

## Ollie's walk of the week



Crossford - Kirkfieldbank

Distance: 8.8km loop.

### 1. Crossford to Clyde Walkway (500m)

From the car park on Smuggler's Brig Road, return to Lanark Road and go left in the direction of Lanark. About 300m on, turn left for Braidwood, across Crossford Bridge over the Clyde. Once over the bridge take the first right into Valley International Park. After a few metres take the path off to the right – you are now on the Clyde Walkway.

### 2. Clyde Walkway to Big Wood (1km)

This section keeps you alongside the river. After about 500m if you look to your right you will see, crossing the Clyde, the picturesque Carfin Footbridge – a Victorian wrought iron suspension footbridge built as part of Carfin Estate which occupied the northern bank of the river at this point. Keep following the Clyde upstream and go through a kissing gate where the path enters Big Wood.

### 3. Big Wood to Stonebyres Hydro-Power Station (2.5km)

Continue along the path, with the River Clyde to your right and Big Wood to your left. Pass through Big Wood, crossing a timber bridge where Big Wood ends and the landscape to your left is opened up to rolling Clyde Valley farmland. Keep following the path, over the timber bridge at Carlinside Strip. The path now ascends high above the Clyde within woodland. Eventually you will have a view of

Stonebyres Hydro Power Station built in 1927 to harness the power of the Clyde.

### 4. Stonebyres Hydro-Power Station to Stonebyres Linn

A short distance ahead you will see Stonebyres Linn (Falls) – the furthest downstream of the four Falls of the Clyde (the others, going upstream, being Dundaff, Corra and Bonnington). At 21 metres high, Stonebyres Linn is the first natural barrier to migrating salmon and sea trout on the Clyde, preventing them from reaching the waters of the upper Clyde.

### 5. Stonebyres Linn to Nemphlar (800m)

At Stonebyres Linn, when facing upstream (river on your right), take the path to your left at the wee concrete bridge, leaving the Clyde Walkway and heading towards the village of Nemphlar. The path first ascends steps and then takes you uphill across the edge of a field, following the fence. Cross over a stile and continue uphill on the overgrown track, making sure you turn round to enjoy sweeping views of the Clyde Valley.

### 6. Nemphlar to Mousemill Road (1km)

When the track meets Hall Road in Nemphlar, turn right, enjoying views onto the distinctive steeples of Lanark. Head east along Hall Road through the village of Nemphlar, following a right bend at Halltown of Nemphlar bastle house. At the junction, about 330m along, go right into Welldale Lane, ignoring the dead-end road sign. After just under 200m the road becomes farm track. Follow the track as it ascends and then descends again, along the beech lined avenue. Look out for the stone bench on your right before the path begins to descend again and take the chance to rest your legs and take

in more sweeping views of Lanark and the Clyde Valley.

### 7. Mousemill Road to Stonebyres.

The farm track eventually comes out at Mousemill Road – turn right onto this and then bear right at the junction just ahead. After about 200m you will pass Mousemill on your right before crossing the Mouse

Bridge. Cross Kirkfieldbank Bridge and follow the pavements through the village of Kirkfieldbank with the Clyde on your right. Continue along the A72 until you reach a park with metal gates. Follow this path until you reach Stonebyres Weir, where you will return to the Clyde Walkway taking you back to Crossford.

