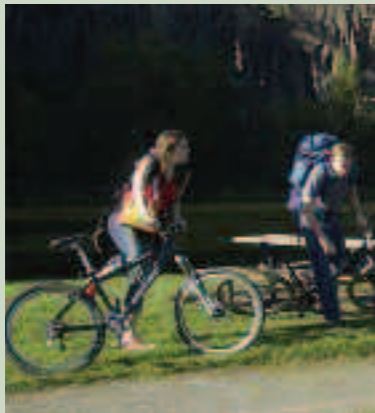


# Summer full of fun in the Kelvin Valley



On the Heritage Trail  
(photo: courtesy Kilsyth Chronicle)

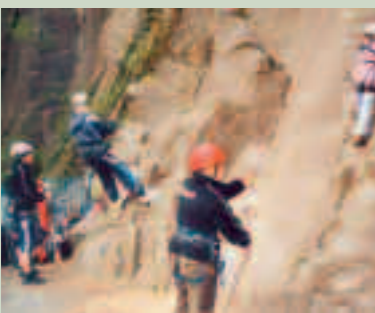
**ROAMING FREE** day in April got the summer season off to a great start. Organised by North Lanarkshire Council rangers with local volunteers including the Friends of the Kelvin Valley Park, the Festival included rock climbing, cruising, walking and kayaking with the Antonine Guard on patrol.

**Guided heritage walks** plus cycle rides and exhibitions were organised throughout the summer by the 'Friends' together with Croy Historical Society. Walks were also led by Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Ramblers, Kilsyth based Fitness AI Fresco and Monthly Club Link.

**Lots happened down on the canal** with weekly kayak sessions by Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Kayak Club, cruises by the Forth and Clyde Canal society, volunteering by the Waterways Trust and the boat owners summit muster.

**Wildlife walking** was very popular with events at Dumbreck nature reserve, Colzium Estate and Burngreen Park organised by North Lanarkshire rangers. East Dunbartonshire rangers organised events at Twechar and canal wildlife walks were held by the Scottish wildlife Trust.

**Rock climbing** and rock watching were also popular with almost daily rock climbing sessions at Auchinstarry Quarry and visits to the Garrel Glen and



Corrieburn Site of Scientific Interest by the Geological Society of Glasgow.

**All local communities** held colourful galas and a major hit was Kilsyth International Carnival in August with performers from five continents and five thousand spectators crowding into Colzium Estate.

**September** continued the busy theme with heritage walks and exhibitions organised by the Friends, Croy Historical Society and Central Scotland Forest Trust as part of North Lanarkshires 'Open Doors' day. East Dunbartonshire rangers held their annual walking festival around Twechar and canal wildlife watching was run by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Batwatching and wildlife walks were organised by North Lanarkshire Rangers. Kilsyth Community Council brought the outdoors indoor with a Heritage Evening featuring talks on local geology and history. As well as these organised events many people were out simply enjoying the natural beauty of the valley.



Out for a ramble  
Photo: North Lanarkshire Community Development

**SHEARER MAPPING SERVICES**  
"any scale, any subject"

High quality maps produced for books, brochures or display. Contact me with your requirements for consultation and quotation.

www.paperclip.org.uk  
Tel: 0709 2875714

John Shearer M.A. Dip. Cart., M.Sc.

**paperclip**  
www.paperclip.org.uk

Whether your trade or business is local, website is the best way to let your customers find you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The internet can be daunting, but with the right kind of support can also be made cheaper and more effective than newspaper advertising.

paperclip provides website support for hundreds of large and small enterprises, delivering fast, reliable and sensitive prices.

**paperclip**  
email: enquiries@paperclip.org.uk  
phone: 0709 2875714  
website: www.paperclip.org.uk

KVP News welcomes advertisers, see 'About Us' for details

Designed & Printed by Cowan Print, Kilsyth - Tel: 01236 821177



# Kelvin Valley Park NEWS

Published by Friends of the Kelvin Valley Park

Issue No.3 Autumn/Winter 2007

## OPPORTUNITIES



**THE NEW** draft Local Plan for North Lanarkshire is a major opportunity to get it right for the Kelvin Valley and its communities. The plan is now out for consultation and we give details on how to get involved. Much of the draft plan is very good and we welcome the great majority of the plan's proposals for the Kelvin Valley area. However we do not believe it goes far enough, and want to see the Council's own Kelvin Valley Park proposal embodied in the plan.

The new draft Core Paths Plan is also out for consultation and it is important to ensure that the extensive Kelvin Valley Park Path network is fully protected by this Plan. Our new leaflet on the Kelvin Valley path network, included with this issue, shows how our paths link together our communities and our many outdoor attractions. The "Walkers are Welcome" initiative could also provide a good opportunity to enhance our path network and attract tourists to the Kelvin Valley - see inside for details.

Another major opportunity is presented by the formation of the Kelvin Valley Group which brings together local councils, countryside agencies and community groups. This should help all groups work together for the benefit of the valley.

New developments which improve the valley are the completion of renovations at Colzium House, completion of work at Dumbreck Nature Reserve, improvements to the Kelvin Way and projects on the canalside.

But it is not all plans and developments! Everyone has the opportunity to get out and enjoy the Kelvin Valley Park. See the back page for ideas and use our paths leaflet to see how to get around.

## New Local Plan good news for the Valley

**N**ORTH Lanarkshire's draft Local Plan is now out for consultation. The draft plan, which covers development in North Lanarkshire for the next five to ten years, takes a very positive approach to the needs of both environmental protection and local development. Specific policies covering the Kelvin Valley include:-

- **Green belt** covering all the countryside area in the valley
- **A Regional Scenic area** and Tourism Development Area covering the Kilsyth Hills along the northern boundary of the valley
- **A Tourism Development area** along the Forth & Clyde Canal with the canal itself also covered by scheduled ancient monument status
- **An amenity zone** along the Antonine Wall coupled with an extensive buffer zone to protect the wall's setting
- **Over 30 sites of importance** for nature conservation covering around a third of the valley's area, plus two sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs)

It is clear that the creation of the canal Millennium Link, the promotion of the Antonine Wall as a World

Heritage Site, and the push to increase biodiversity have all had a major impact, as have the opportunities created for tourist development.

However we do believe there is room for improvement in the draft plan. The Council's own proposals for a Kelvin Valley Park, incorporated in their current Kelvin Valley Action Plan, are not indicated on the proposals map or mentioned in the documents. We would like the Plan to show the Kelvin Valley Park, which we take to be the green belt area between the Kilsyth Hill Scenic Area and the northern edge of Cumbernauld.

There could be great merit in extending the Regional Scenic Area covering the Kilsyth Hills to cover the whole of the Kelvin Valley. The Forth and Clyde Canal, Antonine Wall, wildlife sites and farmland are major scenic attractions and we believe the Regional Scenic Area should be extended to cover these. This would have the effect of combining the Kilsyth Hills Regional Scenic Area and the Kelvin Valley green belt into a large scenic area, centred on Kilsyth.

Also the tourism development areas of the Kilsyth Hills and the canal

*continues next page >>*



Kelvin Valley from Croy Hill  
(photo: Croy Historical Society)

## VIEWPOINT



**WHAT A BUSY** few months on the canal. As a skipper with the Seagull Trust\* I'm on the water most weeks and have been really impressed by the recent rate of progress there - the new marina complex at Kirkintilloch is well under way, the foundations have been laid at Auchinstarry for a hotel and bar complex and the planning process continues for a range of other improvements along the canal which will vastly improve the visiting experience.

Of course none of this happens without input from a range of local organisations and these organisations have now found a new voice in the form of the Kelvin Valley Group. This group held its second meeting recently, bringing together agencies, community councils, volunteers and officers from North Lanarkshire Council and East Dunbartonshire Council - over twenty local groups, all of them with an overriding interest in making the Kelvin Valley and even better place to live and visit.

Heartening indeed, but now everyone has the chance to take part in this process - both councils have recently released their Local Plans for public consultation. These Local Plans are absolutely key to the future of the Valley and need to be read by all those who care about their environment - built and natural. The first part of this consultation process ends in November so please, go online or visit the library and have a rigorous read through the plans. There will also be public consultation meetings held throughout the area.

Now it's the time for action, so please get involved and ensure that your voice is heard and that you make a difference to the future of the Kelvin Valley

**Councillor David Key**

*\*The Seagull Trust is a charity that affords disabled and disadvantaged groups the opportunity of pleasure cruises on Scotland's canals. The nearest branch is at Kirkintilloch and cruises on the Forth & Clyde Canal..*

<< continued from page 1

corridor would be better combined by the bringing in the whole of the Kelvin Valley. Taking these suggestions together we propose that the whole of the green belt in Ward 1 is designated a Regional Scenic Area and a Tourism Development area which could have great value for both tourist development and local enjoyment.

We also have some concerns. A major one is the exclusion of Cavalry Park from the green belt and its portrayal as an area of established housing land supply, when it has been turned down at a Public enquiry. Housing development here would adversely affect the rural setting of Colzium House and Park, which is a popular public country estate.

We are also surprised to see that the Dumbreck Nature Reserve, a popular local nature reserve operated by North Lanarkshire Council, is not covered by any wildlife designation such as a site of

importance for nature conservation. Also the important Core Paths Plan is not yet included in the draft.

A very important Green Belt review is now under way. This is intended to give communities more "breathing space" in terms of development. This is welcome but must be carried out to ensure the rural nature of the Kelvin Valley is not eroded, and that the scenic nature of the important Auchinstarry area is not spoiled.

The Plan can be viewed at [www.northlan.gov.uk](http://www.northlan.gov.uk) or at local libraries. Public meetings are being held throughout North Lanarkshire during August, September and October. The Local Plan Team will also give presentations to local groups. Contact them at NLC Fleming House, Cumbernauld, telephone 01236 618133. All submissions are to be in by Friday 2nd November 2007. Do have your say on this highly important plan.

## Walkers are welcome



'Fitness Al Fresco' out for a walk  
Photo: North Lanarkshire Community Development

**C**OULD Kilsyth and the Kelvin Valley become a "Walkers are Welcome" area. Friends of the Kelvin Valley Park are following up the new national initiative to see what benefits could come to the area.

The 'Friends' say that this extensive network of paths surrounding Kilsyth and the villages in the Kelvin Valley and Kilsyth Hills fully qualify the area for "Walkers are Welcome". The Local Path Network links the Antonine Wall, the Forth & Clyde Canal, Auchinstarry Park, nature reserves at Dumbreck and Dullatur Marsh, Colzium Estate, the Kilsyth Hills and local communities. Inside this issue we give a path network map with suggested routes.

The 'Walkers are Welcome' initiative started in 2006 and is spreading fast with walkers havens such as Hebden Bridge in the Pennines, Prestatyn in

North Wales and Moffat in the borders already signed up.

'Walkers are Welcome' is a bottom up initiative, which must come from the communities themselves. Six conditions must be met:-

- **Demonstration** of local support
- **Formal endorsement** by the local council
- **Rights of way** must be kept in good condition
- **Marketing** of 'Walkers are Welcome' status
- **Encouragement** of walking using local transport
- **Maintaining** the status with a local steering group

The idea looks good, but how good? The Friends are discussing these issues with colleagues in the towns that have already gone for accreditation.

If the idea stands up, the Friends will consult with our own community groups to gather ideas and support.

### Special Supplement Path Network

Unclip, fold into panels and keep this special supplement as a handy pocket guide to the Kelvin Valley Path Network complete with a selection of suggested walking routes around the area.

## On the waterfront

**F**OLLOWING their major springtime event, when over a hundred guests celebrated the opening of new public mooring and picnic areas at Auchinstarry, the Waterways Trust has been buzzing with new projects.

Work on the sensory garden and Nature Trails is just starting. Over 700 local people voted for the environmental landform by Barry Grove, which should be in place by the end of the year.

The canal basin was busy with over 50 resident boats, a lot of visiting craft, cruises by the Forth and Clyde Canal Society including Twechar Gala. The boat owner summit muster organised by the Scottish Inland Waterways Association brought in craft from the

Firths of Forth and Clyde as well as all points on the Millennium Link.

Meanwhile, work has started on a new restaurant and hotel at Auchinstarry Basin which will be able to serve meals to 130 guests and have 10 rooms for overnight stays. New picnic tables and signage have been installed by the towpath at Kelvinhead.



Local schoolchildren helped with the picnic area Photo: Waterways Trust Scotland

## Kelvin Valley drumbeat

Gandawi Perform at KIC 2007  
Photo: KICS



**T**HE KELVIN Valley echoed to the beat of African Drums in August as Ghanaian band Gandawi got in to top form for the fantastic Kilsyth International Carnival. Over 5000 people were drawn to Colzium by around 1000 performers including 20 bands and 10 dance groups plus a local craft village and fun fair.

As well as drummers from Africa there were Capoeira dancers from Brazil, Flamenco dancers from Spain, Chinese Lion dancers and Cuban Salsa dancers.

Local talent included many local dancers and bands, joined by celebrity turns like Davis Sneddon.

## Tai Chi at Dumbreck Marsh

Hing Fung Teh led sessions of Tai Chi to relax and focus visitors to the rich surroundings of Dumbreck Marsh nature reserve at a special celebration in June.

Organised by North Lanarkshire rangers and part funded by Scottish Natural Heritage the event was part of a nationwide initiative. Local wildlife recorder John McFarlane led a minibeast and pondlife foray and the rangers helped the public enjoy the birds and wildflowers of the marsh, finishing with a bat watch at 11pm. For more information on local events contact the rangers on 01236 780636.

Enjoying wildlife studies at Dumbreck  
Photo: North Lanarkshire Rangers



## IN BRIEF

**WORLD HERITAGE BID** for the Antonine Wall is going ahead with preparations by Historic Scotland for the evaluators' visit; meetings of the management plan working group and geophysical surveys at various locations, including Shirva near Twechar.

**GOLF** at Westerwood is benefiting from five new holes currently being added to the championship standard course, part of a £6.5million investment in the hotel and leisure complex.

However, there are concerns that the development might be impinging on the right of way from Cumbernauld to the Forth & Clyde Canal and the issue has been raised with North Lanarkshire's access officer.

**BANKNOCK SPECIAL INITIATIVE** for residential and regeneration is open to public involvement with workshops being held in the village in September and January.

**EURO FUNDING** under the leader programme is being sought by the Kelvin Valley Group. This new group brings together local authorities, countryside agencies & voluntary organisations

**TUESDAY WALKS** by the Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Ramblers, starting 10am, duration about 2hours, are all accessed by public transport. Winter programme will be out soon; contact Hilary Shearer on 01236 780136 for details.

**KELVIN WAY** section of the path from River Kelvin to the canal by Twechar has been widened and resurfaced by East Dunbartonshire Council in preparation for their walking festival.

**CORE PATHS** proposals for North Lanarkshire are up for consultation with a series of drop in events and comments are required by 2nd November. A final draft will be produced by February 2008 for a 3month consultation. Contact access officer on 01236 780636 for further information.

**CROY QUARRY** expansion is going ahead and proposals to complete the quarry as a public park were approved last year. However, 'Danger - No Entry - Quarry Workings' type signs have been erected on the footpath leading along the south side of the quarry. This is an important part of the Antonine Walkway and we have raised this with the access officer.



FOR A KELVIN VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PARK

ENJOYING ALL OUR OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS



## OUT & ABOUT



### Health Walking Groups

There are a variety of short and longer walks on offer by local groups. **Kilsyth: Fitness Al Fresco** Run by North Lanarkshire Council and based at the Garrell Vale Leisure Centre in Kilsyth. Short walks are led on Thursdays and longer walks on Tuesdays. Contact Harry Marron on 01236 828160. **Twechar: Walk for Health** A Weekly Walk for Health Group is based at Twechar Healthy Living Centre. Tel: 01236 827154. **Cumbernauld & Kilsyth: Tuesday Walks** Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Ramblers have a programme of gentler 'Tuesday Walks'. Contact The Ramblers Association Scotland - [www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland). Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Group contact: Hilary Shearer, 01236 780136; Strathkelvin Group, 0141 776 4161



### Public Transport links

You can get to the Kelvin Valley by bus and rail. Bus Services, details from Traveline, Telephone; 0871 200 2233 [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

- 24 Glasgow-Kilsyth-Stirling FirstBus
- 27 Glasgow-Kilsyth-Falkirk FirstBus
- 27X Glasgow-Twechar FirstBus
- 43 Kilsyth-Croy-Cumbernauld Canavan's
- 147 Kilsyth-Croy-Airdrie Henderson's
- 34Q Croy-Kilsyth Circular Jay's

Rail Services, details from Network Rail, Telephone; 08457 48 49 50

**Croy mainline station with services to Glasgow, Stirling, Edinburgh and beyond.**

## OUR HERITAGE

The Kelvin Valley has a rich wildlife and historical heritage. The Path Network and suggested routes will take you to wetlands and woodlands, hills and valleys, wildlife reserves and rock exposures. You can also explore man made features like the Antonine Wall, Forth & Clyde Canal, Colzium House and enjoy the many facilities of our local communities.

### Wildlife

The valley's wetlands are great for winter migrants escaping the Arctic and summer breeding birds back from Africa. Dumbreck Marsh Local Nature Reserve run by North Lanarkshire Council, Dullatur Marsh Nature Reserve run by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Twechar Marsh and Banton Loch are prime places to visit.

Ancient woodlands such as Bluebell Wood by Colzium and Craigmarnock Wood overlooking the canal are rich in wild flowers. There are new community woodlands in Kilsyth, Banton, Queenzieburn and Forestry Commission woods at Twechar and Nethercroy. If you want to enjoy the wildlife and open vistas of higher ground, take the paths over Croy Hill and Bar Hill or up into the Kilsyth Hills.

### History

Two major national features run right through the valley. The Romans used the higher ground overlooking the valley to build the Antonine Wall and the canal builders used the valley itself for the Forth & Clyde Canal. The canal has recently been re-opened as part of the Millennium Link and has a fine marina at Auchinstarry. World Heritage Site status is coming for the Antonine Wall. Colzium House and Estate is a public park run by North Lanarkshire Council and there are many other buildings including old mills and churches in the valley. The rich mining and quarrying history of the valley has left a legacy of old quarries and bings taken over by wildlife and old cartways and mine roads taken into the path network.

### Communities

Local communities include the ancient Burgh of Kilsyth with shops, cafes, pubs and a swimming pool and sports centre. The villages of Banton, Banknock, Croy, Queenzieburn and Twechar have shops and pubs. The New Town of Cumbernauld has a full range of facilities and shopping.

## PATH NETWORK

### Kelvin Valley Path Network

The Path Network takes you to all the major countryside attractions and communities in the Kelvin Valley. In this leaflet we give a map of the main routes and also describe some suggested routes.

Many of the paths are surfaced and signposted and are suitable for all abilities and for cyclists and horse riders as well as for walkers. Others are unsigned and often unsurfaced and are less used, but can be a delight for the more adventurous. There are many other more minor paths and rights of way which we have not shown, please tell us about any that you use.

The Kelvin Valley has been lived in for thousands of years and you can walk in the footsteps of the Romans along the Antonine Wall, along the towpath of the Forth & Clyde Canal, along many old mine and quarry roads, follow the routes of old railways and enjoy grand old estate avenues.

Our path network also links us to the wider world. It is part of a cross Scotland route using the Millennium Link canal towpaths, connects to the West Highland Way by the Kirkintilloch to Strathblane path and is part of the Lands End to John O'Groats route. So however far you wish to travel, either 1 mile round Colzium or 1395 miles from end to end, the Kelvin Valley is truly at the centre of things.



## ABOUT US

### Friends of the Kelvin Valley Park

Formed in 2005 to promote a Kelvin Valley countryside park. Committee members are residents of Kilsyth, Cumbernauld and the villages and include Paul Carter, James Coleman, James Hunt, Ian Jarvis, Rob Kay and Bill Taylor. Members are active in a range of activities in the valley including canals, rambling, wildlife, local history, carnival, path network etc. The 'Friends' meet with a range of organisations to encourage appropriate countryside developments and publish the Kelvin Valley Park News. We are keen to talk to any local groups about our aims - please get in touch.

### Kelvin Valley Park News

The 'News' is published in Spring and Autumn and covers outdoor events, activities and developments in the Kelvin Valley. One thousand copies of each issue are circulated free to Councillors, Members of Parliament, Schools, Libraries, local communities and outdoor organisations and the general public. We welcome news and good quality photographs.

### Adverts

We will scan in your colour or black and white artwork.

Charges are:	
Col cm on 4 column page	£5
Col cm on 3 column page	£7
Half Page	£150
Full page	£280
Front and back pages	50% extra
Typesetting (if instructed)	50% extra
Minimum charge	£25

Cheques payable to: Friends of the Kelvin Valley Park

Thank you to all our contributors for news and photos, Awards for all for funding this issue, Croy Historical Society for secretarial help and the News and Chronicle for publicising our events. Many thanks to Scottish Natural Heritage for financial assistance towards the leaflet.

### Contact Details

Editor: Paul Carter, Woodlyn, High Banton, Kilsyth, G65 0RA

Tel 01236 822437. Web: [www.kelvinvalleypark.info](http://www.kelvinvalleypark.info)



## ABOUT ACCESS

### Safety

Please note that you are responsible for your own safety and well-being and the safety and well-being of others. We cannot guarantee accuracy of all the details given in this leaflet. The map is diagrammatic and access conditions will change from time to time on the ground and may not match descriptions in this leaflet. Also please have due regard to land manager's operations, such as farming and forestry and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

### Know the Code before you go

#### Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Respect the interests of other people
- Care for the environment

To find out more or to obtain a copy of the full Code or a leaflet, visit [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com), phone Scottish Natural Heritage on 01738 444177 or email [pubs@snh.gov.uk](mailto:pubs@snh.gov.uk).



For local access enquiries, contact the Access Officer at North Lanarkshire Council on 01236 780636



## Kelvin Valley Park

## Path Network



# SUGGESTED ROUTES



## KILSYTH

**1. COLZIUM LENNOX ESTATE CIRCUIT:** Leave the Burngreen and go up Burnbank Terrace, cross the Stirling Road onto Tak Ma Doon Road. After 1/3 mile turn right onto a path that follows the Lade through the Estate to Banton Loch. At the second bridge go left which leads up to Colzium House. Before reaching the house go sharp left and continue on a tarmac path to North Lodge where you turn right towards the site of Colzium Castle. At a tall waymark post take the path into Colzium Glen and then cross the Glen at either the top or middle bridges. Come down the east side of the Glen and take the main drive to the Lade Burn and turn left towards Banton Loch. At the Loch turn right and walk down past a metal gate and go right to Colzium main entrance. Cross Stirling Road and return to Burngreen by the path to the rear of houses on the south side of the road. *Distance: 2.75 miles.*

**2. AUCHINSTARRY AND BACK:** From Burngreen cross the Garrell Burn into Charles Street then left into East then West Burnside Street and follow the Garrell Burn to a bridge opposite St. Patrick's School and then cross onto the south bank. At the next path junction turn left down to the River Kelvin path where you turn left to Auchinstarry. Cross the B802 and take a path at Auchinstarry Quarry to Coach Road. Return to Kilsyth by South Barrwood Road, Coach Place and Low Craigends. *Distance: less than 3 miles.*

**3. DUMBRECK NATURE RESERVE CIRCUIT:** As in the previous go follow the Garrell Burn but stay on its north side until you reach the River Kelvin path which you follow downstream for 1/4 mile where you will find an entrance gate to the reserve on your right. Follow this path until just short of the next gate where a wooden bridge gives access to a boardwalk. After the boardwalk keep right and follow paths back through the Reserve to the Garrell Burn Path and return to the town centre. *Distance: 3 miles.*

## QUEENZIEBURN

**4. QUEENZIEBURN CIRCUIT:** From a lay-by just west of Kilsyth on the Glasgow Road follow Neilston Walk to Balcastle Road. Follow this minor road as it climbs north of Queenzieburn. A shorter circuit can be made by turning

down Dykehead Road. Continue past Burnhead Farm and down Whin Loan. Just south of Lossit is Joe Moses Road which you follow to Dykehead Road. During dry weather or if well shod after a short distance take the track from Old Place to the north-east of the village. If not, continue down to Queenzieburn then Meadows Road to Arnbrae Farm Woodland. A stile gives access to a grass path which is followed towards Arnbrae. Turn down the access road to Glasgow Road and the lay-by. *Distance: less than 4 miles.*

## BANTON

**5. THE CANAL AND BANTON LOCH:** From the centre of the village follow Kelvinhead Road to Kelvinhead then a path to the west of its junction with the A803 to the Forth and Clyde Canal. Turn west along the towpath to Craigmearloch then north on the Dullatur Road to Coach Road. Turn right and follow the road to Colzium main entrance. From the lay-by turn right to Banton Loch. Continue along its south shore to Banton Road, turn left and return to the Village. *Distance: 4 miles.*

## AUCHINSTARRY

**6. CANAL, TWECHAR AND RIVER KELVIN CIRCUIT:** Follow the Canal towpath to Twechar. Return by accessing a path a short distance along the Twechar to Queenzieburn Road. This follows the River Kelvin back to Auchinstarry. *Distance: 3.25 miles.*

**7. ANTONINE WALKWAY TO CRAIGMARLOCH & CANAL:** From the Marina go along the path to the south of the Canal which shortly turns south towards Nethercroy. Just past the picnic site go left, through another gate and follow the path to a junction where you turn left. In just over 1/2 a mile at a picnic site turn left to the Dullatur Road, turn left to Craigmearloch and return to Auchinstarry by the Canal towpath. *Distance 3.25 miles.*

**8. NORTH KILSYTH CIRCUIT:** take the river Kelvin path then turn north through Dumbreck Nature Reserve to Gavell Road then Stirling Road to the Glasgow Road lay-by past Laird's Hill Place. Follow the first part of the Queenzieburn Circuit to Balcastle Farm and turn right to Allanfauld Farm where you turn down Allanfauld Road. Turn left at Garrell Avenue, continue on an unsurfaced private road (Neilston Walk) and across Hill Road. In 1/4 of a mile drop down onto Tak Ma Doon Road and cross into a wood, a path leads down to the Lade Burn Path, turn left alongside the Lade then right to the Colzium Curling Pond and walk through the woods to the south of the pond to Colzium main entrance. Cross Stirling Road and head towards Coach Road, go right then bear left in 2/3 mile to Auchinstarry. *Distance 6 miles.*

## TWECHAR

**9. BAR HILL AND CANAL:** From near the War Memorial follow the Historic Scotland marked track and in less than half a mile go left through a gate and then another to the Roman Fort site at Bar Hill. From Bar Hill take a path east north-east to Castle Hill viewpoint then either return to pick up the Barr Hill path east towards Croy or descend steeply north then east to follow the line of the Antonine Wall picking up the Military Way 1/2 mile further east. Continue to and cross the B802 then through 2 stiles to reach Nether Croy. Return to Auchinstarry by the Antonine Walkway Trust path and then along the towpath to Twechar. *Distance: 4.5 miles.*

## CROY

**10. ANTONINE WALL AND FORTH & CLYDE CANAL:** From Nethercroy follow the Antonine Wall east over Croy hill. Keep to the north side of the line of the wall ditch until you meet a path, turn left and then in 200 yards right towards Dullatur Road, turn left to Craigmearloch and follow the canal towpath to Auchinstarry. Cross the canal by the B802 to the marina. At the east end of the marina an Antonine Walkway Trust path is followed back to Nethercroy. *Distance 3.5 miles.*

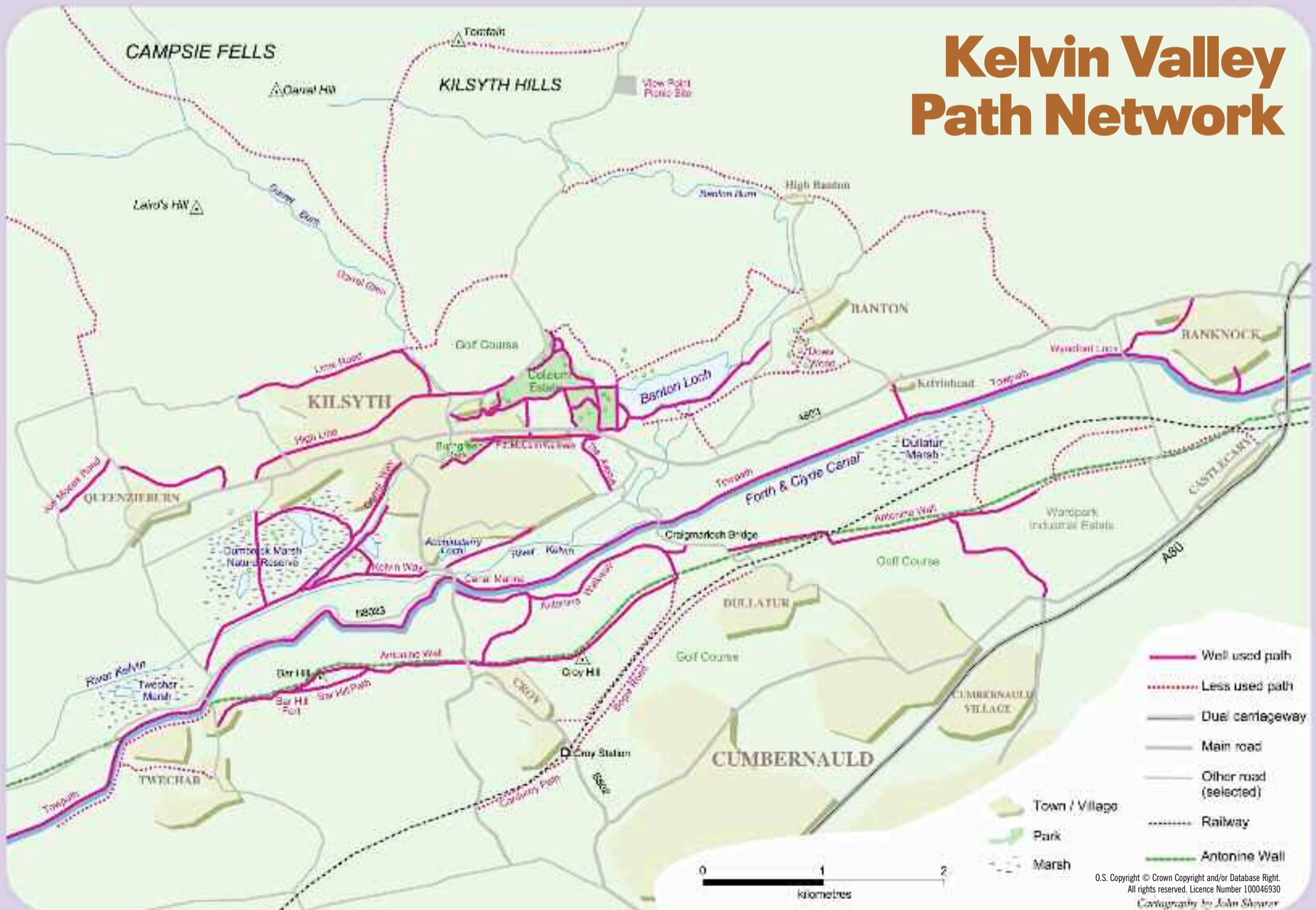
## CUMBERNAULD

**11. WESTERWOOD TO THE ANTONINE WALL:** Follow a track north from near Old Inns interchange to Westerwood Farm buildings. Go left towards Dullatur along the line of the wall. At the Dullatur Road continue west to the canal at Craigmearloch or Croy Hill. *Distance: 3.5 miles*

## BANKNOCK

**12. BANKNOCK AND CANAL:** Start at Bog Road in Banknock Village, take the Doups Burn path opposite Spar Grocers to Wyndford Lock on the Forth & Clyde Canal. Follow the canal towpath east for 1/2 a mile to Red Burn Aqueduct, take the path down the embankment then follow the signposted path over the River Bonny bridge and across fields to the housing estate at Weelparkland and back through the estate to the start point. *Distance: 2 miles*

*Very many different routes can be followed using the Kelvin Valley Path Network. You can use the map as a useful guide but please note this is diagrammatic. Also use the O.S. Explorer map 348 for more detail. Here we give a selection of twelve routes starting from the communities in and around the valley and taking in many of the natural and historical attractions.*



# Kelvin Valley Path Network