Clyde Muirshiel
REGIONAL PARK

The Park for People

Inverclyde

START/FINISH:
Greenock Cut Visitor Centre

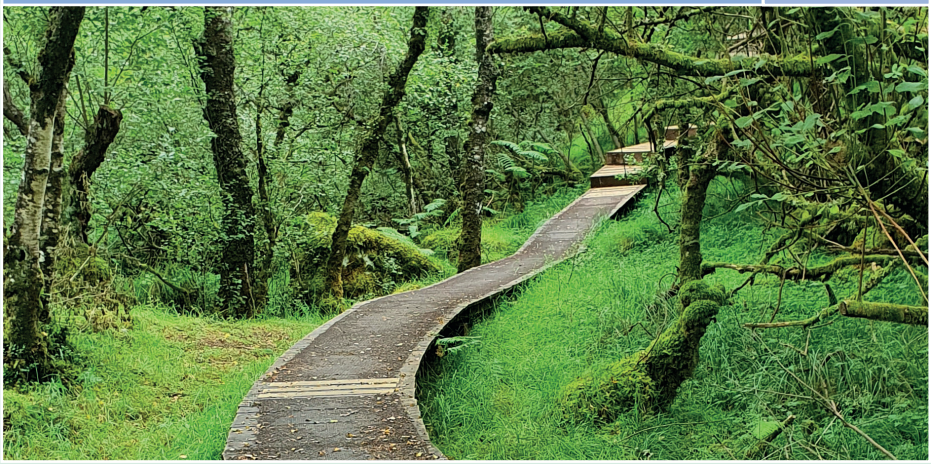
Shielhill Glen

Family friendly woodland walk. A haven for many birds and animals this lovely circular offers a chance to walk part of the historic Kelly and Greenock Cuts as well as taking in a semi ancient woodland.

On whin dusted trail, board walk and gravel path. Parts of the Kelly Cut are very muddy in wet weather, with 228 wooden steps and five gates. Waymarked with black and white arrows.

1.5 miles / 2.5 km **Allow 45 to 60 mins**

moderate



More information

The area is a semi ancient woodland and has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is filled with birch, oak, ash and rowan. Look out for ancient oak trees, estimated to be 300 - 400 years old!

Flora includes species such as pendulous sedge, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage and great horsetail. The grass of parnassus can be found in many parts of the site.

Fauna The glen is home to roe deer, foxes, badgers, buzzards and stoats.

Handy hint Walk clockwise to go down the 228 steps. Look out for the hidden "woodspirits".

The Route

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

Route description is anti-clockwise and follows black and white waymarkers. From the Visitor Centre cross the road to join 'Greenock Cut Trail'. You'll cross over a modern reconstruction of the sluice gate used to control water going into the Greenock Cut.

Follow the path for 500m and you will see a junction and steps down to the Nature Trail.

Follow the path as it winds its way down the hill and through the woods until you get to a wooden gate.

From the gate continue on the raised board walk to climb the steps up onto the Kelly Cut.

At the top of the steps turn left and follow the Kelly Cut all the way along to the road and the Visitor Centre.

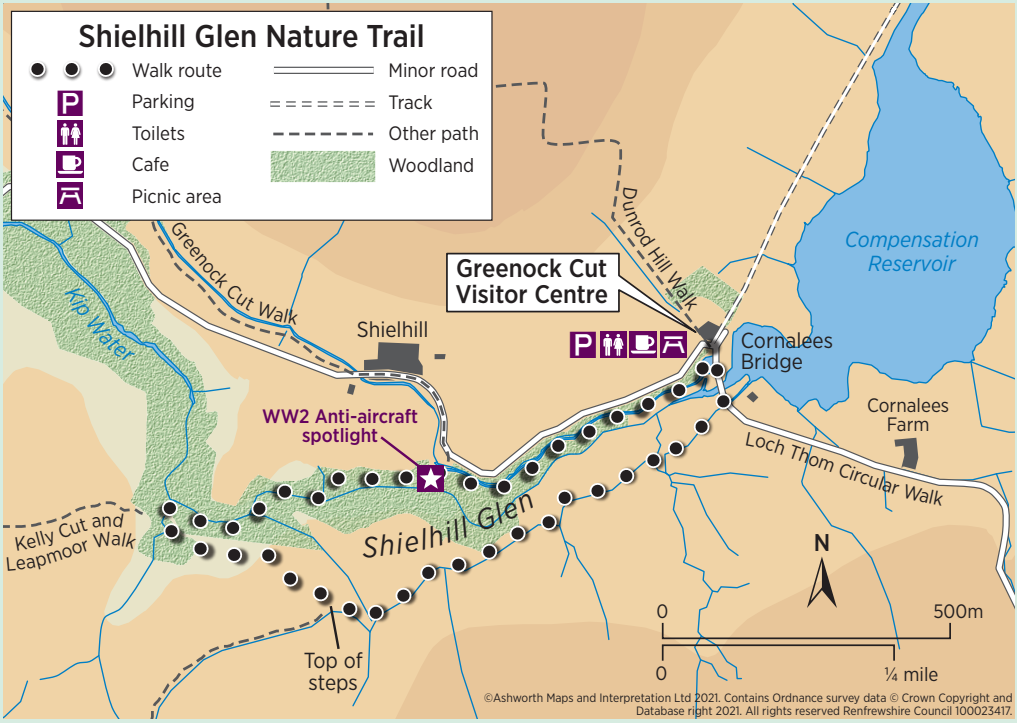



Image: Dave Souza