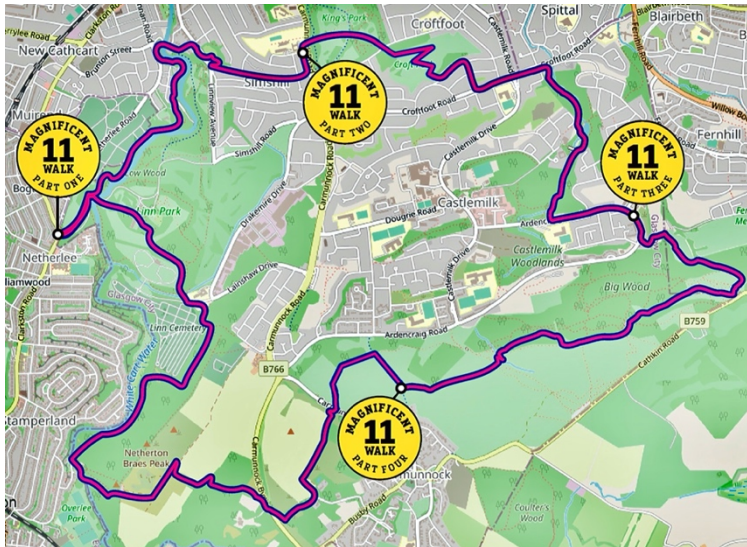


Background to The Magnificent 11

Glasgow is a very green city with a great variety of woodlands, formal and informal parks, and other open spaces to explore. The map below shows The Magnificent 11 route connecting the green spaces of Linn Park LNR*, Kings Park, Castlemilk Park, Fernbrae Meadows LNR, Cathkin Braes LNR, and Cart and Kittoch Valleys SSSI*.



The route name comes from the truly magnificent panoramic view from Glasgow's highest point (624ft) on the Cathkin Braes. This is easy to identify from many places in the city because of the large wind turbine on the horizon.

The walking route, 11 miles long, can be completed as a circular walk or broken up into four parts accessible by public transport. Many people are now walking the route, and it is becoming well known and enjoyed by people from across the city and beyond.



Beginnings...

In 2008 Gary Linstead, the Countryside Ranger for South East Glasgow, came up with the idea for a new walking route that would encourage residents not just to visit their nearby parks but to connect them. The route would take people well away from built-up areas and traffic to discover the pleasures of natural woodland, riverbanks, and fresh air close to an urban environment.

Gary then led guided walks and worked to build small improvements such as ditch walk-over bridges and steps to establish the route. By 2012 it was obvious that trying to maintain and establish an 11 mile walking route was essentially beyond the capacity of one ranger. Could volunteers play a vital part in the development of the route?

Teamwork....

In 2015, Glasgow Ramblers made contact with Gary to ask if he would lead a group walk. Glasgow group was keen to be involved with a project in line with the charitable aims of Ramblers. Both parties wished to encourage people to walk in the city, to seek out Glasgow's green spaces, and to enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits that walking affords. Gary led a group walk with Jeannie Cranfield from Ramblers Scotland and Dave Thomson a former Convenor of Ramblers Scotland attending. Everyone on the walk agreed that this was a route worth developing for Glasgow city. The Magnificent 11 also sat well within Ramblers Scotland's Out There Campaign with its focus on helping more people enjoy



Scotland's world-class landscapes and access rights. The co-operation between Gary and Glasgow Ramblers to develop the route was underway, albeit in small steps, to map, maintain, improve and waymark the route.

Improvements....



Resources were limited but the hard work of the volunteers helped to turn this route into an amazing walk for Glasgow. In the last few years, led by Gary, our Countryside Ranger, and supported by volunteers from a diverse range of groups, several major improvements have been made. A boost to this came with new "Friends of" groups for each of the parks on the route, bringing more volunteers, ideas and enthusiasm. Happy days have been spent building steps and stiles, cutting back overgrowth, opening

blocked culverts, clearing ditches and other general the route improvements.

The official launch.... was held on the 30th June 2022 with our honoured guest and local man, Cameron McNeish, hammering in the final waymarking post.



The launch event atop the Cathkin Braes

Glasgow Ramblers contact details.... for more information or to request a Magnificent 11 leaflet
www.glasgowramblers.org.uk info@glasgowramblers.org.uk Facebook *Walk the Magnificent 11*

Acknowledgements.... The Magnificent 11 would not have been possible without Ramblers Scotland, a Glasgow Council's Wee Green Grant, Glasgow's Countryside Rangers and Glasgow Ramblers, and the enthusiasm of the volunteers of the "Friends of" groups for Linn Park LNR, King's Park, Castlemilk Park Volunteers, Fernbrae Meadows LNR, as well as Carmunnock Heritage Society, Carmunnock Community Council and Parklee Farm. * LNR - Local Nature Reserve and SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest