

Markinch Heritage Group

Woodside and Blue Bridge Circular

A circular route taking in an old railway line and through former lands of Bighty farm returning by River Leven.

Smooth tarmac pavements and paths.
Long steep slopes.
Ramped footbridge.
Can be cycled.



3 miles/
4.8 km
Allow
2 hours

[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 access road to large station car park beyond station and bear right at its entrance. This is the former branch railway to the paper mills and Leslie and a siding into the former site of the famous Haig whisky plant you see on your right that operated for over a century until 1983 before moving to modern premises. The Markinch-Leslie line opened in 1861 at a cost of £35,000.
2. Shortly, looking back to your left you will see the ten arch mainline 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. Down in the valley ahead the pan tiled roof of Middle Mill can be seen, one of some 31 mills that lay along the River Leven in 1828.

3. You will soon pass under a stone bridge that carries a path to **Woodside** (the subject of other walks). Pass first left hand junction just beyond the bridge and take next junction on left (signed to Glenrothes) and cross Balbirnie Viaduct. From the viaduct there is another view of the mainline viaduct and as you leave the viaduct reused buildings from Balbirnie Wool Mill, now a gym, can be seen in the valley to your right.



4. The path emerges in Alburne Park named after English plasterer Thomas Alburn, 'the best plaisterer that ever was yet in Scotland' who in the early 1700s built an inn here on the main Burntisland-Cupar coach road known as the Plaisterer's Inn.

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5. Go left and left again at next junction. Follow road round to face a large care home. Go left and along to pedestrian crossing near the Lomond Centre. Just before this point the Leslie branch line used to cross the road. It continued along what is now Boblingen Way and across another viaduct, again over the River Leven to once serve Leslie with five passenger trains per day as well as freight for Prinlaws and Fettykil Mills.
6. Turn left and follow the marked cycle/walking path. You are walking through the lands of the former Bighty Farm. Glenrothes is built on numerous farms many of whom have precincts named after them such as Pitteuchar and South Parks.
7. On reaching the last street of houses at Woodburn Road continue ahead and down a path to the River Leven. A footbridge crosses the A911 by-pass. Good views are to be had from the footbridge (including Middle Mill and the mainline viaduct previously mentioned).



8. Head up a steep path signed cycle/walking emerging at junction of McInnes Road and Guthrie Crescent. Go along Guthrie Crescent then turn right into George Street. Continue to its end with former Municipal Buildings (the large stone crow stepped gabled building donated to Markinch by the Balfour of Balbirnie family, opposite which is a large red brick building, formerly Balgonie Colliery and brickworks offices).



9. Turn left to Betson Street, past the primary school on left (note 'ship' style architecture and 'portholes') then Old Police Station and Town Hall on right. At the crossroads turn right to Balbirnie Street passing war memorial on right then turn left back to Glass Street car park.

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Markinch – Woodside – Blue Bridge Circular Route 3 miles/4.8km

