

Walks Around Clyde

These are fifteen walks which I've discovered around Clyde while out walking the dog.

There are many lovely walks around Clyde. Some are short and some are longer. Those listed here are generally of the shorter variety and are relatively easy. Each has a map which indicates its 'degree of difficulty' - although this is, of course, subjective.

For those interested in longer walks it is suggested that you contact The Clyde Off-Road Walkers. They walk each Monday and Wednesday, leaving at 9am and returning about 3pm.

The contacts are : Judy Blanch 03 449 2580 and Elinor Edgar 03 448 6767

Would you like to send feedback about a walk - and maybe a photograph or two which you took. Send them to us [by email](#) and we will add them to the relevant walk page.

Each of the shorter walks listed here has its own map.

Walking map details :

The red circle on the map indicates the starting point. You can, of course start your walk from anywhere along the track.

A green rectangle on some maps indicates an important feature (e.g. a lookout)

- 'Easy' walks involve no strenuous uphill or downhill.
- 'Moderate' walks may well involve the odd steep pinch.
- 'Hard' walks will involve quite a bit of uphill work.

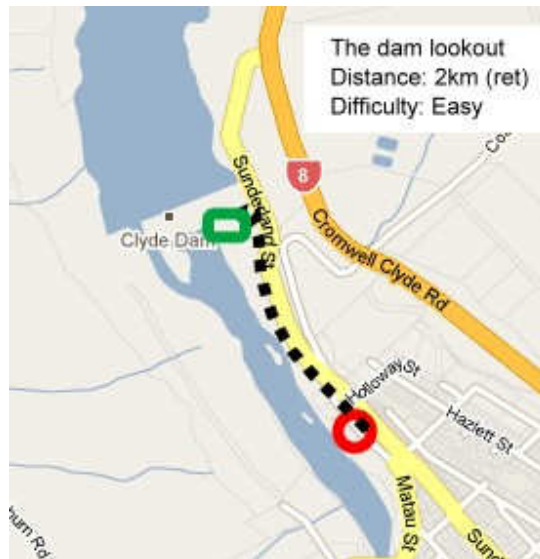
Remember that, at times, you may be passing through private property. Please respect this. Remember when passing through a gate to leave it as you found it. If it was shut then shut it after you. If it was open then leave it open.

Clyde is very dog friendly but we work hard to keep it that way. Don't let your dog scare other kept animals (e.g. sheep, hens etc). Remove any dog messages of the solid variety.

These are not, of course, the only walks around Clyde. There are many others, including the official 'Walk Around Clyde', following the brochure produced by Promote Dunstan.

Would you like to send feedback about a walk - and maybe a photograph or two which you took. Send them to us by email (randcbutler@inspire.net.nz) and we will add them to the relevant walk page.

1. Walk to the Dam Lookout

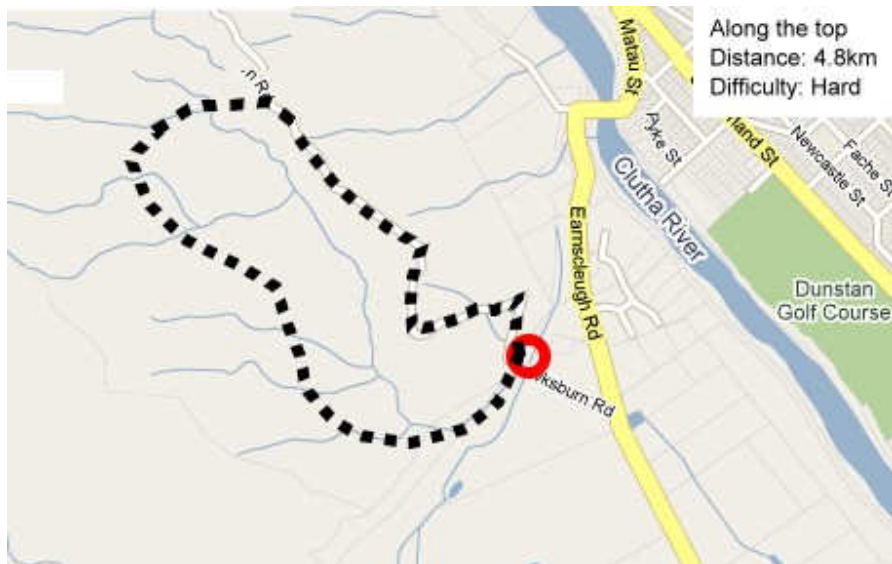


This walk starts at the Bank Cafe in the middle of town. This is a wonderful place to begin a walk. It's an even more wonderful place to end a walk!

Simply follow Sunderland Street towards the dam and follow the road out of Clyde and up the hill (it's gentle) until you come to the left turn into the dam lookout area. Contact Energy have erected an excellent information kiosk there to tell you more about the dam.



2. Walk to the Hill Tops



To get to the start of this walk cross the Earnsclough bridge and drive about 1 km until to come to a sign to 'The Lookout'. Turn right and follow this sign to the bottom of the hill. Park your vehicle there and begin the climb.

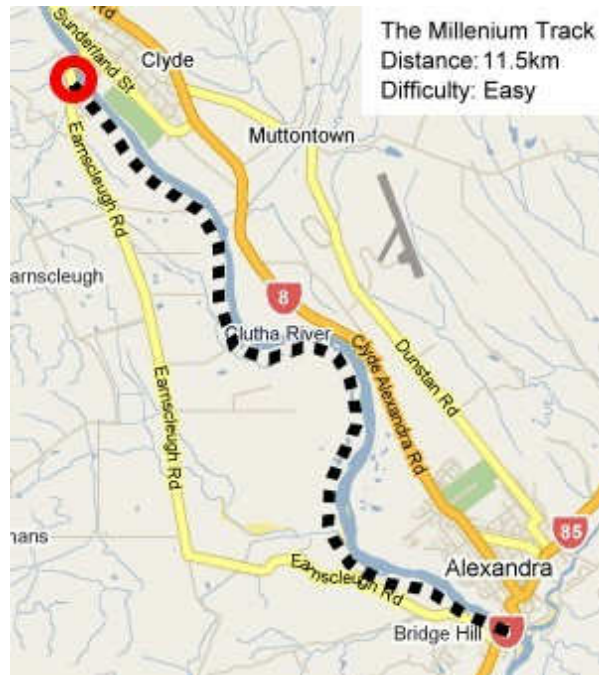
The road goes right to the top of the hill and it's this road which you climb up. Half way to the top you can drop down to the right 100m to the Clyde lookout (where there is a geocache). There is a sign at this point warning that from here on the road is suitable for 4-wheel drive vehicles and, indeed, the next section is pretty rough.

Climb to the top where the power pylons are (There are two geocaches in this area) and follow the road around, up hill and down, until you come to the first gate. Pass through the gate and turn left and head off across country. The going can become a little adventurous depending on the exact route you choose to take. There is no real marked path. You have to follow your instinct. If you travel to the left along here you'll get great views down over Clyde and the valley towards Alexandra.

Travel along the top and, eventually, go to the right and climb down until you come to the back road. Take this road to the left and it will bring you back to the car park.

Remember to have a cell phone and plenty of drink and some food with you. The climb is rather steep in places but the view from the top is most rewarding.

3. Walk to Alexandra



This is the longest walk listed and takes over two hours. If you have two vehicles then drive them both to Alexandra and leave one at the end of the walk. (Or vice versa - drive one to Alex and walk back, then go to retrieve your vehicle.) There is no convenient public transport between Clyde and Alex.

To get to the start go over the Earnsclough Bridge and turn sharp right. This road takes you down back under the bridge to a parking place where you start the walk. The walk is easy at least in gradient as many cyclists and runners also use the track which was built to celebrate the millenium.

The track is popular with cyclists and walkers



The track follows the Clutha all of the way to Alexandra. It meanders through willows and passes the edge of the dredge tailings along the way. There are two arrows to information signs.



There are excellent kilometre posts along the 11.5km journey. In the second half of the walk there are 32 small bridges - so as short as two metres, others form a walk-way. At the end of the trip you pass through a lovely area at the bottom of private gardens which slope down to the river.

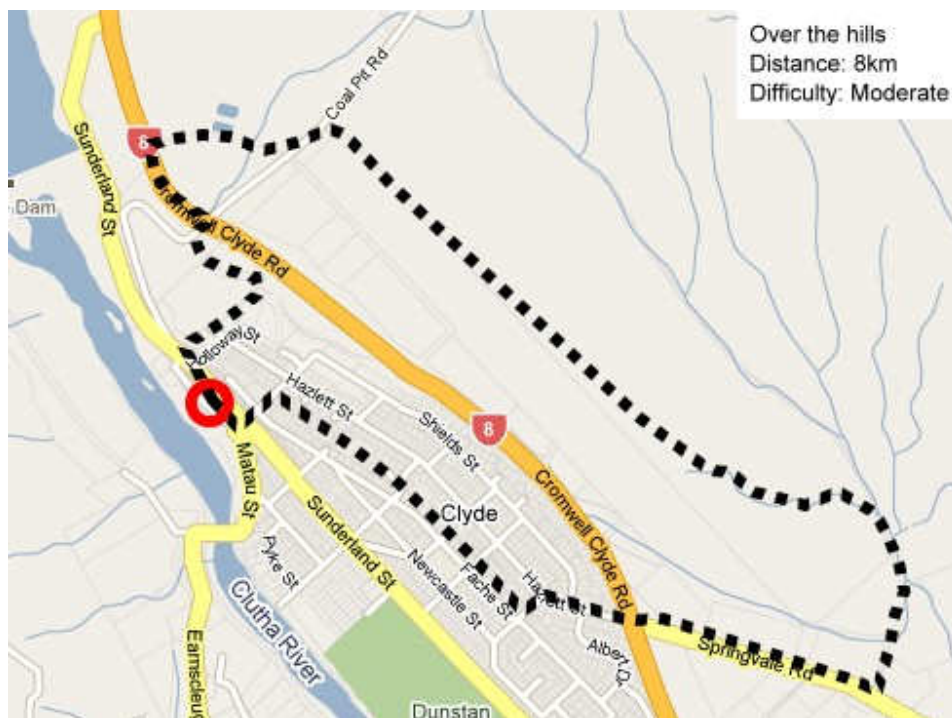
The green waters of the Clutha



The river in Autumn



4. Over the Hill



This walk starts at the bank cafe and also finishes there, as this is a splendid place to look forward to along the way. You can walk in either direction of course but the easiest way is to go out through Clyde, along Springvale Road, and back around behind the hills. The gradient is much easier this way. You never realise that you are climbing.

Head towards Alexandra and turn left at Dunstan Hotel. Cross Fache Street and turn right into the central walkway. Follow this to the end and continue along Hazlett Street to the main highway. Cross carefully and walk along Springvale Road (about 1 km) until you come to the entrance to HawkFlight and Colin Hislop the Electrician's place. Take the left of the two drives and go part-way up the hill at the end of the drive. Take the side road to the right which takes you back down to the flat and climb the fence next to the gate which lies straight ahead. (Don't go off around the water-race).

Follow this track as it passes a hunter's hut and bear left through the small valley. Stay on this track all the way. Note the damage caused by small furry creatures....



Shortly The track moves into a lovely wide open area. Eventually you'll come to a gate which you pass though and continue following the track until you come to a T-intersection at a fence. Turn left and follow this track all the way out to the main road passing a couple of reservoirs on your right.

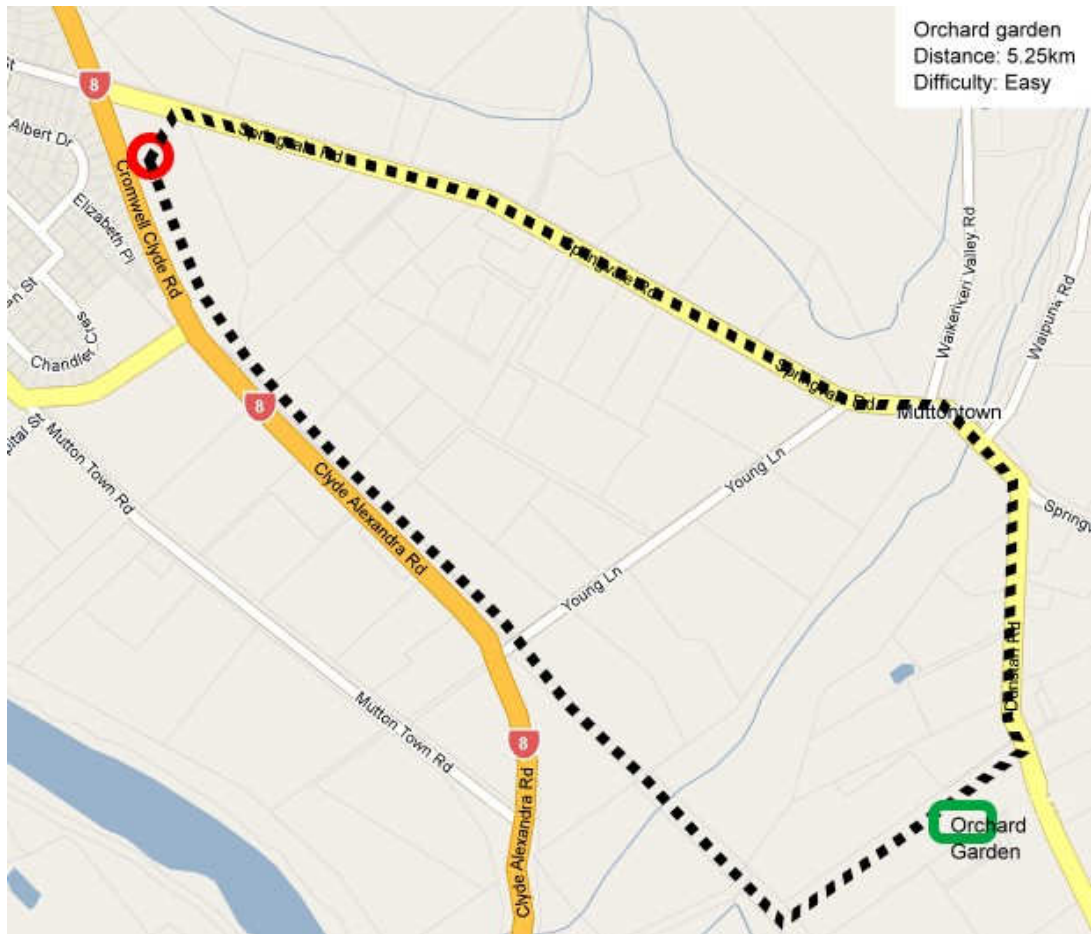
Cross the main road and head downhill then take the first turn on the right to the Clyde Lookout.



The view from the lookout.

After turning right, immediately turn left to the lookout. After admiring the view take the road down to the left below the lookout to the two new reservoirs. This takes you to the top of the lookout track which you then follow back down to town to where cheese rolls and coffee are waiting at the Bank Cafe.

5. Walk to Orchard Garden



This walk takes you to an extremely popular eating spot nestled in an orchard.

Start at the Rail Trail headquarters at the corner of the main state highway and Springvale Road. There is plenty of parking available there. Walk along the rail trail and cross Young Lane and, shortly after, the Muttontown Viaduct. Not far after that watch for the sign on the left to the Orchard Garden. Take the turn off and walk through the orchards to the cafe.



Pause there for refreshment before continuing out past the cafe to Dunstan Road. Turn left and follow Dunstan Road to the T intersection where you turn left into Springvale Road which you follow back to the parking space at the Trail Trail. Along the way you'll pass the historic Clyde Cemetery which is well worth a visit.

7. Walk along the Lake Side



This walk starts at the Rowing Club. To reach the rowing club cross the Earnsclough Bridge and take the second turn (almost immediately!) on the right. Follow this road as far as it goes, past the dam and past the lake front until you come to the Rowing Club.

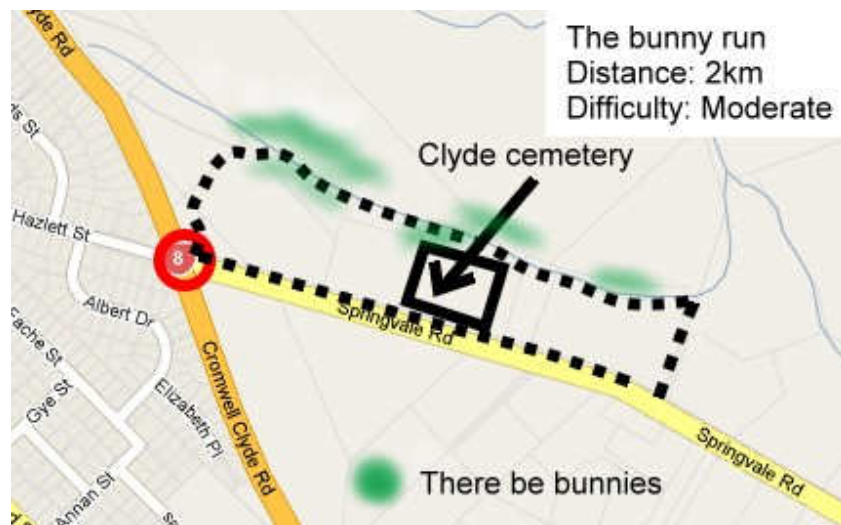
Park your vehicle there and clamber through the special walkers' 'hole in the fence' at the end of the road. This takes you to a track. You can stay level with the water's edge and you'll quickly reach a lovely grassy area which is ideal for a picnic. However, this walk involves the high road, rather than the low road. It's a stiff climb but the view gets better and better.

At the top of the climb you can optionally turn left and keep climbing (it doesn't go much higher). This track leads you through a lovely valley and then out on to the open hillside where it eventually peters out. Adventurous soles (and souls) could continue their exploration further up the hill but beware, it gets steeper and steeper.

If you turn downhill instead of following the track up you eventually come to a very pleasant little beach area which is also an excellent picnic spot. Several boaties know it well for this purpose.

Return by the way you have come back to the rowing club.

8. There Be Bunnies



My dog knows this walk as 'The Bunny Run' and gets most excited when it is mentioned.

Start at the corner of Main Highway 8 and Springvale Road. Go to the very corner under the trees (mind the millions of mini-cones) and cross the low 'gate' into the paddock. Keep to the left until half way along then bear right to cross the open paddock to get up on to the water race. This can be a steep little section so hunt along to find the bit you can manage. The further you go along the paddock the easier it becomes to get up to the water-race.

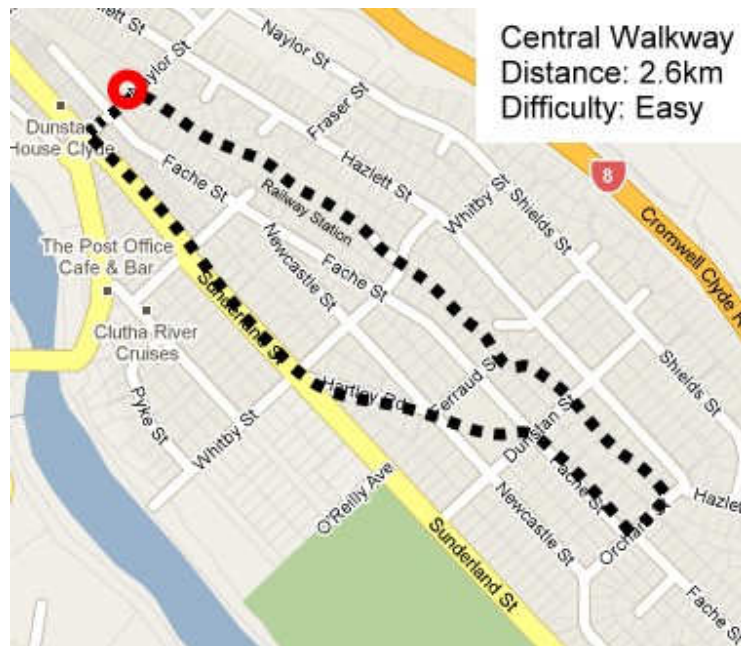
This water-race comes all the way from St. Bathans and was built to provide sluicing water for the miners at Clyde in the gold rush era. You might well marvel at the engineering feat which this represents. There are over 40 kms of race.

Follow the track beside the water-race along behind the cemetery (where LOTS of rabbits live - our record for the walk is 60 furry ones) and pass through a gate, and pass the storage pond, until you come to the road which accesses the top of the hill. Turn right down this road and exit to Springvale Road - whence you can return to the starting point.



Be sure to call in at historic Clyde Cemetery. It's well worth a visit.

9. Walk along the Central Walkway



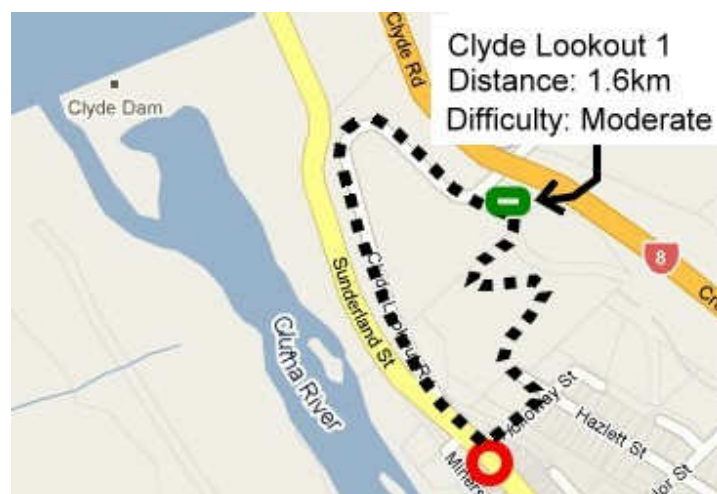
This walk follows the path of old railway track which used to go right through the middle of Clyde. The track starts on Naylor Street between Fache Street and Hazlett Street. It is easy to follow - past the old Railway Station which is one of only three of its kind still remaining. Meander along and eventually you'll exit on to Orchard Street.

At this point you can either turn right and return along Fache Street or turn left and return along Hazlett Street.

If you travel this way in Autumn you'll be rewarded with many colours. The following photographs were all taken along the central Walkway.



10. Walk to Lookout 1



Clyde is more fortunate than most towns! We have TWO lookouts. While both can be accessed by vehicle the view is MUCH better if you travel there by foot.

Once again, start your walk from the bank Cafe so that you can end there and reward yourself with a cheese roll made in heaven. Go along Sunderland Street to the edge of town and turn right into Holloway Street. Almost immediately you'll see the sign to the Lookout on your left. Follow this sign up the path and turn left at the end on to the track. This track will take you up to the two new reservoirs and the lookout itself is up the hill a little behind them.

To return, follow the one way road back down to town to your waiting cheese roll and coffee.



The view from the lookout

11. Climb to the Clyde Lookout 2



To get to the start of this walk cross the Earnsclough bridge and drive about 1 km until to come to a sign to 'The Lookout'. Turn right and follow this sign to the bottom of the hill. Park your vehicle there and begin the climb.

The road goes right to the top of the hill and you can drive to the lookout - but it's MUCH better to walk.

There are many paths around this area and it's not possible to give you exact directions as there are so many twists and turns. The lookout itself is 100m down from the lookout road.

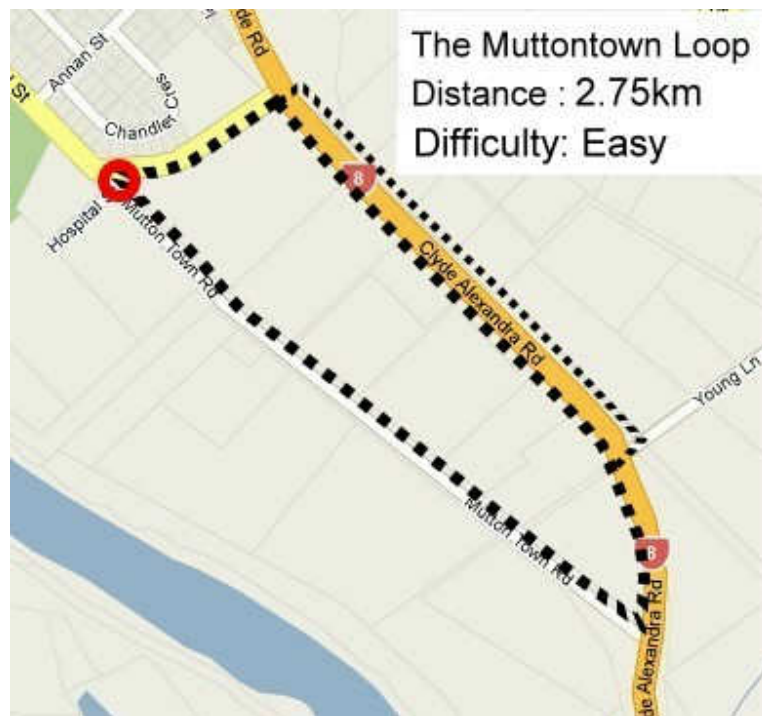
Start by following the road to the first bend, where you will find a track heading off to the right once you've turned the bend. Follow this track up the hill and around the hill. The climb to the lookout is about one kilometre from the point where you leave the road, so it's not too far. Remember that you have to head around the hill AND up the hill. There are tracks which will take you straight up and you'll end up on the road itself. There are others which will take you around the hill and, although you'll get a nice view of the dam, you'll miss the lookout. So keep heading up AND around. If in any doubt you can always head UP the hill to the road.



To return to the bottom follow the road down.

(There is a geocache at the lookout. Go to <http://www.geocaching.com> and 'Hide and Seek' a cache, using Other Search Options to look for the keywords 'Clyde overview')

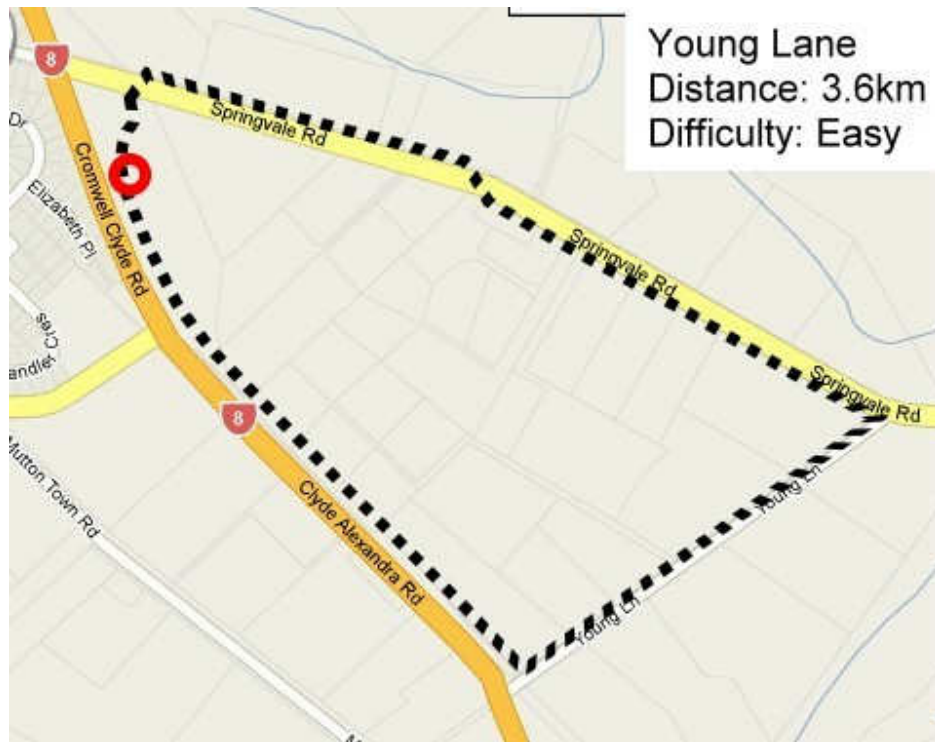
12. Walk around the Muttontown Loop



This is an easy walk which, while it doesn't take you to sights and sites of great beauty does, never-the-less, stretch the legs.

Start at the hospital corner at the end of Sunderland Street and head along Mutton Town Road until you come to the corner of State Highway 8. Turn and return either along the highway or cross it at Young Lane and follow the Rail Trail to the Hospital Turnoff, where you can climb the fence and return to the starting point.

13. Walk along Young Lane

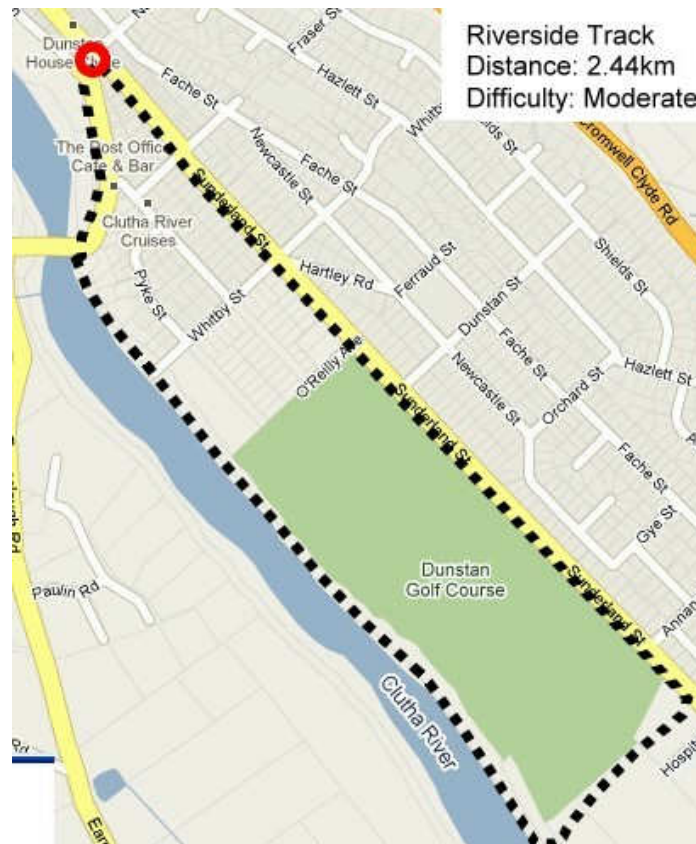


This walk takes you along a very pretty country lane near Clyde.

Start at the rail Trail building at the corner of Springvale Road and State Highway 8. Follow the Rail Trail towards Alexandra until you come to the Young Lane crossing. Turn left and walk along Young Lane to its far end at Springvale Road where you turn left and walk back to the start at the Rail Trail.

Remember to visit historic Clyde Cemetery along the way. It's well worth a visit.

14. Walk along the Clutha - Clyde side



This walk follows a river side track unsuitable for vehicles of any sort! The track is clearly defined - most of the way - but, at one point in particular, it splits into two and rejoins again about 100m further along.

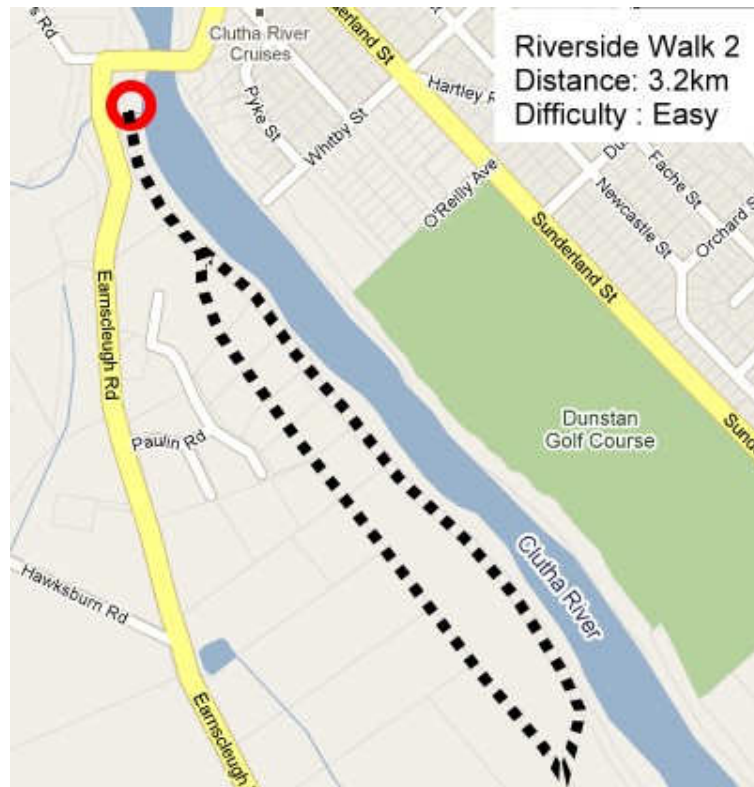
Start at the Dunstan Hotel and follow the road down to the Earnsclough Bridge. You might wish to take one of the small side tracks down to the right as you get nearer to the bridge. These are fine as they'll lead you to the track which then passes under the bridge. Alternatively, stay on the road until you get to the bridge and find the track to the left just as you get to the bridge.

The track meanders through shoulder-high broom until you get to the bottom of a track which goes up the hill to the left. This takes you to the Clyde Camping Ground. Carry on along the riverside, climbing over or around the odd fallen tree. The track passes along below the Clyde Golf Course. During the gold rush era there was a LOT of activity right here, including a mine dug back under the cliff face.

The hobbits would say that 'The road goes on forever'. The first time I walked it I gave up waiting for the end to come and clambered up the cliff. However, if you do persevere you will eventually come to a point where the track ascends at an angle to the top again. At this point the track is a little narrow for some but just keep watching your feet and 130 steps later you'll be at the top.

Exit out via rabbit country crossing the fence at the golf course rear gate, to Sunderland Street. Turn left and go right back along to the Hotel from whence you started.

15. Walk along the Clutha - the far side



This is a favourite morning walk with the dog.

To get to the start go over the Earnsclough Bridge and immediately turn sharp right. This road takes you down back under the bridge to a parking place where you start the walk. The walk is easy as many cyclists and runners also use the track which was built to celebrate the millennium.

The track follows the Clutha all of the way to Alexandra. After just over 0.5km you'll come to a track leading up to the left.



Take this turn and follow the narrow track upwards. It leads along below the Picnic Creek development and eventually turns in to a fully-fledged but unused, sealed road. This road dates back to the time of the building of the dam and was used to transport materials to and from the dam site.

Follow along the road until you can see the buildings of the hospital complex across the river. (There is a tall chimney!) Shortly thereafter you'll come to a track leading back down to the left. Take this track and it will lead you back to the millennium track just before the 10km post. So it must be 1.5km to return along the track to your starting point.



The track meanders through willows.