



Discover the paths in and around

Larbert and Stenhousemuir



easy to use map and
7 suggested locations
something for everyone



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A brief history of Larbert and Stenhousemuir

Paths in and around Larbert and Stenhousemuir

- 1 Torwood Castle and Tappoch Broch.
- 2 Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert Woods
- 3 Dorrator Loop (The Lade)
- 4 Larbert Viaduct weir path
- 5 Carron Dams circular
- 6 Carronvale Road to Camelon and the Forth and Clyde Canal
- 7 Larbert Hospital wood to The Hills of Dunipace cemetery

Places of interest

- A Torwood Castle and Tappoch Broch
- B Larbert Old Parish Church and graveyard
- C Carron Dams
- D Larbert weir
- E The Grahamston cast-iron gate
- F Larbert hospital woods and grounds (Larbert House)
- G Cast iron highland cows
- H The Dovecot
- I Carron clock tower and carronades
- J The Hills of Dunipace cemetery



Larbert

Lar-Bear (Scottish Gaelic), meaning Field of Action.

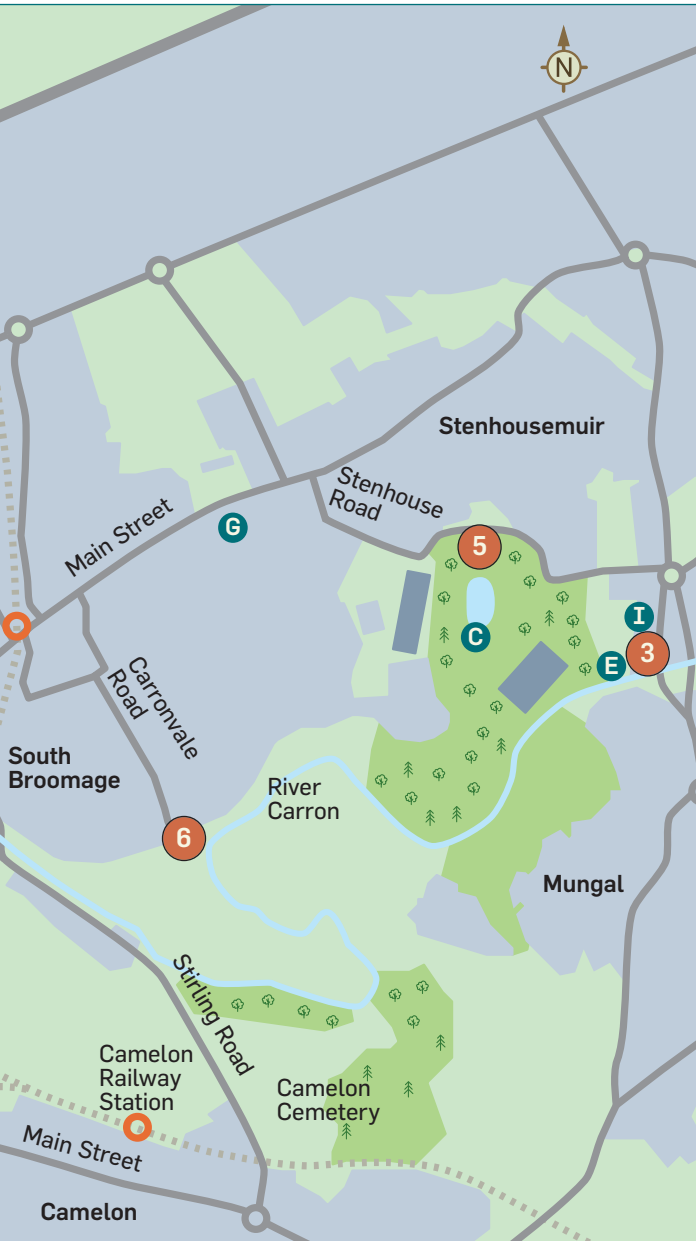
The origins of Larbert date back to the dark ages when it was a small settlement in a heavily forested area at an important crossing point on the River Carron. Early Ordnance Survey maps showed Larbert located on an old Roman Road between Camelon and Stirling, with the site of a Roman camp close by.

The crossing point on the River Carron at Larbert was an important transportation route for the Romans. Their main route from Watling lodge on the Antonine Wall to Stirling was here.

The explorer James Bruce was born at Kinnaird, just outside Larbert in 1730 and is buried in the graveyard of Larbert Old Parish Church. Bruce travelled through much of Africa and in the process traced the origins of the Blue Nile.

The famous cattle Trysts were held in Larbert from 1782 with as many as 150,000 cattle, sheep and horses brought to Larbert for sale from all over Scotland. The arrival of the railways ended the trysts in the 1840s.

The area is famous for the Carron Iron Works which was founded as a partnership by three men, Dr John Roebuck, a chemist, Samuel Garbett, a merchant, and a wealthy Scottish ship owner, William Cadell. Its 1st blast



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furnaces were operational from 1760 and eventually by 1814 it became Europe's largest smelting works with more than 2,000 staff.

The Carron Works also became associated with iconic names such as Henry Shrapnel who was invited to test his new antipersonnel shell in 1804. The tests were a huge success and shrapnel shells began being manufactured a year later. Alfred Nobel the inventor of dynamite worked and lived in the Falkirk area for a time as did James Watt who Dr John Roebuck funded to improve the function of the steam engine.

Cannons made at Carron were used at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. These Carronades were short cannons with a high calibre, firing a large ball slowly. These were ideal for naval vessels as it ripped large gashes in the wood of ships hulls and quickly proved a hit with the Royal Navy.

In later years Carron manufactured an amazing range of products - from artillery and ordnance for the army, pots and pans for domestic purposes to post boxes, telephone boxes and

manhole covers which can be found all over the world. Carron Iron Works finally closed down in 1982.

The famous McCowan's toffee was made in Stenhousemuir. The founders of McCowan's business began making toffees at home which they sold from their shop in Church Street. The business then moved to the old Drill Hall in Tryst Road in the 1920s and began selling the famous Highland Toffee and "Penny Dainties."

Finding your way

Take a close look at the map for each route. This should be all you need to find the start point and get on your way. OS Explorer map 349 covers the area.

Signs

Look out for sign posts and interpretation boards giving more information along the way.

It's up to you.

This leaflet gives details of seven walks, with information on green transport options, path surfaces, gradients, parking and facilities.

There are plenty of interesting things to see and do in and around Larbert and Stenhousemuir. Take a walk along some of the local paths and enjoy the great countryside, wildlife, history and views Larbert and Stenhousemuir has to offer. Some sites have options for further exploration or you could join together some of the routes and make a day of it.



Larbert Viaduct

Places of interest



A Torwood Castle and Tappoch Broch

Two magical historic sites. Torwood Castle is a ruined tower house, built in 1566, belonging to the Forresters, who were the keepers of Torwood.

Tappoch Broch is the best preserved lowland broch site in Scotland, dating back 2,000 years, complete with staircase and door lintels. Steeped in history and well worth a visit.

Please note Torwood Castle is closed to the public.

B Larbert Old Parish Church and graveyard

The present Larbert Old Parish Church was designed by the celebrated architect David Hamilton and built in 1820. It replaced the previous building which stood in the adjacent churchyard and dates from the first half of the 16th century.

The graveyard contains the tombs of Rev. Robert Bruce, James Bruce the celebrated 'Abyssinian Traveller' and many of the leading men of the famous 19th century Carron Company Iron Works.





Many of the gravestones are made from Iron instead of stone. The little cemetery is well worth a walk through and a visit to the beautiful tombs and mausoleums of the Carron Company enclosure in the North West corner of the cemetery.

C Carron Dam

Carron Dams is a little gem of woodland and water hidden away behind Larbert High School. The Dams is a partially drained reservoir and was originally a holding dam supplying water for power and cooling purposes to the Carron Iron Works which was established 1759 and closed in 1982. The site is now managed by Scottish Wildlife Trust and contains a range of habitats including fen and deciduous woodland. It is one of the largest wetlands in the Falkirk Council area and a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Local Nature Reserve. There are carpets of

woodland flowers and bluebells in the spring and a stunning little circular walking route of around 40 minutes to explore.

D Larbert Weir

The broken weir at Larbert on the River Carron gives good viewing opportunities to watch salmon returning to the River Carron. The best time to visit is in September and October. There is a great viewing platform close to the weir where you can watch the salmon and sea trout jumping up through the crashing waterfall.



E The Grahamston cast-iron gate

This ornamental triumphal cast-iron arch was made by Grahamston Iron Company in Falkirk for the Edinburgh International Festival Exhibition of 1886, at which it won a Diploma of Honour. The structure weighs 20 tons and is among the largest cast iron arches in the UK. The arch was erected at the Grahamston Works entrance the same year. The arch was refurbished in 2002 and moved to its new location beside the former Carron Company Iron Works.



F Larbert hospital woods and grounds (Larbert House)

The woodland surrounding Larbert hospital has a stunning network of paths. There are 3 easy routes around the woods that suit all abilities. There is an impressive timber pier, which gives scenic views over the peaceful loch as well as a short circular path around the loch with picnic benches. This area is set in mature grounds and is an ideal place for a quiet walk. There is also a new "Maggie's Centre" next to the loch which offers help and support to people affected by cancer.

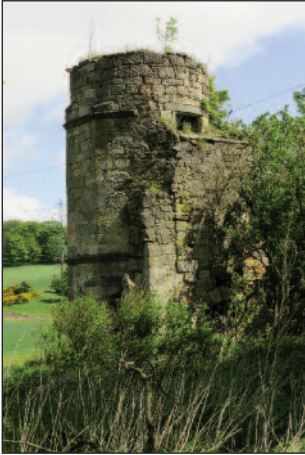
G Cast iron highland cows

"The Heart of Stenhousemuir" is the name of the artwork by the artist Alan Potter. It is of two Highland cows fabricated in cast iron and stood on top of a heart shaped mound, reflecting



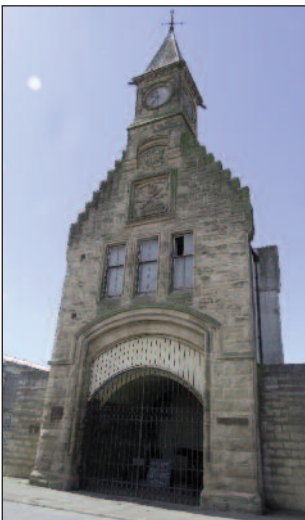
Stenhousemuir's history as a centre for cattle markets in the 18th century when livestock buyers and farmers travelled from all over Scotland to attend the annual tryst gathering. The Highland cow is also the logo for the world famous McCowan's toffee

factory that was based in Stenhousemuir. The cast iron reflects the Carron Ironworks and the heart is a play on the word tryst, implying lover's tryst but also a reference again to the cattle tryst as it was known.



H The Dovecot

This tower is all that remains of the original Dunipace House or castle which was built around the 15th Century. The tower has had the staircase removed and nest ledges put inside. It had a slate roof and was waterproof until the 1950s. It is still possible to see the old doorways, windows and some of the original castles architectural details.



I Carron clock tower and carronades

This isolated clock tower is all that remains of the old stone buildings of the Iron Carron Company's works. The base of the tower contains a display of cannon made by the company.

J The Hills of Dunipace cemetery

The origins of the strange hills within the cemetery has been the subject to much debate. We now know that the hills are a natural feature dating back to the ice-age, although the two surviving hills may have been shaped to make them more suitable for a motte or wooden castle.

There has been a place worship near the hills since the middle ages. Tradition says that William Wallace's uncle was a priest in the chapel of Dunipace in the 13th Century.

We do know the body of Robert the Bruce stopped here on the way to Dunfermline Abbey for burial as the local people wrote to the exchequer to demand money in payment for candles and guards for the King.

There are records of a later church here dating from 1500's. If you look below the old Yew trees, you will find headstones dating back to the 1700's.



1. Torwood Castle and Tappoch Broch



Icon Key

- Starting point
- Main Path
- Other Path
- Dog Fouling Bin
- Parking
- Bench

Points of interest

- Torwood Castle
- Tappoch Broch
- Hills of Dunipace Cemetery

Finding your way

Route A. Return on same route

1. Begin your walk at Old Denny Road just off the North Broomage Roundabout. At the end of the houses follow the signposts to the right onto the rough tarmac

farm track. You can also begin your walk at The Hills of Dunipace Cemetery (Route B)

- 2 Follow this straight track for around 0.5 miles (0.8km) to the motorway bridge across the M876.
- 3 Cross the bridge and head through the gate on the opposite side. The

sign posted track will take you onto the Old Falkirk-Stirling route. It is long unused and is now a farm track that will lead you to Torwood and Tappoch Broch.

- 4 You will pass through a number of self closing gates along this old tree lined track.
- 5 Keep going until you come to a junction. The junction is signposted Denovan Road to the left and Torwood straight ahead.
- 6 Go through the gate directly ahead of you and follow this often muddy part of the track until you come to two more gates. Livestock may be in these fields and on this part of the track. Please keep the gates closed at all times and follow the outdoor access code. Keep your dogs on a short leash and under strict control while passing through this particular field.
- 7 Once through the last two gates you will see a sign post pointing uphill onto a narrow path.
- 8 Take this path and head uphill with Torwood Woodland on your left and farmland on your right. There is a small bench half way up the path where you can sit and enjoy views of the Forth Road Bridges. Continue uphill on the path for just under a mile where you will reach a gate at the end of the track.
- 9 Directly opposite the gate is another signposted track that leads into conifer woodland. Follow the waymarkers on the often muddy track into the woods and uphill through the trees until you come to the highest point.



- 10 Here you will see a mound covered in bracken. Head to the top of the mound and you will be standing on top of Tappoch Broch. Look out for the remains of the internal staircase and the lintel above the entrance.
- 11 You can take the same route back the way you came to the gate at the top of the Torwood woodland track or you can head downhill again following the way markers. These will lead you downhill through thick conifer forest and out onto the Castle Loan track.



Access Information

Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc, call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: Nearest train station is Larbert.

Parking: Limited parking on Stirling Road.

Distance:

Route A:

6.72 miles (10.82km)

Route B:

3.4miles (8.58km)

Route C:

4.76miles (7.66km)

Path information:

Toilets and a café can be found in Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

Facilities:

Rough farm and woodland tracks. Tracks may be muddy and have livestock on them. Woodland paths near the Broch are used by mountain bikes.

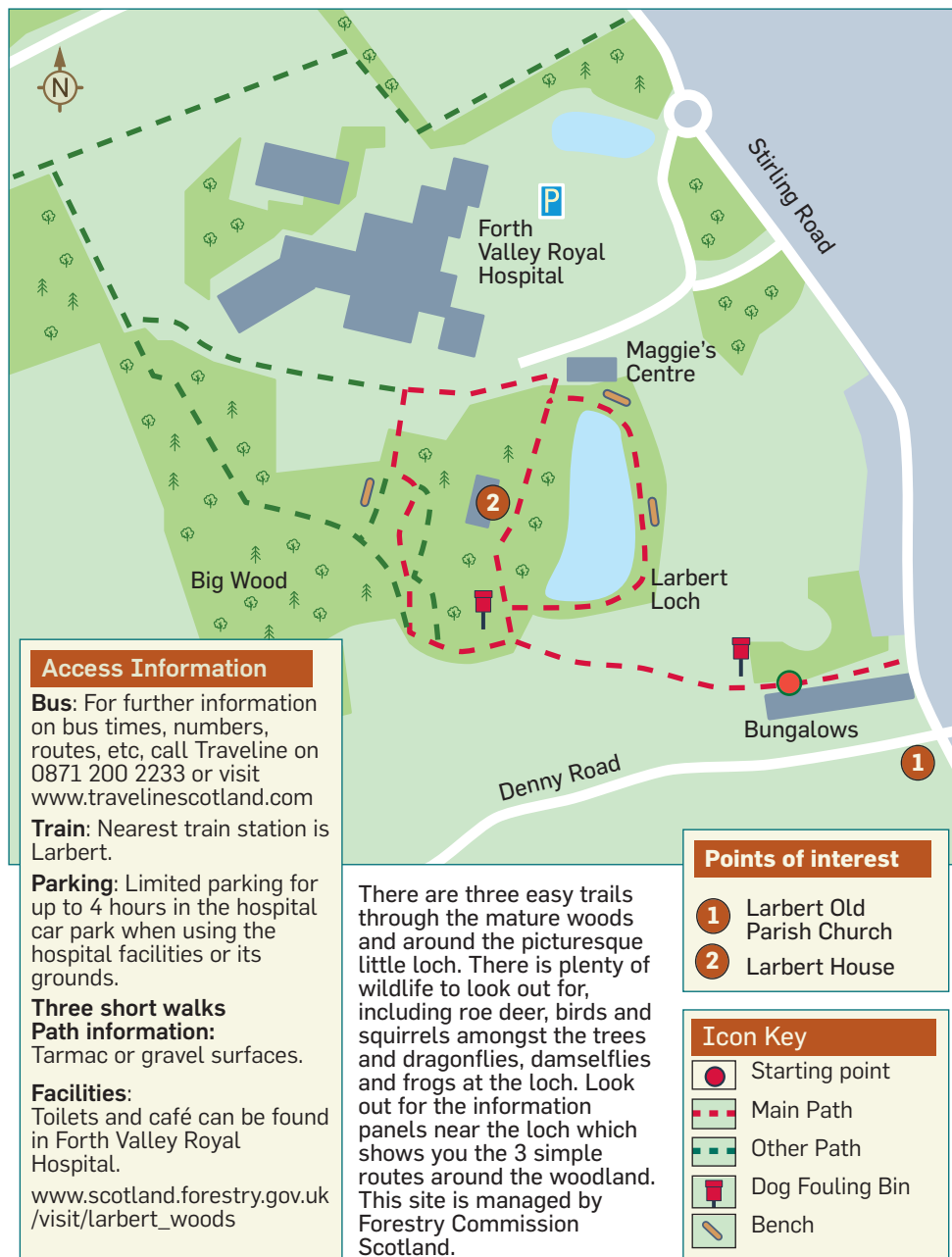
Keep your dog on a short lead and under close control at all times near livestock.

- 12 You can either follow the Castle Loan track to your right and you will see Torwood Castle directly ahead of you at the end of the track. From here turn right again and head back down the narrow Torwood woodland track.
- 13 You can take a less scenic route back to your start point by turning left onto Glen Road from Castle Loan and heading right onto the busy main Stirling Road. (Route C).

Take care crossing the A9.

2. Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert Woods

A choice of 3 easy circular walks.





3. Dorrator Loop (The Lade)



There are a number of starting points for this walk. For the purpose of this route we will begin at Start point A on Stenhouse Road. You can join the loop at a number of other points.

- B. Dorrator Bridge.
- C. Carronvale Road or
- D. Cotland Drive in Mungal.

- 1 Begin your walk on Stenhouse Road and follow the road along the riverbank past Carron Works. (Be aware of lorry traffic on the 1st part of this route). The road ends at Carron Landfill site where you will see a sign posted tarmac route to your right.

Access Information

Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc, call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: Nearest train station is Larbert or Camelon.

Parking: Available on Stirling Road car park at Dorrator Bridge.

Distance:

 6.2miles (10km)

Path information:

Smooth, flat tarmac path on most of the loop. Some gravel.

Facilities:

Parking, toilets and refreshments can be found in Larbert and Camelon.

- 2 Follow this surfaced path along "The Lade" for just under a mile or 1.4km until you come to a junction in the path. The path on the right leads to Carronvale Road and the path on the left leads down to the green Dorrator Bridge which you may see in the distance.
- 3 Follow the path down towards the bridge and once over the bridge you will see a car park at start point B. Take the new tarmac path on your left and follow it for around 500m along the edge of the playing fields until you come to another ramp.
- 4 On the other side of the footbridge is Camelon cemetery. Keep following the path



- 5 Follow the signposts into behind the cemetery and crematorium until you come out at Cotland Drive. Start point D.
- 6 Follow the signposts towards the far side. This path skirts the River Carron and brings you out on Stenhouse Road back where you started.

4. Larbert Viaduct weir path



Points of interest

- 1 Viaduct
- 2 Weir

Access Information

Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc, call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: Nearest train station is Larbert.

Parking: Limited parking on Lochlands Industrial estate access road.

Distance:
 300m

Path information:
Rough surfaced path with an initial incline. Steep steps down to the weir.

Facilities:
Parking, toilets and refreshments can be found in Larbert and Stenhousemuir.

www.lasac.org.uk

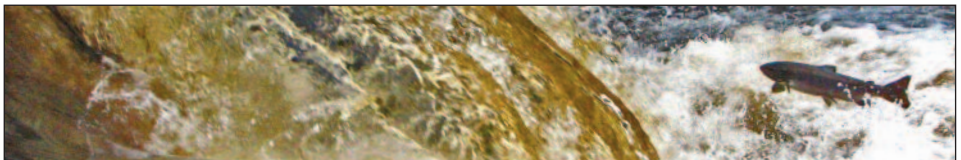
The fishing season on the Carron officially closes on October 31 and no angling is permitted on any stretch of the river until March 15. Larbert and Stenhousemuir Angling Club (LASAC) has sole fishing rights to the river which it leases from Callendar Estates. This extends from the former Carron Works weir up to Auchinlillian spout in Carron Glen. It awards more than 800 permits to paying members of the public each year.

This is a short path of around 300m that leads

to Larbert weir. An absolute must to visit in the autumn to watch the salmon jumping the weir. The best time to visit is in October and early November.
www.lasac.org.uk

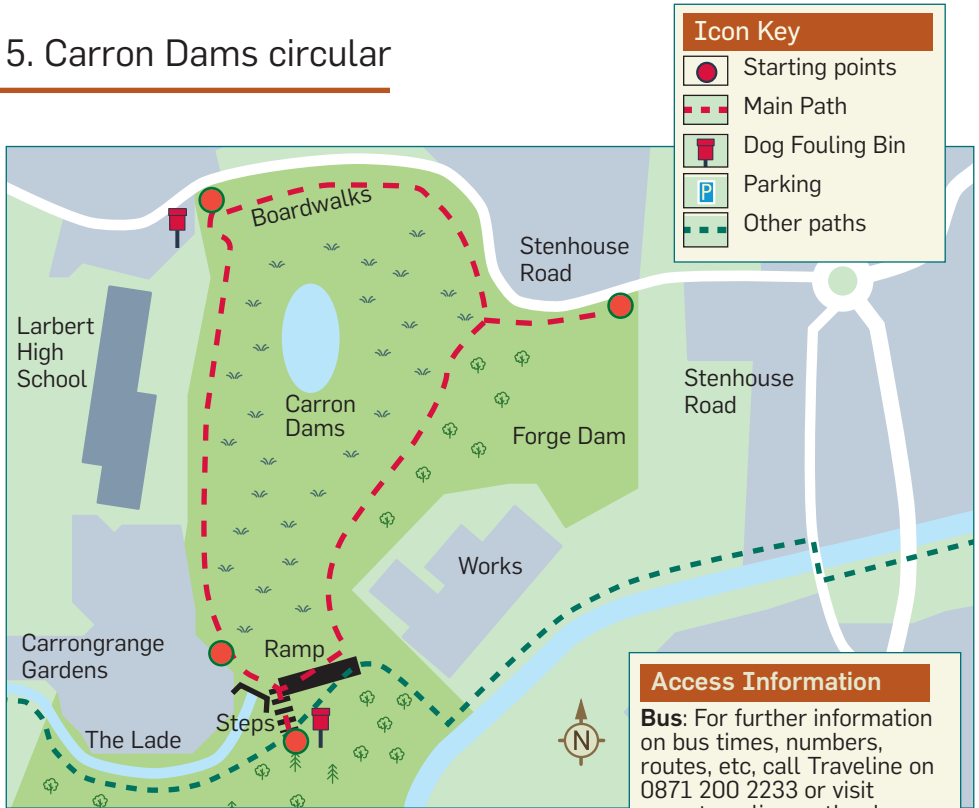
Finding your way

- 1 Begin your walk directly underneath Larbert viaduct. Enter through the kissing gates beside the interpretation board.
- 2 Follow the path uphill until you come to steps leading down to the weir.





5. Carron Dams circular



Finding your way

- 1 Carron Dams is situated behind Larbert High School. Begin your walk at one of the two Stenhouse Road entrances to the dams. From here follow the
- 2 You can continue your walk by taking the steep steps or ramp at the south side of the dam and further path networks.




Access Information

Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc, call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: Nearest train station is Larbert.

Parking: Available on Carrongrange Road next to Larbert High School playing fields. Larbert High School car park is available for public use when the school community facilities are open.

Distance:

 1.2 miles (1.63km)

Path information:

Boardwalks and flat woodland paths that may be muddy in places.

Facilities:

Additional parking as well as toilets and refreshments can be found in Larbert and Stenhousemuir Town Centre.

www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk



6. Carronvale Road to Camelon and The Forth & Clyde Canal

Points of interest

- 1 Dorrator Bridge

Icon Key

- Starting point
- Main Path
- Dog Fouling Bin
- Parking
- Bridge

The map displays a route starting at Carronvale Road, heading south through South Broomage. The path crosses the River Carron and passes by playing fields and a cemetery. It then crosses the Forth & Clyde Canal at Dorrator Bridge. The route continues through Camelon, past the railway station and Main Street, towards Rosebank and Cauldham Farm. A legend in the top right corner defines symbols for starting points, main paths, dog fouling bins, parking, and bridges. A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner.





Finding your way

- 1 Begin your walk at the bottom of Carronvale Road. Here you will pass over a footbridge over The Lade. Head straight downhill to the green Dorrator Bridge in the distance.
- 2 Cross over the bridge which spans the River Carron and take the tarmac path to your left.
- 3 Follow the path along the side of the playing fields until you come to another ramp.
4. At the top of the ramp is an entrance on the right to the Camelon cemetery.
- 5 Enter the gates and follow the road uphill to the left. At the top of the road take the steps to the left down onto the cemetery main road. Cross over the road and take the next lot of steps directly opposite you.
- 7 Follow this track down the side of the cemetery until you come out at the entrance to the cemetery. Cauldhame Farm entrance is on your left.
- 8 Take the path under the railway bridge to your right onto Dorrator Road. At the top of this road is the Main Street in Camelon (A9).
- 9 Cross the main road and go through Camelon Public Park, up to the Forth & Clyde Canal. From here you can further explore the path network or retrace your steps to Carronvale Road.


Access Information

Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc, call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: Nearest train stations are Larbert or Camelon.

Parking: There is parking on Carronvale Road and at Dorrator Bridge.

Distance:

 1.7miles (2.86km) one way.

Path information:

A mixture of tarmac paths and rough track behind the cemetery.

Facilities:

Parking, toilets and refreshments can be found in Larbert and Stenhousemuir Town Centre.

www.scottishcanals.co.uk

7. Larbert Hospital Wood to the Hills of Dunipace cemetery



Finding your way

- 1 Begin your walk at The Bungalows just off the roundabout on the B905. Follow the tarmac path along the roadside and then turn left behind the walled garden and stable block (luxury housing).
- 2 Follow this path until you exit the woodland onto farmland.
- 3 Continue on the farm track until you come to a junction. You will see Househill Farm uphill on your right. Take the track to your left, downhill.
- 4 At the end of the track you will have reached the Denny Road (B905). Turn

right and follow the track through mature woodland. Look out for the old dovecote which was converted from the remains of the stairwell of a 15th century castle.

- 5 The track continues behind the Hills of Dunipace cemetery and exits in the cemetery car park.
- 6 Retrace your steps to return to Larbert Woods.

Points of interest

- 1 Hills of Dunipace cemetery
- 2 Dovecote
- 3 Larbert House



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Getting There:

Get your copy of the Green Travel Map call 01324 504950.

By Foot:

If you live nearby.

By Cycle:

Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 76. Cycle route information available from www.sustrans.org.uk 0845 1130065.

By Rail:

Larbert station is the nearest.

By Bus:

For further information on bus times, numbers, routes etc, call the traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk

By Car:

Larbert and Stenhousemuir is well connected by the M876 and local A roads.

Thank you

Local Landowners and Funders

Falkirk Local History Society

Forestry Commission Scotland

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Communities Along The Carron Association

Sustrans

Central Scotland Green Network Trust

Suggested Walks

Walking is easy. You don't need any special equipment and what ever your age or level of fitness your health and well being will benefit from this natural, gentle form of exercise. So get your boots on and go explore Larbert and Stenhousemuir at your own pace.

Many of the paths in this guide can be linked up to give a range of circular walks of varying length. It's simply up to you to choose the routes that suit you. There is as much variety of surface conditions underfoot as there is scenery.

For more information about the history and local facilities in Larbert and Stenhousemuir contact:

www.falkirk.gov.uk

www.visitfalkirk.com

www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk

www.falkirklocalhistorysociety.co.uk

www.forestry.commission.gov.uk

www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

www.lasac.org.uk

www.catca.org.uk

For more information about your paths and countryside access please contact Falkirk Council's Outdoor Access Team 01324 504950.



Falkirk Council
Development Services