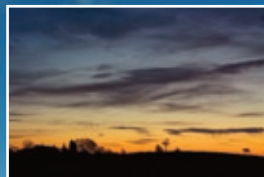


# 10

FAMILY WALKS OF 3 TO 8 MILES

# Walking in East Renfrewshire



Exploring Scotland's Best Kept Secret

*East Renfrewshire*  
COUNCIL

# 10 FAMILY WALKS OF 3 TO 8 MILES



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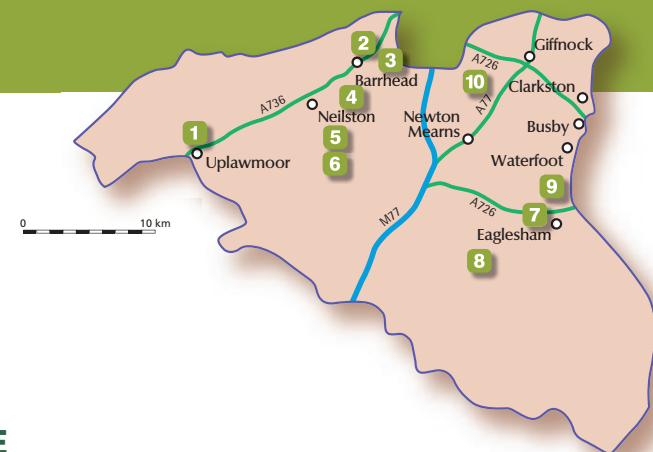
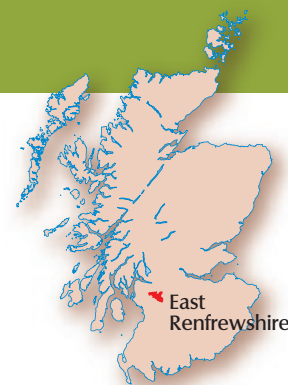
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Front Cover (Main Picture):  
Neilston from Fereneze Braes

## EAST RENFREWSHIRE EXPLORING SCOTLAND'S BEST KEPT SECRET

Much of East Renfrewshire's history is dominated by its mills and agriculture, with almost every village within the region having had a mill (or several) at one time or another, utilizing the rivers and burns descending from the hillsides. It is this landscape that makes walking in East Renfrewshire such a compelling proposition. Much of the region is still rural with great tracts of open countryside punctuated by attractive towns and villages. Hills, moors, woodland, parks, dams, and quiet country roads are home to an incredible array of flora and fauna whilst the nature of the landscape means there are many vantage points to enjoy fantastic, intimate views within East Renfrewshire or breath-taking vistas over Ayrshire, Galloway, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire and the Southern Highlands.

Each walk within this booklet is superb in its own right but take the 10 walks as a whole and you will discover a wonderful variety of walking containing stunning scenery, beautiful wildlife, fascinating history and plenty of peace and quiet.



## USING THIS GUIDE

All walks within this booklet are graded as either EASY or MODERATE depending on distance, terrain, ascent/descent and ease of navigation.

The majority of routes are accessible by public transport and all the routes have excellent car parking at beginning of each walk.

Although the routes described are predominately straightforward some walks contain segments that cross rough, pathless terrain and in poorer weather navigational/map reading skills may be required. Good walking boots/shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather conditions are also recommended. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code should be followed at all times [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com).

Dog walkers be aware that some walks cross farmland. Do not take your dog into fields where young live stock graze. For more info visit [www.snh.gov.uk/pubs/details.asp?id=853](http://www.snh.gov.uk/pubs/details.asp?id=853)

Each walk is split into four sections and the corresponding numbers are printed on the maps. Times are based on walking at approximately two miles an hour taking into account stops for breaks. All routes are covered either by Ordnance Survey Landranger Sheet 64 or by the more detailed Explorer Series comprising of Sheets 333, 334, and 342. Although each route detailed within the booklet has a corresponding map attached it is recommended that the booklet be used in conjunction with the appropriate Ordnance Survey maps. Throughout the booklet left has been abbreviated to L and right to R.

Contact details for Public Transport:  
[www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)  
T. 0871 200 22 33

Public transport timetables and services, accommodation and places for refreshments listed should be checked in advance as they may change.

Accommodation/refreshment providers can be found at [www.dayvisitor.com](http://www.dayvisitor.com)

## ROUTE INFORMATION KEY TO SYMBOLS






Ordnance Survey Map reference	Stiles
Parking	Flora & Fauna
Starting Point	Accommodation
Route Info	Refreshments
	Public Transport





Uplawmoor and Loch Libo from Lochliboside Hills

ROUTE  
INFORMATION

-  Ordnance Survey Explorer 333; Landranger 64
-  Ample parking in Uplawmoor
-  Start at Uplawmoor Hotel GR NS436553
-  Pavement, quiet country roads, farm tracks, hillside paths. The ground along the Lochliboside Hills can be rough and boggy at times. Suitable for most walkers. The route crosses farmland so it is advisable to keep dogs on leads
-  One
-  Beech, rowan, buzzard, brown hare and fieldfare
-  Accommodation available locally
-  Various bars, cafes and restaurants in local area
-  Bus: Arriva Service 103 Glasgow to Barrhead  
Henderson Service 395 Barrhead to Uplawmoor

The Lochliboside Hills may not be the highest in East Renfrewshire but this vantage point is perhaps the region's finest. The stunning views extend to Arran, Galloway, Ailsa Craig and the Arrochar Alps as well as the nature reserve of Loch Libo. Beginning in the attractive village of Uplawmoor the route passes the 15th century Caldwell Tower, standing on the medieval manor of Caldwell, and then crosses the Lochliboside hills. A quiet road descends to the hamlet of Shillford then climbs back into Uplawmoor passing the visible remains of the old Ardrossan to Glasgow Railway Line. The line closed in the 1960's but there have been attempts to instigate the re-opening of the line enabling Glasgow to link directly with the Ayrshire coast.

**1** Facing the Uplawmoor Hotel turn R, walk through the village along Neilston Road passing attractive houses and Caldwell Parish Church. Here the pavement descends gently culminating in a short section of grass verge to reach Lochlibo Road (A736). Turn L, cross the railway bridge, follow the pavement for a short distance until opposite the B776.



Caldwell Tower

**2** Carefully cross Lochlibo Road onto the B776, pass Caldwell Golf Club and walk along a pavement which stops at a car park. From here continue along a grass verge,

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passing the entrance of Caldwell Lodge, the road then climbing steeply past some cottages to reach Old Barn Road. Turn R then R again through a gate, walk a short distance along a path to reach Caldwell Tower. Retrace steps back to Old Barn Road, turn R, climb steadily past Old Barn Farm through attractive countryside to Greenside Farm.

**3** Once by the farm turn R, walk along a farm road enjoying some astonishing views. Pass the entrance of Caldwell Law, go through two gates onto the Lochliboside Hills. Keeping a fence to the R follow a rough, boggy track along the field-edge, where livestock may

be grazing, go through a gate and continue along the hillside eventually passing through another gate. The track splits so take the L fork, walk along the field-edge, with the fence now on the L past a radio mast. Go through another gate and continue to cross a stile. The grassy track then crosses open farmland to reach a fence before a conifer plantation. Follow this to a padlocked gate. Climb over this onto a short section of uneven ground through conifers, then follow the line of a ramshackle wall through gorse thickets to pick up a good grassy path which passes a wood, then a gate before reaching another gate at Fereneze Road.

**4** Turn R, descend Fereneze Road eventually crossing a railway bridge to reach Shillford at Lochlibo Road (A736). Cross over Lochlibo Road onto a minor road signposted for Uplawmoor. Follow this as it climbs gently past the old Ardrossan to Glasgow Railway line, the road crossing the line to reach Neilston Road. Turn R, walk along the grass verge beside lovely woodland back into Uplawmoor.







Glasgow from Fereneze Braes

ROUTE  
INFORMATION

Ordnance Survey  
Explorer 342;  
Landranger 64



Ample parking in  
Barrhead



Start at Barrhead Railway  
Station GR NS498593



Pavement, moorland  
paths, single track road.  
There are a couple of  
steepish climbs. Route  
is way-marked where  
necessary. Suitable for  
most walkers. The route  
crosses farmland so it is  
advisable to keep dogs  
on leads



None



Roe deer, kestrel, rowan,  
beech, crowberry and  
bluebells



Accommodation  
available locally



Various bars, cafes and  
restaurants in local area



Train: Scotrail  
Glasgow Central to  
Barrhead

Bus: McGills  
Services 51 and 54  
Paisley to Barrhead

East Renfrewshire is blessed with some amazing vantage points, not least Fereneze Braes which has astounding views across Glasgow with the spectacular frontier of the Southern Highlands dominating the horizon. Closer to home the view over Neilston to Eaglesham moors is equally impressive as is the variety of wildlife en route. The beautiful Killoch Glen is also visited (home to several lovely waterfalls) which was the subject of a song by the great Paisley poet Robert Tannahill. This route is waymarked.

**1** From Barrhead Railway Station cross Paisley Road into Graham Street. Walk along the pavement, cross Laurel Way then at a signpost for Killoch Glen, bear R through a gap in the fence. Climb path over steeper, boggy ground passing through two more fences then climb through mixed woodland where views across East Renfrewshire open out. Continue along the path beside Fereneze Golf Course to reach a pocket of woodland and a signpost for Killoch Glen. Turn R here and climb gradually beside the golf course to reach the top of the slope passing the 15th and 14th tees - the views to the Southern Highlands are breathtaking.

**2** Descend to another signpost and turn L onto a track which continues above Harelaw Reservoir. At a wooden post bear L onto a narrow path, cross a footbridge then as the path forks at another wooden post bear L. On reaching a gate go through it then turn R onto a single track road. Walk along to a signpost for Killoch Glen and turn L. Go through a gate onto a

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grassy path and follow this between a wall and fence through another gate and go straight on at a signpost for Paisley/Glenburn. After another gate follow a boggy path over a footbridge to climb gradually to a magnificent viewpoint at a small cairn.

**3** Retrace steps back to Paisley/Glenburn sign then turn R through a gate signposted for Killoch Glen. Walk along a mixture of grassy path and boardwalk, go through a gate, follow the path over two footbridges passing

through another gate. Climb a small rise for a superb view of Neilston then walk along the path to reach a fence. Turn L, descend steep wooden steps then turn R through a gate. Walk along the path, go straight through another gate then descend alongside saplings into Killoch Glen. The path then swings L to continue beside a wood to reach a signpost.

**4** Turn R down some steps, go through a gate then turn L into beautiful mixed woodland above some tremendous waterfalls. As the path forks bear R continue above steep slopes through the glen down a flight of steps and over two footbridges. At another fork go R and walk down to a road. Turn L and follow this very pleasant stretch through Gateside back to Barrhead Railway Station.







Balgray Reservoir

ROUTE  
INFORMATION

-  Ordnance Survey Explorer 342; Landranger 64
-  Car park at start
-  Start at Balgraystone Road GR NS507573
-  Lochside track, park tracks and paths, pavement. Suitable for all walkers
-  None
-  Swans, geese, dragonflies, beech, great crested grebe and orchids
-  Accommodation available locally
-  Various bars, cafes and restaurants in local area
-  None to start

Although Dams to Darnley is Glasgow's newest park the history of the surrounding landscape travels back many centuries with evidence of farming having taken place in Barrhead and Darnley since the 16th century whilst coal mining and bleaching also played a major role in Darnley's development. Heading further back into history the Darnley Sycamore, which the route visits, was where Mary, Queen of Scots allegedly nursed her cousin Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, back to health. They married in 1565 but the subsequent tragic tale that ensued is another story. The main section of the route passes the magnificent dams of Balgray, Ryat Linn and Waulkmill Glen which were built in the 18th century, utilising the Brock Burn, to provide clean water for Govan's residents. The walk then travels through Waulkmill Glen (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) which is home to splendid woodland and wildlife. This route is waymarked.

**1** From car park on Balgraystone Road turn L onto path signposted for Waulkmill Glen. Follow the path anti-clockwise around Balgray Reservoir. The path travels through some beautiful scenery with a variety of woodland and birdlife to enjoy. As you walk towards Aurs Road cross over a footbridge passing the impressive house of Mains of Balgray whilst the draw off tower at the northern side of the reservoir is a Grade B listed building.

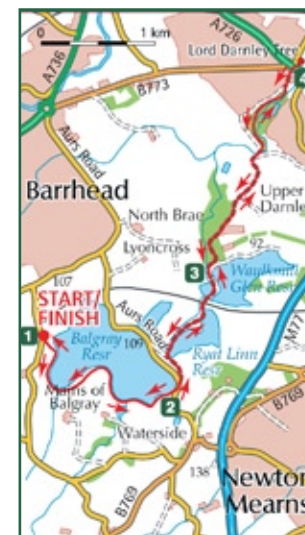
Waulkmill Glen Reservoir



Two more bridges are crossed to reach the busy Aurs Road.

**2** Carefully cross Aurs Road, go through a gate, follow the path down by hedgerows then turn R at a signpost for Darnley Mill. Cross a footbridge beside a dramatic waterfall and follow the path beside Ryat Linn Reservoir and attractive woodland. The path then runs in-between stone walls to reach a fork. Bear L passing underneath the wonderful red brick railway viaduct and descend to Waulkmill Glen Reservoir. Continue along the path as it swings L to reach a fork.

**3** Take the L fork and descend down into the woodland of Waulkmill Glen (where many of the trees are extremely old) passing another huge waterfall which helps the Brock Burn run its course all the way to join the White Cart at Pollok. The track descends past a



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cottage onto a single-track road which leads out of the woodland and travels through peaceful countryside towards Darnley. On the outskirts of Darnley a bridge crosses over the Brock Burn. Once over the bridge turn R off the road through 2 stone pillars and onto a good path which makes its way through more attractive woodland and then climbs L to meet another path. Turn R here and follow the path over a footbridge to reach a signpost for Darnley Mill. Turn L, then R back onto the single track road and continue past some houses and a restaurant to reach the A726. Carefully cross the A726 at traffic lights to reach the Darnley Sycamore.

**4** To return to the start it is a simple matter of retracing footsteps climbing through Waulkmill Glen, passing by the three dams and back to Balgraystone Road.







Balgray Reservoir and Glasgow from The Craigie

## ROUTE INFORMATION



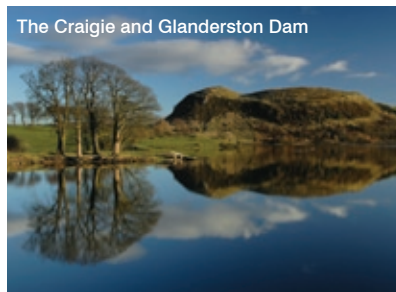
-  Ordnance Survey Explorer 333; Landranger 64
-  Ample parking next to Neilston Railway Station
-  Start at Neilston Railway Station GR NS479571
-  Pavement, farm roads, field, hill paths. Steepish climb onto The Craigie. Suitable for most walkers. The route crosses farmland so it is advisable to keep dogs on leads
-  Three
-  Heron, buzzards, roe deer, harebells
-  Accommodation available locally
-  The Bank Cafe, Neilston
-  Train: Scotrail Glasgow Central to Neilston.
- Bus: Henderson Service 395 Barrhead to Neilston
- McGills Service 54 Paisley to Neilston

East Renfrewshire's landscape is littered with historical curiosities and this walk provides plenty of evidence. For instance the name Neilston has led to much conjecture but one theory suggests a stone, which is passed en route, was erected to the memory of an officer named Neil who was killed nearby. The route also walks along Johnny Blue's Well Road which is, allegedly, named after a local print-worker who washed himself clean of blue dye in the well's waters as he travelled home to Neilston. Whether this account is true remains unclear but it adds flavour to this wonderful walk. Duncarnock (known locally as The Craigie) is also visited. Visible remains of an iron-age fort lie near the 204 metre summit and its history extends back to prehistoric times. Furthermore Mary, Queen of Scots supposedly enjoyed the remarkable view from the top.

**1** From Neilston Railway Station turn R, onto High Street, walk along here, turn L into Kirkton Road. Pass the field containing the stone that gives Neilston its name and continue along the quiet single-track road through peaceful countryside. The road bears L past Loanfoot Farm then passes a few cottages to reach the junction with Springhill Road.

**2** Cross Springhill Road, go through a gate into a field. Bear R cross the field to a wood, turn L following a fence down to a gate. Go through

The Craigie and Glanderston Dam



the gate and descend to a fisherman's bothy beside Glanderston Dam with The Craigie ahead then turn L and walk along a track. Before reaching a gate turn R over a stile, follow a grass embankment above the dam and cross over a low fence beside four sycamore trees. At the end of the embankment descend L, cross a stile, a wooden footbridge then turn R, walk alongside a row of hawthorn trees keeping them on the R. After the last tree bear R. Walk towards a wooden stile at a wall, cross the stile and turn L following an uneven path below The Craigie. As the path begins

to climb turn R at a fork and ascend steep slopes, passing the fortified walls, to reach the summit which provides an astonishing view the Southern Highland and Glasgow.

**3** Retrace steps back down to Glanderston Dam and after the third stile turn R to reach a gate. Go over the gate, turn L, walk along a farm track then bear L onto Glanderston Road. Continue alongside woodland then turn R onto Springhill Road. Follow this through lovely open countryside to reach Five-Ways junction.

**4** Turn L onto Springfield Road (Johnny Blue's Well Road), go round a tight bend, pass the well, continue alongside hedgerows eventually dropping down into Neilston at Sykes Terrace. Walk past a row of white houses to traffic lights. Follow the narrow road across a bridge to reach a roundabout. Turn R onto Kirktonfield Road, follow this to Neilston Main Street, turn L, pass the Leisure Centre and Neilston Library, turn L onto High Street and walk back to the Railway Station.



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Harelaw Dam from Neilston Pad at dawn

ROUTE  
INFORMATION

-  Ordnance Survey Explorer 333; Landranger 64
-  Ample parking next to Neilston Railway Station
-  Neilston Railway Station GR NS479571
-  Pavement, farm road, hill paths and tracks. Steepish climb onto Neilston Pad. Suitable for most walkers. The route crosses farmland so it is advisable to keep dogs on leads
-  One
-  Buzzard, stonechat, roe deer, foxglove, harebell
-  Accommodation available locally
-  The Bank Cafe, Neilston
-  Train: Scotrail Glasgow Central to Neilston
- Bus: Henderson Travel Service 395 Barrhead to Neilston
- McGills Service 54 Paisley to Neilston

The first written record mentioning Neilston was in the 12th century when Sir Robert de Croc built a chapel in the village which was correlated with Paisley Abbey and during the Industrial Revolution Neilston, with its abundance of burns and rivers, flourished becoming a centre for cotton manufacturing. Neilston Pad, the villages highest point, is an ideal spot to survey the wonderful, wild landscape that was crucial to Neilston's development and at 260m above sea level views from 'The Pad' extend as far afield as Tinto Hill and Arran.

**1** From Neilston Railway Station turn R onto High Street (Kingston Road) and walk past a park, cross over Kingston Avenue and Glen Shee Avenue. Cross over to the left hand side of Kingston Road, then turn L onto a farm track. Follow the track as it meanders away from Neilston with the countryside immediately opening out to reach Craig of Neilston Farm. Bear R here to reach a gate. Go through the gate and climb gently beside a wood, passing a track on the R to reach a wall and



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here the track turns L making its way over a field (watch out for cattle) to reach a gate.

**2** After the gate turn R from the main track climbing onto the lower slopes of Neilston Pad. At a wooden post turn L and traverse the slopes along a narrow path through fantastic woodland with great views across Snypes Dam towards Dod Hill. The path continues through the woodland and then climbs quite steeply to reach a broader path. Turn R and follow the path to a fence and a makeshift stile, cross here and follow path onto Neilston Pad which has views of Arran and Ben Lomond.

**3** Retrace steps back to fence, cross over onto the path and descend past some conifers. The path narrows as it turns L then R at a seat. Follow the path, which can be boggy, down to a wide track. Turn R then R again onto another track, follow this through lovely countryside for a few hundred metres, passing an indistinct path on the L. From here there are 2 options: the main track can be followed to point 4 or take the next track on the L leading to Craighall



Scots Pine, Neilston Pad

Dam. For this option follow this narrow path passing by a dry-stone dyke to reach the dam then walk through a conifer plantation towards a main road. Just before the main road an indistinct path turns R. Follow this through more conifers to return to the farm track just north of Craighall Dam.

**4** Turn L and follow the track alongside conifers to a gate. Go through the gate and descend to a wood, go through two gates, then bear L onto the farm road leading down, through one more gate, to Craig of Neilston Farm. Follow this back to Kingston Road, turn R and walk back to Neilston Railway Station.










Neilston Pad from Harelaw Dam

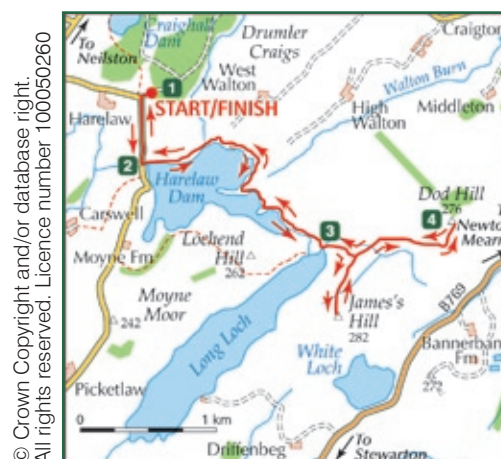
ROUTE  
INFORMATION

-  Ordnance Survey Explorer 333 & 334, Landranger 64
-  Car park at start
-  Start at car park near to Neilston Pad GR NS472545
-  Single-track road, moorland, hill paths. Some sections of pathless terrain requiring navigational skills in poor weather. Suitable for most walkers. The route crosses farmland so it is advisable to keep dogs on leads
-  Two
-  Deer, kestrel, buzzard, wildflowers
-  Accommodation available locally
-  Various bars and cafes in local area
-  None to start

The countryside above Neilston is littered with fantastic lochs, including Long Loch and Harelaw and the higher ground above these two lochs, and the surrounding landscape, provide a superb walk with breathtaking views. However the wild nature of the walk is the greatest surprise and at certain points no road or house can be seen adding to the sense of peace and quiet that prevails. As well as passing Harelaw and Long Loch the route visits James's Hill and Dod Hill, both providing superb views encompassing much of East Renfrewshire, Ayrshire, and Galloway.

**1** From the car park, turn L and climb single-track road towards Harelaw Dam. The road then descends past the fishing club hut and here turn L from the road.

**2** Climb past the hut onto a path. Follow the path above Harelaw Dam to a gate. Go through the gate onto open fields, the path continuing beside the loch to reach a stile. Cross the stile, bear L slightly to avoid some boggy, tussocky ground then follow firmer ground to reach a low wall, which is easily crossed. Bear R back to the loch, follow a narrow path to reach another wall. Climb over a locked gate, cross a short section of boggy ground to reach the loch shore. Turn R onto an embankment, follow a good path above the loch. When the track peters out follow the loch edge to meet a narrow path, then bear L at a promontory. Follow the loch onto a good track, cross a stile, then continue alongside the loch onto an indistinct path to reach the head of Harelaw. From here follow a burn



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and a wall east underneath Lochend Hill over pathless ground to a metal gate. Go through the gate, cross a narrow burn, bear R, follow the wall to reach a dam at the head of Long Loch. Turn L, follow an indistinct path beside the loch onto a grassy track, continue underneath the slopes of James's Hill to a fence. Turn R, follow the fence up grassy slopes to a gate. Turn R, climb another grassy slope to the cairn on James's Hill, its 282m summit providing stunning views to the likes of Arran and Ben Lomond.



Winter morning near Harelaw Dam

**3** From James's Hill retrace steps back to gate, go through here, turn R onto boggy ground, follow the fence towards Dod Hill. The field then drops down onto a broad track, which crosses a burn then climbs gently to a flatter section of open moorland. Bear R onto a narrower path, walk east to the base of Dod Hill. Climb the short, steep shoulder of Dod Hill onto its plateau, which has exemplary views of Neilston Pad and Ballageich.

**4** To return to the start, retrace steps back to Long Loch and to Harelaw. Follow the outward-bound route to Harelaw Fishing Hut, turn R onto the single-track road and return to the car park.
















Autumn Colours, The Orry

ROUTE  
INFORMATION

-  Ordnance Survey Explorer 334, Landranger 64
-  Ample parking in Eaglesham
-  Start at Corner of Gilmour St and Polnoon St GR NS573521
-  Woodland, pavement, single-track road, farm track, moorland paths. Ballageich includes steepish ascent/descent and a section of featureless plateau, which may require navigational skills in poor weather. The route crosses farmland so it is advisable to keep dogs on leads
-  None
-  Kestrel, snipe, lapwing
-  Accommodation available locally
-  Various bars, cafes and restaurants in local area
-  Bus: First in Scotland Service 44 Glasgow to Eaglesham

At 333 metres Ballageich is East Renfrewshire's highest point, its magnificent panorama extending for miles and its broad, featureless plateau home to a spectacular array of wildlife. The walk begins in Eaglesham, which became Scotland's first village to be listed as a place of special historical interest due to its distinctive 'A' shaped design. The Orry, a beautiful slice of woodland, nestles within the village and sits in sharp contrast to the wildness of Eaglesham Moor. The route also passes near to North Moorhouse Farm, birthplace of Robert Pollok whose works include 'Tales of the Covenanters' and his colossal 'The Course of Time'.

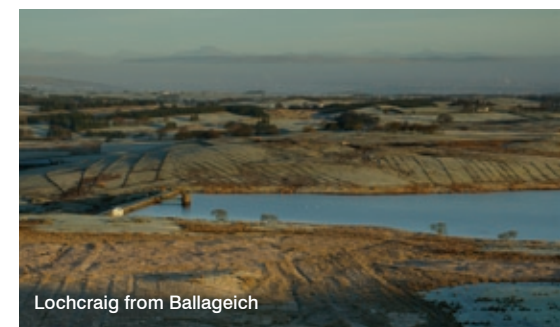
**1** From corner of Gilmour Street/Polnoon Street bear L onto open grassland, walk past the Centenary Monument and a large elm tree. Turn R climb a path that crosses Mid Road into The Orry, which comprises predominantly of beech trees and looks superb in autumn. Walk through The Orry, with a burn and waterfall to the L to reach a roundabout at the corner of Polnoon and Montgomery Street.



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**2** Cross Montgomery St, turn R onto Moor Road, climb past Picketlaw Dam (so named because Covenanters placed pickets here to warn of any approach from adversaries) and follow the road as it climbs steadily for a couple of miles passing Greenfield Cottage to reach a lay-by opposite Greenfield Farm.

**3** Turn R here, cross a low gate and climb the steep path onto the wild moorland of Ballageich. A path crosses the featureless, marshy plateau but peters out making it tricky in misty conditions. Continue in a westerly direction passing a small cairn signifying the highest point of Ballageich. A path is picked up again which swings L high above Bannan Loch. Once above its eastern end turn R and descend north down steepish slopes, cross a dilapidated wall to a fence at Bannan Loch, which is easily negotiated. A path runs above Bannan Loch to reach a draw-off tower. Turn R, go down some steps, cross a bridge, go through a gate, onto a farm track, which continues through wild countryside, crossing a cattle grid, to reach Lochcraig. Continue past the loch, pass through another gate and just before reaching



Lochcraig from Ballageich

South Moorhouse Farm turn R and follow a track to a gate. Go through here enjoying marvellous views of Arran and Ben Lomond to a fork. Take the R fork onto a grassy track, follow this through one more gate to reach East Moorhouse Farm.

**4** Go through a gate, turn R onto a single-track road. Follow this through open countryside passing an entrance road to North Moorhouse Farm to reach a fork. Take the R fork, follow the road past Bonnyton Golf Club then continue over a bridge, past North Kirktonmoor Farm and return to Moor Road. Turn L, walk back to Polnoon and Montgomery Street, bear R, descend Montgomery Street to finish at Gilmour Street.







Whitelees Windfarm

ROUTE  
INFORMATION

-  Ordnance Survey Explorer 334, Landranger 64
-  Car park at visitor centre
-  Start at Whitelees Visitor Centre GR NS532493
-  Moorland paths and tracks. One short section of boggy, pathless ground. Sheep graze on the surrounding moorland. The route crosses farmland so it is advisable to keep dogs on leads
-  One
-  Grouse, dunlin, snipe, geese
-  Accommodation available locally
-  Whitelees Visitor Centre
-  None to start

Whitelees is Europe's largest onshore windfarm and, love it or not, the windfarm and necessary road network has created a fantastic walk across the wild Eaglesham Moor. The views are simply stunning with Galloway, Ayrshire, Goat Fell, Ben More and Stob Binnein included in a magnificent 360-degree panorama. Although the windfarm is a recent phenomenon, Eaglesham Moors are indelibly linked with the Covenanters whose opposition to the Restoration Regime of the 17th century led to the Scottish Covenanting Movement. Covenanters were held on the moors and the magnificent Lochgoin Museum, which resides in a single room nearby at Lochgoin Farm, is well worth a visit to learn more about this turbulent period in Scotland's history. This route is waymarked.

**1** From the visitor centre car park, turn R onto a broad track, pass through a gate and descend to Turbine 40. Turn L at a signpost for Lochgoin and climb the broad track to another signpost. Turn R onto a solid path and follow this with spectacular views over Eaglesham Moor to Ayrshire to Galloway. Turn L onto a broader track at Turbine 41, and continue along the track turning R just before Turbine 54.

**2** Walk down to cross a cattle grid with Lochgoin appearing on the R. Follow the track above the loch and at the next junction turn R to continue below the slopes of Blackwood Hill. Pass by a signpost for Blackwood Hill (a short climb leads to the top) and continue into the heart of the moors with superb views



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across Glasgow. The track makes its way past Dunwan Dam and the fort of Dunwan Hill then swings R passing Turbine 87. Continue over a cattle grid, pass a conifer plantation and Turbine 88 to reach a signpost for Lochgoin Circuit.

**3** Turn R, walk down the track through a gate and continue alongside Lochgoin, with the magnificent profile of Arran ahead, to reach turbine 27. Just after this a path turns R from the track leading to Lochgoin. Follow this to reach a grass embankment and continue above



the loch passing a fishing hut to reach a gate. Cross a stile, then go through a second gate.

**4** Turn R onto the moor and bear R to a fence. (Note: At the time of writing the moor to Turbine 11 is marshy and rough underfoot but a new path is to be built and will be ready in the Spring of 2011). Follow the fence line for a short distance across marshy, uneven ground, to reach a gate near Turbine 11. Turn R, cross over a low fence here, and a final few metres of uneven ground are crossed to reach the main track at Turbine 11. Turn R and follow the track to reach Turbine 42. Bear L past the turbine and follow the track as it descends to reach the outward-bound track. Turn L here and retrace steps back to the visitor centre.
















Wide open spaces above Waterfoot

## ROUTE INFORMATION



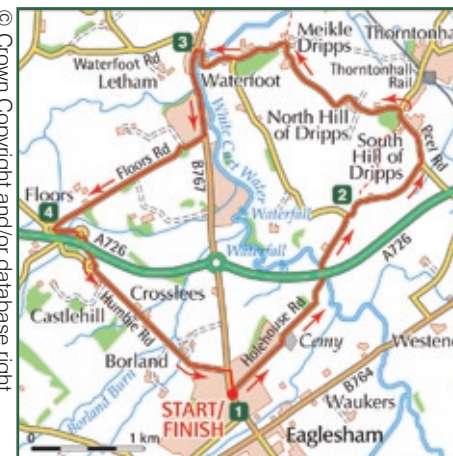
-  Ordnance Survey Explorer 334, Landranger 64
-  Ample parking in Eaglesham
-  Start at Corner of Glasgow Road and Holehouse Road, Eaglesham, GR NS572524
-  Pavement and quiet country roads
-  None
-  Ash, birch, sycamore, beech, buzzards, rooks, kestrel
-  Accommodation available locally
-  Various bars, cafes and restaurants in local area
-  Bus: First in Scotland Service 44 Glasgow to Eaglesham

Leaving from Eaglesham this walk travels along quiet, country roads crossing into South Lanarkshire at Thortonhall, journeying back into East Renfrewshire to visit Waterfoot before returning to Eaglesham via Old Humble Road. With the countryside being predominantly flat, the wide-open spaces catch the eye with superb views throughout. The route also highlights some idiosyncrasies of the Scottish language. The word 'Dripps' features on several occasions. Apparently the area was granted to a Norman Barron called Le Drep, over time it was wrongly spelled as Le Drip and at a time when farmers took their surname from their farm, 'Dripps' became a common moniker.

**1** From Glasgow Road (B767) walk along Holehouse Road to reach Eaglesham Cemetery. Here the pavement ends and Holehouse Road continues as a quiet single-track road away from Eaglesham alongside fields. It descends past Holehouse Farm and then underneath the A726. An old ford crosses the White Cart with the road then climbing gently alongside hedgerows.

**2** On reaching a fork turn R for Thortonhall with wonderful big views opening out across East Renfrewshire. The road leads to another junction. Turn L onto a wider road, walk into Thortonhall passing by South Hill of Dripps and several impressive stone villas. Walk along the road to reach a single-track road signposted for Waterfoot. Turn L and continue along through charming countryside enjoying great views of Glasgow and of Neilston Pad. Once past North Hill of Dripps the road bends tightly to the L then bears R wending its way

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through hedgerows passing Townhead of Dripps then Meikle Dripps (Meikle being Scots for large and applies here to the larger of the two neighbouring farms). As the road swings L lovely views extend over Busby and Clarkston. It then makes its way alongside hedgerows and woodland, comprising of ash, birch and beech, passes several large houses and a side road for Eaglesham. Ignore this, instead follow the road down into Waterfoot. Pass Dripps Mill then cross a bridge over the White Cart to reach Glasgow Road (B767).

**3** Turn L onto Glasgow Road, walk along the pavement above the Cart, cross a road bridge over the Earn Water, continue past Waterfoot Bank until opposite Floors Road. Carefully cross Glasgow Road and climb Floors Road, enjoying the peaceful surrounds with the views opening out towards the Highlands.

**4** At the top of Floors Road turn L at a roundabout, follow a verge to reach a second roundabout, turn R go underneath the A726 by an underpass and climb to a third roundabout. Turn L onto Old Humble Road, descend towards Eaglesham, crossing the Borland Burn by Humble Bridge to reach a pavement. Walk along the pavement into Eaglesham, turn R to finish on Glasgow Road.

Countryside around Waterfoot







Autumn colours, Rouken Glen

ROUTE  
INFORMATION

- Ordnance Survey Explorer 342; Landranger 64
- Ample parking on Davieland Road
- Whitecraigs Railway Station GR NS553577

- Open parkland, woodland paths and short section of pavement. Suitable for all walkers

- None
- Swans, tufted duck, chaffinch, goldcrest, oak, sycamore, wildflowers

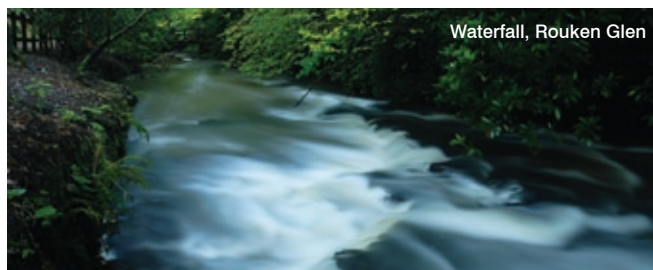
- Accommodation available locally
- Cafes available in park

- Train: Scotrail Glasgow Central to Whitecraigs.

- Bus: First in Scotland Service 38 Glasgow to Treemain Road, Giffnock (short walk to start)

In a city renowned for its parks Rouken Glen holds its own against some stiff competition. Although open to the public since 1906, Rouken Glen's history dates back to 1530 when it was presented to the 1st Earl of Eglinton by James V. The park has since been used for quarrying whilst its rivers have provided water for a meal mill and a printworks. The route described reveals the wonderful diversity within the park following excellent paths along open parkland and through wonderful woodland.

**1** From Whitecraigs Railway Station ticket office turn R, walk to a set of traffic lights, turn L onto Davieland Road, walk past first entrance to the park, and continue to the second entrance at the boating pond. Turn L into Rouken Glen, bear L past the cafe and walk clockwise around the pond. Take the second exit L to cross a footbridge above a spectacular waterfall and then follow the path into open parkland and descend down to a wood. From here a lovely lane travels by Rouken Glen Golf Course through beautiful woodland. Continue to follow the lane reaching Rouken Glen Golf Course car park and the B769 Stewarton Road.



Waterfall, Rouken Glen

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**2** Turn R onto the B769, follow the pavement down to Spiersbridge Roundabout, turn R onto Rouken Glen Road (A726) and walk along to re-enter Rouken Glen by turning R into a car park. Walk clockwise around car park to reach an information board next to the garden centre.

**3** Turn L then R onto open parkland, follow the path past Birkinshaw Cottage and the entrance to the Walled Garden. Bear R onto a narrower path

and follow this to turn L onto a woodland path. Follow this to a standing stone, bear R down some steps and continue along the peaceful path above a river. Turn R down a flight of steps, cross a footbridge. Turn L, follow the path by another waterfall and then turn L down another flight of steps. Cross a footbridge, turn L and continue along the path to reach an old stone wall. Turn R, and climb to a crossroads. Turn R onto a path and walk through more superb woodland. Stick to the main path as it meanders through the glen passing by two viewpoints. Cross over a footbridge and turn L back into the main park.

**4** Walk to the end of a line of beech trees, turn L and follow the path through the park to a junction. Turn L and walk down past Birkinshaw Cottage, take the second R follow path past a swing-park and a pavilion to reach a small car park. Take the second R, pass by a skate-park, turn L then L again and walk back to the boating pond. After the cafe bear L onto a grassy ridge and follow this back to the park's exit. Turn R to reach Whitecraigs Railway Station.





# 10 WALKS IN EAST RENFREWSHIRE | 3 TO 8 MILES



Artist vision of Main Street



Looking to the future



The Old Bank

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