



VisitLanarkshire.com

WALKING & CYCLING IN LANARKSHIRE



25 Routes
for all ages and abilities
across North and South
Lanarkshire

The Herald



- 1 Shorter cycle routes*
- 1 Longer cycle routes
- 1 Shorter walking routes
- 1 Longer walking routes

* map pins are not precise and are a guide only





VISIT LANARKSHIRE

PERFECTLY PLACED, PERFECTLY PACED

IF YOU LOVE walking and cycling, you'll love Lanarkshire. In this latest selection of routes, you will find that the experience just keeps getting better.

Cycling, given such a boost in recent years by our success in the Commonwealth and Olympic Games as well as the increasing emphasis on eco-friendly travel, is well represented in our guide.

Lanarkshire offers a variety of routes for all ages and abilities - from the steep climbs of the Campsies to the urban trails through the area's rich industrial heritage.

Since the pandemic, walking in the great outdoors has gained popularity and our guide reflects this with a rich selection of paths through varied landscapes.

For wildlife, try the walk out of Cumbernauld that takes in the urban wildlife reserve at

Luggiebank before climbing up to the high moors of Palacerigg Country Park.

At the other end of the region, the Carmichael History Walk runs around the Carmichael Estate and traces the footsteps of Clan Carmichael back to the 14th century.

But the common thread to all of these routes is that you don't have to travel miles to enjoy them - Lanarkshire is accessible to millions yet retains many peaceful and seldom explored corners.

This booklet outlines routes with something to offer walkers and cyclists of all ages and stages.

Alive with historic sites, bountiful opportunities to see life in the wild and well stocked with restaurants, pubs and cafés, walking and cycling in Lanarkshire offers an abundance of wonderful days out.

Contents

Shorter cycle routes (under 10 miles/16km)	page 4
.....	
Longer cycle routes (over 10 miles/16km)	14
.....	
Shorter walking routes (under 5 miles/8km)	34
.....	
Longer walking routes (over 5 miles/8km)	46

Key

- OS Map
- Start/Finish point
- Distance
- Elevation
- Time
- Difficulty level
- Transport links
- Terrain
- Refreshments



SHORTER CYCLE ROUTES

(under 10 miles/16km)



■ With miles and miles of paths, Kilsyth is a great place for gentle cycling away from the traffic.

Colzium Estate, the Forth and Clyde canal, the Dumbreck marshes and a brush with the Antonine Wall mean that there is enough interest to turn a short route into a full day of exploration.

Highlights

Colzium Lennox Estate Centred on the 18th Century Colzium House, the surrounding parkland includes the ruins of the 15th Century Colzium Castle, the site of the Battle of Kilsyth (1645), a walled garden and one of the oldest curling ponds in the world.

Forth and Clyde Canal Engineer John Smeaton chose a similar route to the Antonine Wall for his canal linking the North Sea and the Firth of Clyde. Work began in 1768 and it was opened in 1790.

Route

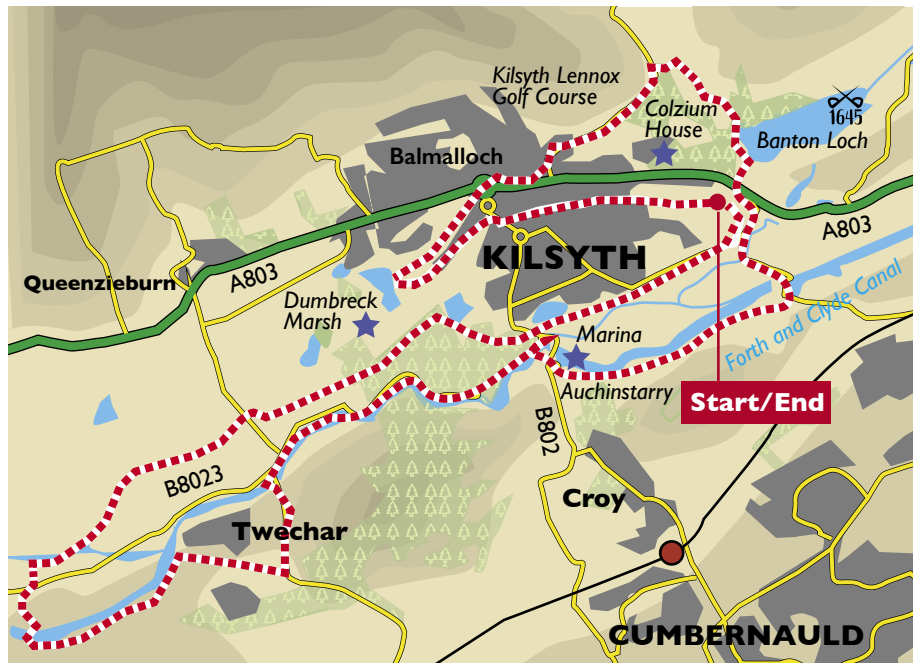
- ▶ From Market Square go to the left, turn left into Burngreen and along cobbled road past park and old library.
- ▶ Continue straight on to road indicated as dead end. Dismount to tackle small sets of steps, emerge at Stirling Road.
- ▶ Cross Stirling Road on to Takma-doon road. After short distance take right on to path signposted for Banton, Colzium and Bluebell Wood. Short steep climb takes you to level path.
- ▶ Keep right along path (though you can climb to Colzium house by taking a left at the small stone



bridge) until you reach driveway at children's playpark.

- ▶ Turn right on to drive and follow to entrance to estate on Stirling Road.
- ▶ Turn right and follow footpath for 250 yards, then turn right, carefully crossing main road to take the road for Dullatur.

- ▶ Follow minor road round to the left and then round to the right. Take left fork for Dullatur on the downhill.
- ▶ Continue to canal and go to the right to join towpath. Follow towpath under bridge at Auchinstarry and continue to Twechar.
- ▶ Leave towpath at Twechar bridge and loop back on to road and take next left towards Queenzieburn. Continue for 150 yards and take up footpath on right for Dumbreck Marsh and Kilsyth.
- ▶ Follow tarmac path downhill and over narrow bridge then follow gravel path – Dumbreck Marsh is on your left. Stay with the gravel path and the Dock Water.



- ▶ Just after Dumbreck marshes take left fork signed 'Kilsyth town centre'. Path becomes rough.
- ▶ Follow stream into Kilsyth past Astro turf playing fields. At St Patrick's Primary follow gravel



KIRSTY ANDERSON

- 📖 OS Explorer 343
- 📍 Market Square, Kilsyth
- 🚆 Train: Croy (1.5 miles)
- 📞 Coachman Hotel, Kilsyth 01236 821649; The Boathouse, Auchinstarry Marina, 01236 829200
- ↔ 9.5 miles/8km
- 🕒 1.5-2.5 hours
- 👤 Easy to moderate
- ⚠ Paths, estate roads, short sections of back roads

- ▶ path straight ahead. Dismount, go under bridge.
- ▶ Continue through small shopping centre. Follow stream through Burngreen park and cross park to war memorial, turn right and right again to return to Market Square.
- ▶ At Auchinstarry take the gravel path signed Colzium Lennox Estate via Coach Rd. After ½ mile of continue onto Coach Rd for 1 mile.
- ▶ At the end of Coach Rd turn left, continue carefully on main

- ▶ road for 200 yards. Just before entrance to Colzium Lennox Estate take gravel path on the left behind row of houses for ½ mile, cross road at Burngreen Brae and follow signs for Burngreen park and Town Centre.
- ▶ After a half mile, pass the play park to the right to take small bridge on left, follow small burn to right then exit across small metal bridge on right, back to Burngreen, leading to Market Square in Kilsyth Town Centre.

■ Making use of part of the Glasgow-Edinburgh National Cycle Network 75, the route starts at Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage and finishes at Drumgelloch train station. You could choose to return the same way by bike, instead of taking the train.

Highlights

Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage

Based around the site of the former 19th century Summerlee Ironworks, the visitor attraction vividly recreates Lanarkshire's industrial past. There are historic trams, tours down a recreated mine, working machinery and many exhibits that tell the human story.

visitlanarkshire.com/summerlee
Monklands Canal Now home to ducks and heron, the canal was designed by James Watt as a route for carrying industrial goods. The building project started in 1770 and the canal opened in 1794. It was used for carrying mainly coal to Glasgow. Closed in 1935, much of the canal was then filled in.

Route

- ▶ From Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage, head towards Coatbridge Town Centre on the Heritage Way.
- ▶ At the T-junction turn right and once under the bridge continue for a further 100 yards.
- ▶ Turn left to enter the park that now occupies the Bank Street basin and follow the lower path under the railway bridge.
- ▶ Go up the ramp and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing.



- ▶ Go to the left and follow NCN 75 signs to the right past Reilly's.
- ▶ Cycle round to the left at the police station. NCN 75 then goes right.
- ▶ Continue up ramp and follow road past Coatbridge health centre.
- ▶ Cross the road at the supermarket to follow NCN 75 signed for Edinburgh, Airdrie and Caldercruix.
- ▶ Follow NCN to the right and over dual carriageway on footbridge.
- ▶ On the far side go to the left and rejoin the canal. Emerge at Locks

- 📖 OS Explorer 343
- 📍 Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage, Coatbridge, finish: Drumgelloch train station - or return
- 🚆 Train: Coatdyke, Coatbridge Sunnyside & Drumgelloch
- ↔️ 4 miles/6.5km
- 🕒 1 hour (2 hours if returning by bike)
- 🚲 Easy
- ⚠️ Quiet residential streets and cycle paths



Street.

- ▶ Turn right towards the railway bridge and then turn right again before you reach the railway bridge and go uphill.
- ▶ At the top, turn left and join a railway path. Continue straight on when NCN 75 goes to the right. The cycle path eventually starts to climb in a series of looping bends.
- ▶ At the top, head to the left signed for Drumgelloch and Plains. Keep left to follow NCN signs painted into tarmac surface.
- ▶ The cycle path then follows

a residential street. Go in the direction of the community centre and pass the building to the right.

- ▶ Continue along path by blue fence before following a further path through barriers and then go down lane to emerge at Burns Stewart distillers.
- ▶ Turn left and continue to pedestrian crossing. Cross the road and on far side, take Craigneuk Avenue and follow road past football stadium.
- ▶ At the top of Craigneuk Avenue (at shops), go to the right and

then follow road round to the left.

- ▶ Go straight over at crossroads on to Torrance Avenue.
- ▶ At the end of Torrance Avenue, cycle uphill on a tarmac path.
- ▶ At the top go to the left and follow street to dead end opposite Wester Moffat Hospital.
- ▶ Turn left and continue over railway bridge.
- ▶ Take first left opposite play park and continue downhill to Drumgelloch station. You can return the same way by bicycle, or take a train to return to the start.

3 Strathclyde Park & Dalzell Estate Loop

■ It's worth spending a little time thinking about the past before starting this cycling route.

Until around 70 years ago there was a village and mining community on the site of Strathclyde Country Park and loch. The pit was closed in 1959 and the population of Bothwellhaugh was evacuated in 1965 before being demolished to make way for a new motorway and country park, including the man-made loch. Its residents were moved to nearby towns, and the ruins of the village lie underwater to this day. Today, the park and loch are popular with people who enjoy outdoor activities, on land and water.

Highlights

Strathclyde Loch Watersports Centre

The watersports centre is a hub of sports activities and clubs. It was the focus of the triathlon race at the Commonwealth Games in 2014. The paths and quiet roads around the loch are perfect for a walk or cycle.

M&D's, Scotlands Theme Park, and Amazonia, the indoor tropical rainforest, are great attractions for families.

Fort, bathhouse and a bridge

See the site of Bothwellhaugh Roman Fort, visit a refurbished Roman bath-house and try not to get confused by a medieval bridge anachronistically named "Roman Bridge". Contemporary with the fort, the bathhouse was in use between 142AD and 162AD.

Dalzell Estate There are plenty



more cycling and walking paths at Dalzell, where you can also see historic Dalzell house and ornamental gardens. The core of the house is a 15th century tower house, with extensive additions built during the 17th and 19th centuries.

RSPB Baron's Haugh The nature reserve, which is a flooded marshland located in a bend

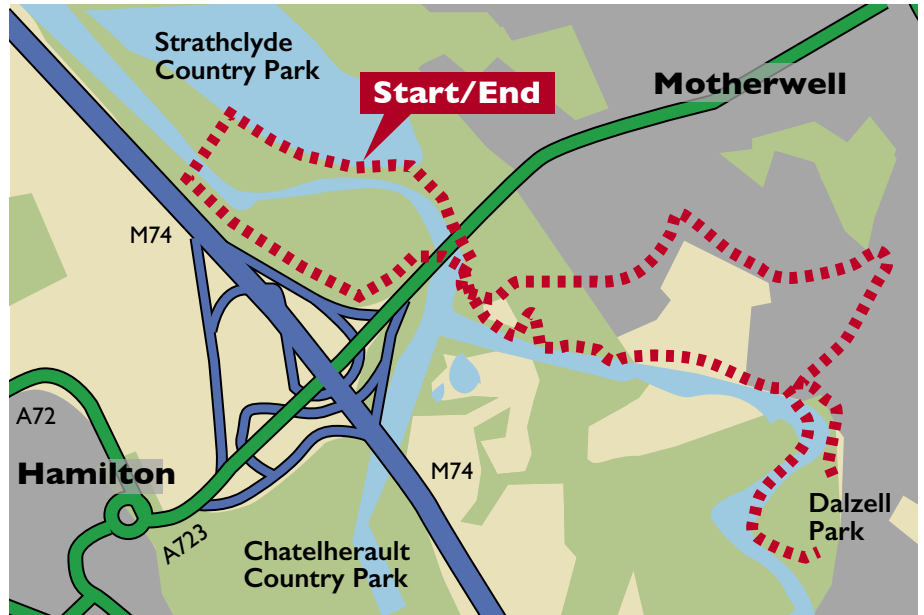
in the River Clyde, attracts wintering wildfowl, including widgeon and whooper swans. Look out for bird hides here.

Route

▶ The cycle route starts at the Watersports Centre, although you could begin at any point around the loch, and then head clockwise.



KIRSTY ANDERSON



- 📍 Strathclyde Park Watersports Centre, where there are several car parks.
- 🚆 Train: Motherwell; Airbles (en route); Hamilton West
- ↔ 8.5 miles/14km
- 🕒 1-2 hours
- ⬇ 400ft/120m
- 🚶 Easy/moderate
- ⚠ Trails, paths, park roads and quiet roads
- 📖 OS Explorer 343

- ▶ Follow the path that hugs the shore of loch all the way around. It is shared with walkers and cyclists so take care when passing or approaching walkers and runners.
- ▶ When you come to the car park next to the beach area head up on to the park road and cross the road and follow the path that will bring you out at the corner of Strathclyde Road and Ladywell Road.
- ▶ Head up Ladywell Road and shortly after you cross the junction of Neilsland Drive go right and downhill on a tarmac path. After a short distance, join a gravel path to the right.
- ▶ You'll emerge at Hamilton Road and go to the left to cross at

- lights. Go left and then first right into Malcolm Street and follow round to the left on to Crawford Street.
- ▶ Where Nigel Street meets Crawford Street, head right into Duchess of Hamilton Park, which is laid out in a formal design with a network of footpaths around a skate park. Follow a path on the right-hand edge of the park.
- ▶ You will emerge where Avon Street meets Airbles Road before crossing Avon Street and continuing to a pedestrian crossing. Cross Airbles Road and go first right on to Leven Street. Take second right on Leven

- Street to head along North Lodge Avenue.
- ▶ Continue to the end of the avenue and turn right downhill at garages. This is sign for RSPB nature reserve and Clyde Walkway.
- ▶ Go to the left and descend on the White Walk to the very bottom of the hill. Note that White Walk isn't signposted, but it is the name of the road. Take care because the hill can be steep.
- ▶ Follow a path to the left around an old cemetery and cross a stream on a narrow bridge. Turn right on to Chestnut Walk and follow to River Clyde. Note that part of the route has been washed away but there is an obvious diversion in place.
- ▶ Turn right on to the Clyde Walkway and cycle along the river shore until directed to right through a residential area. Go left and continue to end of a cul-de-sac where you can rejoin a path by the River Clyde (steps) and continue to Clyde bridge.
- ▶ Cycle under the bridge and follow the River Clyde back to the watersports centre.

■ The cycle route follows quiet back roads and uses a cycle lane along the busy A702 to link the two historic villages of Crawford and Abington.








The River Clyde is never far away as you ride first north through the Clyde valley, along the eastern side of the river and then south on the western side.

The nearby hills are the Lowthers, which have been described as God's Own Treasure House thanks to the naturally occurring gold.

The hills have been mined for this precious mineral since Roman times and while the mines are now closed plenty of reminders remain, including mining villages and miners' cottages, piles of spoil and old railways.

Highlights

Mercat cross There is a mercat cross (market cross) at Crawford. The origins of a mercat cross – they can be seen all over Scotland – is that it was erected as a symbolic representation of the right to hold a regular market or fair.

-  OS Landranger 72
-  Car park (public toilets), Carlisle Road, Crawford.
-  Train: Lanark (18 miles)
-  6 miles /9.6km
-  1-2 hours.
-  Easy
-  Cycle lane by A702 and quiet back roads where the surface is rough in places. Note: Fast traffic on the A702 might put off those with younger children.



It served as an indication of a town's relative prosperity.

Crawford Castle Also called Lindsay Tower, the castle is now a ruin, but in the 16th century it was the location for a dinner between King James V and the French ambassador. The king, who was about to be married to Magdalene of France, presented his guests with cups full of gold pieces.

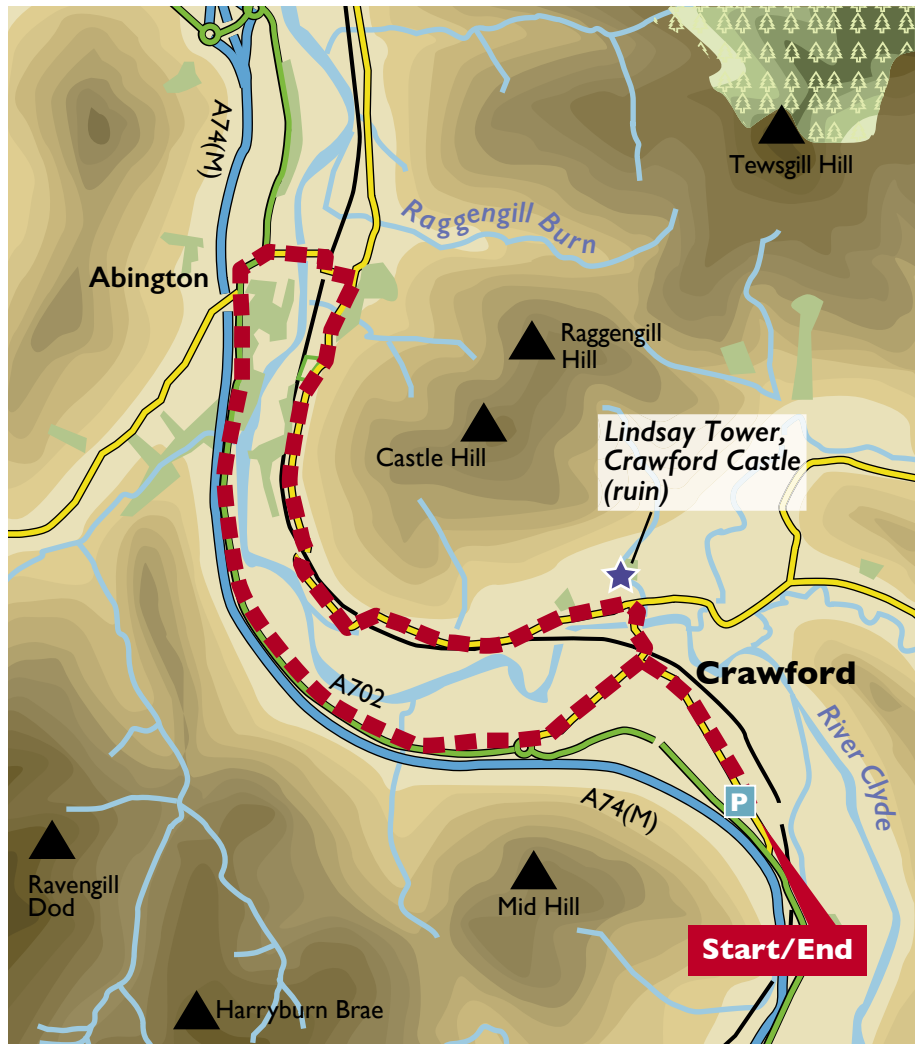
Abington The village was strategically important for the Romans and there is still evidence of forts and settlements in the area. Just north of the village, earthworks date from the 12th century.

Upper Clyde Parish Church Located in Abington, a grey-and-

brown stone church, which is edged in red, has a foundation stone that was laid on August 9, 1898.

Route

- ▶ Turn left as you leave the car park (heading north)
- ▶ Follow the road uphill to pass Crawford's mercat cross, located on a red-chipped traffic island.
- ▶ Turn right on to Camps Road, signed for Camps Reservoir and Lindsay Tower.
- ▶ Once over the River Clyde take first left uphill.
- ▶ Continue for a couple of miles then turn left at Mountview Caravan Park and continue uphill to Abington.
- ▶ At the Fire Station in Abington



turn left.

- ▶ Follow A702 and join the cycle lane.
- ▶ Continue to a roundabout at Crawford where you take the first left and descend into the village on Carlisle Road to return to start.



LONGER CYCLE ROUTES

(over 10 miles/16km)



5 Uddingston, Bargeddie, Drumpellier & Coatbridge

■ This route follows much of the Lanarkshire leg of the Glasgow to Edinburgh national cycling network (NCN 75). Avoiding busy roads it carves a pleasant route through central Scotland.

Not far beyond Bargeddie station, the route leaves the roads behind to follow the towpath by the Monkland Canal and to explore the tracks through Drumpellier Country Park and around Lochend Loch. That peace is shattered, however, when you reach your final destination – Summerlee... known as ‘Scotland’s noisiest museum.’

Highlights

Monkland Canal Designed by James Watt in 1770, the 13-mile-long canal was built to take coal from Coatbridge and Airdrie to Glasgow. Look out for the quays and ‘windings’, where boats were loaded with coal.

Drumpellier Country Park 54 hectares of ancient, semi-natural woodland. Stop off at

the visitor centre for a snack. Tel: 01236 422257.

Bank Street Basin Bold art installations bring alive memories of the area’s iron, coal and steel industries. Look out for the stick of gelignite and *Bleezin*, an excerpt from a poem, recalling the sight of tens of blazing factory chimneys, by Janet Hamilton.

Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage Based around the site of the Summerlee ironworks, this vividly recreates Lanarkshire’s industrial past. There are tram rides, tours of the recreated mine and working machinery. Hundreds of exhibits tell the story of the area. (free entry; open daily) Tel: 01236 638460. visitlanarkshire.com/summerlee.








The route

- ▶ Leave Uddingston railway station and continue to Main Street. Cross at the pedestrian crossing to the right and straight over to join the cycle path on the opposite side running parallel to the railway track – signed as NCN 75, Bargeddie 3, Coatbridge 6.
- ▶ At the end of the cycle path, you’ll enter a residential cul-de-sac. Continue straight on to the mini-roundabout and turn left. Follow NCN 75 (not NCN 74).
- ▶ Follow the cycle route through an underpass and continue to the traffic lights at New Edinburgh Road. Go straight over and climb a moderate slope up Spindlehowe Road to the junction with Old Edinburgh Road and turn left.
- ▶ At Tannochside Old Club, turn



right on to Armstrong Crescent. Opposite No. 35 Armstrong Way take the short cycle path off to the right. At the end of the path turn left and follow NCN 75 along Vallantine Crescent. Continue to the junction with Guthrie Drive – second on your left – and follow to a roundabout.

- ▶ Join the footpath/cycleway at the roundabout on the right as directed. Continue over Tannochside Drive and past Tannochside Business Park to take the next exit, Aitkenhead Road. Follow the cycle path down then uphill towards Showcase Leisure Park. Follow the cycle path to the right and then over a road. Return to Aitkenhead Road and continue under the M8 – signposted Drumpellier Country Park 2.
- ▶ Remain on the footpath, and use it to negotiate a roundabout at the entrance to the leisure park and travel in the direction of the A752, Gartcosh and Muirhead. After a short distance, enter Bargeddie and follow the road

-  OS Explorer 342 & 343
-  Uddingston railway station or Bargeddie railway station. Finish at Summerlee, Scotland’s Museum of Industrial Life.
-  Coatbridge Central or Sunnyside stations
-  10.5 miles/17km
-  2–3 hours
-  Moderate
-  Traffic-free cycle paths, residential roads, canal towpaths and gravel paths



Lochend Loch and go around the loch in a clockwise direction to return to nursery woodland (there is a visitor centre halfway round).

▶ *Leave the loch by the Country Park access road and follow uphill, then downhill past a school and playing fields. Go under the railway line and continue to the junction with Blair Road. Turn right and descend over Blair Bridge. Go through a gateway on the right signed for Monkland Canal NCN 75.*

▶ *Turn right and go under the Blair Bridge and up a tarred path that follows the route of the filled-in canal across West End park and then under Merryton Bridge. Follow a broad tarred path, past the artworks in Bank Street Basin. At the giant Lees' snowballs under the railway bridge, turn left and go between barrier and bridge support to join West Canal Street*

▶ *Take the first left, Heritage Way, and follow to the Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage.*

to Bargeddie railway station (an alternative starting point).

▶ *Continue past the Langmuir Inn – using the footpath/cycle path.*

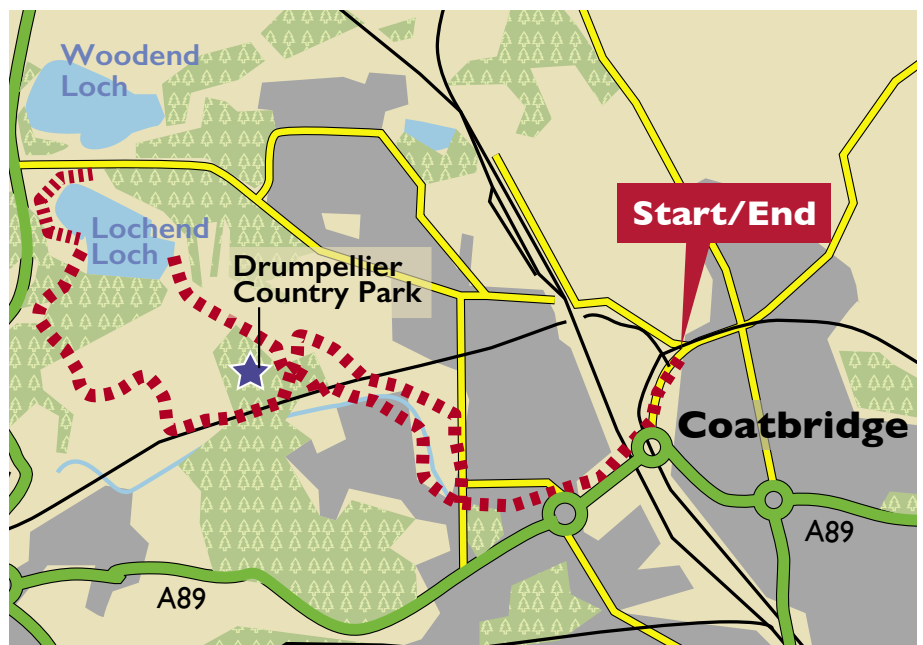
▶ *At the roundabout at Bargeddie Community Centre, turn right and continue to a pedestrian crossing and across the dual carriageway.*

▶ *Travel a short distance to the left and then turn right down a lane. At the end of the lane, turn right along Maple Grove, with good views of Tinto Hill.*

▶ *At the next junction, turn right into Cherryridge Drive, and follow to a roundabout. Turn right and then immediately go off to the left and join a red gravel path signed for Drumpellier 1, Coatbridge 2, Airdrie 5.*

▶ *Cross a steel bridge and continue through woods to emerge at the Monklands Canal. Turn right and follow a towpath. Go under the Drumpellier Bridge and then uphill to the right and cross over the bridge. At the T-junction of paths, turn left to follow a gravel path running*

parallel to the railway line. After a short distance, turn right over a railway bridge and continue to the entrance of Drumpellier Country Park. Lift your bike over a specially lowered fence and turn left to follow a gravel path downhill through woodland, then to the right. Stay on the red ash path, keeping left, until it joins an access road. Turn left and continue through a gate at nursery woodland. Continue to





6 Kilsyth – Carron Valley Circuit

■ A cycle route with plenty of hills and great countryside views starts from Kilsyth. You'll tackle some iconic local cycling climbs, such as the Tak-Ma-Doon and the Crow Road. These roads both straddle the Campsie Fells.

There's an array of towns, villages, and attractions that make a good stop-off for refreshments or for historical interest, such as the Antonine Wall and Forth & Clyde Canal.

Highlights

Forth & Clyde Canal The historic waterway follows roughly the same route as the Antonine Wall. The reason is, it is the shortest distance between the east and west coasts of Scotland.

Before the Forth & Clyde Canal was built, ships wishing to get from the west coast to the east would have had to sail round the top of Scotland.

Work started on the canal in 1768 and it took 22 years to complete, finishing at Bowling on the River Clyde in 1790.

Twechar A small former mining village, Twechar has the UNESCO world heritage site - the Antonine Wall, running right through the settlement. Excavations of a Roman Fort sit on top of Bar Hill, which overlooks Twechar.

Auchinstarry Quarry A disused quarry near Kilsyth has been



turned into a leisure area by Kilsyth and Cumbernauld District Council. The floor of the quarry is under water, forming a small loch surrounded by landscaped areas in the foreground with the backdrop of the 30.5m high whinstone face exposed behind. It is a popular destination for climbers.

Antonine Wall The UNESCO world heritage site - the Antonine Wall - takes the form of remains of the original wall built to keep the Picts out of Roman territory.

Kilsyth The historic burgh of Kilsyth is home to Burngreen Park, with childrens play area and attractive bandstand.

Dumbreck Marsh is also close by, and features a variety of wildlife.

Carron Valley The forest has purpose-built mountain bike trails.

Route

- ▶ Leave Market Square in Kilsyth to the left and turn left into Burngreen. Continue past Burngreen Park.
- ▶ Go round to the left at the end of Duntreath Terrace and on to Station Road. Continue to a junction with Stirling Road.
- ▶ Go right and follow Stirling Road for a short distance to left turn for Carron Bridge and Tak-Ma-Doon Road.
- ▶ Follow Tak-Ma-Doon uphill. This

- 📍 Market Square, Kilsyth
- ↔ 30 miles/48km
- 🕒 3.5 to 4.5 hours.
- 🚲 Hard
- 🚦 Quiet but hilly back roads.



JAN TODD



KIRSTY ANDERSON



Valley Trails 1.5 miles on left) for approximately 8 miles to a junction with B822.

- ▶ Turn left towards Lennoxton (via Crow Road) and follow for 7 miles.
- ▶ There is now a long and sustained climb of Crow Road.
- ▶ Descend into Lennoxton on Crow Road, then Crosshill Street to a junction with Main Street.
- ▶ Turn left on to A891 for Milton of Campsie and Torrance.
- ▶ Continue through Lennoxton and follow A891 to Milton of Campsie. Enter Milton of Campsie on the downhill.
- ▶ Just after a playpark, turn right for Kincaid House Hotel and Kirkintilloch, B757 – Birdston Rd.
- ▶ Continue through Birdston to Kirkintilloch.
- ▶ At traffic lights at McDonald's, turn left for Kilsyth A803. Continue to Eastside roundabout and go straight through for Kilsyth A803.
- ▶ On leaving Kirkintilloch, take the right for Antonine Wall and Twechar B8023.
- ▶ The road eventually runs parallel with the Forth & Clyde Canal.

- ▶ Continue straight on at Twechar and continue to T-junction opposite Auchinstarry.
- ▶ Turn left on to B802 for Kilsyth 0.75 mile. Stay on the undulating road into Kilsyth and go straight through roundabouts.
- ▶ Continue past Lidl and at roundabout with A803, head right for Stirling.
- ▶ Continue past Coachman Hotel, then turn right for Burngreen park on Station Road to return to start.

An alternative route from

Kirkintilloch is to reach the traffic lights at McDonald's and go straight ahead for 100 yards to a T-junction, then turn right to Hillhead roundabout and take second exit up the hill on Hillhead Road. At the Forth & Clyde Canal, turn left on to a towpath and follow through Twechar to Auchinstarry. Rejoin the B8023 before Auchinstarry bridge and at a T-junction turn left on to B802 for Kilsyth. Follow above directions through Kilsyth and back to start.

is a sustained climb. On a fine day stop at the viewpoint for expansive views over the region and further afield.

- ▶ Descend on the far side, heading over a ford (take care here) to the Carronbridge Guest House.
- ▶ Turn left at a junction for Fintry B818. Follow the B818 through the Carron Valley (Carron



7 Forth, Wilsontown & Braehead

■ Cyclists will enjoy a pleasant route that follows country lanes through a rolling rural landscape. There are plenty of interesting stopping points, such as Wilsontown and its iron foundry, the sleepy hamlet of Auchengray and quiet woodlands that are perfect for a picnic.

Highlights

Iron Foundry Founded in 1812, the Wilsontown Iron Foundry is on the site of the first iron works in Lanarkshire, and only the second in Scotland. There are a series of walks that explore what remains of the foundry.

Auchengray The distinctive village church is modelled on a Coptic church in Alexandria, Egypt. (next to the primary school in Auchengray)

West Forth Woodland A forest located in gently rolling countryside around West Forth, near to Forth with a



good network of paths and tracks for walking, cycling or horse riding. woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/west-forth-woodland

Route

- ▶ From the St Paul's Parish Church in Wilsontown go to the left – downhill – and take the first left into Manse Road. This is 150m or so and after a road sign highlighting a main road turning right.
- ▶ Follow Manse Road out of Forth to a T-junction at a former church. Turn left, and then after 200m turn right (signed for Auchengray).



- ▶ Follow road through Wilsontown and round to the left, heading into rolling farmland.
- ▶ Follow road through Haywood and at a left bend in road follow a sign for Auchengray.
- ▶ After crossing a railway bridge, there is a steep climb into Auchengray. Turn right at a T-junction and cycle through the hamlet.
- ▶ Leave Auchengray, heading downhill and follow the road round to the right and over a level crossing.
- ▶ Follow long straight road to a T-junction at Eastshield Farm.
- ▶ Turn right, signed for Forth.
- ▶ Climb into Braehead. Continue

- through Braehead and descend, ignoring the first left – Bog Road – and continue on the road following sign for Wilsontown.
- ▶ At bungalows (look for road on left with a sign warning of ford) and take that left for the ford.
- ▶ Descend to cross the ford or use a bridge in flood and continue on road to climb into Forth.
- ▶ At a T-junction, turn left into Manse Road and continue to the end of road and turn right on to main road to return to start.



- 📖 OS Landranger 72
- 📍 St Paul's Parish Church, Main Street, Forth. Note: There is limited on-street parking
- 🚆 Train: Lanark (8 miles) or Shotts (7 miles)
- ↔️ 12.5 miles/20km
- ↑ 750ft/230m
- 🕒 1½ - 3 hours
- 🚴 Easy to moderate
- ⚠️ Quiet back roads that are generally in good condition.



8 Lanark, Tinto & Covington

■ This is a longer and more challenging ride that starts and finishes in the bustling market town of Lanark. Cyclists are treated to beautiful countryside as well as passing by two unusual roadside memorials that offer historical interest.

Highlights

Clydesholm Bridge The very narrow bridge at Kirkfieldbank was built in the 17th century.

Tinto hill The summit of Tinto is the highest point in the central lowlands. It is a straightforward walk to the top (90 mins) with wonderful views.

Cargill memorial At Thankerton, a monument stands in memory of the Rev. Donald Cargill, a 17th century Scottish Presbyterian and Covenanter, who opposed the British monarch's attempts to impose bishops on churches. He was hanged in Edinburgh in 1681. He spent a night at Covington Farm, near the monument, before being arrested.

Covington See a hamlet of thatched cottages at Covington and further on, at the farm,



there is a medieval keep and dovecot, where Robert Burns spent the night. There is a cairn to commemorate the Scottish bard's visit.

New Lanark Close to Lanark is the UNESCO World Heritage Site of New Lanark. The working village and cotton mill buildings were founded by the philanthropist Robert Owen in the early 19th century. There is also a beautiful walking trail to the Falls of Clyde.

Route

- ▶ From Lanark railway station, head to your right towards the town centre.
- ▶ Turn left through traffic lights and descend on High Street.
- ▶ Follow the road through a narrow point at a church and continue downhill.
- ▶ Turn left for Hamilton A72. This is a very steep downhill.
- ▶ The road crosses the River Clyde, and you turn first left on to Riverside Road to follow a road to the right into Kirkfield Road and

- 📖 OS Landranger 72
- 📍 Lanark Railway Station
- 🚆 Train: Lanark. Regular trains to Glasgow etc.
- ↔ 25 miles/40km
- 🕒 3 – 4 hours
- 🏃 Moderate/ strenuous
- ⚠ Mostly back roads but short section of A72 at start and A70 towards the end. The road surface rough in places but mainly good quality



STUART COOK

- ▶ then climb through Kirkfieldbank.
- ▶ On the edge of the houses on Kirkfield Road, take the left fork on to Byretown Road and continue to follow the road as it climbs more gradually.
- ▶ Follow the road round to the right and continue to climb to a junction.
- ▶ Turn left and follow this road for about 1.5 miles. (A road will join from the right but ignore this.)
- ▶ After a sharp right turn left at a junction signposted Sandilands continues over >>



STUART COOK



<< *continued*

and descend to a bridge over a river. This is a tight corner.

- ▶ Continue to a T-junction and turn right to follow the road round to left and climb to a junction with the A70.
- ▶ Join a cycle lane on your left and follow (100m or so) to a right turn for Carmichael.
- ▶ Follow the road to the right at a farm and continue to crossroads in Carmichael. There is an old signpost pointing to Lanark.
- ▶ Turn right and continue through Carmichael. Turn right at foot of hill.
- ▶ Ride through rolling farmland and continue to follow the road round to the left (there is a dead-end ahead) and continue to Lochlyoch Farm.
- ▶ Continue through the farmyard and stay left to follow road for 2 miles to A73 at Tinto Hill Tearoom. (This makes a good stopping point for refreshments.)
- ▶ Go straight over A73 for Thankerton. Continue into Thankerton and take left signed for Carstairs and Carnwath – Boat Road.



- ▶ Turn left over a railway and descend out of Thankerton, staying on the veering right road.
- ▶ A left-hand turn in road takes you into the next cluster of buildings then you continue straight on at Boat Farm and climb to Newtown of Covington and then to Covington Mains Farm.
- ▶ Beyond the farm, the road swings to the left. At a junction, turn right for Pettinain (it is

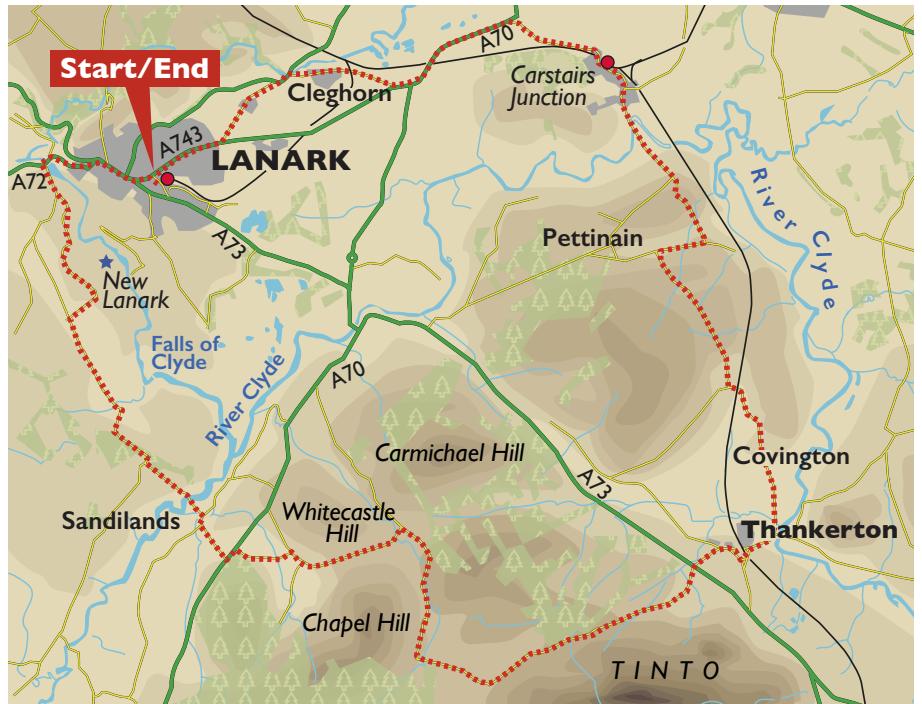
- signposted). Follow road to another T-junction.
- ▶ Turn left and descend towards new homes in Pettinain. Just before new houses, turn right (signed Carstairs Junction) and climb steeply into Pettinain.
- ▶ At the next T-junction, turn left (road is closed to cars but open for cyclists and pedestrians) and descend to the River Clyde and then continue slightly uphill into



STUART COOK



STUART COOK



Carstairs Junction.

- ▶ At a T-junction, turn left and continue gradually uphill past Carstairs Junction station. (There are infrequent trains for Glasgow and Edinburgh.) Follow the road to head over the railway and follow it to left to Carstairs village.
- ▶ Keep the green on your right and continue to a T-junction with Lanark Road. Turn left and leave the village.
- ▶ Follow the A70 for 0.75 mile. Continue straight on when the A70 goes left and then take the first right uphill into Cleghorn.
- ▶ Follow the road round to the left and then at a Y-junction follow the A706 into Lanark. (Keep on road, stay right.)
- ▶ At a T-junction opposite the Bank of Scotland, turn left and follow the High Street back past shops etc and then at top of high street at the lights turn right to return to station.



STUART COOK

9 Biggar & Broughton Circuit

■ This route heads east into the Borders to the village of Broughton where it is claimed the magician Merlin was laid to rest

Highlights

Biggar Biggar offers two good opportunities for discovering more about local history, including the Biggar & Upper Clydesdale Museum and Biggar Gasworks Museum.










St. Mary's Church A collegiate church, St Mary's, signposted from High Street in Biggar, dates from 1545 and was built before the Reformation and is the the last collegiate church in Scotland.

Broughton Ales Broughton Brewery, in the village, has been brewing craft beer since 1979.

Route

Note: Public Toilets are well signposted at Corn Exchange in Biggar and on road south out of Broughton. Free parking is signposted throughout Biggar.

► From the Corn Exchange on

-  OS Landranger 72
-  Corn Exchange, High Street, Biggar
-  Lanark (18 miles)
-  Biggar is well served by tearooms, pubs and restaurants, as well as a great array of local shops.
-  12 miles/20km
-  767ft/234m
-  1.5 to 2.5 hours
-  Moderate
-  Quiet back roads that are mainly good quality and occasionally less so.



High Street, turn right and head eastwards for a few 100 metres.

► *After the shops end – and where the road drifts left – turn right at the junction signposted “Broughton 5 miles, B7016”.*

► *Follow this good rolling road*

through picturesque farmland to Broughton.

► *At the T-junction with Broughton Main Street, turn right. There is a coffee shop, Laurel Bank, with outside seating.*

► *Follow Main Street (A701)*





through Broughton. As you start to climb out of Broughton, turn right.

- ▶ When the road veers right, stay right and follow for Hartree. The road climbs past Pyatknowe Farm and once over the crest, cycle downhill to the right and then follow the road into Biggar.
- ▶ The road then climbs and rolls past numerous farms, before a more noticeable steeper uphill and downhill. After 3.5 miles, you'll join three roads.
- ▶ Stay right again and follow the road into Biggar. At the t-junction on Station Road and High Street, turn right to return to start.



■ This route follows these lanes through peaceful hamlets into forgotten corners of the Pentland hills, South Lanarkshire where Covenanters hid out in the 17th century.

Highlights

St. Mary's Church A collegiate church, St Mary's, signposted from High Street in Biggar, dates from 1545 and was built before the Reformation and is the the last collegiate church in Scotland.

Cadger's Brig Situated in Biggar and towards the end of this cycle route, the stone, single-arch footbridge is said to originate in the 13th century. Its name derives from it traditionally having been crossed by William Wallace, disguised as a cadger (hawker) on his way to where the English were camped, near Biggar.

Dunsyre Kirk Mid-way in the cycle route, look out for the iron jousgs set into the wall of Dunsyre Kirk. Offenders would be sentenced to wear the iron collar around their neck. It was set at such a height as to make



uncomfortable to sit or stand.

Little Sparta This is the exotically named poetry garden, near Dolphinton, of the late artist Ian Hamilton Finlay. littlesparta.org.uk

Mercat cross Located in Newbigging, the cross is topped with a stone sun and dated to 1693.









Route

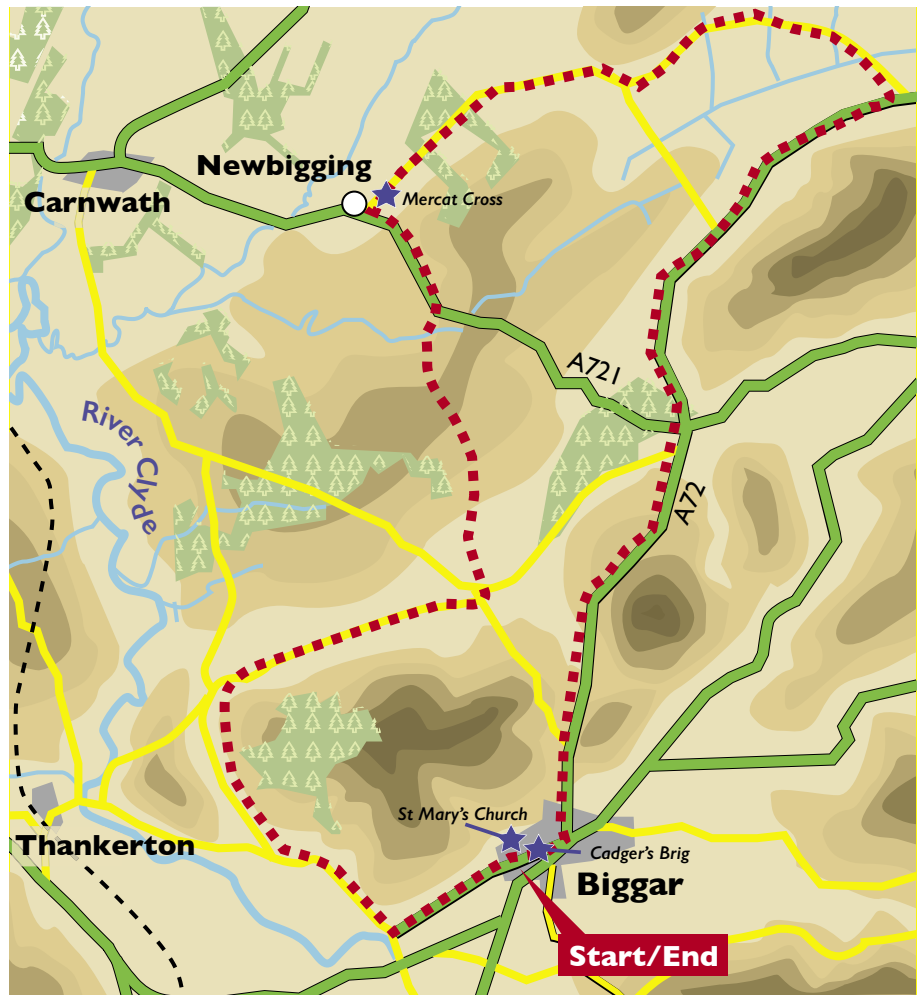
Note: Public Toilets are well signposted at Corn Exchange in Biggar and on road south out of Broughton. Free parking is signposted throughout Biggar.

▶ From the Corn Exchange on High Street in Biggar go left downhill and then go right for Carnwath,

B7016. Look for the signposted junction on right after the pedestrian crossing.

- ▶ Ride uphill out of Biggar and continue for less than a mile. Take the road on the right on a bend to leave the B7016.
- ▶ Follow the quiet road to a crossroads with A721 and go straight over.
- ▶ Follow road for just over a mile and you will come to a junction. Turn right, continue straight for 2.5 miles passing straight through Walston.
- ▶ Coming into some woodland you will see a give way sign and a junction. Turn left here for Dunsyre.
- ▶ Pass through an old railway

-  OS Landranger 72
-  Corn Exchange, High Street, Biggar
-  Lanark (18 miles)
-  Biggar is well served by tearooms, pubs and restaurants, as well as a great array of local shops
-  24 miles/38.6km
-  2 to 4 hours
-  Moderate to strenuous
-  Quiet back roads that are mainly good quality



bridge and go uphill and round to the left in Dunsyre.

- ▶ Follow the road for 3 ½ miles to Newbigging.
- ▶ At a T-junction with A721, near the Mercat Cross, turn left and head out of the village and go downhill.
- ▶ After a mile and at the foot of the hill, on a bend, turn right on to a quieter road again.
- ▶ Follow a quiet road steeply uphill. From the top of the hill, a fast downhill takes you to a T-junction with the B7016.
- ▶ Turn left and then after a short distance (through an “S” bend) turn right for Thankerton and Quothquan. You’ll join the Shieldhill road.



- ▶ Follow the road into and through Quothquan and after 5 miles from last junction take the fork that is left and slightly rising.
- ▶ Continue along this road for 1.25 miles until you get to a Y-junction.
- ▶ Turn left and continue through

Cormiston. At the foot of a steep downhill (look for road on left) turn left on to Lindsaylands Road and follow into Biggar. There are blue cycling signs to Biggar here.

- ▶ At a T-junction at the Cadger’s Brig, turn left to return to start.



■ The Lowther hills have been mined for gold and lead since Roman times and while the mines are now closed, there are many reminders of this past industry.

While you'll spot piles of spoil, old railway tracks and miners' cottages, this doesn't detract from the beauty of the hills but rather this adds interest for passing cyclists.

This ride is straightforward with some steep climbs. The route follows a mix of country roads and the A702.

Highlights

Leadhills Scotland's second highest village.

Leadhills Library The library was founded in 1741 by the mathematician James Stirling and the poet Allan Ramsay. It is the oldest subscription library in Scotland.

The oldest man? A gravestone of John Taylor in Leadhills Graveyard suggests he was 137 years old when he died. If this is the case, he is one of the oldest people in recorded history.

- 📖 OS Landranger 72
- 📍 Car park (public toilets), Carlisle Road, Crawford
- 🏠 Lanark (18 miles)
- ↔️ 22.5 miles/36.2km
- 🕒 2 – 3 hours
- 🚴 Moderate to strenuous
- ⚠️ Mainly quiet back roads, although there is a section on a cycle path along the A702, which has fast traffic. The road surface and cycle path are rough in places



Curfew bell Hanging from a pyramid of posts in the centre of Leadhills is a bell that is dated 1770. The bell was rung to sound the end of shifts and emergencies in the lead mines.

Route

- ▶ Turn left (north) from car park on Carlisle Road. Leave Crawford and continue to a roundabout.
- ▶ Turn right at the roundabout for Abington to follow A702 (NCN





- 74) and join cycle lane on left.
- ▶ Continue through Abington and then cycle to a roundabout at motorway services.
- ▶ Turn left for Douglas B7078, Crawfordjohn B740.
- ▶ Rejoin cycle lane and continue to next roundabout. Turn right signed Douglas (NCN 74).
- ▶ After 0.75 mile, go left, signposted for Crawfordjohn.
- ▶ Follow road to Crawfordjohn.
- ▶ At Crawfordjohn, take left at fork and continue past Colebrooke Arms on Main Street.
- ▶ At the junction at the end of Main Street, turn left and descend past a churchyard.
- ▶ Climb steeply over a pass known locally as Apache and then



- descend to T-Junction with B797. Turn right for Leadhills. Follow road for 3 miles.
- ▶ In Leadhills, turn left for Elvanfoot (Elvanfoot Road). Follow the road for 5 miles to T-junction with Dumfries Road (A702).
- ▶ Turn left and continue through

Elvanfoot.

- ▶ At a roundabout, follow signs for Carlisle, Beattock and Crawford off to the left and go under the motorway. At a T-junction turn left and join cycle lane (NCN 74) and then the cycle path.
- ▶ After 1½ miles, turn right for Crawford and return to start.

■ Once something of a regular feature on the route of the Tour of Britain cycle race, Strathaven offers excellent cycling on gently undulating roads that lead to and from the busy market town.

Not far from Strathaven is Whitelee Wind Farm, where there are off-road tracks for cross country and mountain bikers. This is a great location for families to enjoy cycling and walking.









Highlights

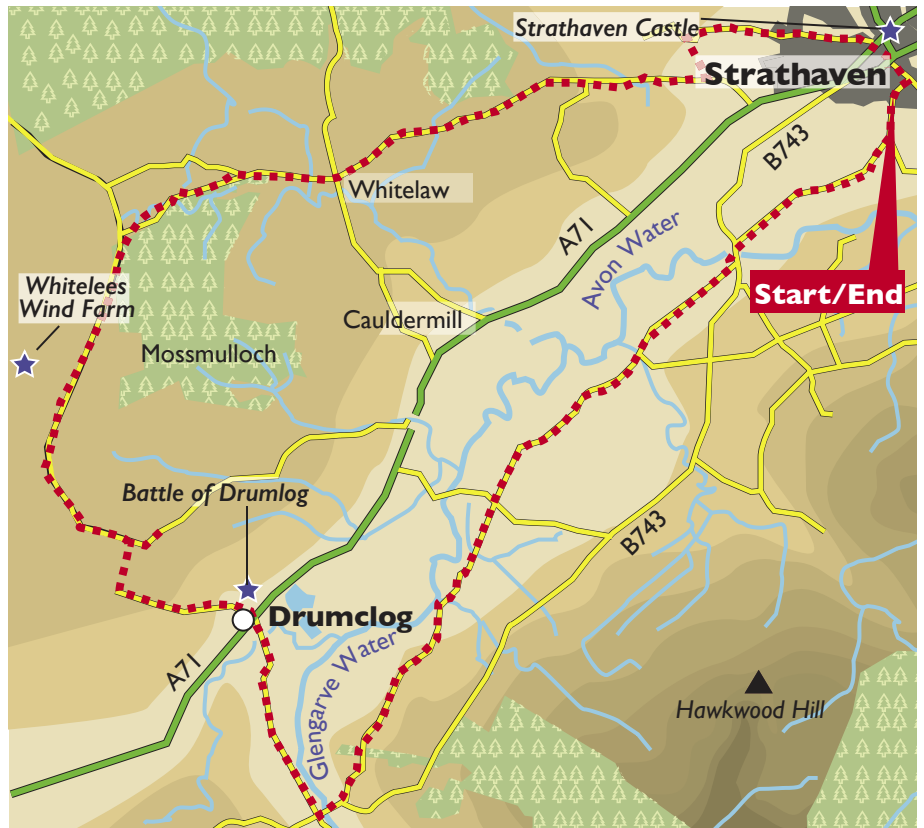
Strathaven Castle One of the many lords of Strathaven Castle punished his wife by having her bricked up alive inside a purpose-built niche. It's said that human remains were found when part of the castle walls collapsed in more recent times. The castle is now in ruins.

Loudoun Hill A volcanic plug located just inside the Ayrshire border, Loudoun Hill is the site of a famous victory by Robert the Bruce over the English in 1307. A walk to the top offers an excellent viewpoint.

The Battle of Drumclog In 1679 "Bloody ClaverHouse/Bonnie Dundee" was patrolling with his dragoons when he encountered a group of covenanters. It was a



-  OS Landranger 71
-  Common Green, Strathaven
-  Hairmyres (11 m), signed cycle route to Strathaven
-  18 miles/29km
-  750ft/230m
-  2–3 hours
-  Moderate
-  Quiet back roads



victory for the covenanters and Bloody ClaverHouse only just managed to escape with his life having been knocked from his horse.

Route

- ▶ Leave the Common Green by Bridge Street in Strathaven.
- ▶ Follow Bridge Street to a roundabout at Strathaven Castle.
- ▶ Turn right and then turn left into Todshill Street.
- ▶ Turn left at the next junction and then take the first right into Newtown Road. At a fork in road go right and follow road out to a T-junction with B743.

- ▶ Turn left and cross a bridge over the River Avon. Beyond the bridge, take the first right.
- ▶ Following the road, keep right. At Westlinbank Farm ignore the right for Gilmourton and continue straight. Head downhill to the junction and go in the direction of Kilmarnock, B745.
- ▶ After a short distance, at crossroads, turn right and follow the road into Drumclog. At the A71 at Drumclog Memorial

- Kirk, cross straight over on to Meadowfoot Road.
- ▶ At Moss Side go to the right. After 500 yards turn left. (It's straight on and downhill past Stobieside for the Battle of Drumclog site).
- ▶ At the next T-junction, turn right and follow a long, straight road downhill.
- ▶ Once over stone bridge, go to the right and continue parallel with the Calder Water



SHORTER WALKING ROUTES

(under 5 miles/8km)



■ Dalzell Estate is a picturesque location with a host of features, including ornamental bridges, exotic trees and Japanese gardens. These were the creation of former owners of the estate house, the Hamiltons.

It's worth taking binoculars and a camera so that you can make the most of the bird hides overlooking the Baron's Haugh, from where it's possible to see kingfishers, teal, pochard and red wing, among others.

Highlights

Nature Reserve RSPB Baron's Haugh nature reserve takes the form of a flooded marshland in a bend of the River Clyde. The reserve attracts wintering wildfowl, including widgeon and whooper swans.

Old graveyard A short detour along Chestnut Walk leads to this very spooky graveyard. Peer into the Hamilton family mausoleum and look out for their pet cemetery.

Dalzell House The centrepiece of the estate, the impressive building is more than 500










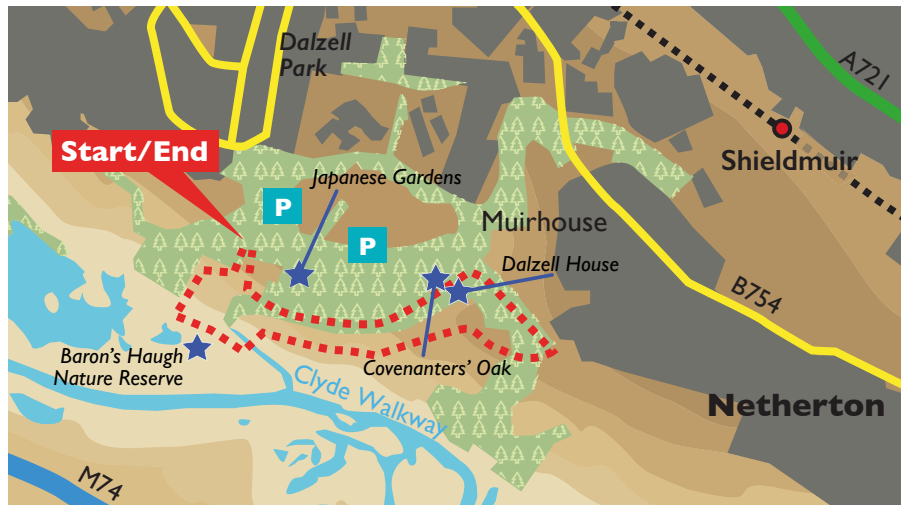
Covenanters' Oak The tree was planted by David I and it's said to be the oldest living thing in North Lanarkshire. This oak sheltered secret religious services held by Covenanters in the 17th century.

Japanese gardens A pocket of eastern serenity, the gardens were laid out in the 18th century to resemble those of the temple of the Buddha at Nagasaki.

White walk This roadway was originally created so that miners making their way to work each day didn't spoil the view from the Dalzell House.

years old. The Hamiltons of Dalzell lived here from the 17th century until the early 1950s. Apparently, at least three ghosts also inhabit the building. It is privately owned.

-  OS Explorer 343
-  RSPB visitor car park accessed by North Lodge Avenue
-  Train: Airbles 1.25 miles. Bus stop: Adele Street at Broomside Crescent 750 yards
-  3.5 miles/5.6km
-  2-3 hours
-  Easy
-  Good footpaths throughout



Route

- ▶ This walk follows the red route, the longest of five marked routes that explore the reserve and estate.
- ▶ Leaving the RSPB car park, you follow a path signposted "to the hides". Follow this red ash path downhill to junction with broad path.
- ▶ Turn right on-to broad path. Watch out for hide on the left.
- ▶ Turn left off main footpath on-to narrow path through trees.
- ▶ After a short distance turn left again to join footpath by the River Clyde and follow for about

one mile.

- ▶ At the junction with the Chestnut Walk go through the gate. If you want to see the graveyard go up Chestnut Walk here for a couple of hundred metres, then cross a little stone bridge to the left and retrace your steps back to continue.
- ▶ Walk up Lime Walk to continue along the riverbank.
- ▶ At the end of the Lime Walk turn uphill away from the Clyde and go through gate.
- ▶ Keep left at each fork in the path as you go uphill. Path winds through yew trees and skirts the edge of housing.
- ▶ At junction with footpath (green route) turn right downhill using

- the steps guarded by green railing. Once over the burn and marshland the path turns uphill.
- ▶ At the top of the steps turn left and continue straight on for Dalzell House.
- ▶ At junction with tarmac road turn left past Dalzell House's impressive frontage and then right downhill past the Covenanters' Oak.
- ▶ At bottom of the hill cross bridge and then turn right or follow path through Japanese gardens.
- ▶ A short distance beyond the gardens turn left off the main avenue. When path forks go to the right.
- ▶ Cross tarmac road (White walk) to return to car park.

2 Strathclyde Park & Clyde Walkway

■ The Clyde Walkway is a great place to head for an easy bike ride, especially with families. There is plenty of wildlife to spot, too, including wildflowers, mammals, butterflies and birds.

There are lots of places to stop for a picnic or to see some of the various attractions, such as Dalzell House and Estate and Baron's Haugh Nature Reserve.

It is possible to cycle shorter sections by joining the Walkway at different points.

Highlights

Watersports at Strathclyde Loch

There is a range of waterports available to try during the summer months (April–September). It was a venue for the Commonwealth Games 2014 and home of the Scottish Rowing Academy.

Strathclyde Park There is a variety of rural attractions with 1100 acres of mature woodland, rough wetland, and open water, providing wildlife refuges for more than 150 different species of animals and birds. The park has more than 20 miles of paths for cyclists, walkers and runners.



Dalzell Estate The estate was originally a Royal hunting forest owned by the Dalzell family, until it was sold in 1647 to the 5th Laird of Orbiston, James Hamilton. In the 18th century, the barren estate lands were transformed into an orderly and landscaped park. Later additions included the arboretum in the 19th century and the Japanese garden in the 1920s. In 1952, Dalzell House and grounds passed into public ownership. Dalzell House: The centrepiece of the estate, the impressive building is more than 500 years old. The Hamiltons of Dalzell lived here from the 17th century until the early 1950s. Apparently, at least three ghosts also inhabit the building. It is privately owned.










JONATHAN OLDBRICK

Nature reserve RSPB Baron's Haugh nature reserve takes the form of a flooded marshland in a bend of the River Clyde. The reserve attracts wintering wildfowl, including widgeon and whooper swans.

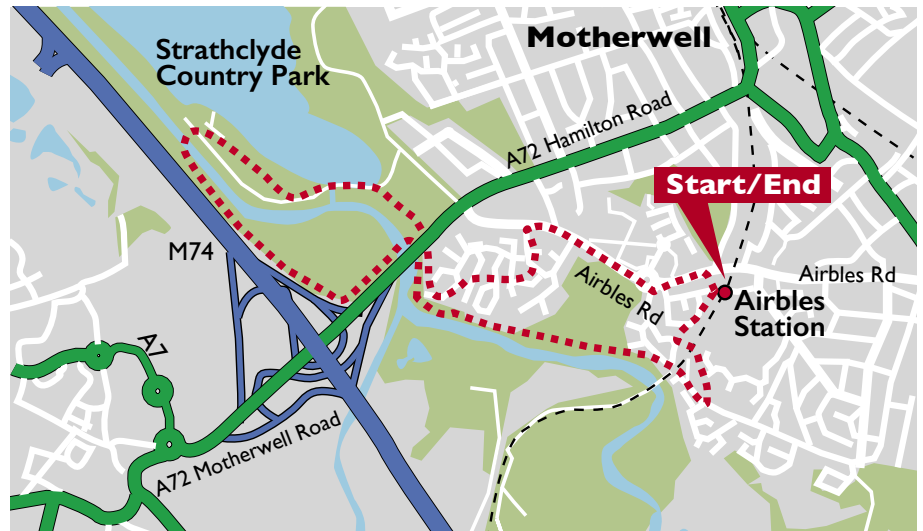
Route

▶ Starting at Airbles Train Station, turn left and go down Airbles Road, across a roundabout.

-  OS Explorer 343
-  Airbles railway station, Airbles Road, Motherwell
-  Train: to Airbles station.
Bus stop: Leven Street and Airbles Road
-  4.2 miles/6.8km
-  2 to 3 hours
-  Easy
-  Good footpaths, but can be muddy in places. Several flights of steps, some steep



KIRSTY ANDERSON



- ▶ Pass Airbles Cemetery on the left and then turn left into Airbles Farm Road, briefly joining Greenacres before a left into Ross Drive.
- ▶ At end of Ross Drive (where it meets Ross Gardens), go straight ahead down the steps.
- ▶ Keep going straight along Ross Crescent, then across the grass and on to Sandilands Crescent.
- ▶ Continue on this crescent and turn left on to Prentice Road.
- ▶ At this point, you will join a path and you should look for a left fork. This takes you down to the River Clyde.
- ▶ Head under the road bridge and you will find yourself in Strathclyde Park.
- ▶ Enter the park and stay left. You will eventually go in front on the watersports centre (clockwise

- round the loch).
- ▶ When you exit the watersports area (past a green metal fence), turn left and across the park road, Here there is a bridge over the Clyde.
- ▶ Go over the bridge then turn left (do not go through the M74 tunnel towards Hamilton).
- ▶ You will now be walking along a tree lined path that runs parallel to M74 southbound.
- ▶ Continue until this meets the road bridge over the Clyde, go up the steps and turn left crossing the bridge.
- ▶ Once across the bridge, turn left on the first path and head down steps to keep going left until you go under the road bridge with the Clyde to your right.
- ▶ Continue here, retracing yours steps back to Prentice Road.

- ▶ When the path reaches Prentice Road, continue and take first right after the houses and before the grass area.
- ▶ There is a signpost down to the Clyde. Follow this path on to the Clyde Walkway and turn left.
- ▶ Continue on the path. You will go under the railway bridge and past a sign for Baron's Haugh Nature Reserve and Dalzell Park.
- ▶ Continue until you reach a junction in the paths. Take the left, which goes uphill.
- ▶ At the junction there is a patch of concrete ground to the left of the path, which you should follow.
- ▶ Go up this path and you will find the backs of houses on your right.
- ▶ This path will eventually emerge on Camp Road. Turn left and go over the railway bridge between the houses.
- ▶ Turn right at the junction with Elmhurt then first right. This road looks like a cul-de-sac but at the top there is a set of steps and path.
- ▶ Follow this path and you will eventually appear at the Electric Bar.
- ▶ Turn right and you will be back at Airbles Train Station.

3 Strathaven, Sandford & Spectacle E'e falls

■ The market town of Strathaven is the starting point for a peaceful walk next to Avon Water and to a beautiful waterfall. You'll enjoy strolling on banks filled with colourful wildflowers in spring and summer. Look out for grey wagtails and dippers and, if you are lucky, you might spot otters.

Highlights

Strathaven Castle Now in ruins, the castle has a gruesome past. One of the lords who owned this fortress apparently punished his wife by having her bricked up alive inside a purpose-built enclosure. More recently, human remains were found when part of the castle walls collapsed.

Spectacle E'e (eye) falls The unusual name is the result of an incident involving a local lad who fell in love with the miller's daughter. The miller disapproved and put an end to the romance. In revenge, the lad placed an eye glass in the mill's thatch. The thatch soon caught fire and the mill was burned to the ground.

Strathaven Brewery A producer of real ales with a local character. [facebook.com/StrathavenAles](https://www.facebook.com/StrathavenAles)

Route

- ▶ Leave the Common Green in Strathaven by Main Street (south).
- ▶ Cross the road to the Castle Tavern and go round into Todshill Street.
- ▶ Follow Todshill Street and then carry straight on to leave Strathaven.



- ▶ Once out of Strathaven, cross the stile – signposted “Sandford 1 mile”.
- ▶ Go downhill through the field keeping to the right.

- ▶ Cross the bridge over Avon Water and then turn right upstream.
- ▶ After a short distance, turn left to follow the Kype Water.



- ▶ Staying on this bank, continue to steps. A short detour to the right heads through remains of old mill for close-up view of the falls.
- ▶ To continue, climb steps and

- ▶ follow the stream as it tumbles over a series of cascades/
- ▶ Cross a small bridge, remembering to close the gate, and continue straight on through the field towards a fence. There is a stile.
- ▶ Follow sign to the right towards Sandford.
- ▶ In Sandford, go right and cross bridge and continue straight on to main road.
- ▶ At the main road, turn right and follow the B7086 (broad pavement) into Strathaven. The brewery is by the old bridge over the Avon on your left.

- 📍 Common Green, Strathaven
- 🚆 Train: East Kilbride railway station 8 miles; Bus: regular services between East Kilbride and Hamilton and Strathaven
- ↔ 3 miles/4.8km
- 🕒 2 - 2.5 hours
- 🚶 Easy/moderate.
- ⚠ Footpaths that are mostly well maintained and accessible. Some sections of the route are through fields, which can be muddy and icy. It signposted.

4 Carmichael History Walk

■ The walk explores historic Carmichael Estate and traces the footsteps of Clan Carmichael back to the 14th century. The route offers a pleasant, family friendly walk with fantastic views to Tinto hill and across the surrounding countryside.

Highlights

Carmichael Visitor Centre

The centre includes a heritage exhibition and a farm shop.

Carmichael House Built in 1734, the house replaces a tower destroyed by Oliver Cromwell. The corridor linking the two wings was added later and removed the need to have a carriage on stand-by to provide transport between them.

Dovecot Built in 1750, the ornate stone dovecot would have provided the estate with eggs and meat.

Hyndford memorial The monument sits on top of Carmichael hill and remembers

📍 Carmichael Visitor Centre ,
Warrenhill Road

🚆 Train: Lanark railway
station 5 miles; Bus:
service between Lanark
and Thankerton (2 mile
walk along Perryflats Road
(not A73)

↔ 4 miles/6.4km

↑ 520ft/159m

🕒 2 to 3 hours

🚶 Moderate

⚠ Estate roads, hill tracks,
open hillside. There is one
steep slope to descend.
There are only a few
signposts.



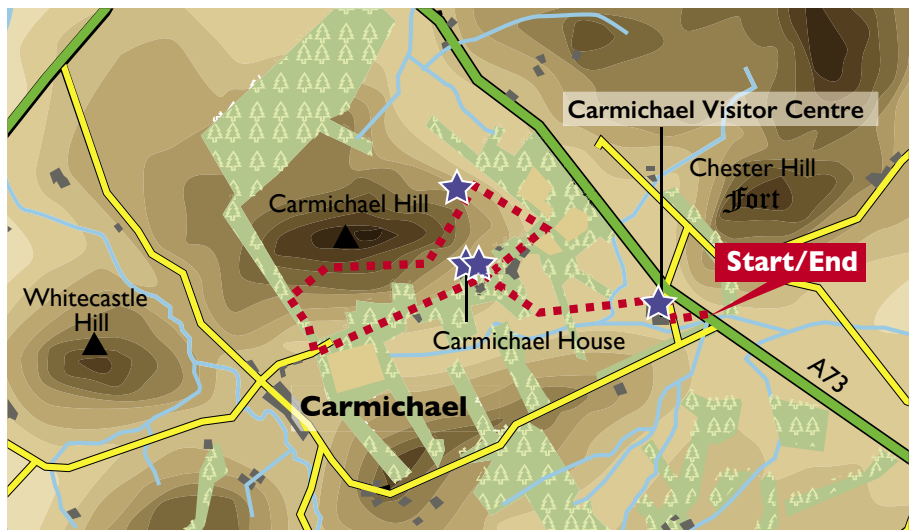
the 2nd earl of Hyndford, who was a distinguished diplomat.

Barracks The building dates from the time when major landowners were required by the crown to maintain a battalion.

Route

- ▶ From car park make your way to the Carmichael Visitor Centre. Walk through to the courtyard and on your right hand side is a children's play area. You can pick the estate walk from here.
- ▶ Go round the fenced enclosure on to a red gravel path.
- ▶ Follow the red gravel track as it cuts through a strip of woodland.
- ▶ Follow track through woodland and turn steeply uphill past a red-brick cottage to reach a T-junction.

- ▶ At main drive, turn left. Follow the main drive around a walled area. Continue to follow the road to round a left bend, where you will be greeted with views of the Carmichael House ruins.
- ▶ Continue along the track past the front of Carmichael House and then along the gravel track past a dwelling on your right hand side.
- ▶ You will come to a crossroads with entrances to fields to your left and right. Take the track on the right.
- ▶ Pass through a gate and follow the quad bike track uphill.
- ▶ Continue to follow rising ground to Hyndford monument.
- ▶ From monument, make your way to strip of conifers. Go round the top of the strip and follow a deer fence steeply downhill.
- ▶ At the bottom of the hill turn



right (second sign on the route) and go round to right at barracks on the gravel track, where you will come to a T-junction. At the T-junction, turn right to return via outward route past red brick cottage.

5 Historic Douglas Walking Route

■ Take a walk back in time on the short and easy route through the village of Douglas, which sits on Douglas Water.


With every step, you will encounter significant people and events in Scotland's history from the Wars of Independence with England to World War II.


Highlights


James Gavin Memorial "Bloody" Claverhouse – John Graham of Claverhouse, 1st Viscount Dundee – cut off James Gavin's ears with his own tailoring shears as punishment for attending an illegal prayer meeting during a period in the 17th century known as the Killing Times.

St Bride's Church The clock in the hexagonal tower was a gift from Mary Queen of Scots and is said to be the oldest working





 OS Landranger 72


 Douglas Arms Hotel (now closed) on Ayr Road (A70). If using Google Maps to find the hotel car park, use the postcode ML11 OQN and look out for the hotel as it's easy to drive past it. It's next to a bakery/ art gallery.

 Train: Lanark railway station, 12 miles; Bus: regular service between Lanark Interchange and Douglas

 3.5 miles/5.6km

 2 – 3 hours

 Easy

 Footpaths, estate roads and forestry tracks. Can be muddy in places

town clock in Scotland. The remaining aisle contains the tomb of Sir James Douglas, who was Robert the Bruce's right-hand man.

Sun Inn The private home is claimed as the oldest building in Douglas and has served as an inn and a courthouse. Bloody Claverhouse often stayed here when on patrol.

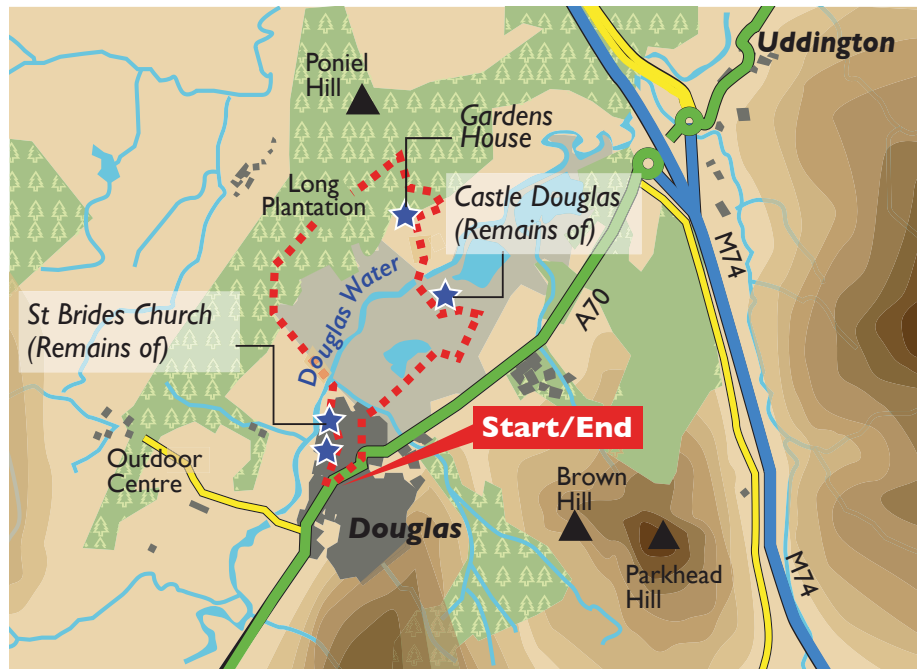
Polish War monuments Carved in stone, these insignia are a lasting reminder of the exiled Polish army's stay here during World War II.

Cameronian Monument The Cameronian regiment was disbanded here in 1968. The Angus regiment became known as the Cameronians.

Douglas Castle Now just a



ruined tower, Douglas Castle was renamed Castle Dangerous by Sir Walter Scott. It was the scene of a particularly dastardly act during the Wars of Independence when an English patrol was tricked into believing



the castle was empty. The tower was built as a folly and is not part of the original castle, which is on an adjacent site.

Angus Monument The Earl of Angus – who was the first Colonel of the Cameronian Regiment – points to the spot where the Angus regiment (the Cameronians) was raised in 1689.

Route

- ▶ From the Douglas Arms, walk along Main Street.
- ▶ Go to the right at a newsagents, past old St Bride's Church and the Sun Inn.
- ▶ Continue downhill to the left to a lodge and enter the castle policies.
- ▶ Keep to a broad track that skirts Stable Loch.

- ▶ At a ruined tower (Castle Dangerous) go to the left downhill and cross iron bridge.
- ▶ Walk towards a cottage and then go to the right.
- ▶ Head through double gate on left and follow a track uphill through trees.
- ▶ At the top of the hill, turn left and follow a forestry track. (German POWs marched along this track from their camp to the pit head baths at Douglas West.)
- ▶ The track narrows and you need to squeeze through trees to join a

- broad track and turn left.
- ▶ At remains of mine buildings, turn left downhill through light woodland.
- ▶ Continue to cross Douglas Water on a blue bridge.
- ▶ Skirt playing fields and follow a lane to a road. Turn right and follow the road to the rear of St Bride's church.
- ▶ Continue to Angus monument and turn left to go downhill. At the foot of the hill turn left and then right to return to start on Main Street.





LONGER WALKING ROUTES

(over 5 miles/8km)

6 Calderglen – Langlands Moss

■ A walk of two halves, the route starts in beautiful Calderglen Park, where there are plenty of attractions and diversions for things to do. The second part of the walk heads across Langlands Moss Nature Reserve.

Highlights

Calderglen Country Park A lovely park with a children's zoo, playparks, woodland walks, gallery and the Courtyard Café. It is also the home of historic Torrance House (not open to the public). The northern section of the park is a Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Wooded glen A scenic wooded glen forged out, by the Rotten Calder River, which is a tributary of the River Clyde extends more than three miles and has many attractive waterfalls and important geological features.

Historic burial ground The burial ground of the Stuarts of Torrance is situated Crutherland



Glen, a short way east of Crutherland House (now the Crutherland House Hotel).

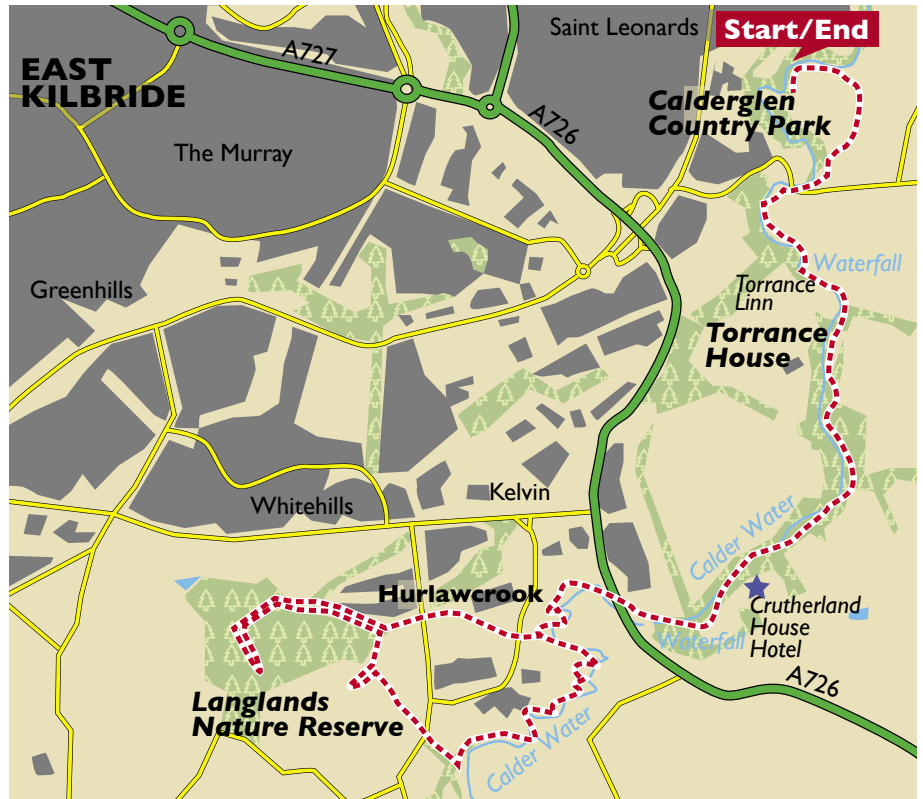
Langlands Moss Nature Reserve

A raised bog was formed around 10,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age. Retreating ice left behind hollows where pools of water formed. Over time, dead plant material built up in the water, slowly decaying and creating peat layers. As the peat increased, plant roots were unable to reach the water and died. The only surviving plants were mosses. Today, the reserve is home to sphagnum mosses and heather. In summer, the heather is very colourful. It is also a huge carbon store and an important wildlife and insect hub.

Route

- ▶ Start at Calderglen Country Park. There are several woodland trails to follow through the park.
- ▶ The Calderglen/Langlands Moss trail follows the "Tor Trail" markers, winding down into the trees and along the river.
- ▶ The first waymarker directs you to Horseshoe Falls to the left, if you want to walk down to the pretty waterfall.
- ▶ You can loop back round to join the path, which leads to Langlands Moss.
- ▶ Otherwise, go right and follow the path through the trees. It is peaceful and quiet.
- ▶ You might catch a glimpse of Crutherland House, now a hotel, through the trees on the opposite bank of the River Calder.

- 📍 Car park at Calderglen Country Park
- 🚗 Train: East Kilbride (2 miles); Bus: Strathaven Road
- ↔ 5 miles/8km
- 🕒 2 – 2.5 hours (1 – 1.5 hours Calderglen; 30mins – 1hr Langlands)
- 🚶 Moderate
- ⚠ Generally good footpaths and pavement. Grassy track at Langlands Moss. Wooden steps and bridges, moderately steep inclines, sometimes rocky underfoot.



- ▶ The track opens up as you walk alongside Torrance House Golf Club.
- ▶ Follow it down to walk under the road beneath the two bridges. There is an old bridge and the New Flatt Bridge, built in 1999 as part of the Strathaven Road improvements.
- ▶ Look out for different birds and wildflowers, butterflies, and snails.
- ▶ Normally the path would continue along the riverside, but a significant part of it has collapsed, so there is a diversion in place. Laminated signs lead the way.
- ▶ The path joins the main road through Langlands Industrial Estate and it is here you would normally cross into Langlands

- Moss for the next portion of the route.
- ▶ However, two malicious fires which destroyed the boardwalk over the Moss and current tree-felling and re-planting works have substantially altered where you can walk.
- ▶ At this point you can simply retrace your steps and head back into Caldergleng via the route you came, perhaps choosing a different trail once inside the park if you want to vary your walk.
- ▶ If you choose to walk on, there are still parts of Langlands Moss to explore.
- ▶ As you follow the path from the road, you will pass the Moss itself on your left. Part of the boardwalk remains in place, so it is possible to admire this incredible beauty spot from this point.
- ▶ However, you can't cross the Moss via the boardwalk and signs

- point you to a new woodland walk, approximately 100 yard along the path.
- ▶ Follow the signs and cross a small wooden bridge over a burn to continue on the woodland walk.
- ▶ The track takes you along beside the remaining trees and up a slope to the other side of the boardwalk.
- ▶ From here, you can turn right and walk through the woodland to join the road into Auldhouse village, or retrace your steps down the slope and back out on to the path.
- ▶ Turn left and walk down through the industrial estate, where you can cross the road and rejoin the walking route back to Caldergleng.
- ▶ The walk through Langlands Moss is not the prettiest at the moment, but significant works are underway to improve this important natural and return to its former glory.

■ The Kilsyth Hills form the continuous bluff along the northern edge of the Central Lowlands that hides the Highlands from view. Climbing Tomtain and Garrel Hill, the highest points in North Lanarkshire, however, reveals all.

From the summit of Tomtain there are excellent views over the Carron Valley of the Southern Highlands and across the central valley to the Southern Uplands.

Nearby Kilsyth is one of only two official “Walkers Welcome” towns in Scotland.

Highlights

Colzium House Eighteenth century Colzium House is at the centre of Lennox estate, which is also home to the ruins of 15th-century Colzium Castle. It’s here that the 1645 battle of Kilsyth, fought between the Royalists and the Covenanters, took place. The parklands feature a walled garden and one of the world’s oldest curling ponds.

Ice house Near Colzium Burn is an old ice house, which was built in 1680 to preserve meat and game.

Grannies Mutch Located at the top of Colzium Glen, the mutch was built as a shelter and rest spot. The weight and precision of the masonry of this small semi-domed structure are impressive.

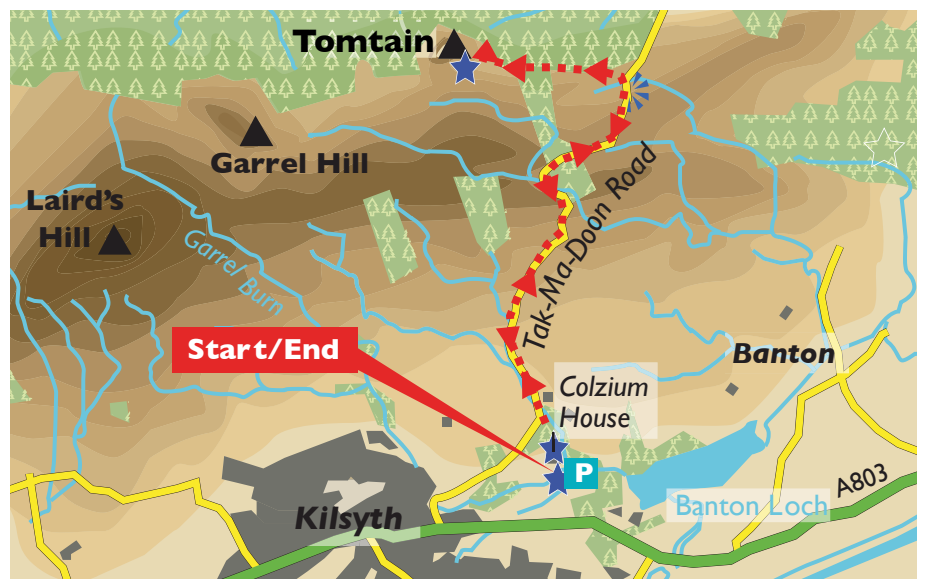
Chapmen’s Graves The graves are marked by two cairns, located a short distance from the summit of Tomtain. Chapmen were travelling salesman, who feature in folklore as murderers or



victims of murder. In this case, one Chapman murdered the other and when the murderer was executed, he was buried alongside his victim.

Note: To visit the Chapmen’s graves and climb Garrel Hill (small cairn) continue along the stone dyke (wall) to the west from Tomtain.





- OS Explorer 348
- Colzium Visitor Centre and Estate, Kilsyth
- Train: Croy 2 miles; Bus stop: Kilsyth 1 mile (follow footpath by lade from foot of Tak-Ma-Doon Road).
- 6.5 miles/10.5km
- 1150ft/350m
- 2-3 hours
- Moderate
- Road, steep in places; hillside path can be very boggy. Stout footwear and suitable clothing recommended. Care should be taken in winter due to potential ice.

Route

- ▶ *The Kilsyth Hill range sits to the northern edge of the Central Lowlands and a walk to Tomtain at 1486ft above sea level (453m) – and one of the highest points in North Lanarkshire – reveals beautiful and wide sweeping views of over the lush Carron Valley and north towards the Scottish Highlands.*
- ▶ *Starting at Colzium House, go to the right but do not cross the bridge.*
- ▶ *Go to the left to follow signs for ice house, glen nature trail and Granny's Mutch.*
- ▶ *The path follows a burn upstream.*
- ▶ *Cross a stone bridge and continue upstream. At the top waterfall, cross a bridge and go immediately right to follow path to a road.*
- ▶ *Turn right and follow Tak-Ma-Doon Road uphill to reach a car park and viewpoint. This is the highest point on the road, and there is a viewpoint with spectacular views of Lanarkshire and beyond to the south and east.*
- ▶ *Walk downhill, still on the road, and then turn left at green gate to gain a footpath.*
- ▶ *Follow the footpath alongside a fence and stone dyke that skirts forestry to reach the summit of Tomtain.*
- ▶ *Retrace your outward route to return to Colzium House.*

8 Antonine Wall and Forth & Clyde Canal

■ One of only six UNESCO World Heritage sites in Scotland, the Antonine Wall is very worthy of a visit, especially for a walk in the footsteps of Roman history.








There is enough of the earthen wall and ditch remaining to be able to understand its defensive qualities and to marvel at the a 37-mile wall built in just two years across Scotland almost 2000 years ago.

Roman soldiers built the Antonine Wall for the Emperor Antoninus Pius around AD 142.

Following the edge of a high ridge for much of the way, the views over Kilsyth and the Kelvin Valley, Campsie Fells and the Kilsyth Hills are equally impressive. Added to this, is a chance to spot wildlife on the Forth & Clyde Canal and wider Kelvin Valley.

Highlights

Auchinstarry Marina Home to barges and house-boats, the marina is great spot for observing life on the canal. OutdoorTrax at the marina also

-  OS Explorer 348
-  Auchinstarry Marina, near Kilsyth (B802)
-  Train: Croy, 1 mile; Bus stop: Auchinstarry Marina.
-  ↔ 8 miles/12.9km
-  4 to 5 hours
-  Moderate
-  ▲ Canal towpaths, and narrow hill tracks. Conditions underfoot are generally good. Stout footwear recommended.



has a range of outdoor activities to try.

Forth and Clyde Canal Engineer John Smeaton chose a similar route to the Antonine Wall for his canal linking the North Sea with the Firth of Clyde. Work began in 1768 and the waterway was opened in 1790.

Dumbreck Marsh A designated site of Special Scientific Interest the marsh is home to many species of of birdlife, including lapwings, water rail and skylarks.

Croy Hill Roman Fort Croy Hill was the site of one of the small forts built at intervals of one to two miles along the length of the wall. It is not visible on the ground today, but the Antonine Wall ditch is identifiable across much of the hill.

Castle Hill Iron Age fort Now topped by a trig point, Castle Hill was constructed more than 2,000 years ago. It was thought to have been abandoned when the Romans arrived.

Barr Hill Fort and Roman Bath House These are among the best Roman remains on the Antonine Wall. Enough of the floor of the bath house remains to understand how Roman central heating worked.

Silvanus, a Roman head sculpture The new replica distance stone sits next to a towering Roman head sculpture at the Nethercroy Site, near Kilsyth, of the Antonine Wall. It is named after the Roman god of the woods, and sits at the Nethercroy site of the Antonine Wall.



Route

- ▶ From the Auchinstarry Marina, head along the south side canal towpath. And continue east to the next bridge.
- ▶ Head past the canal boats westward until you reach Nethercroy.
- ▶ At Nethercroy take the junction west. It is signposted "Craigmarloch, 1 mile."
- ▶ At the gate, continue upwards.
- ▶ At the junction, head west. It is signposted "Croy hill, Antonine's wall - 1 mile."
- ▶ Go south past Silvanus and stop to admire the stunning sculpture.
- ▶ Turn east at the sign for Croy. Head up McCoy Hill on a well-defined path.
- ▶ The path will eventually lead to three trees. Continue on the path through the trees and up to the



top of Croy Hill.

- ▶ Check out the information stones on the route.
- ▶ Continue eastwards along the top of the hill on the path.
- ▶ Stay on the path and head towards the right of the houses.
- ▶ Head through the gate and down the path.
- ▶ Head through the green gate and look eastwards. There is a path heading towards the road.
- ▶ Head east on this path.
- ▶ Walk through the gate and cross the road to the path on the opposite side of the road. Watch out for traffic.
- ▶ Head up the path in an eastwards direction.
- ▶ Continue eastwards until the path reaches a gate. Head through the gate.
- ▶ The path eventually reaches another gate.
- ▶ Continue on the path until you come to a sign that says "Bar Hill". Take the small path to the north. Or if you want a shorter

walk, continue northward on the sign marked "Auchinstarry Marina".

- ▶ Check out the information stone.
- ▶ The highest point of the route is now visible. Head up the hill.
- ▶ The top is marked by a trig point.
- ▶ Head west, down through the trees and then head west on a faint path.
- ▶ Keep high up on the path and you will reach the site of the Roman fort.
- ▶ Head west to the gate, then turn north at the next gate.
- ▶ Follow the path to the village of Twechar.
- ▶ Turn north at the war memorial and walk along the pavement to the canal.
- ▶ Walk east along the canal.
- ▶ At the end of the canal, continue for 50m until you reach the bridge.
- ▶ Turn east at the bridge.
- ▶ Cross the road and go through the green gate to return to Auchinstarry.

9 Palacerigg & Fannyside Loch

■ Rich in interest and things to see, on the walk from Cumbernauld to Palacerigg Country Park – stunning views open up northwards to the Campsies and beyond to the Southern Highlands. Look for wildlife including populations of badger, fox, roe deer, sparrowhawk, kestrel and long and short eared owls at Palacerigg Country Park

Highlights

Luggiebank Nature Reserve

An area of birch and alder woodland close to the centre of Cumbernauld. Look out for water voles, kingfishers and even otters. Come in the spring for bluebell displays.

Palacerigg Country Park

The visitor centre offers an introduction to the park's wildlife. The café will reopen shortly under new management.








Fannyside Muir This is an expanse of valuable raised bog. Up to 12 metres deep and laid down over thousands of years, the bogs are rich in wildlife. You can spot sphagnum moss,



grouse, and dragonflies.

Glencryan These are firebrick clay mines and although they closed more than 50 years ago, evidence of their existence remains. Half-hidden by the advance of nature, it is possible to spy the entrances to the mines and the cables that pulled the wagons.



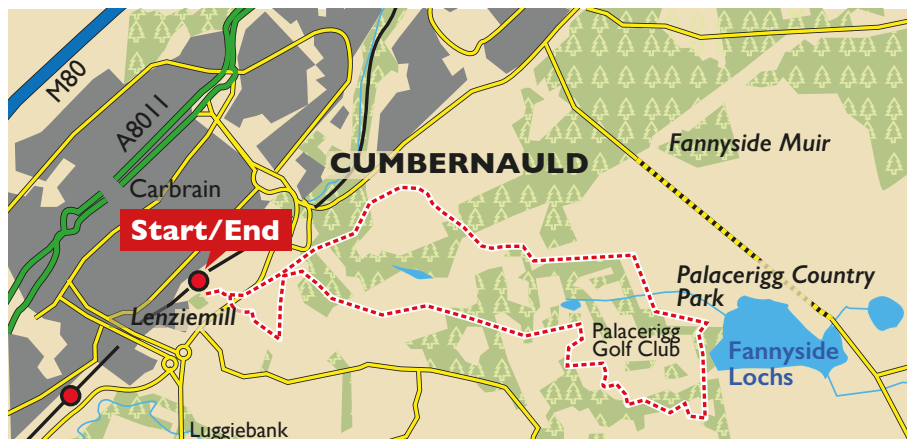
-  OS Landranger 72
-  Greenfaulds railway station (with the option to end at Cumbernauld railway station)
-  Train at start/finish; Bus at Cumbernauld town centre
-  7.5 miles/12km (6.5 miles to Cumbernauld station)
-  4–6 hours
-  Moderate/strenuous
-  Gravel paths, pavements, tarred lanes and rough tracks.

Route

Note: Towards the end of the route, look out for evidence of the old Glencryan clay mines. Palacerigg Country Park: 01236 720047. northlanarkshire.gov.uk

- ▶ At Greenfaulds station cross the bridge and head east towards Lenziemill Road.
- ▶ Turn left and head north on Lenziemill road.
- ▶ After 200m, cross the road and enter the Luggiebank Wood wildlife reserve via the path.

- ▶ After 150m take a path to the left up a steep but very short hill. Follow a gravel path through the woodland then follow Luggie Water upstream.
- ▶ The path then goes under a bridge and climbs to a road. Emerge from the reserve at a narrow lane closed to traffic.
- ▶ Turn left and follow the lane uphill until it meets Lenziemill Road. Cross to the pavement and



walk 150m until you spot a minor road heading eastward.

- ▶ Cross the road and walk up the minor road on the left-hand side pavement.
- ▶ After about one mile, look out for a road on the left, near the top of the hill signed "Country Park service vehicles only". Turn left to follow the service road.
- ▶ Continue past a footpath for Glencryan Woodlands to the park's café and play park.
- ▶ Walk past the park buildings and turn right and the right again so that you are now on the other side of the buildings.
- ▶ Walk along the road towards the car park. Look out for a sign on the left-hand side of the road that says "Badger Trail".
- ▶ Cross the road and take the path indicated by the badger trail. Follow the signs for the badger trail.

- ▶ Follow the signs for the badger trail until you reach the entrance. You can either enter the badger trail or continue straight on. Either will take you the correct way but the badger trail is a slightly longer but scenic route.
- ▶ Once you reach the end of the badger trail, there is a sign indicating turn left for the visitors' centre. You can either return to the centre or turn right and continue on to Fannyside Loch.
- ▶ After a few hundred metres take the left turn and continue onwards.
- ▶ Within half a mile you will spot Fannyside loch. Look out for a trail on your right-hand side that heads towards the loch.
- ▶ Take the trail and keep left at any

turnings. You will return to the main path.

- ▶ Continue along the path until you reach a crossroads. You can either return to the visitor centre by going straight across the golf course or turn right to head back to the train station.
- ▶ Turn right and follow the path. Keep walking straight on at any crossroads. The walk is now mostly downhill.
- ▶ After a couple of miles, you will reach a small car park next to the B8084.
- ▶ You can now return to the start of the walk by turning left and walking back along this road or you can cross the road and walk a short distance to Cumbernauld Railway station.

10 Summerlee Monkland Canal & Calder Trail








■ This route starts at the popular Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage and can be walked or cycled. It is almost entirely traffic-free and follows the National Cycle Network route 75 and North Calder Heritage Trail.

There are plenty of signs and information boards for added interest and a visit to Summerlee before or after your outing will help you imagine the heyday of the canal when it was busy with boats carrying coal from the many pit heads once found in what is now tranquil and rolling green countryside.

Highlights

Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage

Based around the site of the former 19th century Summerlee Ironworks, the visitor attraction vividly recreates Lanarkshire's industrial past. There are

-  OS Explorer 343
-  Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage, Coatbridge, finish at Drummelloch train station.
-  Train: Coatbridge Sunnyside railway station ½ mile; Coatbridge Central 500 yards. Bus stop: Coatbridge town centre.
-  8.5 miles/13.6km.
-  4 hours.
-  Moderate
-  Good footpaths throughout, although the path can be very muddy and steep at times



historic trams, tours down a recreated mine, working machinery and many exhibits that tell the human story. visitlanarkshire.com/summerlee

Monklands Canal Now home to ducks and heron, the canal was designed by James Watt as a route for carrying industrial goods. The building project started in 1770 and the canal opened in 1794. It was used for carrying mainly coal to Glasgow. Closed in 1935, much of the canal was then filled in.

Faskine Bridge Painted black and white, British Waterway's colours, this is an evocative piece of canal furniture. It was near here in 1819 that Thomas

Wilson launched the Vulcan, Scotland's first iron-hulled ship. A replica can be seen at Summerlee.

Route

- ▶ From Summerlee, proceed straight ahead down Heritage Way to a junction with West Canal Street.
- ▶ Turn left and cross to go back under the railway bridge at the giant Lees' snowballs artworks.
- ▶ Continue to a pedestrian crossing and cross. Turn left and then first right into Ellis Street (cul-de-sac).
- ▶ Follow around to the left and continue past the police station, up a ramp at the foot of the



pedestrian bridge.

- ▶ Go around the car park, passing Coatbridge health centre on your right.
- ▶ Continue to the pedestrian crossing and continue in the direction of Caldercruix, following the path to the rear of

a supermarket and continue to cross the bridge over the dual carriageway.

- ▶ Turn left in the direction of Calderbank, NCN 75.
- ▶ After a short downhill ride, turn right to join the Monkland canal basin and emerge at Locks Street.
- ▶ Staying on this side of the road, turn right and right again before going under the viaduct.
- ▶ Head up a ramp to reach the level of the railway path then turn left to cross the viaduct.
- ▶ Follow the railway path until it goes uphill past a primary school. Turn left at a junction of footpaths (do not go out to the main road) – signed as “Drumgelloch 1¼, Plains 3, NCN 75”.

- ▶ Continue beyond the primary school and astroturf pitch, following the tarred path around to the left for about 100 yards.
- ▶ At a wooden fence, leave NCN 75 and turn right to follow path that involves negotiating a series of staggered gates. On the left is the Brownsburn Country Park.
- ▶ The cycle path will then meet up with a road signed for Calderbank and Chapelhall. Cross straight over and take a path across a field, which is narrow in places.
- ▶ At Calderbank Road turn to the right and join the road, entering the Calderbank 30mph zone.
- ▶ Continue past Calderbank Primary School and then downhill through the village. Turn right into Crowwood Road just before the village hall.
- ▶ Take the second left – Woodhall Avenue. Go to the bottom and pass through a narrow swing gate on the right.
- ▶ Descend on to a tarred road which is closed to traffic and at the bottom of hill cross the canal to take up the towpath on the left.
- ▶ Stay on the towpath to the end of the open section of canal, then cross the bridge over a weir and continue to Paddock Street/ Sykeside Road.
- ▶ Cross the road, take up a gravel path and follow to the railway viaduct. At Drumgelloch, you can take a train west to Coatbridge Sunnyside (six-minute journey).
- ▶ Come out of station through car park, at roundabout cross over to the right, walk to the end of the road, at roundabout, take a right turn which will take you back to Summerlee Museum.



11 Carluke Crossford circuit

■ Carluke is an old market town at an important crossroads between central and southern Scotland, where old and new roads converge. Once out of Carluke the road is lined with beech and hawthorn. Good views in every direction, especially to Tinto and across the Clyde Valley to Blackhill.

Highlights

Major General Roy In 1956, a monument in the form of a Trig Point was erected by Ordnance Survey in honour of surveyor and map-maker Major General Roy. The memorial is located at Multonhead, near Carluke, where Roy was born. The plaque reads: "Here stood Miltonhead the birthplace of Major General William Roy 1726-1790 from whose Military Map of Scotland made in 1747-1755 grew the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain."

River Clyde The River Clyde starts at an altitude of 472 metres in the Lowther Hills in



South Lanarkshire and trails more than 100 miles to the sea. It flows north through South Lanarkshire then turns west and passes through the former industrial village of New Lanark. Here, the river cascades through the Falls of Clyde before the Clyde heads north-west through Clydesdale and on to the city of Glasgow where it widens and forms the Firth of Clyde.

Fiddler's Gill A stream rushes through the surprisingly dramatic wooded gorge, which is also a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Clyde Walkway A 40 mile/65km riverside footpath from the centre of Glasgow to the Falls of Clyde at New Lanark.

Route

- ▶ Start in Carluke at the junction of Market Place Road and High Street. Continue along High Street to a roundabout then take right on to John Street
- ▶ At the junction of John Street and James Street, take the left turn staying on John Street. You will cross a burn and head uphill. This eventually turns into Old Lanark Road.
- ▶ At the junction of Wilton Street, cross the road going diagonally left into the new houses at Balcastle Cres.
- ▶ At the "V" in the road, take the right fork and continue straight ahead on the path between the houses to join Old Lanark Road.
- ▶ Eventually, you meet crossroads with Goremire Road. Go straight

- 📖 OS Explorer 343
- 📍 Junction of Market Place Road and High Street, Carluke
- 🚏 Carluke station (alternative starting point*); bus stop: Mount Stewart St
- ↔ 10 miles/16km
- 🕒 3-4 hours
- 🏃 moderate
- ⚠ Good footpaths that can be muddy or overgrown in places; tarmacked minor roads. Railway crossing and some steep steps



- ahead on Old Lanark Road. (This looks more like a track than a road and is not suitable for cars.)
- ▶ At crossroads with Boghall Road continue straight ahead.
- ▶ Continue until another crossroads. The road naturally bends to the left. At this point, turn right and go through a gate.
- ▶ Follow a track (Meadow Road) all the way down to the railway.
- ▶ Cross the railway bridge and continue. You'll be able to see Tinto Hill from here.
- ▶ At the main road (A73), cross the road, (take care with this crossing on a busy road). Head down Auchenglen Road. This goes some distance and through Fiddler's Gill.
- ▶ When you reach the house at the bottom, take the path to the right



- and follow a sign to Birkhill Road.
- ▶ At a junction of Birkhill Road with Nemphar Moor Road, turn right and then left onto Braidwood Road. Cross the road and continue into Crossford.
- ▶ Just before the river, there is a big signpost to the River Clyde Walkway. Turn here and take the path right. Keep going. At one point the path splits. You can take either side as they join together again.
- ▶ Continue on the Walkway before

- coming back up on to a road.
- ▶ Note: There are some bits of broken boardwalk (diversion in place).
- ▶ Look for a large house at Milton-Lockhart. There are signs stating where the public can go and where is private. These should be adhered to.
- ▶ On reaching Milton Road, continue ahead and pass a monument for Major General Roy.
- ▶ From the monument continue along Milton Road to the junction of Station Road, then turn left on to Station Road.
- ▶ As you turn into Station Road, on the right there are new paths. These are a nice addition if you want to do more and loop round.
- ▶ Continue on Station Road, passing Carluke station to a junction with Kirkton Street, where you turn left.
- ▶ At a main junction, turn right back on to High Street to reach the start point again.

■ New Lanark, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a great visitor destination. From the visitor centre, you can follow the banks of the River Clyde as it surges through a narrow gorge and over three spectacular waterfalls.

As you walk, look out for a wide variety of wildlife. If you are lucky you may spot the blue flash of a kingfisher as it flies by or one of the resident peregrine falcons. There are otter and badger, too.

Highlights

New Lanark In the early 19th century, philanthropist and utopian idealist Robert Owen created what he believed was a model industrial community. Staff lived in a newly built village and worked on what became Scotland's largest cotton mill. Today, the mill is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a popular tourist attraction.

Falls of Clyde To give it the official title, it's the Scottish Wildlife Trust - Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre and Wildlife



Reserve. The Falls of Clyde is the collective name of four linn on the River Clyde near New Lanark, including the upper falls of Bonnington Linn, Corra Linn, Dundaff Linn, and the lower falls of Stonebyres Linn. Corra Linn is the highest, with a fall of 26 metres. There is also a Peregrine Watch.

Corra Castle Perched above the Corra Linn, this is where William Wordsworth wrote a poem about the castle and the falls.

Clydesholm Bridge The narrow humpback bridge was built in 17th century.

Castlebank Park A beautiful park and site of Lanark castle,

where William Wallace began his rebellion against English rule.

Route

The route is well signposted but mobile phone reception can be patchy, so don't rely on your phone for directions.

- ▶ From the New Lanark Visitor Centre go down steps to mill shop and turn left.
- ▶ Beyond the old schoolhouse go to the right to SWT visitor centre and a close-up view of Dundaff Linn.
- ▶ Climb steps to the left.
- ▶ At the top, turn right through an archway to follow the River Clyde.
- ▶ At the end of the boardwalk, go

- 📖 OS Landranger 72
- 📍 New Lanark visitor centre
- 🚆 Train: Lanark railway station 2 miles; Bus: regular service between Lanark Interchange & New Lanark
- ↔ 7 miles/11.3km
- 🕒 2.5 – 3.5 hours.
- 🚶 Moderate
- ⚠ Good footpaths to Bonnington Linn. Paths can be muddy on opposite bank to Kirkfieldbank.



to the right.

- ▶ At the hydro power station, follow signposts off to the right and climb to a viewpoint.
- ▶ Continue upstream to a weir and cross the Clyde.
- ▶ Turn right downstream. Head right and follow a footpath along the Clyde. You might need to follow diversion while peregrines are nesting.
- ▶ Continue to Corra Castle and from there continue downstream.
- ▶ At each junction turn right to continue downstream.
- ▶ The footpath emerges at old lodge house in Kirkfieldbank.
- ▶ Turn right downhill to join Clyde Walkway and cross Clydesholm bridge.

- ▶ Go through a gate in between properties at the far side of the bridge and descend to rejoin the footpath by the Clyde.
- ▶ Continue uphill at a water plant and follow a single track road to

- the top of a hill. Turn right into Castlebank Park.
- ▶ In the park, turn right before a big house to follow the Clyde walkway steeply downhill and then uphill into New Lanark.

13 Lamington Hill

■ Lamington Hill is a lower summit in the Southern Uplands and this walk of around 4.5 miles includes some 530ft (160m) of ascent. The summit at 1614ft (492m) above sea level is marked with a trig pillar and there are great views of the surrounding countryside and the Clyde valley. Across the River Clyde, you'll see the popular hill walking destination of Tinto.

Highlights

Marilyn Lamington Hill is classified as a Marilyn, which is a peak with a prominence of 150m or more on all sides. The name was coined as a pun in contrast to the better known Munros, which are the 282 Scottish mountains with a height of more than 3,000ft. There are more than 1,500 Marilyns in Britain.

Lamington The village is reputed

- 📖 OS Explorer 336 (compass required).
- 📍 Lamington Church on the A702, Lamington
- 🚆 Train: Lanark (20 miles); bus: Lanark to Lamington via Biggar
- ↔ 4.5 miles/7km
- 🕒 1.5 to 2.5 hours
- 🏃 Moderate
- ⚠ Tarmac road, estate roads, hill tracks and open hillside. There is one steep slope to ascend. It could be very muddy after a period of wet weather and navigation will be compromised in poor weather.



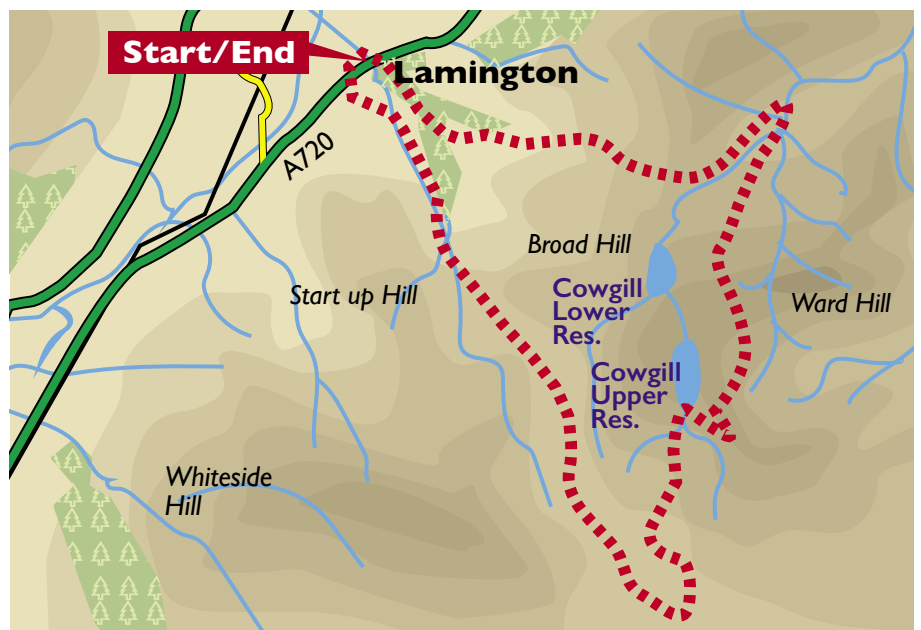
to be the home of Marion Braidfute, the legendary wife of William Wallace. It is also said that the name is the origin of Lamington sponge cake, which is popular in Australia, although there are other claims to the naming of this sweet treat, too.

St Ninian's Church The building in Lamington looks ordinary until you walk around to the north side of the church. Here, as if inserted into the wall as an afterthought, are the blocked remains of a doorway surrounded by a magnificent Norman carved arch.

Route

▶ Start at the car park by Lamington Church on the A702.

- ▶ Turn left out of the car park back to the A702 and head right to the minor road signed Baitlaws Estate Walkers.
- ▶ The walk begins on an easy tarmacked road and makes for a pleasant start to the walk.
- ▶ Continue along the tarmacked road towards Baitlaws House.
- ▶ Just before Baitlaws house, there is a gate on the left. This is signposted for walkers.
- ▶ Follow the track under the trees to another gate (don't take the stile just before the gate).
- ▶ At the foot of the hill go through the gate and down to the burn to a bridge over the burn.
- ▶ Once over the bridge, follow the track up a short steep incline to an opening where you will see a



- gate and an estate track making its way uphill.
- ▶ Continue on the estate track as it gradually rises up the hill towards a tree plantation.
- ▶ At the tree plantation take the



- quad bike track on your left-hand side up the steep grassy slope of the hill. The trig point comes into view as you near the summit.
- ▶ Once at the summit, there are fantastic views of the surrounding countryside and hills.
- ▶ From the summit, you can either retrace your footsteps or take the obvious quad bike track along the ridge of the hill back towards Baitlaws House.
- ▶ Once back on the main estate track, retrace your steps.