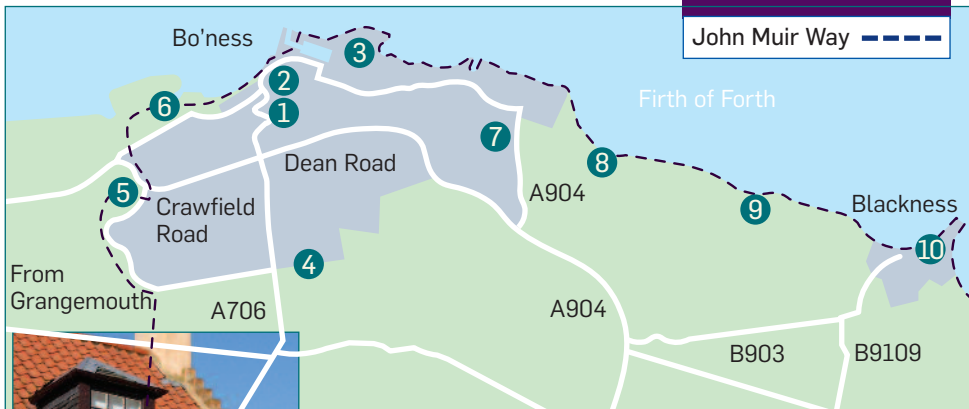


Discover the paths in and around Bo'ness and Blackness



easy to use map and
10 suggested locations
something for everyone
includes three Bo'ness
Town Centre trails and
part of the John Muir Way

Discover the paths in and around Bo'ness and Blackness



Paths

- 1 Bo'ness town centre Trail A
- 2 Bo'ness town centre Trail B
- 3 Bo'ness town centre Trail C
- 4 West Lothian Golf Club
- 5 Kinneil House & Woods
- 6 Bo'ness Harbour to Kinneil Local Nature Reserve
- 7 Bridgeness to Muirhouses
- 8 Carriden Woods
- 9 Bo'ness to Blackness - The John Muir Way
- 10 Blackness Castle

Finding your way

A map

Take a close look at the map for each route. This should be all you need to find the start point and get on your way. OS Explorer map 349 covers the area.

Signs

Look out for sign posts and interpretation boards giving more information along the way.

It's up to you

This leaflet gives details of 10 locations, with information on green transport options, path surfaces, gradients, parking and facilities. Just choose a route that suits your interest and ability and enjoy the paths in and around Blackness and Bo'ness.

Take a wander along some of your local paths or follow the John Muir Way and you will find

some great countryside, wildlife, fantastic views, and a wealth of history, waiting to be discovered all right on your doorstep.

Further Exploration

Some sites have options for further exploration, or you could join together three of the suggested routes to take in the full foreshore path from Kinneil Local Nature Reserve to Blackness Castle, which is now part of the John Muir Way.

Where else can I visit?

You could also combine your exploration of the paths with a visit to one of the superb museums or visitor attractions such as the Bo'ness and Kinneil Steam Railway, The Bo'ness Motor Museum, Kinneil Museum or Blackness Castle. Each of these sites offers toilets and parking.

There is also an opportunity for shopping and refreshment stops in Bo'ness Town Centre. Visit the Hippodrome, Scotland's first purpose built cinema,, or see how the town centre is reclaiming its heritage with the restoration of many listed buildings in its historic heart.

A Very Short History of Bo'ness!

A producer of coal and salt, Bo'ness developed as a port in the late 16th century and, in its heyday day, was ranked the second largest port in Scotland after Leith. However, the opening of the Forth and Clyde Canal in 1792 which terminated at Grangemouth put paid to Bo'ness' ambition as Glasgow's east coast port.

Many of the buildings in the town are characterised by red pantile roofs, the tiles of which were imported from the Netherlands as ballast for returning coal ships.

Grangepans takes its name from one of the town's earliest industries, the saltpans belonging to Grange estate. At its height, there were 16 pans employing 30 salters.

Production finally came to an end in the 1890's.

Ref: Richard Jaques (2001) Falkirk and District. An Illustrated Architectural Guide.



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**
outdooraccess-scotland.com

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.



The John Muir Way logo is used throughout this publication to highlight the routes which follow part of this long distant path.

1. Bo'ness Town Centre: Trail A



Access Information

Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk.


Train: No.

Cycle: Sustrans Route 76.

Parking: Car Parks at Seaview Place and Union Street

Distance

 Suggested route - 0.3 miles (0.5 km)

 Alternative paths available.

Path information

Surfaced pavements and cobbled roads.

Facilities

Toilets, shops, cafes and parking available in Bo'ness Town Centre.

Bo'ness Town

Bo'ness developed first as a harbour, and then as a trading post on the Forth in the days of sailing ships.

The old town grew up round the triangle of North Street, South Street and the narrow Scotland's Close. Waggon Road followed the route taken by coal waggons from the pits to the harbour.

Bo'ness has been transformed over the past 30 years, with the Townscape Heritage Initiative enabling the renovation of a number of key buildings significant in architectural, historic and townscape terms..

The work of architects Matthew Steele and James Thomson has had a huge impact on the townscape in Bo'ness. This

short 'figure of 8' route round Bo'ness Town Centre leads you past several superb buildings.

As you follow the route, remember to look up at the details of many of the buildings on this route to fully appreciate the architecture of the area.

A Journal & Gazette Building and

E The Anchor Tavern
Two tall corners dominate the view along North Street - the candle-snuffer tower on the Journal & Gazette building, and the Anchor Tavern's fish-scale slated roof.

B Dymock's Building
Built some time before 1650, Dymock's Building is one of the oldest buildings in Bo'ness. This former merchant's house was restored by National Trust for Scotland in original orange Jacobite colours. It has had many uses in its time: as premises for processing whale-oil, a plumber's business, a motorcycle repair shop, a bakery, and now converted to eight social housing flats.

C 'Tobacco' Warehouse and

D Bo'ness Library
The current Bo'ness Library incorporates two old buildings - the West Port Tavern and an 18th century warehouse



Building Key

- A** Journal & Gazette Building
- B** Dymock's Building
- C** 'Tobacco' Warehouse
- D** Bo'ness Library
- E** The Anchor Tavern
- F** Jubilee Fountain
- G** The Hippodrome
- H** 13 South Street
- I** 11 South Street
- J** Anderson Trust Shop

Icon Key

- Starting point
- Main path
- Tourist Information
- Bench
- Parking
- Memorial to Miners
- Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway
- Dog Fouling Bin

probably built as a tobacco warehouse. By 1850 the 'Tobacco' warehouse was used as a granary, and later a bake house. It is now home to the library and residential flats.

F Jubilee Fountain

The Jubilee Fountain on North Street was given to the town in 1887. It sits on the site of the old Cross Well (also known as St John's Well) which was one of the original main water supplies for the town. The Fountain was gifted to the people of Bo'ness for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.



The fabulous art deco picture palace, first opened in 1912, has been lovingly restored for the enjoyment of future generations.

G The Bo'ness Hippodrome

Designed by Matthew Steele this was Scotland's first purpose built cinema.

H 13 South Street

Rock n Rolls Sandwich Shop is in the old Tolbooth built in 1750.

I 11 South Street

Now a Hairdressers, this building was designed by architect Matthew Steele in 1907, though only the upper floors were built as designed. 11 South Street has since been renovated to look as it had originally been intended by the architect.

2. Bo'ness Town Centre - Trail B



Access Information



Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk.

Train: No.

Cycle:
Sustrans Route 76.

Parking: Car Parks at Seaview Place and Union Street.

Distance

-  Suggested route - 1 mile (1.5 km)
-  Alternative paths available

Path information

Surfaced paths, pavements and cobbled roads.

Facilities

Toilets, shops, cafes and parking available in Bo'ness Town Centre.

Look up and look down to take in the fantastic architectural and industrial heritage. From grain and tobacco warehouses to the first purpose-built cinema in Scotland, Bo'ness Town Centre has a wealth of history waiting to be discovered.



Take a look at the wall of Custom House and you will find a plaque dedicated to the RAF and its significant history.

Finding Your Way

START:

at the car park in Seaview Place

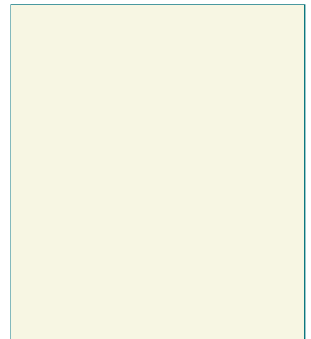
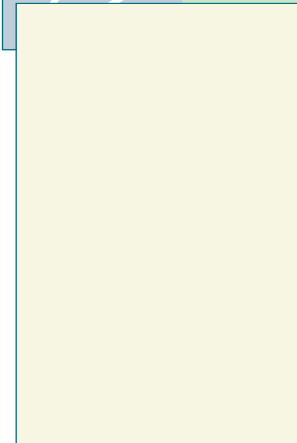
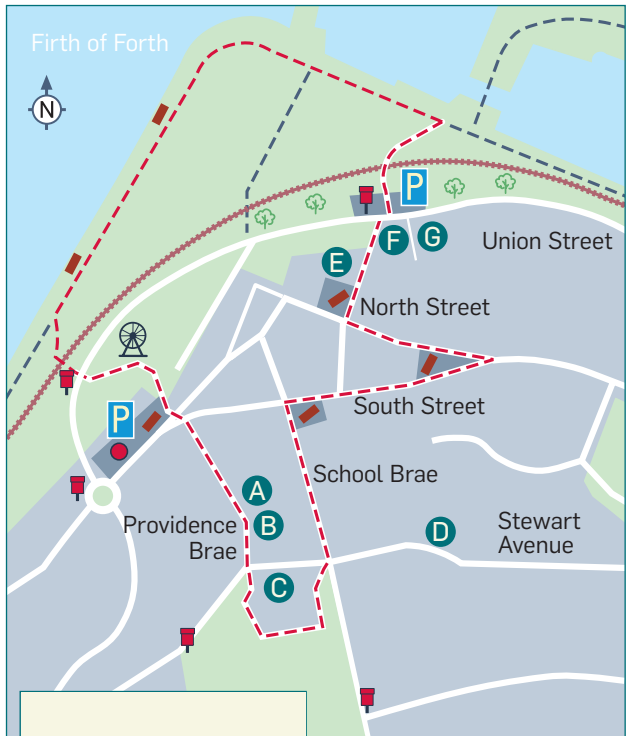
- 1** Cross Seaview Place and take the steps up onto Providence Brae, climbing the steep slope up towards the Town Hall. When you reach Stewart Avenue, the remains of St Mary's Church and the Liberal Club are on your left, with the Town Hall straight ahead. The Town Hall was financed by Andrew Carnegie the great industrialist.
- 2** Cross the road and take the steps up to the Town Hall and into Glebe Park where you will see the Bandstand, erected in the park in 1902. Notice the two clock towers on the Town Hall - these clocks

were made by H & R Millar and donated to the people of Bo'ness by Provost George Cadell Stewart the founder of the present day annual Bo'ness Childrens' Fair.

3 Turn left following the path round the back of the Town Hall and then left again to the top of the steps that take you back down onto Stewart Avenue. Take a few moments here to enjoy the magnificent view across the town and the Firth of Forth. A short walk along Stewart Avenue will bring you to the Masonic Hall, designed by local architect Matthew Steele.

4 Cross Stewart Avenue and turn left down School Brae. Please note that although there are no steps on School Brae, this is a steep slope. Turn right at the post box at the foot of School Brae and walk along South Street to the seating area at the junction with North Street. Look out for the Matthew Steele building now a bakery and coffee shop, on your left.

5 Turn left onto North Street and continue to the Jubilee Fountain passing a row of original shop fronts on your right. There is also an original Buttercup Dairy tile mosaic in the Opticians



doorway, and ahead you will see Dymock's Building. The Bo'ness Clock Tower on North Street was destroyed by subsidence and eventually replaced with the current tower which graces the town.

6 Cross the road continuing along East Pier Street to the Post Office building on the corner, crossing Union Street. Follow signs to Bo'ness foreshore paths through the car park and railway crossing.

2. Bo'ness Town Centre - Trail B

- 7 As you follow the path round to your right take a look over to your right for a good view of the Post Office Building and Customs House.
- 8 Turn left at the harbour, and follow the foreshore path back round to the car park on Seaview Place, passing the Memorial to Miners on your way.



Bo'ness and its Industrial Past

Bo'ness has been home to many different industries over the years including shipping, coal mining, salt-making, ship building, pottery making and iron founding. The last surviving Bo'ness foundry, Ballantines has been operating on its current site since the 1820's.

Memorial to Miners

The coal mining industry has been important to this area for many years, with hundreds of shafts in the Kinneil, Bo'ness and Carriden area.

Mining in Bo'ness dates back 900 years to the monks at Carriden who collected coal from exposed outcrops. The great boom came with the industrial revolution in the 18th century. Industry and mines were developed and in operation until the last pit closed in the 1980s.

Unveiled in May 2007 the Memorial to Miners celebrates this long history.

Bo'ness Childrens' Fair

In 1897 Provost George Cadell Stewart spearheaded the first Official Bo'ness Childrens' Fair. The fair is an annual summer festival, and has become the most important event in the town's calendar. It is eagerly anticipated by children and adults alike. A visit to Bo'ness at fair time is a colourful spectacle of pagentry made even more special by the laughter and joy of local children.

Town Hall and Carnegie Library, Stewart Avenue

The Town Hall and Carnegie Library were designed by George Washington Browne and opened in 1904. The Town Hall sits in Glebe Park which was formally and opened on Bo'ness Fair Day in 1900, with the cast iron bandstand erected two years later as a finishing touch to the park.





3. Bo'ness Town Centre - Trail C



courtesy of Fowler Manuel

Access Information


Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk


Train: No

Cycle:
Sustrans Route 76.

Parking: Car Parks at Seaview Place and Union Street.

Distance

 Suggested route - 1 mile (1 km)

 Alternative paths available.

Path information

Surfaced paths and pavements.

Facilities Toilets, shops, cafes and parking available in Bo'ness town centre.

This route takes you out of the historic town centre and round the 400 year old harbour. You will then pass Bo'ness Station, starting point for a trip on a steam train with Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway.

Finding Your Way

START: at the car park in Union Street

- 1 Follow the path over the wheelchair-friendly railway crossing as it veers to your right toward the dock and harbour area. Take a look to your right and you should have a good view of the Post Office building and Customs House.
- 2 Cross the bridge and follow the path round the dock. Continue along

the foreshore path until you reach some benches where you can rest and enjoy the views of the world famous Forth bridges. When you reach the path to the Upper Forth Boat Club turn right to double back on yourself and follow the signs back to the docks.

- 3 At the docks turn left and follow the path. Either cross the bridge over the railway to visit Bo'ness & Kinneil Station on your left, or head right along Union Street back past the old Custom House and the Post Office to the car park.

Alternatively, follow the path alongside the docks back to the Union Street car park.



Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway

The Scottish Railway Preservation Society keeps history alive through the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway. As well as the Scottish Railway Exhibition at Bo'ness Station, you can experience the power and joy of steam with daytrips through the spring, summer and autumn, and over the festive period.

Enjoy a 'Day Out With Thomas', Easter Egg Specials, Diesel Gala Days, Santa steam trains and Black Bun Specials.

For further information visit www.bkrailway.co.uk

Bo'ness Harbour

Bo'ness was officially recognised as a port in 1601, with the Customs & Excise office moved from Blackness to Bo'ness in the 1700's. This then served as the main port on the North Sea for merchants from Glasgow and other west coast towns until Grangemouth became pre-eminent.

Some 250 years later Bo'ness felt the "economic pinch" and became

Icon Key

- Starting point
- Main path
- Alternative paths
- Bench
- Bridge
- Parking
- View Point
- Tourist Information Point
- Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway
- Bo'ness Station
- Upper Forth Boat Club
- Dog Fouling Bin
- Post Office
- Customs House

redundant with the harbour officially closed in 1959.

4. West Lothian Golf Club

Access Information

Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk.

Train: No.

Cycle:
Sustrans Route 76 is approximately 1 mile (1.5km) from this route.

Parking: No designated parking.

Distance

■ Suggested route - 1.5 miles (2.5 km)

■ Alternative route - 1.25 miles (2 km)

■ Other paths available

Path information The paths are not surfaced and uneven in places. There are also some moderately steep sections leading out from Bo'ness. There are three kissing gates within this path network and you should be alert to golfers as some sections of this route pass close to areas of play.

There are no benches along this route.

Facilities

Toilets, shops and other facilities are available nearby in Bo'ness. There are no facilities on this route.



Take a stroll out from Bo'ness to enjoy some outstanding views across the town and the Firth of Forth.

Please remember that these paths take you close to areas of play in places, so be alert to golfers and try not to disturb their game.

Find Your Way

START: Borrowstoun Road, opposite Jessfield Place in the Borrowstoun Mains area of the town.

- 1 Follow the grass path as it heads gradually uphill between the houses. Carry on

through the open grass area and continue up the hill towards the fields. As you leave the housing estate turn right along the bottom edge of the field.

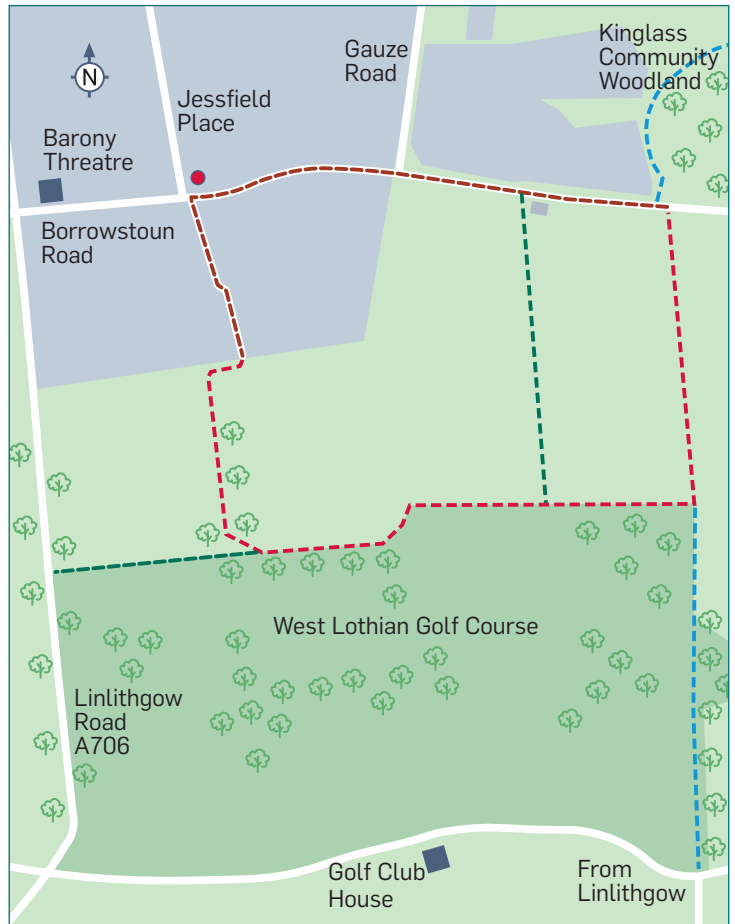
- 2 Take the path on your left which climbs up through the trees towards West Lothian Golf Course. This path is unsurfaced and uneven in places. When you reach the top of the field, take the path to your left and wind your way through the woodland alongside the golf course.
- 3 The path leading out of the woodland can be

muddy and wet underfoot. This takes you into an open section by the golf course which is close to an area of play. Please take care and be alert to the golfers.

4 Take a well earned breather at the kissing gate and enjoy the fantastic view across the Forth. You have the option here of taking the track on your left to return down the hill to Bo'ness or, if you wish, continue alongside the golf course towards another section of woodland.

5 Winding through the trees, the path brings you to a kissing gate leading to the public right of way between Bo'ness and Lithlithgow. From here you can turn right and head up the hill for some superb views across to the Forth Bridges, and carry on to Linlithgow. Alternatively, turn left to follow the field edge back down the hill to Bo'ness. Please note there is livestock in this field.

6 From the foot of the



Icon Key	
	Starting point
	Main path
	Alternative paths
	Other paths
	Dog Fouling Bin



The golf course may be the site of a battle between Pictish and Argadus and the Roman invaders.

Excavations on the course have uncovered stone coffins, a stone axe, two long slab-laid graves and a small stone cist-like structure.

path turn left following Borrowstoun Road back to the start of the route.

5. Kinneil House and Woods



Access Information


Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk


Train: No, although the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway train stops at Kinneil Halt, a short (10-15 minute) walk away.


Cycle:
Sustrans Route 76.

Parking: Small car park at museum and larger car park by Kinneil Woods.

Distance

 Suggested route - 1.7 miles (2.8 km)

 Easier option - 1.25 miles (2 km)

 Other paths available.

Path information

Part of the route is on unsurfaced grass paths which can be uneven and wet in places. The forest tracks are steep in places, and can be

muddy and uneven. There is seating along the path at various locations and picnic tables by Kinneil House.

Facilities

Car parking

Seating and signs

Disabled toilet at entrance to old walled garden (RADAR key required).

Fully accessible toilet and baby changing facilities available at Kinneil Museum or in nearby Bo'ness.

Museum: open all year:
Mon - Sat:
12.30- 4.00pm;
For more information call 01506 778530.

Toilets, shops, cafes and parking available in Bo'ness Town Centre.

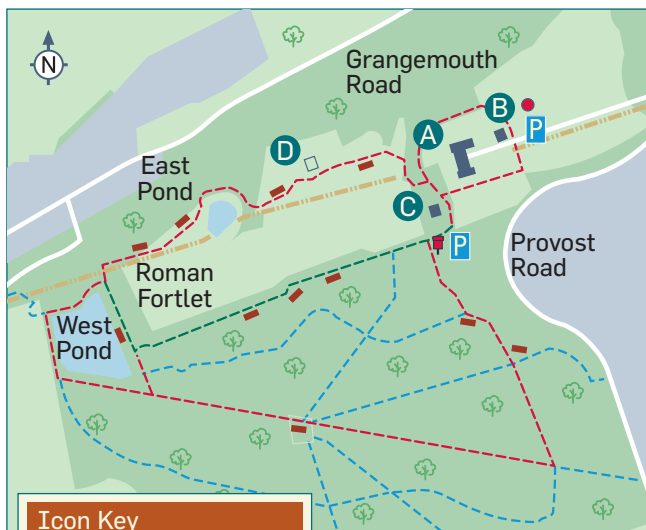
For more information

Please note that Kinneil House is only open on certain days, visit www.kinneil.org.uk for more information about open days and to find out about 'The Friends of Kinneil'.

Enjoy 2000 years of history in one short route, from the site of a Roman Fortlet and the Antonine Wall to the remains of a medieval church, Kinneil House and its fabulous woodland estate. In 2008, the Antonine Wall was designated as a World Heritage Site.

Finding Your Way

START: The best place to start your visit is at Kinneil Museum - a small red roofed building in front of the imposing Kinneil House. There is a small parking area next to the Museum, or a larger car parking area off Provost Road at Kinneil Woods, a short distance away. The museum features an extensive display on the history of Kinneil Estate. There's also a short video about what you might see during your visit. The Museum is usually open Monday to Saturday, all year, from 12.30pm to 4pm.



Building Key

- A** Kinneil House
- B** Kinneil Museum
- C** James Watt's Workshop
- D** Kinneil Church (remains)

Icon Key

- Starting point
- Main path
- Alternative paths
- Other paths
- Bench
- Dog Fouling Bin
- Antonine Wall
- Parking

1 From the Museum follow the red path towards Kinneil House. The oldest part of the structure dates back to the late 15th century. It was remodelled in the 16th century, and transformed into a stately home for the Dukes of Hamilton in the 1660s. The House is only open on selected days during the year. Ask at the Museum for dates or visit the Kinneil website - www.kinneil.org.uk - for details. The House

boasts some of the best renaissance wall paintings in Scotland - plus a resident ghost!

2 Standing in front of the House, look for a small exit in the wall to the left (right next to the building) and go through this. You should come to a roofless, 18th century building. This is James Watt's Cottage - a building where the famous inventor carried out his early work to develop the steam engine. Watt was working in partnership with John Roebuck, who leased Kinneil House for a period.

3 To the immediate west of the cottage is a small footbridge. Cross this and head towards the ruins of the 12th century Kinneil Church. It used to be surrounded by a medieval village. The village and its many inhabitants are all gone today - but parts of

the church and its gravestones remain.

4 Carry on past the church into the field to the west. Follow the path round the East Pond. You should shortly come to the remains of a Roman Fortlet from the 2nd century - linked to the turf Antonine Wall. This is part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. Details about the Fortlet and a special guide to walks around the Antonine Wall are available from the Museum.

5 Continue along the path to the West Pond. This is populated by swans, coots and ducks - and is popular with younger visitors. Here you can turn left to Kinneil Woods and make your way back to the car park.

6 Alternatively, go round the back (western edge) of the pond. This is a longer way to enter the Woods. There are a number of paths through the Woods to enjoy. If you think you're getting lost, just ask one of the many regular walkers or cyclists for directions.

6. Foreshore Path

Bo'ness Harbour to Kinneil Local Nature Reserve



Access Information


Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk.


Cycle: Sustrans Route 76.

Train: Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway to Kinneil Nature Reserve and Birkhill.

Parking: Union Street, Bo'ness Station, Snab Lane, Kinneil Road and Corbiehall.

Distance

 Suggested route - Boness to Snab Lane via Nature Reserve: 2 miles (3 km) Return to Bo'ness: 3 miles (5 km)

 Alternative paths available.

Path information

Predominantly flat route along good surfaced paths. Railway crossings are wheelchair accessible and there are some seats along the path and around the Nature Reserve. The inner loop of the Nature Reserve is on good surfaced paths. However, the outer loop is unsurfaced and can be uneven and wet at times.

Facilities

Toilets, shops, cafes and parking available in Bo'ness Town Centre.



A short easy-to-follow route along the foreshore. Take in the industrial and natural heritage of the area from the historic harbour to the Local Nature Reserve at Kinneil.

Finding Your Way

START: at the car park in Union Street.

The path from the car park takes you across a wheelchair-friendly crossing over Bo'ness and Kinneil railway line.

1 Follow the path toward the harbour. The path to the right takes you to the Bo'ness Station.

Turn left to follow the path along the foreshore to Kinneil Local Nature Reserve.

2 When you reach the nature reserve you can follow the surfaced inner loop round the reserve, or for better views and a chance to enjoy the birdlife take the unsurfaced outer loop. Look out for the signs and other information around the site. Please bear in mind that this area is home to breeding birds, so try to minimise disturbance.



There are several alternatives for your route now:

Option 1

You can follow the path back over the railway to the car park and bus stop at Snab Lane.

Option 2

If you would like to continue into Kinneil Estate, follow the John Muir Way to Kinneil House. Cross the road and













continue up Snab Lane until you meet Snab Brae. Carry on up Snab Brae and you will see the driveway and path that takes you to Kinneil House. Look out for the signs.

Option 3

Alternatively, you can retrace your steps from Kinneil Local Nature Reserve back to the Town Centre. Heading back toward the harbour area you can enjoy the views of Bo'ness Town.

From the harbour either continue along the foreshore path past the industrial buildings to link up with the Carriden Woods and Blackness paths, or return toward

Icon Key

-  Starting point
-  Main path
-  Option one
-  Option two
-  Alternative paths
-  Bench
-  Parking
-  Tourist Information Point
-  Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway
-  Bo'ness & Kinneil Station
-  Dog Fouling Bin
-  John Muir Way

Bo'ness via one of the surfaced paths taking you back across the railway to the Bo'ness station, the car park, or into Bo'ness Town itself.

7. Bridgeness to Muirhouses



Access Information



Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk

Cycle:
Sustrans Route 76.

Train: No.

Parking: Small car park at Carriden Church. Also, parking available at Bo'ness Town Centre (approx 1.5miles / 2.5km).

Distance

-  Suggested route – 4.5km (2.75 miles)
-  Alternative route available

Path information

A mix of tarmac, compacted stone and unsurfaced paths, with some narrow and steep sections.

Facilities









Toilets, shops, cafes and parking available in Bo'ness Town Centre

Enjoy a varied walk taking in part of the John Muir Way, the hidden gems of Carriden Woods and Muirhouses Conservation Area, and see the Bridgeness Slab - a replica of a distance tablet associated with the Antonine Wall.
Finding Your Way
START at the foot of Carriden Brae.

- 1** Head east towards Carriden Woods and take the first track on your left marked for the foreshore, turning left at the end of this path to follow the John Muir Way towards Bo'ness.
- 2** You will pass the Industrial Estate along the foreshore, coming to a former shipbreakers yard at Bridgeness. At this point, take the tarmac path on your left to Bridgeness Road.

- 3** Take care crossing Bridgeness Road, and then follow the pavement up Harbour Road to the replicas of the Bridgeness Slab.
- 4** Head across the mown grass to the right of the old Doocot and up towards a woodland area within Kinningrask Park. There is no path here, but you will come to an obvious unsurfaced route through the woodland. This brings you to a fenced path between two fields marked "Temporary access to the Drum".
- 5** Follow this unsurfaced path up the hill to reach the Drum housing estate. Take the grass path on your left to Muirhouses Avenue, and then walk down the avenue taking the 3rd road on your left

Icon Key

-  Starting point
-  Main path
-  Alternative paths
-  Bench
-  Parking
-  Dog Fouling Bin
-  John Muir Way
-  Replica Bridgeness Slab
-  Previous Replica Bridgeness Slab



(Muirhouses Crescent). You will see a tarmac path on your left.

- 6** Take this path and follow it to Acre Road, Muirhouses Village. At the end of this road you will see a timber bus shelter and seating area delivered as part of an enhancement project by Muirhouses Amenities Association and Falkirk Council. There is an information panel in the noticeboard which explains some of the fascinating history surrounding this area.
- 7** Take care as you cross Carriden Brae and follow the road up the hill to your right. Turn left into Gledhill Avenue and head for the woodland area. Here you will find an unsurfaced woodland path. Turn left at this path and follow it down through the woods.
- 8** At the first path junction take the path on your left. Have a look around and see if you can find the Witches Stone just

off the path to your left. This reputedly marks the spot where witches who were found guilty by Carriden Parish were burnt to death.

- 9** Turn left at the main track, and then immediately right taking a narrow path which runs down the hill next to Carriden Steading.
- 10** At the path junction you will see a narrow bridge. At this point you can take either path. The route to your right takes you down to the foreshore where you rejoin the John Muir Way for a short section before continuing along the road past the Industrial Estate and back to

Carriden Brae.

Alternatively, take the path to your left to go across the narrow bridge and head down through the field towards Old Manse Wood and Carriden Church. This route will bring you back to the start of this walk.

Bridgeness Tablet

Recently voted one of the top Roman finds by Channel 4's Time Team, the Bridgeness distance slab was found in 1868 at the east end of the Antonine Wall. The original slab is on show in the Museum of Scotland. Visit the replica at Kinningars Park. There is also an early replica of the slab at the foot of Harbour Road.

8. Carriden Woods



Carriden Woods offers an interesting mix of history and wildlife. This route can be tackled as an added extra as you enjoy the Blackness to Bo'ness foreshore path, or can be completed as a short stand-alone visit. There is an old Ice House hidden in the woods; a

ruined cottage which was the birth place of soldier Colonel James Gardiner who was killed in action in 1745 at the Battle of Prestonpans (the first significant conflict in the second Jacobite Rising); and the nearby Carriden House - please be aware that this is a private home

Access Information


Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk.



Cycle:
Sustrans Route 76.

Train: No.

Parking: No designated parking facilities at the start point. However there is a small car park at Carriden Church and a free car park in Bo'ness approximately 1 mile (2 km) away.

Distance

 Suggested route - 2 miles (3 km).

-  Alternative route.
-  Other paths.

Path information

The paths through the woods are unsurfaced, narrow and can be uneven and muddy in places. There is a steep section from the foreshore path to the waterfall, but there is a bench above the waterfall where you can rest! The foreshore path is surfaced with compacted stone, and is generally flat and even.

Facilities

Toilets, shops, cafes and parking available in Bo'ness Town Centre.



so you should stick to the promoted paths and stay out of the private garden.

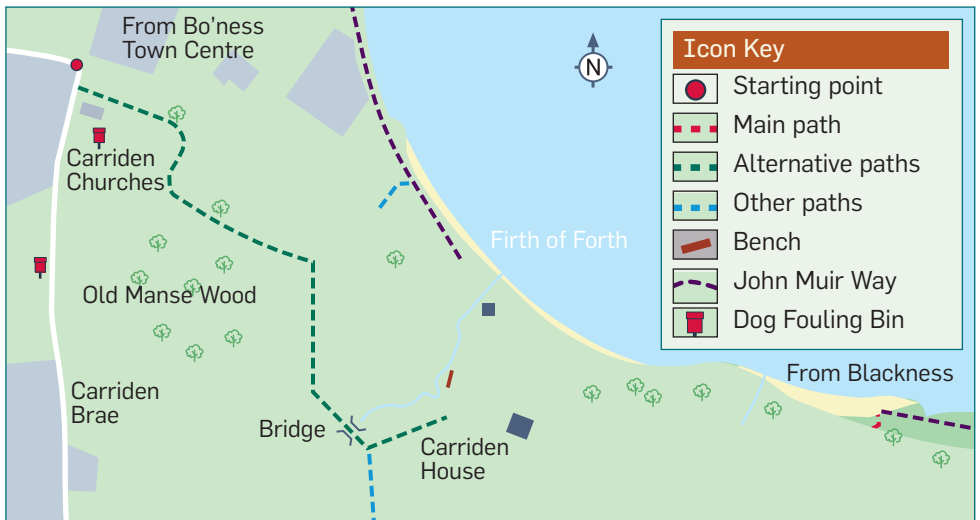
An alternative route takes you through the Old Manse Wood and past the Carriden churches.

Finding Your Way

START at the foot of Carriden Brae

- 1** Follow the Public Right of Way toward the foreshore path to Blackness. From this path there are good views across the Forth and you may catch a glimpse or two of Blackness Castle and the Forth Bridges.
- 2** Continue along the path past a ruined cottage to your right and over the burn. Shortly after the burn the path forks. Take the right fork and look out for a gap in the old stone wall about 12m along this path. Go through this gap and into the woodland continuing until you reach another fork in the path. Follow the narrow path on the right, up the hill.

Please be aware that as this path climbs the hill, the slope on your right falls quite steeply to Carriden Burn. There is a bench by the path if you feel like a rest with a view of the waterfall.



3 When you've caught your breath again carry on up the path until you reach the junction. If you follow the path on your right, it will take you over a narrow bridge, through a field and then down toward the Carriden Churches and back to the start point.

Alternatively, take the path to your left which is narrow and muddy in places and follow it through the woodland. This path takes you past the front of Carriden House and the Ice House, before heading back down the slope toward the foreshore.

4 When you reach the foreshore path you can take the path on your right to continue to Blackness.

Alternatively, turn left here and head back towards your start point at the foot of Carriden Brae.

Carriden Churches

The first church at Carriden stood in front of Carriden House. This was floored with clay, had no heating and was not weather-proof. The second church dates from 1765 where worship continued regularly until 1909. However, with an expanding congregation the present church was built behind the ruins.



courtesy of Lisa Robertson

Carriden House

Carriden House is an example of Scottish Baronial Architecture with the eastern part (with the turrets) thought to date from around 1602. It is built on the site of a

Roman fort that marked the eastern end of the Antonine Wall, a World Heritage Site.

Carriden House was home to naval hero Sir George Johnstone Hope who fought alongside Admiral Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar and commanded the 74-gun battleship *Defence*!

His son Admiral Sir James Hope was born at Carriden House. He too had a distinguished naval career, rising to become Commander-In-Chief in the Far East.

The Witches Stone

Witches were burned at Bo'ness and Carriden in the 1600-1700's. The Witches Stone is found near the entrance of The Steading by Carriden House. Local children still run around this stone three times before making a wish.

9. Bo'ness to Blackness Foreshore Path

The John Muir Way



Access Information



Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk.

Cycle:
Sustrans Route 76.

Train: No.

Parking: Small car park at Carriden Church. Also parking available at Bo'ness Town Centre approx 1.5 miles (2.5 km) away and in Blackness.

Distance

-  Suggested route - 2 miles (3.5 km).
-  Alternative paths available (Carriden Woods, extension to Bo'ness and extension to Blackness Castle).

Path information

Flat route along good quality tarmac surfaced paths. There are benches at Blackness and within Carriden Wood.

Facilities

Toilets and parking available at Blackness. Refreshments and small shop at Blackness Castle

Follow The John Muir Way from Bo'ness to Blackness and enjoy fantastic views.

You can extend your trip by starting in Bo'ness Town Centre and finishing with a visit to Blackness Castle.

Finding Your Way
START at the foot of Carriden Brae.

1 Follow the foreshore path heading towards Blackness. This is a relatively flat and even surfaced path.



Icon Key

-  Starting point
-  Main path
-  Alternative paths
-  Bench
-  Toilets
-  Parking
-  Dog Fouling Bin
-  John Muir Way

2 Continue through Carriden Woods. You can extend your visit by following Route 8 - Carriden Woods, before rejoining the foreshore path a little further along the Forth.

3 As you leave the wood, the views open up giving a superb outlook across the Forth.

4 Continue past the ruined cottages and follow the foreshore path to Blackness.

Once in Blackness there are a couple of benches where you can rest, as well as toilets and car parking.

5 Return by the outward route.



John Muir Way

The John Muir Way was officially opened on 21st April 2014 in celebration of John Muir - widely thought of as the 'father of modern conservation'.

At 134 miles (215 km) long the John Muir Way runs through Scotland's heartland from Helensburgh in the west to Muir's birthplace in Dunbar on the east coast.

The coast to coast route links together the finest landscapes, countryside and places of interest for anyone to use. It passes many local attractions in the Falkirk Council area including Blackness Castle, Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway, Kinneil House, Muiravonside Country Park, Callendar House and Falkirk Wheel. For more information, please visit www.johnmuirway.org

10. Blackness Castle



Often referred to as "the ship that never sailed", Blackness Castle is now managed by Historic Scotland as a visitor attraction, though it has had a variety of uses over the centuries.

The paths shown in this

leaflet are open at all times, but please be aware these are rough and uneven in places and there are steps and boardwalks along the way. Please also note that there is no pavement along the foreshore road to the castle.

Finding Your Way

START. From Blackness village take the road toward the Castle. If you intend to see the Castle as part of your visit you can park in the Castle car park.

1 At the entrance to the Visitors Car Park at Blackness Castle there is a kissing gate on your right. Go through this and climb the steps by the Castle wall. The path takes you alongside the wall, down a set of steps toward the beach and then around the headland towards the mud flats of the Firth of Forth. There is a bench by the path where you can rest and enjoy the peace, the quiet, the views and the birdlife.

Access Information


Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk.

Cycle: Sustrans Route 76.

Train: No.

Parking: Small free car park in Blackness.

Distance:

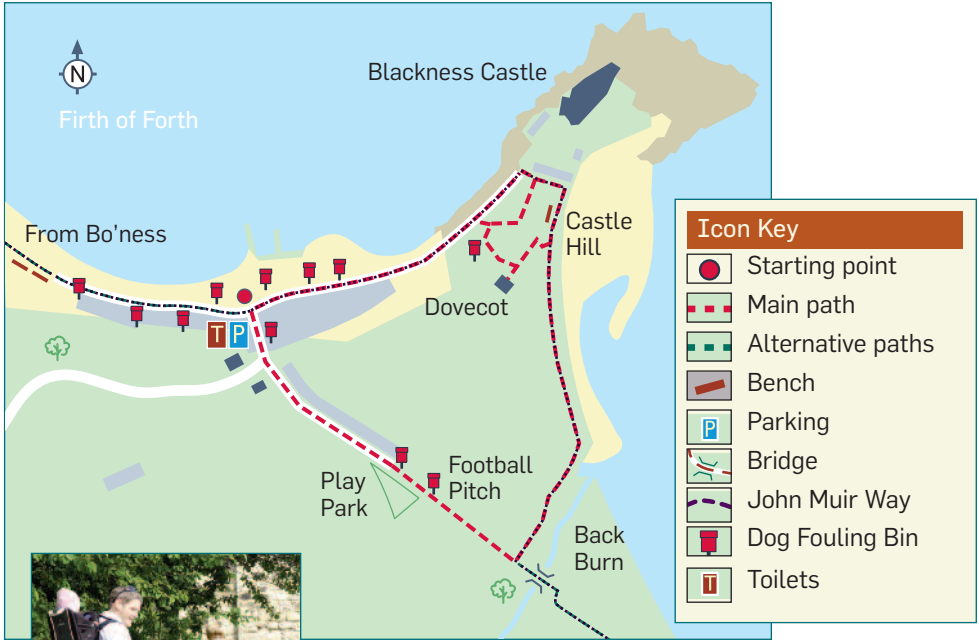
 Suggested route - 1 miles (1.5 km).

Path information:

Generally unsurfaced, with steps and boardwalks in places.

Facilities: Toilets, shop, picnic area, snacks and vending machine at Blackness Castle.

For more information contact www.historic-scotland.gov.uk or Tel: 01506 834807.



2 The path on your right takes you up a grassy slope and past a ruined Dovecot and a ruined chapel. From here you can return to your start point by heading down the grass slope toward the kissing gate on the road from Blackness to the Castle.

3 Alternatively, retrace your steps back to the shore path and continue along the foreshore to

the Back Burn. There is a small bridge crossing the Burn and from here it is possible to continue into Wester Shore Wood and Hopetoun Estate.

4 Our route, however, takes you back toward Blackness along the grass path past the football pitch and playpark. Go through the kissing gate at the end of this track and follow the road back into Blackness.

Blackness

'Blackness' comes from an old Norse word describing the 'ness' or 'nose' of black rocks sticking out into the River Forth on which the Castle was built.

Blackness Castle

Built in the 15th Century by one of the most powerful families in Scotland, Blackness Castle has been remodelled several times. Originally built to protect the village and its important harbour, it has since served as a royal residence, prison, fortress, munitions depot and military barracks.

The Castle is open to visitors - please check opening times and prices before your visit.

Blackness Castle has been used as a film location for productions of *Ivanhoe*, *The Bruce* and *Macbeth*. It also stands in for Fort William in series one of TV show *Outlander*.

Discover the paths in and around
Bo'ness and Blackness



Getting There:

Get your copy of the Green Travel Map call 01324 504950.

By Foot: If you live nearby.

By Cycle: Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 76. Cycle route information available from www.sustrans.org.uk 0845 1130065.

By Rail: Nearest train stations are at Linlithgow and Polmont. Also stations at Falkirk High and Falkirk Grahamston.

By Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers and routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com.

By Car: See location maps.

Thank you To all organisations, landowners and local communities for their cooperation and support.

For more information about the history and local facilities in Bo'ness and Blackness contact:

Tourist information point, Bo'ness 08452 255121

Bo'ness Library 01506 778520

Kinneil Museum 01506 778530

or visit:

www.kinneil.org.uk

www.falkirk.gov.uk

www.boness.org.uk

www.unlockboness.com

www.innerforthlandcape.co.uk

www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/venues/hippodrome

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

www.bkrailway.co.uk

www.visitfalkirk.com

www.antoninewall.org

www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk

www.johnmuirway.org

For more information about your paths and countryside access

please contact Falkirk Council's Outdoor Access Team
01324 504950.



Falkirk Council
Development Services

