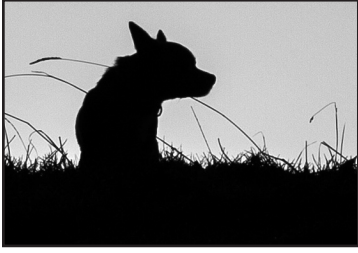


# Ollie's walk of the week



Continue along the path on its steep descent until reaching a gate. Walk past a few private houses until reaching Barncleuth Bridge, just before a nursing home.

## Chatelherault to Strathclyde Park

**Distance:** 2.75mils (5.5mils return)

**Time:** 1 hour (2hrs return)

**Terrain:** Footpahs. Steep in parts

**Overview:** This walk takes you from the historic Chatelherault, formerly the hunting lodge attached to Hamilton Palace, along the Avon and into Strathclyde Park. Chatelherault Country Park is a Five Star Visitor Attraction that was once described as a 'Jewel in the Landscape'. Built in 1732 as a Hunting Lodge and Summer House for the Dukes of Hamilton. The restored buildings now house a Visitor Centre; the West Lodge comprising of the Banqueting Hall and Duke and Duchess Apartments; Exhibition Gallery and Displays; Gift Shop and Café. Outside, visitors can explore 10 miles of walks along the scenic River Avon and through ancient woodland.

**Starting Point:** Park in the main car park and walk to the road leading up to the lodge. There is a path to the right of the main entrance leading past the fire pond. Head along this path.

The start of the walk gives great views up towards the lodge itself. Continue along the path, stopping to look at the iron sculptures just before the path dips downhill. The sculptures celebrate Robert Owen, William Wallace and David Livingstone.

To the left you will see the newly constructed fish ladder at Ferniegair Weir and the railway bridge. To the right there are views down the Avon towards the road bridge.

Descend the steps to the path that runs alongside the Avon and continue under the road bridge and past a housing estate on the banks of the river. The path bends crossing a small bridge before turning to the right following the course of the river. There is much wildlife in this area so keep a look out for birds.

Soon the path runs underneath the M74. The motorway bridge over the river is impressive with concrete columns and the sound of traffic running above can be loud.

Continue along the path as it bends to the left at the final stages of the Avon. Soon you will arrive at the point where the Avon joins the Clyde. A few hundred yards along the path runs under another road bridge, this time the main road between Hamilton and Motherwell.

Once under the bridge, the path climbs through woodland and you will soon see and hear the M74 which runs parallel to the path. At the end of the path turn right and cross the bridge over the Clyde into Strathclyde Park.

Once at the Visitor centre continue along to the right, leading to the weir where water flows into the Clyde, where this walk ends.

