

# Walking in Lanarkshire



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The Herald



*“Looking for bright ideas for short breaks and great days out in Lanarkshire? It really will take you a month of Sundays if you want to try everything!”*

There's so much to see and do in Lanarkshire. Make the most of the great outdoors at one of the area's fine country parks and estates, or discover its rich and fascinating history at the many museums and heritage attractions, including the Unesco World Heritage Sites at New Lanark and the Antonine Wall near Kilsyth. With so much fun on your doorstep, what are you waiting for?



**VisitLanarkshire.com**

*Love it.*



# Visit Lanarkshire

## Central Scotland's playground

If you love walking, you'll love walking in Lanarkshire.

Here you can hike or meander through a variety of landscapes, peppered with history and well-served with restaurants, pubs and tearooms offering refreshment and reward for a day well spent.

Luckily, few people really recognise Lanarkshire's truly rural nature and so its hills, valleys and riversides are free from crowds and free for you to enjoy.

The River Clyde rises in the Southern Uplands and flows through the Lanarkshire

countryside before it rolls into Scotland's industrial heartland. Unsurprisingly, the river is a walker's delight. The new 37 mile Clyde Walkway takes you from the Unesco World Heritage site at New Lanark, via Stoneybyre Falls, the RSPB's Baron's Haugh Reserve and through Strathclyde Park. Walk on to the 13th Century Bothwell Castle and to the David Livingston Centre in Blantyre before you leave leafy Lanarkshire for the more industrial scenery down river.

It's not just about the Clyde though, consider the

Carron Valley, the Kelvin Valley and the Kilsyth Hills. Follow in Roman footsteps on the Antonine Wall, or take a West-East trip along the Forth and Clyde Canal. Or you could take a walk on the wild side to the 2320ft summit of Tinto Hill and enjoy views that, on a clear day, reach as far as the Lake District and Arran.

Serious walkers and family ramblers alike can find the fresh air, peace and interest in Lanarkshire. A good walk's not as far as you think. Love walking? You'll love walking in Lanarkshire.

**Map:** OS Explorer 348  
**Start/finish:** Auchinstarry Marina, near Kilsyth  
**Transport:** Train - Croy, 1 mile; Bus stop - Auchinstarry Marina.  
**Refreshment:** The Boathouse restaurant with rooms, Auchinstarry Marina - 01236 829 200; [www.boathousekilsyth.com](http://www.boathousekilsyth.com)  
The Quarry Inn, Twechar

- 01236 821496  
The Coachman Hotel, 4 Parkfoot St, Kilsyth - 01236 821649.  
**Distance:** 8 miles.  
**Time:** 4½ hours.  
**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Terrain:** Canal towpaths, and narrow hill tracks. Conditions underfoot are generally good. Stout footwear recommended.

**Walking with the Antonine Wall, a Unesco World Heritage site since 2008, is an exhilarating experience.**

**There is enough of the earthen wall and ditch remaining to be able to understand its defensive qualities and marvel at the expertise that got the 37-mile- long wall built in two years.**

**Following the edge of a high ridge for much of the way the views over the Kelvin Valley, Campsie Fells, and Kilsyth Hills (see walk 10) are equally impressive.**

**Added to this, view the engineering feat and wildlife of the Forth & Clyde Canal.**

## Points of interest

**1 Auchinstarry Marina** – home to many barges and house-boats, the terrace of the Boathouse restaurant is a great spot for observing life on the canal. OutdoorTrax at the Marina also has bikes and canoes for hire.

**2 Forth & Clyde Canal** – John Smeaton, an engineer, 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 it was opened in 1790.

**3 Dumbreck Marsh**  
A site of special scientific interest supporting a range of birdlife including lapwings, water rail and skylarks.

**4 Croy Hill Roman Fort** – one of the small forts built at intervals of one to two miles along the length of the wall.

**5 Castle Hill** Iron Age fort – now topped by a 'trig point', Castle Hill was constructed more than 2000 years ago. It was



probably abandoned when the Romans arrived.

**6 Barr Hill Fort and Roman Bath House** – these are among the best Roman remains on the wall. Enough of the floor of the bath house remains to understand how Roman central heating worked.

## The route

From the Auchinstarry Marina, go west from the Boathouse. Climb to road and cross to far side of the canal. Follow the canal tow-path east to next bridge.

At bridge join road and go right – uphill. At crest of hill go to the right signed for Antonine Wall. Follow broad track and continue uphill. At fork in the path take the left signed

# Forth and Clyde Canal and the Antonine Wall



- Twechar via Antonine Wall, 3 miles.

After short distance go off to the right, to follow the rising ground. On the right are the first glimpses of the Antonine Wall.

Follow clear path uphill to the top of Croy Hill and then into a shallow dip.

Follow obvious track downhill, aiming for the right hand edge of houses. Continue to tarmac road. Go to the right through green gate and left to continue to main road (follow the narrow track and not the black footpath).

Cross the road to take up track signed Barrhill Wood, Roman Fort and Twechar.

On leaving woodland go sharp right and then left to follow the left hand edge of shelter belt. This is the most spectacular section of the wall. The earthen wall and



ditch are obvious as it sweeps into a dip and then up to the top of Castle Hill.

After experiencing the marvellous views from trig point at the top of Castle Hill, descend to the west and step through gap in stone dyke. With Antonine Wall on your right

follow path through trees.

Emerge into a field dotted with mature trees. In the field you will find the remains of the Roman Bath House and Fort. Exit from this pathless area by gate over the hill to the left and out of sight from the bath house.

Follow broad path away from black gate and at the second gate turn right downhill. Emerge at Twechar war memorial and turn right again downhill through the village to rejoin the canal. Turn right and take up towpath. Follow back to Auchinstarry Marina.

# Walk 2

A haven for walkers and wildlife



**Map:** OS Explorer 343.

**Start/finish point:**  
RSPB visitor car park  
accessed by North  
Lodge Avenue.

**Transport:** Train -  
Airbles 1¼ mile.

Bus stop - Adele Street  
at Broomside Crescent  
750 yards.

**Refreshment:**  
Electric Bar  
(adjacent to Airbles  
railway

station) - 01698 268393;  
[www.electricbar.co.uk](http://www.electricbar.co.uk)

**Distance:** 3.5 miles.

**Time:** 2-3 hours.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Terrain:** Good footpaths  
throughout.

# Dalzell Estate & Baron's Haugh Nature Reserve

Binoculars would be a good idea on this walk as sightings of birdlife and wildlife are guaranteed. There are four hides overlooking the Baron's Haugh from where kingfishers, teal, pochard and red wing may be spotted.

The Dalzell Estate with its ornamental bridges and temples, exotic trees, Japanese gardens and ordered planting indicate that it was regarded by its wealthy former owners, the Hamiltons, as no more than a very large garden. Nevertheless the result is a very picturesque and relaxing walking environment.

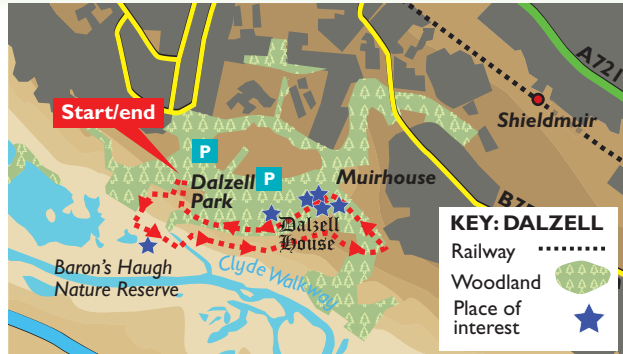
This walk follows the red route, the longest of five marked routes that explore the reserve and estate.

## Points of interest

**1 RSPB Baron's Haugh** nature reserve centred on flooded marshland in a bend of the river Clyde, the reserve attracts wintering wildfowl including widgeon and whooper swans.

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

**3 Dalzell House** (private)



the centrepiece of the estate this impressive building spans more than 500 years. The Hamiltons of Dalzell lived here from the 17th century until the early 1950s; a home they had to share with at least three ghosts.

### 4 Covenanter's Oak

planted by David I, it is the oldest living thing in North Lanarkshire. This venerable oak sheltered secret religious services held by Covenanters in the 17th century.

### 5 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.

**6 White walk** this sunken roadway was created so that miners making their way to work each day didn't spoil the view from the house.

## The route

Leave the RSPB car park (accessed by North Lodge Avenue/Manse Road) by the path signed "To the hides." Follow red ash path downhill to junction with broad path. Turn right on-to broad path. Watch out for hide on the left.

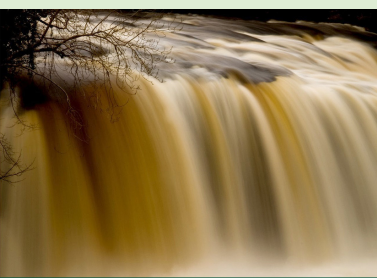
Turn left off main footpath on-to narrow path through trees. After a short distance turn left again to join footpath by the river Clyde and follow for about one mile. At the junction with the Chestnut Walk go through the gate and take up the Lime Walk to continue along the riverbank. At the end of the 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.

# Walk 3

A spectacular river walk

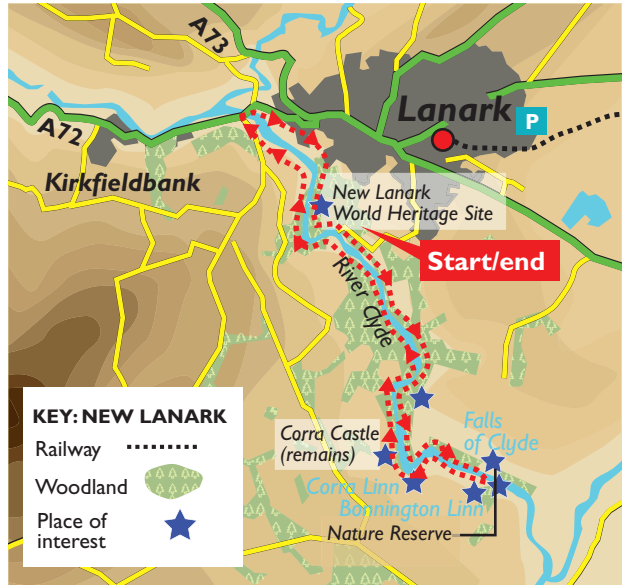


**Map:** OS Landranger 72.  
**Start/finish point:** New Lanark visitor centre.  
**Transport:** Train – Lanark railway station 2 miles; Bus – regular service between Lanark Interchange and New Lanark.  
**Refreshment:** Mill Pantry coffee shop, New Lanark; 01555 665876 New Lanark Mill hotel, 01555 667200; Riverside bar, Riverside Road, Kirkfieldbank 01555 663339 **Distance:** 7 miles.  
**Time:** 3 – 4 hours.  
**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Terrain:** Good footpaths to Bonnington Linn. Paths can be muddy on opposite bank to Kirkfieldbank.

**Walk from New Lanark, the Unesco World Heritage site, and explore the river Clyde's hidden side. Follow the river as it surges through a narrow gorge and over three spectacular waterfalls. Walking through the Falls of Clyde nature reserve, where birdsong competes with the roar of the waterfalls, keep a look out for kingfishers, otters and badgers. In spring the highlight of the walk is watching the resident peregrine falcons raise their fledglings.**



# New Lanark and the Falls of Clyde



## Points of interest

- 1 New Lanark** – 18th century utopian village and Unesco World Heritage site.
- 2 Falls of Clyde** nature reserve visitor centre – stop off and find out what to look out for.
- 3 Corra Linn** – the grandest and highest of the Falls of Clyde.
- 4 Peregrine Watch**  
– watch the falcons raise their young on a rocky ledge above the river.
- 5 Bonnington Linn** – the most menacing of the Falls of Clyde.
- 6 Corra Castle** – perched

above the Corra Linn William Wordsworth wrote a poem about the castle and the falls.

## 7 Clydesholm Bridge

– the narrow hump-back bridge was built in the 17th century.

## 8 Castlebank Park

– a beautiful park and site of Lanark castle where William Wallace began his rebellion against English rule.

## The route

From the New Lanark visitor centre go down steps to mill shop and turn left. Beyond old schoolhouse go to the right to SWT visitor centre and close-up view of Dundaff Linn.

Climb steps to left. At top turn right through archway to follow Clyde; at the end of the boardwalk go to the right.

At the hydro power station follow signposts off to right and

climb to viewpoint.

Continue upstream to weir and cross Clyde.

Turn right downstream. Bear right and follow footpath along the Clyde (follow diversion while peregrines are nesting furthest from Clyde.)

Continue to Corra Castle and from there continue downstream.

At each junction turn right to continue downstream. Footpath emerges at old lodge house in Kirkfieldbank.

Turn right downhill to join Clyde walkway and cross Clydesholm bridge.

Go through gate in between properties at far side of bridge and descend to rejoin footpath by Clyde.

Continue uphill at water plant and follow single track road to top of hill, turn right into Castlebank Park.

In the park turn right before big house to follow Clyde walkway steeply downhill and then uphill into New Lanark.

**Map:** OS Explorer 336

**Start/finish:** Corn Exchange, High Street, Biggar.

**Transport:** Train – Lanark railway station 12 ½ miles. Bus – regular bus service between Lanark Interchange and Biggar. Daily service

from Edinburgh.

**Refreshment:** Biggar is well served by tearooms, pubs and restaurants.

**Distance:** 4 ½ miles.

**Time:** 1 ½ - 2 hours.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Terrain:** Footpaths, farms roads and quiet back roads

**This walk explores the gentle rolling farmland to the north of Biggar. Wander along country lanes overhung with beech trees and lined with hawthorne.**

**Be sure to look back from time to time to take in the terrific views of the Southern Upland hills rising steeply on the far side of Biggar.**

### Points of interest

**1 Moat Park** heritage centre – one of five museums in Biggar it explains the local Iron Age and Roman histories.

**2 St Mary's church** – built in 1545, it was the last collegiate church in Scotland built before the Reformation.

**3 Covenanters' Museum** – this 17th-century house in the Burn Braes park played an important role in the Killing Times. It explains a bloody period of executions without trial and guerrilla warfare in the Lanarkshire hills.

**4 Little Mitchell Wood** – a woodland and wildlife walk that provides a pleasant detour.

**5 Cadger's Brig** - the legend is that William Wallace entered Biggar to spy on the English before the battle of Biggar disguised as a beggar (cadger).

**6 Gasworks Museum** – the last remaining gasworks in Scotland. Opened in 1839.

### The route

From the Corn Exchange cross High Street at the pedestrian crossing and turn left.

Follow High Street and then Kirkstyle off to the right.

Take care crossing road to heritage centre and from there go downhill into the park.

Cross the stream and continue straight on. Follow narrow road away from Biggar to Hillridge farm.

At Hillridge follow signs for Springfield 600m, Biggar 2.5km.

Continue through gate and fol-

low ditch across field. Go through gate and step over stream. Follow the ditch to farm road.

Turning left join the farm road. Continue past Springfield.

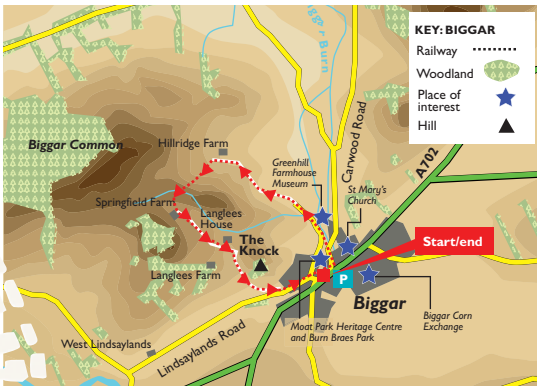
Follow farm road downhill and round to the right at large house.

Follow road to the left and continue to junction with Lindsaylands Road. Turn left and follow road into Biggar.

Turn right onto The Wynd and go downhill to cross Cadger's Brig. Return to start on High Street.



# Biggar, Hillridge and Langlees



# Walk 5

A superb viewpoint & the perfect introduction to hill-walking

**Map:** OS Landranger 72

**Start/finish point:**

Car park, Fallburn by Thankerton

**Transport:** Train

– Lanark station 6 miles;

Bus – service between Lanark Interchange and Thankerton.

**Refreshment:** Tinto Hill tearoom (seasonal); Tinto Hotel, Symington, 01899 308606.

Carmichael Visitor Centre Tearoom 01899 308169.

Thankerton Stores, 01899 308302. camping at Wiston Lodge, 01899 308302.

**Distance:** 5 miles (height gain 450 m)

**Time:** 2–3 hours.

**Difficulty:** Moderate/hard

**Terrain:** Well-worn path to summit; loose in places - suitable footwear required.

**Tinto is the graceful cone-shaped hill on Lanarkshire's southern horizon. At 707 metres, it is the highest point in central Scotland and the perfect introduction to hill walking.**

**The best reason for climbing Tinto hill is the excellent view. On the clearest days the view takes in the Lake District, the mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland, Ailsa Craig and Arran in the Firth of Clyde, the Arrochar**

**Alps and as far north as Lochnagar in the Cairngorms.**

## Points of interest

**1 Tinto** tearoom (seasonal) – opened in 1938 at the height of the craze for the great outdoors.

**2 Iron Age fort** – observant walkers will spot the double ditches and ramparts of this prehistoric defensive site. It is more obvious on the way down.

**3 Summit cairn** – dating from the Bronze Age, it is largest cairn in Scotland. It is tradition to carry a rock from the bottom and place it on the top to keep Tinto growing.

## The route

The most popular route is a well-worn route that reveals the underlying red rock that may give Tinto its name.

At first the going is easy as the path crosses the gently rising heathery moor. There then follows three steep sections



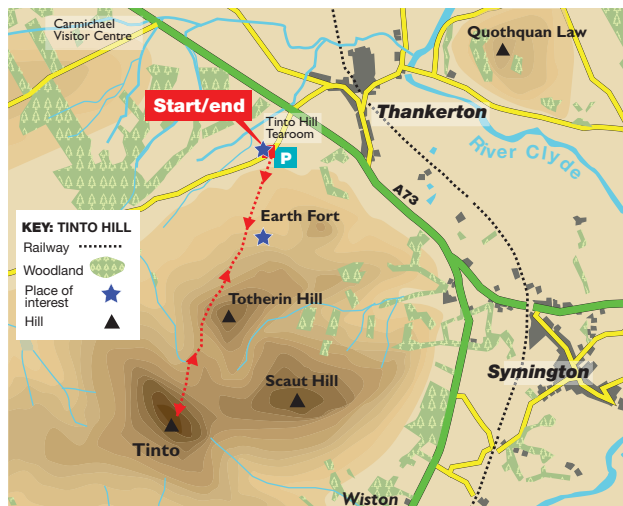
# Tinto Hill



separated by enough easier walking to allow you to get your breath back.

The large cairn on Totherin hill is the half-way point and not far beyond here the path splits. The right hand option goes across the top of an impressive sweep of steep hillside known as Maurice's Cleuch. The paths meet up again for the final climb.

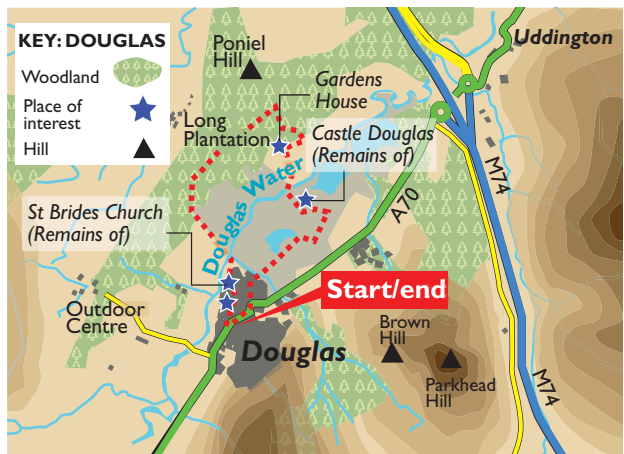
An alternative route starts from Wiston Lodge on the south side of Tinto hill – it is less busy but steeper than the Fallburn route.



**Walking along Douglas's ancient streets and in the surrounding countryside there is much to discover. With every step you will encounter significant people and events in Scotland's history from the Wars of Independence with England to the Second World War.**

### Points of interest

- 1 James Gavin** memorial – 'Bloody' Claverhouse cut off Gavin's ears with his own tailoring shears for attending an illegal prayer meeting during a period in 17th century known as the Killing Times.
- 2 St Bride's Church** – the clock in the hexagonal tower was a gift from Mary Queen of Scots and is the oldest working town clock in Scotland. The remaining aisle contains the tomb of Sir James Douglas – Robert the Bruce's right-hand man.
- 3 Sun Inn** (private home) – the oldest building in Douglas has been an inn and a courthouse. Bloody Claverhouse often stayed here when on patrol.
- 4 Polish War Monuments** – carved in stone, these insignia are a lasting reminder of the exiled Polish army's stay here during the Second World War.
- 5 Cameronian Monument** – the Cameronian regiment was disbanded here in 1968.



# Douglas and the castle policies



**Map:** OS Landranger 72  
**Start/finish**

**point:** Douglas Arms hotel, Ayr Road (A70)

**Transport:** Train – Lanark railway station 12 miles; Bus – regular service between Lanark Interchange and Douglas.

**Refreshment:** Douglas Arms hotel, 54 Ayr Road, 01555 851322  
Countryside Inn, 47 Main

Street, 01555 851218;  
Cross Keys Inn, 68 Main Street, 01555 851345;  
The Larder, St Bride Centre, 01555 850019;  
J&M's Café, 56 Ayr Road, 01555 850313.

**Distance:** 3 ½ miles.

**Time:** 2–3 hours.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Terrain:**

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

## 6 Douglas Castle and

ruined tower – 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 not part of the original castle which was on an adjacent site. The tower was built as a folly much more recently).

## 7 Angus Monument

– the Earl of Angus points to the spot where the Angus regiment, later to be known as the Cameronians, was raised in 1689.

## The route

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

At ruined tower (Castle Dangerous) go to the left downhill and cross iron bridge. Go towards cottage and then go to the right.

Go through double gate on left and follow track uphill through trees. At top of the hill turn left and follow forestry track (German POWs marched along this track from their camp to the pit head baths at Douglas West).

Track narrows. Squeeze through trees to join broad track and turn left. At remains of mine buildings turn left downhill through light woodland. Continue to cross Douglas Water on blue bridge.

Skirt playing fields and follow lane to road. Turn right and follow road to rear of St Bride's church.

Continue to Angus monument and turn left to go downhill. At foot of hill turn left and then right to return to start on Main Street.



This has been the Clan Carmichael's patch since the 14th century and the clan has made its mark. Explore the estate and unravel the ebbs and flows of a clan that played a prominent role in Scottish, British and European history.

## Points of interest

### 1 Clan Carmichael

visitor centre – heritage exhibition and a souvenir and farm shop.

### 2 Carmichael House

– built in 1734, it replaced a tower destroyed by 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.

3 Dovecot – built in 1750, this ornate stone dovecot would have provided the estate with eggs and meat.

### 4 Hyndford memorial

– monument on top of Carmichael hill to the 2nd earl of Hyndford who was a

distinguished diplomat.

5 Deer park – the farmed venison plays an important part of the modern estate's economy.

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

## The route

From the visitor centre go around the end of the heritage museum and then between the stables and the barn.

Go around to the rear of the barn on-to a red gravel path.

Turn right through the gate and follow signs for the Carmichael history walk.

Follow track through woodland and then turn steeply uphill past red brick cottage.

At main drive turn left. Continue to follow the main drive around walled area. At conifer trees go to

the left to old Carmichael House.

Continue past the front of Carmichael House and follow signs round the far corner of the house. Go down a couple of steps and turn to the right and then to left to cross small bridge.

Follow widening track through trees to a dirt track – turn right and then turn left on to main drive at Westmains. Follow drive to Westgate.

At Westgate follow signs uphill in strip of woodland more or less following the wall on your left.

At the top of the climb follow sign to the right. Step over fence on-to open hillside.

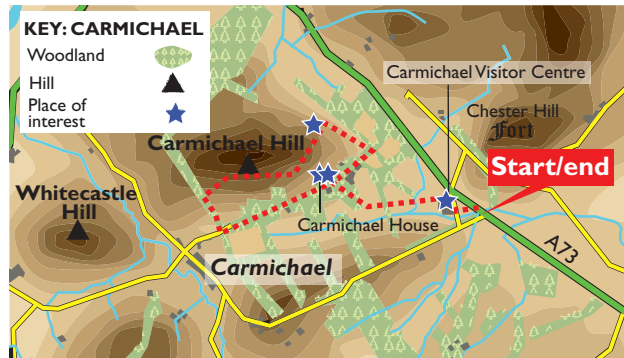
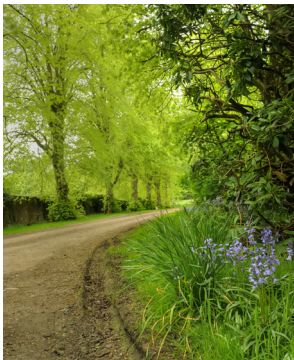
Follow rising ground to Hyndford monument.

From monument make your way to strip of conifers. Go around the top of the strip and follow deer fence steeply downhill.

At the bottom of the hill turn right and then around to right at barracks to return via outward route past red brick cottage.



# Carmichael Estate history walk



## Start/finish point:

Carmichael Visitor Centre  
Tearoom, Warrenhill Road,  
01899 308169.

## Transport:

– Lanark railway station  
5 miles; Bus – service

between Lanark and  
Thankerton (2 mile walk  
along Perryflats Road  
– NOT A73).

**Refreshment:** The  
Carmichael Farm Tea  
Room (seasonal)

**Distance:** 4 ½ miles.

**Time:** 2-3 hours.

**Difficulty:** Moderate.

**Terrain:** Estate roads,  
hill tracks, open hillside.  
There is one steep slope  
to descend.

# Walk 8

Uncover a tale of unrequited love and revenge

**Distance:** 3 miles.

**Time:** 1–2 hours.

**Difficulty:** Easy/moderate.

**Terrain:** Footpaths and meadow

**Start/finish point:**

Common Green, Strathaven.

**Transport:** Train – East Kilbride railway station 8 miles; Bus – regular services between East Kilbride and Hamilton and Strathaven.

**Refreshment:** Strathaven is well served by tearooms, pubs and restaurants.

**Strathaven, a bustling market town, is left behind for the tranquillity of the banks of the Avon Water. The river banks are stocked with colourful wild flowers, grey wagtails and dippers flit over the water and if you are very lucky you might even spot a feeding otter.**

## Points of interest

### 1 Strathaven Castle

(ruin) – one of the many lords of Strathaven castle punished his wife by having her bricked up alive inside a purpose-built niche. Recently human remains were found when part of the castle walls collapsed.

### 2 Spectacle E'e (Eye) Falls

– the unusual name is the result of an incident involving a



# Strathaven, Sanford and Spectacle E'e Falls



local lad who fell in love with the miller's beautiful daughter. The miller disapproved and put an end to the romance. As 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.

## 3 Strathaven Brewery

– producing real ales with a local character; walkers should contact the brewery on 01357 520419 or visit: [www.strathavenales.co.uk](http://www.strathavenales.co.uk) to arrange a visit.

## The route

Leave the Common Green 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 signed Sandford 1 mile. Go downhill through the field keeping to the right.

Cross the bridge over the 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 - short detour to right through remains of old mill for close-up view of the falls.

To continue, climb steps and follow stream as it tumbles over a series of cataracts. Go to the left across the field to the stile.

Cross stile and go to the right and then follow road around to left.

In Sandford go right and cross bridge. Turn right and follow farm road. At main road turn right and follow B7086 (broad pavement) into Strathaven. The brewery is by the old bridge over the Avon on your right.

**Map:** OS Explorer 343.

**Start:** Summerlee-Museum of Scottish Industrial Heritage.

**Finish:** Drumgelloch railway station.

**Transport:** Train  
– Coatbridge Sunnyside railway station ½ mile;  
Coatbridge Central 500 yards. Bus stop  
– Coatbridge town centre.

**Refreshment:**  
Summerlee Museum Café  
– 01236 638460.

**Distance:** 8 1/2 miles.

**Time:** 4 hours.

**Difficulty:** Easy/moderate

**Terrain:** Good footpaths throughout although the path can be very muddy and steep at times.



The Summerlee Industrial Museum, Scotland's noisiest museum, and the North Calder Heritage Trail complement each other perfectly.

A tour of the museum before you set out will equip you with the details to seek out what remains of the areas, old iron and steel works. With a keen eye, old foundry walls and slag heaps can be picked out.

Also be sure to watch out for coots, swans, herons and otters fishing for trout.

## Points of interest

**1 Summerlee** Industrial Museum based around the site of the Summerlee ironworks, the centre recreates Lanarkshire's industrial past. There is a tram to ride on, working steam engines, a coal mine and hundreds of exhibits that relate the human story (free entry; open daily). [www.visitlanarkshire.com/summerlee](http://www.visitlanarkshire.com/summerlee).

**2 Monklands Canal** (open section) now a reedy backwater plied by ducks and fished by heron, the canal was designed by James Watt and opened in 1794 to carry coal to Glasgow. It was closed in 1935 and much of the canal was filled in.

**3 Faskine Bridge** painted in black and white, British Waterways' colours, this is an evocative piece of canal furniture. It was near here in 1819 that Scotland's first iron boat, the Vulcan, was built and launched.

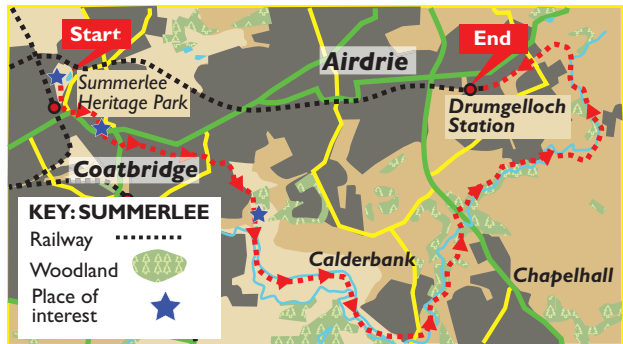
## The route

From the museum head towards Coatbridge town centre on Heritage Way. At the T-junction go left under the railway bridge and then cross Sunnyside Road. Go around to the left at the Airdrie Saving's Bank on-to Main Street.

Continue along Main Street past St Patrick's church and the Quadrant shopping centre. Turn right at the post office. Cross road, go around to the right and then to the left through underpass.

Continue straight on follow-

# North Calder Heritage Trail



ing signs for NCN 75 and NCHT along the course of the now filled-in Monklands canal. Go to the right to cross footbridge. Once over the bridge go to the left and then to the right to resume the cyclepath and the course of the canal and follow for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile.

At road go to the right and then follow signs for NCN75/NCHT to the right. Climb ramp to join disused railway path. Turn left and follow for a short distance. NCHT goes off to the right to foot of viaduct. Take ash path going to the right.

Keeping straight on on ash path until you encounter Sykeside Road. Cross the road and resume NCHT route directly opposite. Go around gate and cross bridge over weir to take up the canal tow-path. Stick with the canal for its entire length (two miles).

At the end of the canal go uphill

for a short distance and then go off to the right and take up the path by the North Calder Water. Continue through tunnel under B802 and climb steps. Continue straight on at second set of steps.

Go around to the left and stick to low path through birch trees. At bridge and signed Brownsburn Circular Walk climb the less steep of the two sets of steps.

At the top of the steps go to the left and follow edge of the valley. Eventually the path snakes downhill to cross an area of marsh. Path then rejoins North Calder to the rear of houses.

Go to the left over the bridge and then right (signed). At main road go to left and then cross to the Petersburn entrance to Monklands Glen. Go through gate and follow path uphill to take up edge of valley.

When ash path meets tarmac

path turn right and after a short distance go off to the right to descend fairly steeply.

Follow ash path around to the right and cross the river at second footbridge.

Follow road through woodland to road. Cross the road and resume NCHT directly opposite. Path descends to left.

Cross the bridge and follow path upstream for about one mile. Ignore first rising path off to the left. Path rises away from river and descends again shortly after path goes uphill for the last time.

Join farm track at the railway bridge and continue out to Forrest Street.

Turn right and follow Forrest Street until you reach Castle Road.

Turn left into Castle Road for Drumgelloch Station and the train back to Coatbridge Sunnyside (Summerlee).



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.

## Points of interest

**1 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 1645 battle of Kilsyth, fought between the Royalists and the Covenanters, a walled garden and one of the oldest curling

ponds in the world.

**2 Ice house** built in 1680 to preserve meat and game it is to the right of the path by the Colzium Burn.

**3 Chapmen’s Graves** are marked by two cairns a short distance from the summit of Tomtain. Chapmen were essentially 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.

## The route

Starting at Colzium House go to the right but do not cross the

# Colzium House & Tomtain



**Map:** OS Explorer 348.

**Start:** Colzium House

**Finish:** Tomtain (453 metres).

**Transport:** Train – Croy 2 miles; Bus stop – Kilsyth 1 mile (follow footpath by lade from foot of Tak Ma Doon Road).

**Refreshment:**

Café Refresh, 84 Main St, Kilsyth, 01236 827652; The Coachman Hotel, 4 Parkfoot St, Kilsyth, 01236 821649, [www.coachmanhotel.co.uk](http://www.coachmanhotel.co.uk). The Scarecrow

Bar & Grill, Main Street, Kilsyth, 01236 827444

The Carronbridge Hotel, Carronbridge, 01324 823459, [www.carronbridgehotel.co.uk](http://www.carronbridgehotel.co.uk)

**Distance:** 3 miles (height gain 350 metres) to summit of Tomtain.

**Time:** 1½ hours.

**Difficulty:** Moderate.

**Terrain:** Hillside can be very boggy. Stout footwear and suitable clothing are recommended.

bridge. Go to the left to follow signs for icehouse, Glen nature trail and Granny's Mutch.

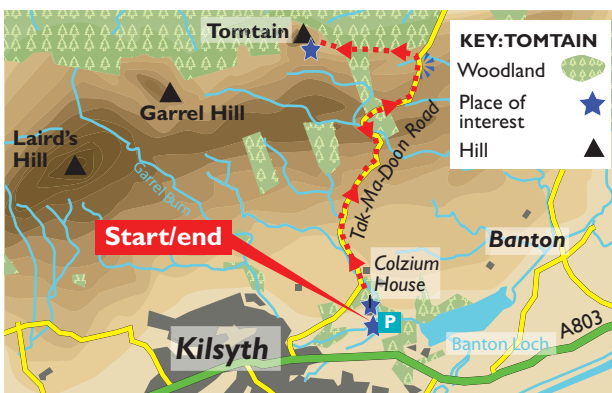
Path follows burn upstream. Cross stone bridge and continue upstream. At top waterfall cross bridge and go off immediately to the right and follow path out to road.

Turn right and follow Tak-Ma-Doon road uphill to car park and viewpoint. Here you have spectacular views of Lanarkshire and beyond to the south and east.

On the downhill turn left off the road at green gate. Follow the footpath that follows the fence, stone dyke and skirts forestry to summit of Tomtain. Retrace outward to Colzium House.

NB To visit the Chapmen's graves and climb Garrel Hill (small cairn) continue along the stone dyke to the west from Tomtain. However, only experienced walkers confident, with a map and compass and on steep ground should attempt to descend from Garrel Hill via the Laird's Loup waterfall.

To get to the Carronbridge Hotel continue north on the Tak-Ma-Doon road at the green gate, and progress downhill across the ford and the river bridge. Retrace towards Colzium House.



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