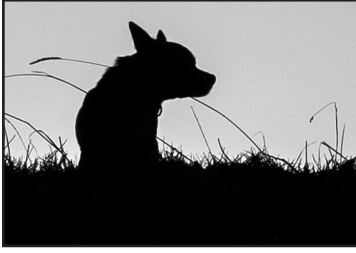


Ollie's walk of the week



A Walk to the Shooglie Bridge

Distance: 5km

Terrain: Pavement, road and track. A steep descent to the Avon. The bridge is now perfectly safe and not in the least shooglie.

Starting Point: Common Green, Strathaven.

From the Common Green, walk up Main Street and cross Kirk Street at the lights. Continue onto Todshill Street until its junction with Station Road. Cross over and turn right onto Newton Road. Continue up Newton Road until you pass the last of the houses. You will arrive at a junction. Left leads along to Young's Garden Centre, but for this walk continue straight on.



To the right you will begin to see views over to Strathaven.



After passing a few houses and farms, look out for an

opening on the left, with signposts to the Shooglie Bridge. Follow the farm track until it veers right towards the farmhouse. Continue straight on down the narrowing track.



Here, to the west, you will get great views over the fields to Loudoun Hill. In the middle distance you can also see traffic on the Muirkirk Road. To the east there are views over to Sandford. You should also get your first glimpses across to Townfoot of Priestgill.



optional extension to this walk along the banks of the Avon before crossing the bridge, and also in the opposite direction once over the bridge, by stepping over the stile. Once across the bridge, continue uphill until you reach the houses of Townfoot of Priestgill.



At the end of this track there is a gate. Go through the gate and begin to walk downhill. You will be able to see the Avon below. Continue downhill until you reach the bridge. There is an

There is an optional longer walk by continuing along the road to the Roman Road, and turning left to take you back to Sandford, down to Craigs Bridge and then back to Strathaven.

This will add approximately 6km to the walk. However retrace your steps to return to Strathaven by the same route to the Common Green where this walk ends.

