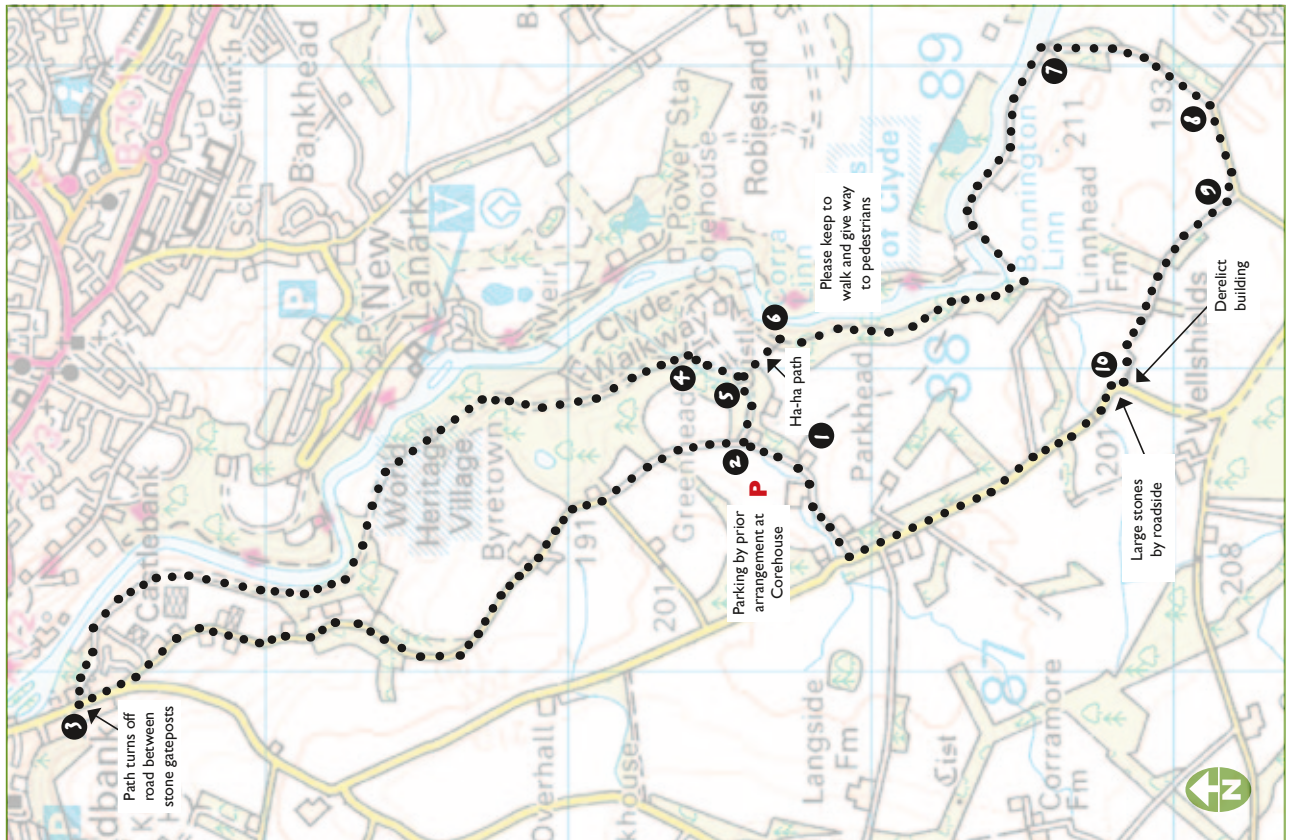
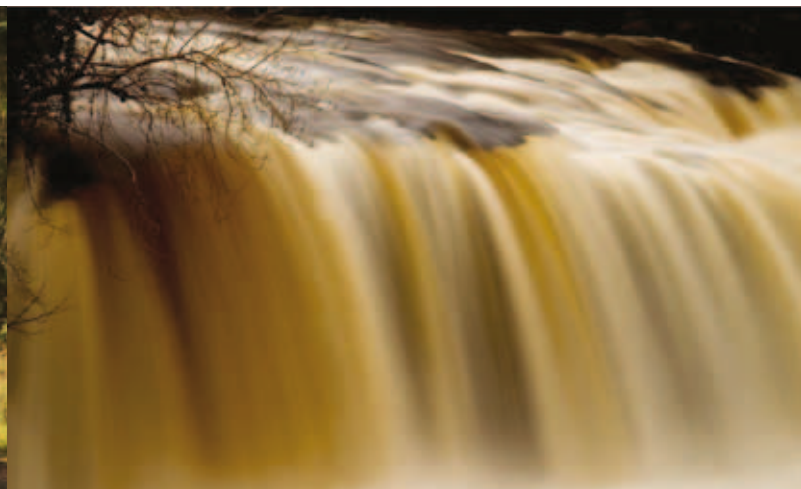


Route 1 - Falls of Clyde, Lanark

A figure of eight loop along the Clyde Valley



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Description: A figure-of-eight loop along the Clyde Valley easily split into two shorter rides, or combined with The Differick for a longer ride.

Distance: Each loop will take you 1-2 hours, depending how fast you go.

North loop – approximately 6.5km

South loop – approximately 6km

Location: Kirkfieldbank, Lanark (west side of the River Clyde)

Maps: OS Landranger no. 72 Upper Clyde Valley
OS Explorer no. OL335 Lanark and Tinto Hills

Parking: Corehouse Farm Horses Welcome B&B and livery yard (OSGR NS875413) is happy to provide parking for visiting riders by prior arrangement telephone 01555 661377.

Facilities: Fuel, food and shops in Lanark, horse and rider accommodation at Corehouse.

Season: Year-round

Going: Mainly informally surfaced or grass paths and quiet tracks, remainder on tarmac roads.

Attractions: Great views of Falls of Clyde and New Lanark. Enjoyable riding on historic estate paths.

Route Description

Northern loop

- 1. From Corehouse Farm, head north to West Lodge on the track which continues on from the main farm access, with a block of trees on your right (east).
- 2. At West Lodge, keep heading north on the same track, which now runs between open fields bordered either side by hedges, until you reach the tarmac public road at Greenhead Gate with a house on your right. Continue straight on (north), past Byretown, following the road as it winds downhill, past commercial greenhouses and then a new housing development on your right, until you reach the T-junction with Kirkfield Road.
- 3. Turn right, downhill, passing three or four houses on your right. After approximately 100m, turn right between stone gateposts, opposite a tenement block. The start of the path looks rather unpromising but soon broadens out into a lovely old estate track through woodland, running parallel to the Clyde.

Continue along this track, enjoying views of the river and across to New Lanark, a World Heritage Site renowned for the mills set up by Robert Owen. After approximately 2km, the track turns slightly further away from the river as it re-enters the woodland of Falls of Clyde Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve. Carry on through the wood for another 1km.

- 4. At the T-junction immediately after crossing a bridge over a burn, turn right (south) on the main stoned track, ignoring the private road to the left towards the river.
- 5. To link directly onto the southern loop, after approximately 200m, turn left at the end of the field between the wooden posts, following the path signed towards Falls of Clyde. Alternatively, to return to Corehouse Farm, carry straight on along the main stoned track instead of turning off at the wooden posts, passing The Stables on your left, and at West Lodge turn left back down the track to Corehouse.

Southern Loop

From Corehouse Farm, set off as described at point 1 on the track which heads north to West Lodge, and then turn right along the track through the wood, past The Stables, until approximately 200m beyond West Lodge you see the fingerpost indicating the path towards the Falls of Clyde between wooden posts.

- 5. Follow the “ha-ha path” south-east along the sunken wall from which this path takes its name. Please do not go faster than a walk on this relatively narrow section of path and give way to walkers and others you meet.
- 6. At the T-junction just before the electricity pylons, turn right, heading south along the inviting woodland track which runs parallel to the west bank of the river down to the Falls of Clyde. Ignore the steps and any minor paths you see leading off the main track.

Carry on past the waterfalls and the weir, upstream of which the valley opens out and the informal track becomes a tarmac lane through farmland.

- 7. Approximately 0.7km from the weir, opposite the remains of an old building on the opposite river bank, follow the track around a right angle bend as it turns south, away from the river. You may prefer to dismount to pass through the gap in the metal fence, but there is ample room for most horses.
- 8. Turn right (west) at the T-junction at the top of the hill where the lane meets the public road to Harperfield and follow the road for approximately 0.3km.
- 9. Where the road turns the corner, turn right (north-west) along the clearly defined track which runs for approximately 0.8km between hedges and dykes, through a metal gate, and alongside a shelterbelt.
- 10. Turn right at the public road. Continue north-west along this road for approximately 1.1km until you see the B&B sign on your right immediately before a bridge directing you to Corehouse Farm. If riding this route in the opposite direction, look out for three large stones by the side of the road on a sharp right-angled bend in the road, and go through the gate which clearly leads onto a track, between the remains of a beech hedge and a derelict building.