

Markinch Heritage Group

Balgonie Bleachfield Viewpoint & Leven Woods

A short walk affording surprising views from atop a landscaped former landfill site, returning by a riverside.

Route uses a mix of good surfaces though can be muddy through woods. One short steep section and crosses fast road. Two gates and steps with ramp. Suitable for cycling with care.



2 ½ miles/
4km
Allow
1 hour

[Link to Map My Walk](#)

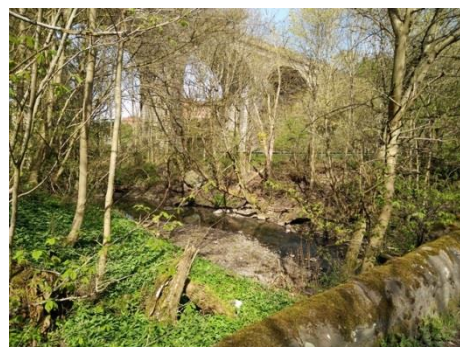


Start at Glass Street free car park – NO 297 018, KY7 6DP

1. Turn right out of car park, keep to this side and cross straight over to High Street. At top of High Street cross to station, opposite Balgonie Road. Follow road to large station car park and through it to steps at its far end.
2. Pass site of former slaughter house and Haig's car park on right before going under rail bridge. Just before road junction barrier go right and follow rough path down the steep former Parley Brae road to the foot of the viaduct built across the River Leven in the 1840s, it was one of the greatest engineering feats of its time, involving hundreds of workmen including Italian stonemasons.
3. Carefully cross road and go immediately left under viaduct to a track then go right to a bridge over the River Leven and follow finger sign to [Bleachfield](#). Many bleachfields lined the banks of the River Leven throughout the 18th century.
4. From the summit viewpoint you can enjoy views of Largo Law, the Lomonds and Balgonie Castle. Hard to imagine you are standing on thousands of tons of landfill waste.
5. After exploring the Bleachfield, exit at the large tarmac entrance car park. Turn left and soon the road then swings left over the River Leven. Across on your right is the site of the ill-fated Balgonie Ironworks that once had a water wheel, though there is no trace of anything now. Shortly after the bridge an opening on your left takes you in to the Leven Woods and a path alongside the River Leven.

You will emerge back at the track near the viaduct.
Retrace your steps back to Markinch.

If the path through Leven Woods is too muddy, follow B9130 road up to Markinch.



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Markinch to Balgonie Bleachfield and return via Leven Woods 2 ½ miles/4km

