



# Kelly Cut and Leapmoor Forest

**Inverclyde**

**START/FINISH:**  
Greenock Cut  
Visitor Centre

A circular trail combining open moorland, rolling fields and enclosed forests offering great views of the Firth of Clyde and Cowal Peninsula. Step back in time on the Kelly Cut as you walk the engineering masterpiece designed by Robert Thom.

Predominately low gradient rough tracks, muddy in places, 1km of open moorland with no clearly defined route. Some single track road and forest tracks.



**11.5 miles / 18.5 km**    **Allow 5-6hrs**

**moderate**



## More information

**The Kelly Cut** aqueduct was built in 1845 to supply additional water, such was the demand from the industries and the increasing population of Greenock. Look out for curlews at the reservoir and birds of prey patrolling the moorland.

**Leapmoor Forest** a Sitka spruce plantation is cropped every 35-50 years. The versatile wood is used in ship construction, paper and pallet making. Look out for sparrowhawks

nesting in the trees as well as crossbills, coal tits and goldcrests. Take care as logging activity is ongoing.

**Wildlife:** In summer common lizards bask on rocks, golden ringed dragonflies patrol the waterways and green tiger beetles chase their prey.

**Vegetation:** Thyme, tormentil, cotton grass, bog asphodel and sphagnum moss.



# The Route

OS Map 1:25000 Explorer 341 or 1:50000 Landranger 63

- From the car park follow the green signs over the bridge, onto the Kelly Cut [247 721].
- Continue for 5km then head west [221 685] Kelly burn towards Wemyss Bay.
- Walk along road past Kellybank Caravan Park and head towards Weymss Bay Caravan Park take the first right to follow the road to Kelly Mains Farm.
- At the farm turn right through the metal gate onto a grassy path, this takes you along a tree lined country lane to Finnock Bog Farm. Turn right onto Spey Road nearby.
- Following the signs for Leapmoor Forest.
- After passing Hill Cottage use the metal pedestrian gate to access the next 4.5km of forest track.

- At the northeast end of the forest, [232 721] use the gate to access the open moorland.
- Go up hill, following the wall to locate the second gate then downhill onto the 'Greenock Cut Nature Trail' to return to the start.

**NB** Please be aware sheep and cattle are often in the fields along this route.

