

Markinch Heritage Group

West Wemyss via Barrel Brig

A mixed landscape walk including part of an old carriage road known as Queen Mary's Road that probably linked Wemyss Castle to Falkland Palace via Markinch.

One short steep slope but mostly gentle and moderate short slopes on tracks and footpaths some of which are rough, can be muddy and overgrown. Short flight of steps.



5 miles/
8km
Allow
3 hours



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Start at the large free car park at Markinch Station – NO 298 012, KY7 6HD

1. For the more ambitious this 5 mile/8km walk (one way) to West Wemyss is by way of medieval Doubledykes Road and the threatened historic Barrel Brig. More info [here](#).
2. Full details of the route are not provided here, but from the far end of the car park go down the steps and under a rail bridge. Take a rough path just before the crash barrier at the road junction down a steep path under the viaduct. Carefully cross the busy road and go left then right to a track where a green sign points to Coaltown of Balgonie.
3. Follow track until reaching railway bridge at Coaltown of Balgonie. Cross the bridge and turn left to follow track to school. Bear left across the playpark to Pyetree Road and emerge on Main Street. Directly across at Victoria Hall (NT 302 997, KY7 6HS) pick up further green sign (Coaltown of Wemyss and Queen Mary's Road). Take next right then left to pick up track heading south. Ignore any turn offs, keep to right at pit bings until reaching the A915 Standing Stane Road where Markinch Parish nearly reached.
4. Carefully cross the busy A915 Standing Stane Road and follow road opposite (Checkbar Road) to Coaltown of Wemyss. Pass its outskirts to reach the A955. Turn right then next left to West Wemyss and the shoreline. Go left along the beach and Wemyss Castle can be seen above (not open to the public). The castle is perhaps best known as the location where Mary, Queen of Scots, met her future husband Lord Darnley in 1565.
5. The Wemyss caves extending along the beach from West Wemyss to East Wemyss contain interesting Pictish carvings. Tour dates/times and general info available [here](#).
6. Above the caves the ruined MacDuff's Castle can be seen.



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Markinch to West Wemyss via Queen Mary's Road, Doubledykes Road and Barrel Brig

5 miles/8km (one way)

