happiness is but a name,
Make content and ease thy aim.
Ambition is a meteor gleam;
Fame a restless, airy dream;...

(Poem written in Friar's Carse Hermitage)

Mr Nelson of Friars' Carse built another 'Hermitage', of a different design, on the same site in 1874. The building was restored again in 2009. Burns' friendship with the Riddells ended in December 1783 after a re-enactment of the 'Rape of the Sabine Women' went rather wrong.



Burns Driving Tour
Scotland Starts Here



Burns Town Trail
Scotland Starts Here



Burns Globe Inn Tour
Scotland Starts Here