

routesaroundroots map+guide



Rigside to Louden Pond



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**

Rigside to Louden Pond

The villages of Rigside and nearby Douglas Water were originally mining communities along the main road from Edinburgh to Ayr. The church on the main road would have been the centre of Rigside, with a few of the old houses still to be seen today.

Moorfoot tollhouse also once stood here, collecting money for the use of the road and serving as an inn. Local legend has it that a horse-drawn coach arrived one evening, and two men came in to take refreshment. The inn-keeper asked if the third man in the coach required anything, to which the reply came, "I don't think he would be interested". The story goes that these two men were the infamous Burke and Hare, with their "passenger" being en route to Edinburgh to be sold for medical research!

The village May Day celebrations used to be held on the Louden Ponds site, but the land subsided due to mining works underneath.



The Douglas Water flooded the site creating pools that are now a great place for wildlife. Yellow flag iris and bulrush edge the water, in which you might see mute swans, grey heron, mallard ducks, moorhens, or even the turquoise flash of a kingfisher. Otter and mink in the ponds hunt for fish, frogs and other underwater creatures. The surrounding fields and grasslands support grazing roe deer and stoat on the prowl for rabbits.

In the spring keep an eye out for spawn from frogs and toads in the water, and the adults in the water and on the banks. As the weather warms, dragonflies and damselflies can be seen flitting above the water and surrounding land, hunting for midges and other insects. You may be lucky enough to see sand martins, small birds which come all the way to Scotland from Africa for the summer.

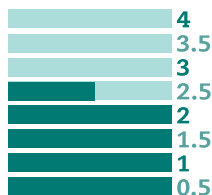
They nest in groups, inside holes in sandy banks, and can be seen catching flying insects mid-air.



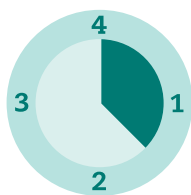
Grey Heron

Rigside to Louden Pond

Start:
Healthy Valleys Office



Distance:
2.25 miles



Time:
1.5 hours



Difficulty:
medium

From the Healthy Valleys Office on Stuart Terrace walk toward Mount Stuart Street, then taking a right and following this road to the end. Take a left onto the main road (Ayre Road).

Pass the houses and pub on your left and cross the road at the take-away, walking down the right of way towards Douglas Water.



Common Blue Damsel Fly



Once you enter the village keep walking until you come across a sign for Loudon Pond on your left.

Take this left into the pond and you can follow the paths around the pond and to the bird hide. To return to Rigside take the same route back along the country road and up the right of way to Rigside.

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 Communitiy 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

routes
around
roots



Rigside to Louden Pond



From the Healthy Valleys Office on Stuart Terrace walk toward Mount Stuart Street, then taking a right and following this road to the end. Take a left onto the main road (Ayre Road).

Pass the houses and pub on your left and cross the road at the take-away, walking down the right of way towards Douglas Water.

Once you enter the village keep walking until you come across a sign for Louden Pond on your left.

Take this left into the pond and you can follow the paths around the pond and to the bird hide. To return to Rigside take the same route back along the country road and up the right of way to Rigside.

Distance: 2.25 miles Time: 1.5 hours Difficulty: medium



Reproduction by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
© Crown Copyright and database right 2010.
All rights reserved.
Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020730.

Douglas Water

Start:
Healthy Valleys
Office