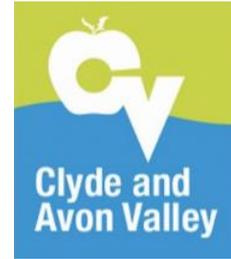




Clyde Walkway Community Links: Larkhall to Clyde Walkway—‘The Monkey Road’



Larkhall to Clyde Walkway Digital Trail

Difficulty (out of 3)	1
Distance	2.5km / 1.5 miles
Time	30 mins 1 way, 1 hour to double back
Terrain	Short piece of pavement, rough farm tracks, muddy when wet. This route is passable on foot, cycle or horseback, with a number of farm gates to pass through.

Overview including alternative start / end points

This is a pleasant, linear route descending through rolling arable farmland of the Clyde Valley, starting from the old mining, textile and weaving settlement of Larkhall and ending with lovely views onto the Clyde. The Monkey Road is a recorded right of way originating from the use of the route by ‘Larkie’ workers to reach Millburn Chemical and Oil Works and Millburn Colliery – otherwise known as ‘The Monkey Pit,’ which were both next to the now disused railway line that this route crosses west of Skellyton Farm. Popular with local dog walkers, this walk starts on the outskirts of the historic town on the shoulder of the valley. However, you could take in some of the historical sights and lively high street of independent shops by parking in town and allowing an extra 25 minutes for walking to the start point below.

Start / Park: This walk starts at Larkhall Golf Club. You may use the on street parking without restrictions on Hareleeshill Road. Hareleeshill Road is first right at the roundabout if driving south east, with Larkhall Golf Club on your left. Alternatively, you can start the walk from the opposite end of the linear route on the A72. Park in the layby just west of where Skellyton farm track meets the A72.

Public Transport: Train or bus to Larkhall then 25 minute walk to starting point. Check Traveline Scotland (www.traveline.info) for details of the frequency of services.

Stages of Walk

1. Larkhall Golf Club to Monkey Road (247m)

From Larkhall Golf Club, follow the pavement south east along Burnhead Road, leaving Larkhall behind you. Continue over the bridge crossing the busy M74. On the left, 35 metres

past the bridge, follow the route indicated by the fingerpost from 'Monkey Road to Lanark Road', pointing to your left down a farm track.

2. Monkey Road to Railway Bridge (713m)

Keep following the farm track past a number of houses on your right. Beyond Millburn Cottage, the track becomes grassy. Keep walking until you meet the disused stone railway bridge. You will be able to see where the railway track originally crossed under the bridge, long since filled in. Millburn Chemical and Oil Works operated in 1884, producing crude oil only, made chiefly from dross of main seam of common coal. [Click here](#) for historical information. Millburn Colliery, or 'The Monkey Pit,' was situated behind the Chemical and Oil Works, where there were still opencast operations up to 1991.

3. Railway Bridge to Skellyton Farm (684m)

Continue on the path over the railway bridge, which bends to the right before taking a sharp left down a lovely avenue of beech trees (probably originally beech hedges), between fields. Enjoy the lovely view down into the Clyde Valley.

4. Skellyton Farm to A72

At the bottom of the beech avenue, go through the steel gate and follow the stone track that winds past Skellyton Farm into the Clyde Valley, taking care to avoid the farm steading. Follow the path until it reaches the busy A72 where you can enjoy views over the Clyde. You can see the point of the historical ford here where people from Larkhall would have continued their journey to the other side of the Clyde.

End:

Please respect the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. As with all outdoor activities, walking can present hazards. It is the access-taker's responsibility to judge whether they can take access safely in any given situation. This route guide does not give any guarantee of path conditions.

