



Inverclyde

START/FINISH:
Greenock Cut Visitor
Centre

Greenock Cut

Voted as one of Scotland's top 50 historic walks, this route can offer panoramic views over the Firth of Clyde to Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park as well as Arran and Ailsa Craig.

On whin dusted footpath, tarmac and gravel trail. 2 cattle grids, 9 kissing gates which can be fully opened if needed and one road crossing. One short steep hill.

7.5 miles / 12 km Allow 3 to 4hrs



easy

The Greenock Cut

Designed by Robert Thom, the Greenock Cut was built between 1825 and 1827 to power and supply fresh water to the increasing industries and population of Greenock.

He had designed a similar, albeit smaller, scheme on Bute before being asked to work on the Greenock Cut by the Shaws Water Company. Loch Thom was originally a lot smaller prior to dams being built and was called Little Caspian but changed to honour Robert Thom's accomplishments.

There are two 'bothies' or huts along The Cut. These provided basic accommodation and shelter for workers charged with keeping the water flowing regardless of the weather.

The Cut is a marvel of engineering and supplied drinking water to Greenock until as late as 1971 when a pipe line was installed, connecting to Whinhill pump station.

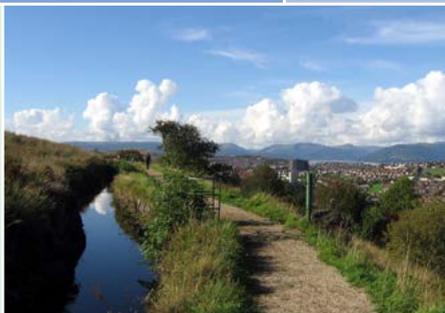


Image: Dave Souza

In 1972 the Cut was designated as a scheduled historic monument.

Wildlife: In summer common lizards bask on rocks, golden ringed dragonfly patrol the waterways and Dippers can be seen chasing down insects within The Cut. It is possible to see sticklebacks within The Cut, thought to be escapees from The Fishery at the compensation reservoir.



The Route

- Start and finish at the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre [247 721].
- From the visitor centre leave the car park and turn left through the gate onto the tarmac road. After 1km you will pass the Watermans Cottage and the spring well built in 1915 by the Argyll and Southern Highland Regiment.
- Tarmac gives way to gravel track which leads you up and over the hill. If you wish you can walk up to the Scroggy Bank mast to take in a 360° view of the surrounding area.
- At the top of the pass [257 738] you will see Greenock laying out before you as you follow the track to Overton.

- Turn left [266 748] after passing over commemorative bridge built in 1927.
- Once on the Greenock Cut footpath it is a case of following it all the way to Shielhill Farm [241 721] where you cross the road before following path back to the visitor centre.

NB Best walked anti-clockwise. Sheep and cattle are often in the fields alongside The Cut please keep dogs under close control.

To extend the walk for 1.3km, 250m after Shielhill Farm follow the nature trail down into Shielhill Glen SSSI woodland and walk to the Kelly Cut. Turn left after walking up the long flight of wooden steps to get to the Centre.

ALTERNATIVE START: Drumfrochar Station or Overton but with limited car parking.

