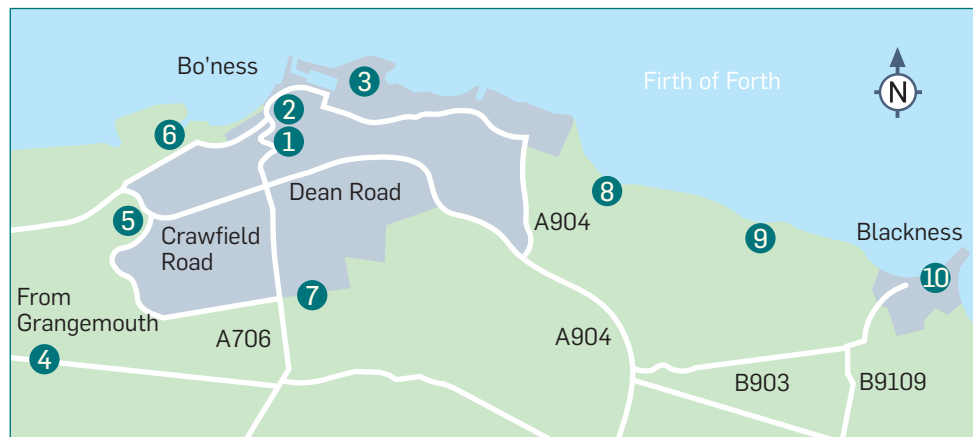


# Discover the path networks in and around Bo'ness and Blackness



easy to use  
map and 10  
suggested locations  
something for  
everyone  
includes three  
Bo'ness town centre  
trails

## Discover the path networks in and around Bo'ness and Blackness



- 1: Bo'ness town centre Trail A
- 2: Bo'ness town centre Trail B
- 3: Bo'ness town centre Trail C
- 4: Birkhill Fireclay Mine - Woodland & Meadow
- 5: Kinneil House & Woods
- 6: Bo'ness Harbour to Kinneil Nature Reserve
- 7: West Lothian Golf Club
- 8: Carriden Woods
- 9: Bo'ness to Blackness Foreshore
- 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.

There are plenty of interesting things to see and do in and around Blackness and Bo'ness.

Take a wander along some of your local paths and you will find some great countryside, wildlife, fantastic views, and a wealth of history, waiting to be discovered all right on your doorstep.

### Which site should I visit?

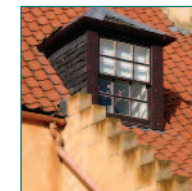
Simply read through the following suggested routes and choose one that suits your own interests, needs and abilities. Some sites have options for further exploration, or you could join together three of the suggested routes to take in the full foreshore path from Kinneil Nature Reserve to Blackness Castle.



### 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 at the Bo'ness and Kinneil Steam Railway, Birkhill Clay Mine, The Bo'ness Motor Museum and Soft Play area, 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 and to visit Scotland's first purpose built cinema, the Hippodrome, or see how the town centre is reclaiming its heritage with the restoration of many listed buildings in its historic heart.



### Know the Code before you go... Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly!

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

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

Find out more by visiting [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

## 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](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** No.

**Cycle:** Sustrans Route 76.

**Parking:** Car Parks at Seaview Place and Union Street

### Distance

■: Suggested route - 0.5 km (0.3 miles)

■: 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 with Waggon Road following the route taken by coal waggons from the pits to the harbour.

Bo'ness has been transformed over the past 30 years, continuing between 2006 and 2010 with the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Several key buildings currently lying derelict, but significant in architectural, historic and townscape terms are being renovated to meet community needs

and revitalise the town.

The work of architect's 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 past several superb buildings as well as some of the Bo'ness Townscape Heritage Initiative projects.

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

### F: 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.

### C: 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.

### D: 'Tobacco' Warehouse

The renovated 18th Century warehouse next to the library was probably built as a

- A: Journal & Gazette Building
- B: 37 Scotland's Close
- C: Dymock's Building
- D: 'Tobacco' Warehouse
- E: Bo'ness Library
- F: Anchor Tavern
- G: Jubilee Fountain
- H: The Hippodrome
- I: Anderson Trust Shops
- J: 'Tobacco' Warehouse
- K: 13 South Street
- L: 11 South Street

### H: The Bo'ness Hippodrome

Designed by Matthew Steele this was Scotland's first purpose built cinema. The fabulous art deco picture palace first opened in 1912, has been lovingly restored for the enjoyment of future generations.

### K: 13 South Street

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

### L: 11 South Street

Designed by architect Matthew Steele in 1907, 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.

tobacco warehouse. However, by 1850 it was used as a granary, and later a bake house.

### G: 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.





## 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](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** No.

**Cycle:** Sustrans Route 76.

**Parking:** Car Parks at Seaview Place and Union Street.

### Distance

■: Suggested route - 1.5 km (1 mile)

■: 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: Carpark at 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 soon-to-be-renovated Liberal Club are on your

left, with the Town Hall straight ahead. The Town Hall library (now closed) was financed by Andrew Carnegie the great industrialist.

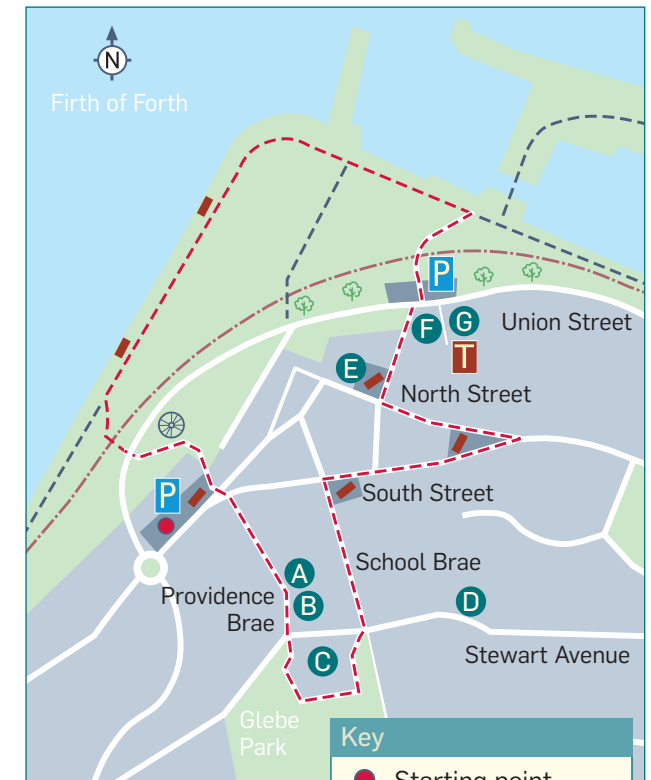
2 Cross the road and take the steps up to the Town Hall and into Glebe Park where you will see the Victorian Bandstand, erected in the park in 1902. Notice the two clock towers on the Town Hall - these clocks were made by H & R Millar and donated to the people of Bo'ness by Provost George Cadell Stewart 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, another of Matthew Steele's works.

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 used as a bakers, 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.



### Key

- Starting point
- Main path
- Alternative paths
- Bench
- P Parking
- Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway
- ⊙ Memorial to Miners
- Toilets

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.

7 Follow the path round to your right. Please note this is a compacted stone path which is muddy in places. Take a look over to your right for a good view of the Post Office Building and Customs House.

- A: Liberal Club
- B: St. Mary's Church
- C: Town Hall
- D: Masonic Hall
- E: Jubilee Fountain
- F: Post Office
- G: Customs House



## 2. Bo'ness Town Centre Trail B

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, which has become the most important event in the town's yearly calendar and 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  
Designed by George Washington Browne, the Town Hall and Carnegie Library opened in 1904. The Town Hall sits in Glebe Park which was formally 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 Boats n' Trains Loop



#### Access Information

**Bus:** For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

**Train:** No

**Cycle:** Sustrans Route 76.

**Parking:** Car Parks at Seaview Place and Union Street.

#### Distance

■: Suggested route - 2 km (1 miles)  
■: 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 where exciting proposals could see the harbour again used for leisure craft. You will then pass Bo'ness Station, start point for a trip on a steam train with Scottish Railway Preservation Society.

#### Finding Your Way

**START:** Car park at Union Street

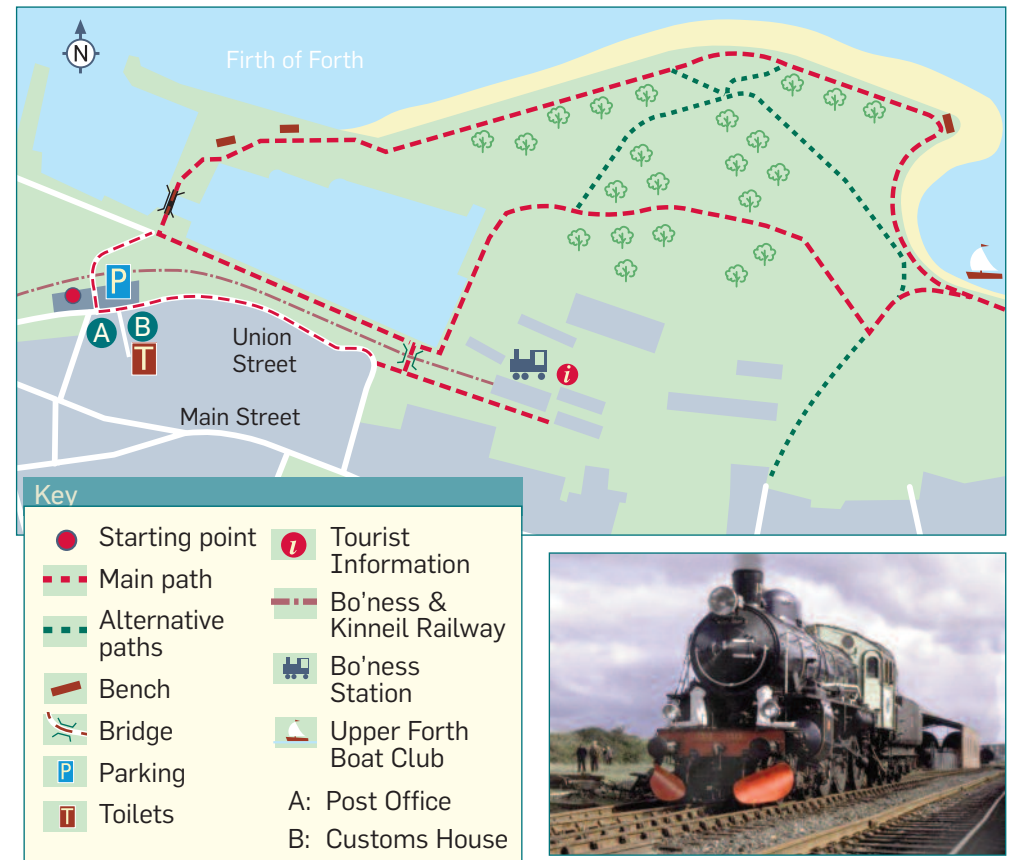
1 Follow the path over the wheelchair-friendly railway crossing as it veers to your right toward the dock and harbour area. Take a look to your right and you should have a good view of the Post Office building and Customs House.

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 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 SRPS on your left, or head right along Union Street back past Custom House and the Post Office to the car park.

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



#### 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 hey 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 salt pans 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.*

#### 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 a "Day out with Thomas the Tank Engine", easter egg specials, Diesel galal days, Santa steam trains and Black Bun Specials.



#### 4. Birkhill Fireclay Mine - Woodland and Meadow



##### Access Information

**Bus:** For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** SRPS Station - Bo'ness to Birkhill (tel 01506 822298 for timetable).

**Cycle:** Sustrans Route 76 passes within 1.8km (1 mile).

**Parking:** Small free car park near Birkhill Station.

##### Distance

■: Suggested route - 1 km (0.6 miles)

■: Alternative paths available - please note

the steep staircase down to the mine which maybe unsuitable for some people.

##### Path information

The woodland and meadow route follows a surfaced path and is generally flat with some gentle slopes. There are several picnic tables and benches along the route.

##### Facilities

Why not combine this route with a trip on the SRPS Railway and a tour of the mine. Cafes and parking available in Bo'ness town centre.

**Mine Tours:** From April to October you can take a guided tour from the

station platform into the underground mine workings and hear about the lives of the fireclay miners - make sure you wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Please check the railway timetable and mine opening times with Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway. Tel. 01506 822298 or email [enquiries.railway@srps.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.railway@srps.org.uk)

Car parking, toilets and picnic areas available at the mine.

For more information visit [www.srps.org.uk](http://www.srps.org.uk)

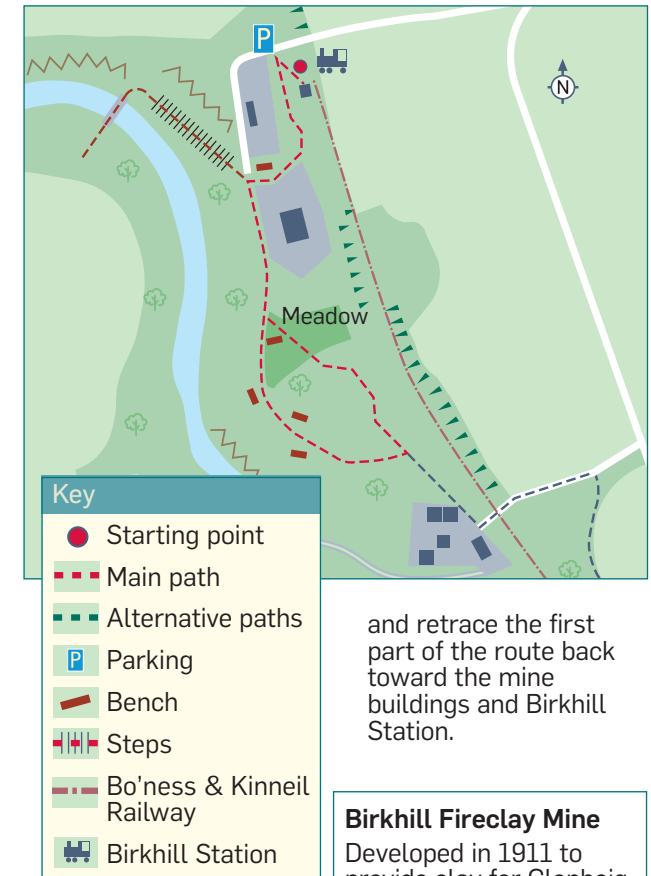
This route takes you through the woodland and meadow beside Birkhill Fireclay Mine. The mine is in the Avon Gorge beside Birkhill Station, which is used by Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway, Scottish Railway Preservation Society. Tours of the mine are available during the summer.

Please note that the only access to the mine is down a steep staircase into the gorge, which may make it unsuitable for some people. Whilst the mine is not suitable for wheelchairs, the railway, woods and meadow are.

##### Finding Your Way

START from Birkhill Station platform

- 1 Follow the signs to the Woodland. This path takes you down toward the old mine and storage buildings where you will pass a picnic area and a number of information boards.
- 2 Follow the path as it heads round to your right and you will arrive at the top of the steep steps which go down into the Avon Gorge and the entrance to the Mine Workings.
- 3 The woodland and meadow route follows the path to your left (at the top of the steps).



Continue along this path until you reach the picnic tables.

- 4 Take the path to your right and follow the loop around the meadow area. There are several places to rest and enjoy the peace and quiet along this relatively flat route.
- 5 When you return to the picnic tables, turn right

and retrace the first part of the route back toward the mine buildings and Birkhill Station.

##### Birkhill Fireclay Mine

Developed in 1911 to provide clay for Glenboig Brickworks, mining took place at Birkhill until 1980.

In 1987 Birkhill Fireclay Mine was developed as a show mine.

Birkhill Station was relocated from Monifieth, Angus via Glasgow Garden Festival in 1988 and is now served by the steam train from Bo'ness.



## 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](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

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

**Cycle:** Sustrans Route 76 follows part of this route.

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

### Distance

- : Suggested route - 2.8 km (1.7 miles)
- : Easier option - 2 km (1.25 miles)
- : 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).  
'Superloo' toilet just off Provost Road at rear car park entrance.  
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

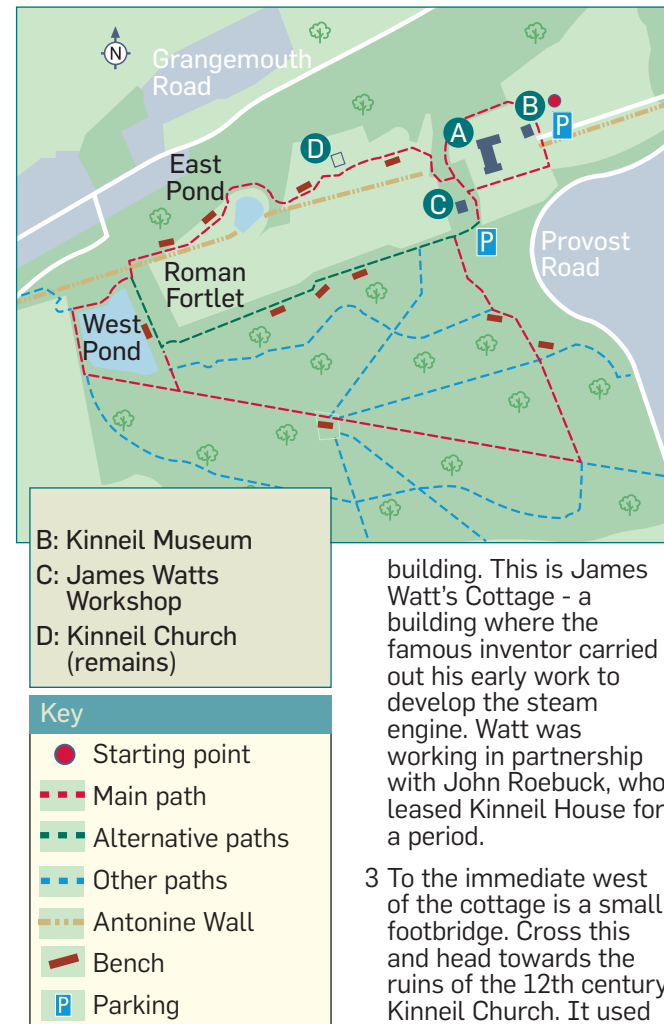
Please note that Kinneil House is only open on certain days, visit [www.kinneil.org.uk](http://www.kinneil.org.uk) for more information about open days and to find out about the 'Friends of Kinneil' group.

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, the historic 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. Park your car in the small parking area next to the Museum, or in the 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.

- 1 From the Museum follow the red blaes path towards the imposing 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 free days during the year. Ask at the Museum for dates or visit the Kinneil website -



[www.kinneil.org.uk](http://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.

### Join A Group

Stepforth - supported by Falkirk Council - runs a number of free health walks around Kinneil Estate every week. Details are available at Kinneil Museum.

### World Heritage Site

On July 7, 2008 the Antonine Wall which runs through Kinneil Estate was named a World Heritage Site.



## 6. Foreshore Path: Bo'ness Harbour to Kinneil 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](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Cycle:** Sustrans Route 76 is approximately 500m from the start of this route.

**Train:** SRPS Train Station to Kinneil Nature Reserve and Birkhill Clay Mine.

**Parking:** Bo'ness Town Centre, Snab Lane and SRPS Bo'ness Station.

### Distance

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



Step Forth Group

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 Nature Reserve at Kinneil.

### Finding Your Way

**START:** Car park at Bo'ness Town Centre.

The path from the car park takes you across a wheelchair-friendly crossing over the Scottish Railway Preservation Society's railway line.

- 1 Follow the surfaced path toward the harbour. The path to the right takes you to the SRPS Railway Station. Turn left to follow the surfaced path along the foreshore to Kinneil 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. 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 surfaced 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, 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.

### Option 3

Alternatively, you can retrace your steps from Kinneil 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 - which is to be redeveloped - either continue along the foreshore path past the industrial buildings to link up with the Carriden Woods and Blackness foreshore routes, or return toward Bo'ness via one of the surfaced paths taking you back across the railway to the SRPS station, the car park, or into Bo'ness Town itself.

### 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 redundant with the harbour officially closed in 1959.

### Key

- Starting point
- Main Path
- Option one
- Option two
- Other paths
- Bench
- P Parking
- i Tourist Information
- Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway
- Bo'ness & Kinneil Station



## 7. 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](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

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

**Train:** No.

**Parking:** No designated parking.

### Distance

■: Suggested route - 2.5 km (1.5 miles).

■: Alternative route - 2 km (1.25 miles).

■: Other paths available.

### Path information

The paths are not surfaced and generally 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

Local 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.

### Finding 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.

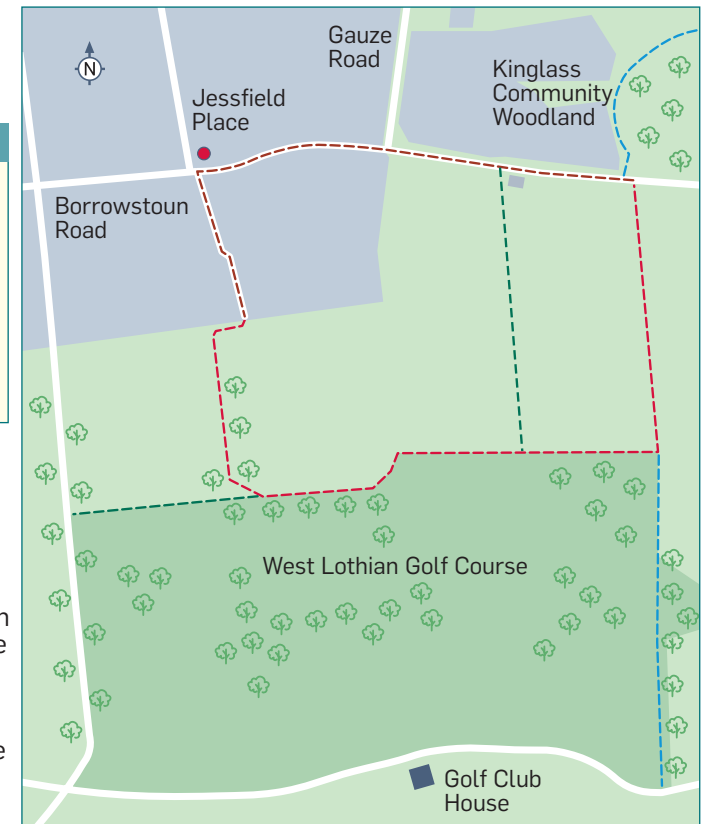
### Key

- Starting point
- Main path
- Alternative paths
- Other paths
- Bench
- P Parking

- 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 views 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 Linlithgow. 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 towards Bo'ness. Please note there is

livestock in this field.

- 6 From the foot of the path turn left following Borrowstoun Road back to the start of the route.

**West Lothian Golf Course** may be the site of a battle between Pictish leader Argadus and the Roman invaders.

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



## 8. Carriden 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](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Cycle:** Sustrans Route 76 passes the start of this route at Carriden Brae.

**Train:** No.

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

### Distance

■ ■ ■ Suggested route - 3 km (2 miles).

■ ■ ■ 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.

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 route, or can be completed as a short stand-alone visit.

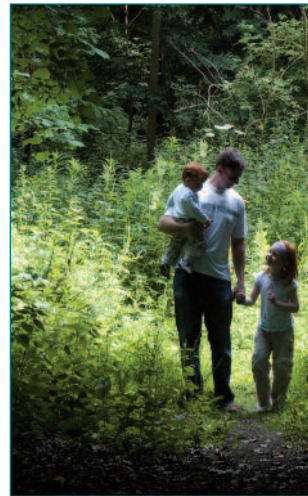
There is an old Ice House hidden in the woods; a ruined cottage which was the birth place of soldier Colonel James Gardiner who was killed in action in 1745 at the Battle of Prestonpans (the first significant conflict in the second Jacobite Rising); and the nearby Carriden House - please be aware that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

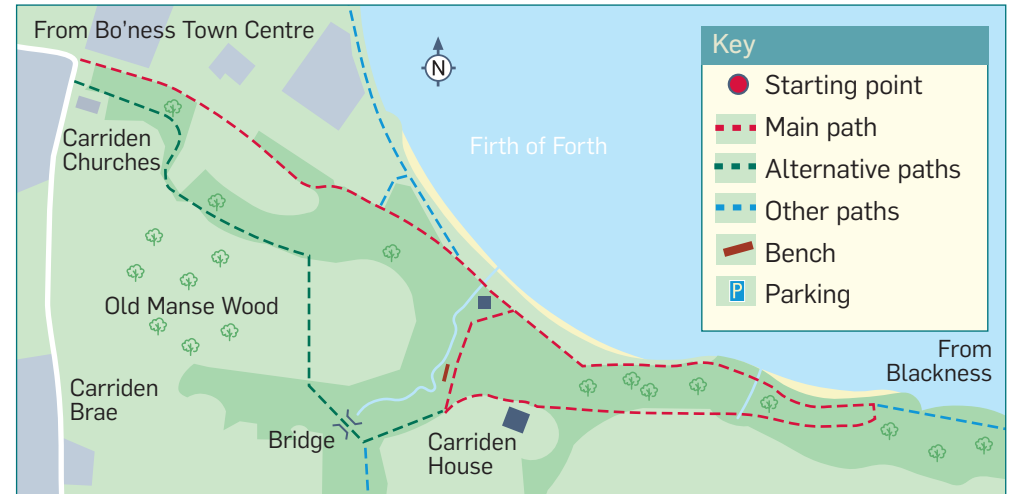
1 Follow the Public Right of Way toward the foreshore path to Blackness. As you continue along this path there are good views across the Forth and you may catch a glimpse or two of Blackness Castle and the Forth Bridges.



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 down toward Carriden Burn becomes pretty steep. 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 Witches Stone, 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.

### 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, which is close to the entrance of Carriden House. Local children still run around this stone three times before making a wish.

### Carriden House

Carriden House is an example of Scottish Baronial Architecture with the eastern part (with the

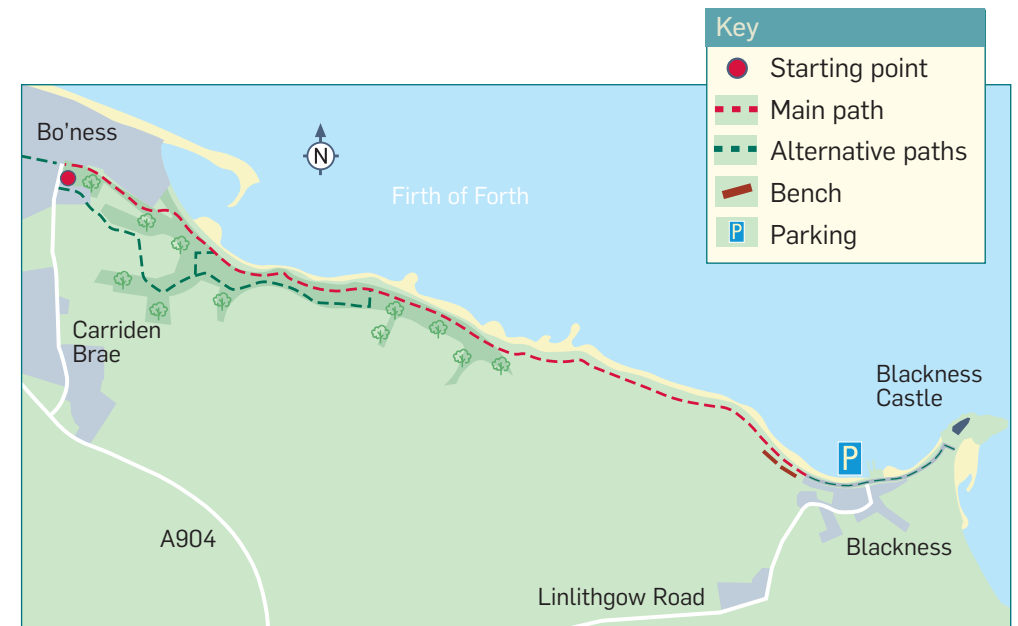


courtesy of Lisa Robertson

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 is a family-operated 3-star Guest House. To complete the full Carriden Woods experience, why not stay a night or two at Carriden House? Perhaps you could sleep in the same room as the naval hero Sir George Johnstone Hope who lived at Carriden House and fought alongside Admiral Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar, commanding the 74-gun battleship Defence!

## 9. Bo'ness to Blackness Foreshore Path



### Access Information

**Bus:** For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Cycle:** Sustrans Route 76 passes the start of this route at Carriden Brae.

**Train:** No.

**Parking:** Parking available at Bo'ness Town Centre approx 2.5km (1.5miles) away and also at Blackness.

### Distance

—: Suggested route - 3.5km (2 miles).

—: Alternative paths available (Carriden Woods, extension to Bo'ness and extension to Blackness Castle).

### Path information

This route is part surfaced with compacted stone, with the remainder unsurfaced, narrow and very uneven in places. There is a short section of steps. The route is relatively flat and there are benches at Blackness.

### Facilities

Toilets and parking available at Blackness.

Follow this Public Right of Way from Bo'ness to Blackness and enjoy fantastic views.

Please note that the path is narrow and unsurfaced for much of this route. In places it is very uneven with steep drops, and cyclists should be aware that parts of the path maybe better suited to mountain bike use. Walkers should make sure they have suitable clothing and footwear to tackle the uneven surfaces and occasional drops down to the beach.

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. The first section of this route follows a relatively flat and even surfaced path. Continue along this path 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.
- 2 Continue along this path. As you leave the wood, the views open out giving a superb outlook across the Forth.



- 3 When you reach the ruined cottages, take the steps on your left and follow the foreshore path to Blackness.
- 4 From this point the path becomes narrow and very uneven in places with some steep drops so please take care. There are sections where you can drop

down onto the beach if you wish. Once in Blackness there are a couple of benches where you can rest, as well as toilets and car parking.

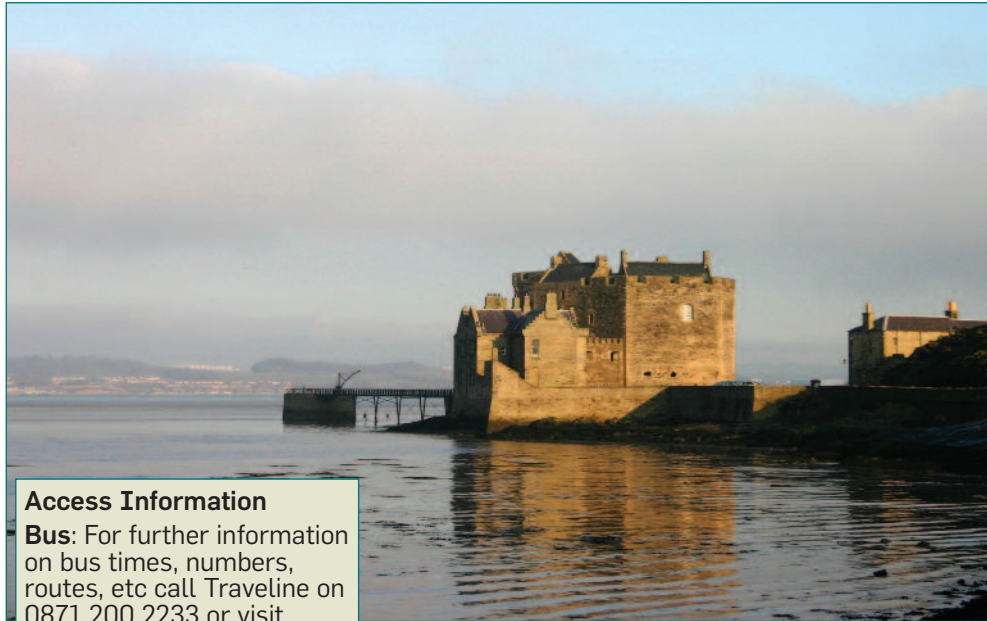
- 5 Return by the outward route.

### 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 but there are plans to make a replica for display in Bo'ness.



## 10. Blackness Castle



### Access Information

**Bus:** For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Cycle:** Sustrans Route 76 passes nearby.

**Train:** No.

**Parking:** Small free car park in Blackness.

### Distance

■: Suggested route - 1.5 km (1 miles).

■: Alternative paths available.

**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](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk) or Tel: 01506 834807.

Nicknamed "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.

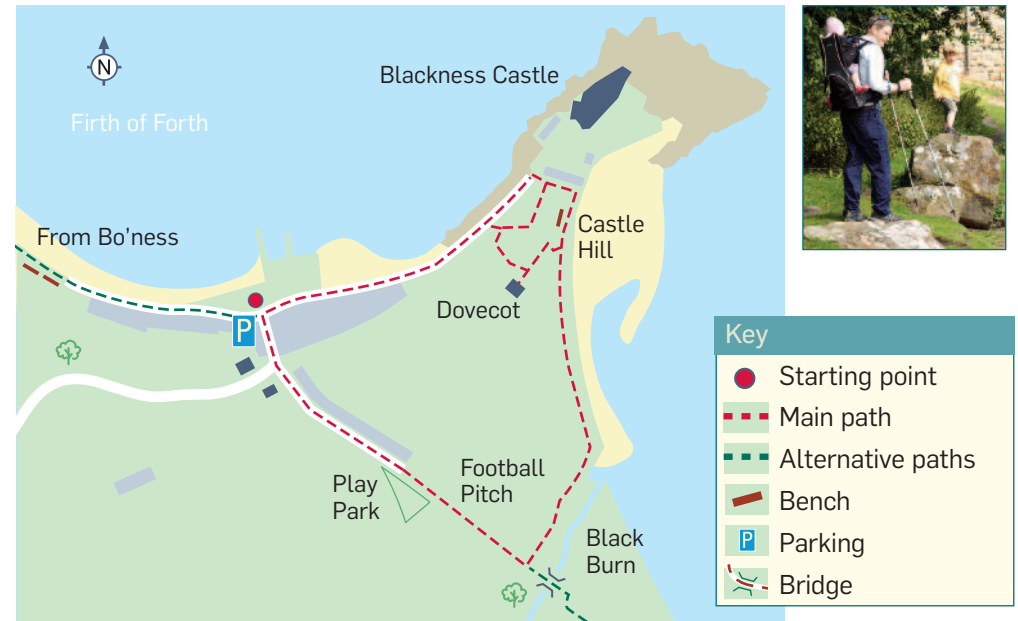
The paths shown in this leaflet are open at all times, but please be aware these are rough and uneven in places and there are steps and boardwalks along the way. Please also note that there is no path along the foreshore road to the castle.

### 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.

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 Black 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. The Castle was built to

protect the village and its important harbour, and 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*, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*, starring Mel Gibson.

Discover the path networks in and around  
**Bo'ness and Blackness**

**Getting There:** Get your copy of the Green Travel Map at [www.falkirk.gov.uk/services](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services) or call 01324 504977.

**By Foot:** If you live nearby.

**By Cycle:** Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 76. Cycle route information available from [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk) 0845 1130065.

**By Rail:** Nearest train stations are at Linlithgow and Polmont. Also stations at Falkirk High and Falkirk Grahamston. If you are planning to visit Birkhill Clay Mine you can get the SRPS train from Bo'ness.

**By Bus:** For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**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 centre,  
Bo'ness 08452 255121  
Bo'ness Library 01506 778520  
Kinneil Museum 01506 778530  
or visit:

[www.boness.org.uk](http://www.boness.org.uk)  
[www.kinneil.org.uk](http://www.kinneil.org.uk)  
[www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk)  
[www.falkirk.gov.uk/hippodrome](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/hippodrome)  
[www.falkirkonline.net](http://www.falkirkonline.net)  
[www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)  
[www.srps.org.uk](http://www.srps.org.uk)  
[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)  
[www.antoninewall.org](http://www.antoninewall.org)  
[www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk](http://www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk)

**For more information about your paths and countryside access** please contact Falkirk Council's Access Officer, Development Services on 01324 504721



**Falkirk Council**  
Development Services

