

routesaroundroots map+guide

Morgan Glen



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around
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SOUTH
LANARKSHIRE
COUNCIL

South Lanarkshire's Countryside and Greenspace Service have put together a suite of six leaflets to enable you to enjoy some of the many walks across South Lanarkshire. The leaflets will help you guide yourself around the walk with a map and route description, information on history and natural history of the area you will be walking in.

The project has been funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, South Lanarkshire Council and Pride of Place and hopes to encourage more people to get out and walk in their local areas and find out more about them. Walking briskly 30 minutes on 5 or more days a week can help you to reduce your risk heart attacks, lower your blood pressure, help to maintain weight, reduce stress and make you feel better. Walking these routes regularly can help you to achieve this 30 minutes of recommended activity.

For more information on walking and health, visit www.pathsforall.org.uk. If you would like to join a local health walking group or would like more information on this please contact The Countryside and Greenspace Team on **01698 426 213** or email CAG@southlanarkshire.gov.uk. If you would like to do more challenging walks why not contact the Scottish Ramblers at www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland



Morgan Glen

Morgan Glen is a beautiful wooded gorge in Larkhall, with a rich history and an abundance of wildlife to be seen through its many paths and along the majestic river Avon. Morgan Glen was named after John Morgan, the proprietor of the nearby Applebank Inn and owner of the Glen before he gifted it to the people of Larkhall. In its heyday Morgan Glen was host to a number of events from the Gala Day to regular dances.

As with many old sites, Morgan Glen is known to have its own Ghost! Captain McNeil was a sea-farer who brought his Sri-Lankan wife home to live in Larkhall. She was unhappy with her new life and disappeared mysteriously one night. She soon re-appeared to seek revenge, as a ghost! She is known as the Black Lady of Morgan Glen and has been reported wandering the woods.

Whilst walking through Morgan Glen you will have plenty of opportunity to take in the abundant wildlife.



During the spring you will see the bluebells covering the woodland floor and hear the song thrush calling from tree tops. As summer comes in you will smell the wild garlic or see a great spotted woodpecker in the canopy of birch, beech and ash trees. The Glen is also home to badgers, roe deer, fox and rabbits.

Along the River Avon you will hopefully see grey heron, mallard ducks and dippers to name a few of the birds that live in or visit the Glen. In the grasslands at the top of the Glen you will see many butterfly species which could include orange-tip, peacock and red admiral. They may be feeding on thistle or knapweed flowers; the orange-tip can often be seen on its caterpillar food plant the cuckoo flower, a small, delicate pale purple flower.

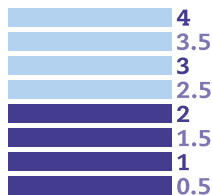
Peacock and red admiral lay eggs on nettle plants – a good use for this much avoided plant!



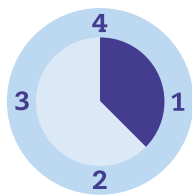
Bluebells

Morgan Glen

Start:
**Larkhall
Leisure Centre**



Distance:
2 miles



Time:
1.5 hours



Difficulty:
hard*

From Larkhall Sports Centre car park, head out and left through the 'park and ride' car park and onto MacNeil Street.

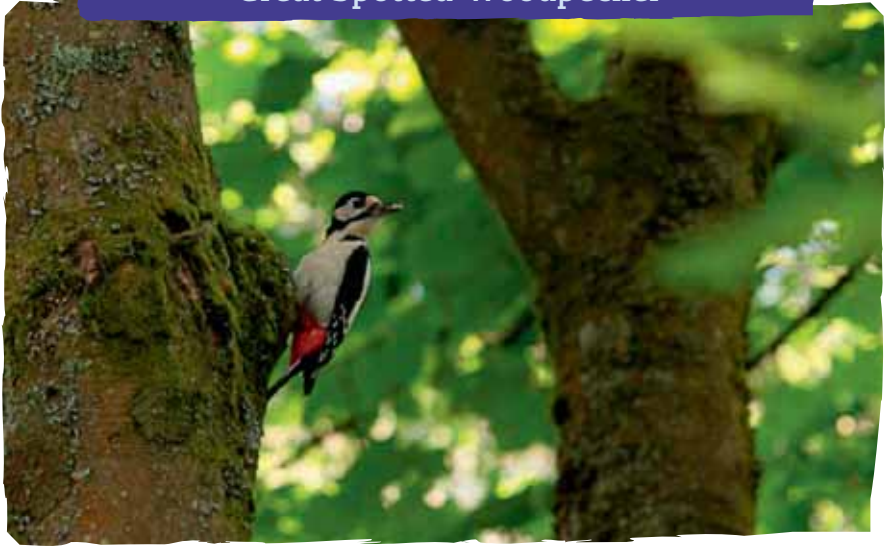
Once on MacNeil Street follow this street until it becomes Millheugh Brae passing Braehead Park and entering Morgan Glen through the arched entrance at Millheugh.



* Difficulty is **hard**, unless done in reverse, then it is **medium**.



Great Spotted Woodpecker



From there follow the path along the river to the '100 steps'. Take the steps to the top then turn left passing the viaduct.

Once passed the viaduct, take the path on the right along the dismantled railway back to the Leisure Centre.

Along this whole route there are various options to extend and shorten the walk and various entry and exit points as well as points of interest. All of the entry and exit points will be signed and identified on the maps so you are able to orientate yourself.

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water for recreation, education and for going from place to place providing they act responsibly. These access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The key things are:

When you're in the outdoors:

- take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely
- respect people's privacy and peace of mind
- help land managers and others to work safely and effectively
- care for your environment and take your litter home
- keep your dog under proper control
- take extra care if you're organising an event or running a business.

If you're managing the outdoors:

- respect access rights
- act reasonably when asking people to avoid land management operations
- work with your local authority and other bodies to help integrate access and land management
- respect rights of way and customary access.

Visit outdooraccess-scotland.com or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**

outdooraccess-scotland.com

thanks

We would like to thank the following volunteer groups for their help and support with this project;

- The Friends of Langland Moss
- The Friends of Morgan Glen
- The Friends of Udston and Glenlee Woods
- The Communtiy Wardens of Udston and Glenlee area
- The Friends of Backmuir Woods
- Andy of the Douglas Water and Rigside website
<http://rigsidedw.50webs.com/homepage.htm>

We would like to thank the following people for their photographic contributions;

- John Hawell
- Alan Bannister

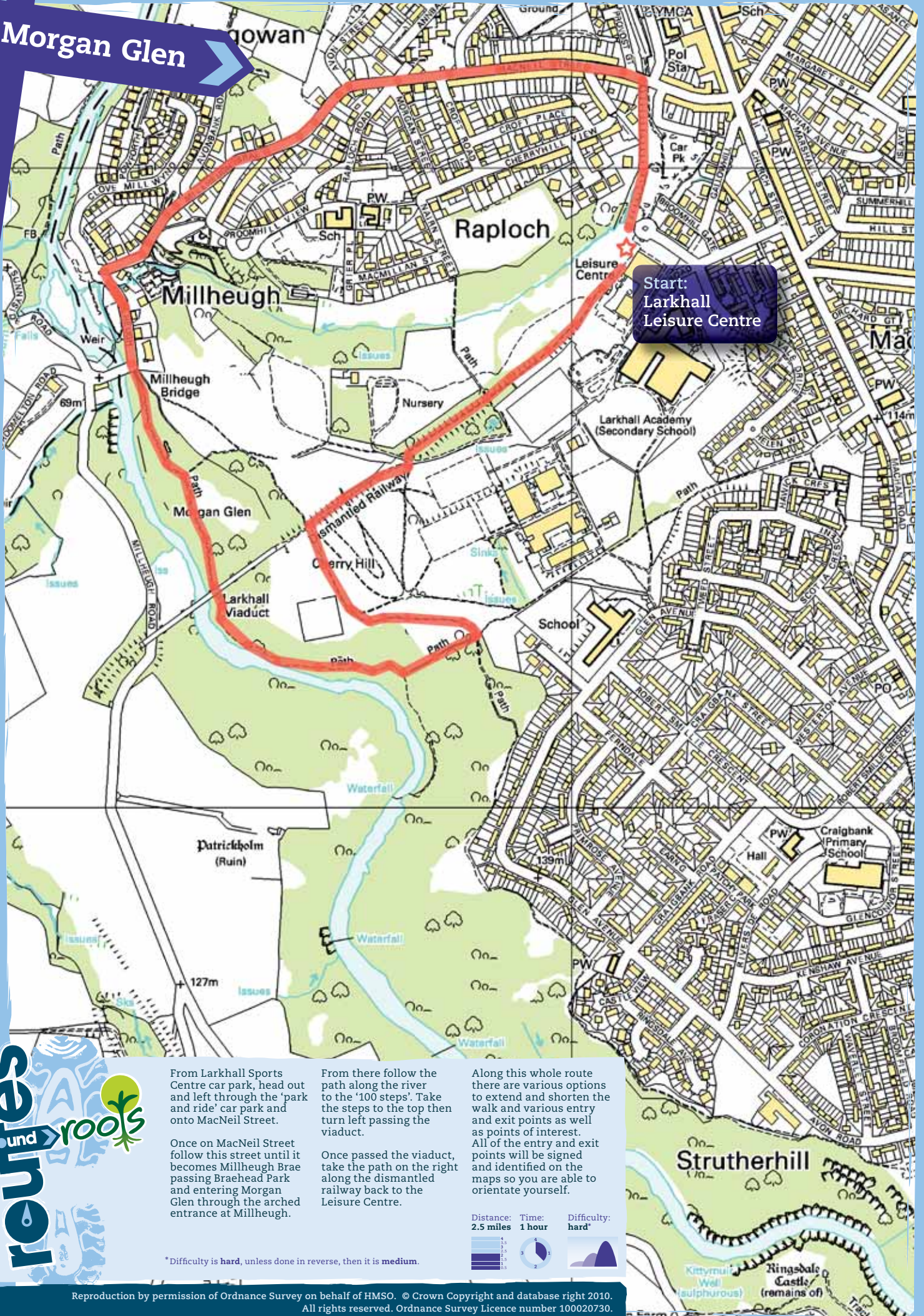
For more information or if you want this information in a different format or language, please phone 01698 426213 or email CAG@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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Morgan Glen



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Distance: 2.5 miles Time: 1 hour Difficulty: hard



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