

# Ollie's walk of the week



## Crutherland to Langlands Moss

**Distance:** 6km

**Time:** 1 hour

**Overview:** A lovely country walk along the Calder to Langlands Moss.

**Starting point:** Park at the gate on the left, 50m into the entrance drive to the Crutherland Hotel

Walk over the old bridge and immediately turn right walking carefully down a slope to the walkway beside the river. Turn right into the passage under the bridge. Continue along the walkway under the road bridge, taking the path into the trees. Once out of the short woodland section the path opens up with views over the river to the fields beyond.

Follow the path until reaching a signpost for Langlands Moss. Go straight on up the hill following the trail as it winds alongside the river. Climbing gradually, the Kelvin Industrial Estate is on your right. Eventually the path veers away from the river, rising to offer views across towards Whitelee Windfarm in the distance. At a sharp bend on the path there are two wooden seats where there is the opportunity to have a rest and take in the views over the fields. Keep on the path until arriving at another set of trees, which eventually leads to the junction with the Hurlawcrook Road.

Follow the footpath for around 100m and cross over to the sign marking the entrance to

Langlands Moss Local Nature Reserve.

Continue on the path past the golf course until reaching a T junction. Continuing straight on leads to Erin's Wildflower Meadow, named after the girl who planted the first wildflower seeds in the field. Head back to the junction and follow the wooden path as far as it allows in the nature reserve itself, taking care not to leave the path at any point.

Langlands Moss is an important and rare habitat - a lowland raised bog. Raised bogs are peatlands, the oldest of which date back to the last Ice Age. Peat forms where there is high rainfall and low temperatures. The peat then forms into a raised dome, often several metres thick, which rests on the water table. A boardwalk provides public access to the bog itself. Langlands Moss is wet and can be dangerous in places so you should stay on the paths and boardwalk.

The moss itself is a fascinating landscape, populated by wildlife and full of interesting plants. There are also open views towards the windfarm and towards East Kilbride. Once the footpath fully reopens, it is possible to continue the walk to Auldhouse.

The path is currently closed along a large section following a fire in 2016. Return to the T junction and turn right to lead back to the starting point along the same route. Just before the descent to the little wooden platform beside the river, there is a set of steps leading down to a sharp bend on the Calder. It's worth a little diversion. There are optional extensions back to the Calderglen Visitor Centre, but that walk will feature in a later walk of the week.

