

A Guided Pictorial Walk to Jerah From Blairlogie Car Park

Introduction

The gentle walk to Jerah should take a couple of hours to complete; when you arrive there you will have a number of different return routes to choose from. For most of the route the paths are fine for walking but with a few narrow overgrown areas and a climb over one or two locked gates. The view of the landscape is magnificent and the variety of plants quite stunning.

The Walking Guide

1. Park your car in the Blairlogie Car Park.
 - a. Before starting the walk it is worthwhile having a look around. You are now standing in the old Orchard. There used to be a terraced dwelling to the left of the path that have now been demolished. To the right of the path a more modern cottage had received strikes from falling rocks which caused damage to the building.
 - b. If you look East you may see Blairlogie Park, built between 1865 and 1866. It used to be two dwellings with different families staying in the front and back of the house. The Sharpe family lived in Blairlogie Park and in Orchard Cottages around the time of World War 1: their story can be found in the “People of Blairlogie” section of the website.
2. Take the path at the back of the car park to the stile and climb over it to the footpath.
 - a. There is a dog access point to the immediate left of the stile.
 - b. On crossing the stile you are on the footpath, but not just any footpath. You have now entered history as you are standing on the old “King’s Highway” from Stirling to Menstrie and beyond. Robert Burns passed along this highway on 27th August 1787 on his way from Stirling to Harviestoun, near Dollar.
 - c. The old Highway was in operation until a new turnpike road (now the A91) was built in 1806 when technology became available to drain the Kerse.



© Blairlogie Archives
Car Park Entrance

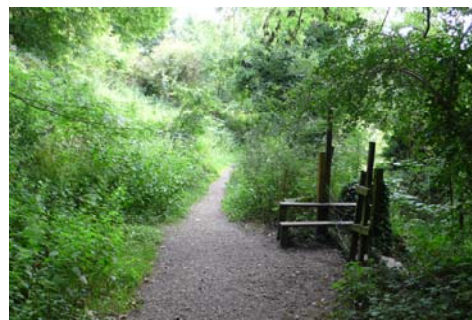


© Blairlogie Archives
View of Orchard



© Blairlogie Archives
Path to King’s Highway

3. Turn Right and walk along the path.
 - a. In the summer, as you walk along the old King's Highway, watch out for the nettles which can give you quite a sting. If you receive a sting give the area a rub with a broad leaf from the docken plant: this will reduce the swelling and irritation.



© Blairlogie Archives
Stile and King's Highway

4. After a short distance you will come to a fork in the path.
 - a. Take the higher path, which is often overgrown with brambles and nettles. Ideally you should be wearing long trousers and long sleeves to avoid cuts and stings.
 - b. The lower path leads to the A91 and on to Menstrie; this is a less pleasant walk as lots of traffic passes along this road heading out to St Andrews.



© Blairlogie Archives
Fork in the path

5. Look about you as you walk along. Between June and August you will most likely see some common Mullein.
 - a. The Common Mullein is worth noting as it was used in times gone by as a burning taper to give light to the villagers of Blairlogie.
 - b. It had the advantage of being free and giving off light in the cottages during the dark winter months.
6. About August, the brambles should be black in colour and delicious to eat. Don't hesitate, have a wee munch on the black brambles as you walk along.
7. You may also pass some 'Sticky Willows', these were used by the children of the village to throw at each other as they stuck to woollen clothing. The sticky heads were also opened up and the seeds removed and shoved down unsuspecting children's backs to make them itch like mad.
8. In late Autumn the gorse will be adorned with its bright yellow flowers, but do be careful as it is a very jaggy plant as it has extremely sharp spines.



© Blairlogie Archives
Common Mullein



© Blairlogie Archives
Brambles



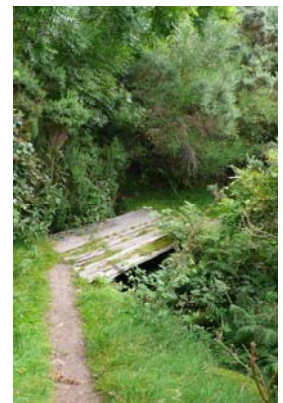
© Blairlogie Archives
**Sticky Willows
Burdock**

9. Follow the path as it meanders along until you come to the old railway sleeper bridge.
- a. Cross the bridge with care and carry on along the path.

10. As you are walking along look up to your left and view Ewe Lairs, which has above and behind it Castle Law, named after the ancient fort which lies there.



© Blairlogie Archives
Ewe Lairs



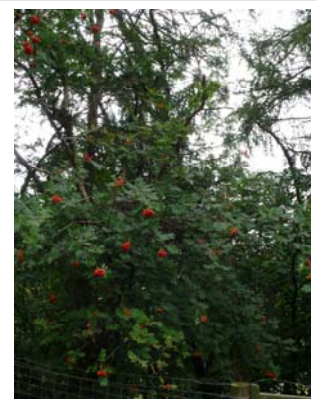
© Blairlogie Archives
Railway Sleeper Bridge

11. Follow the path to the shepherd's road and turn left heading towards Dumyat Farm.
- a. As you walk along have a look at the well - maintained stone dyke on the right side of the road.
 - b. It is also worth looking at the wide variety of trees that line the other side of the wall.
 - c. You will pass or have passed the following trees: Pine, Oak, Ash, Rowan, Elm and Holly bushes.



© Blairlogie Archives
Shepherd's Road

12. The Rowan Tree was important to the people of Blairlogie.
- a. Ancient tradition has it that the Rowan Tree (also known as the Mountain Ash) was used to keep witches away. The lovely orange blossoms, which are on display from August to November, make it a cheery sight in late summer and autumn.
 - b. The Rowan berries can also be harvested to make Rowan Jelly, which is delicious dark orange and a superb accompaniment to game and lamb.
 - c. If you walk along quietly you may see grey squirrels and rabbits frolicking.



© Blairlogie Archives
Rowan Tree

13. Follow the road along and you will soon reach Dumyat Farm.
- a. As you travel along, look high up on the hill and you may be fortunate in seeing some of the Common Buzzards hunting for food.
 - b. Often their distinctive screeches can be heard before they can be seen.



© Blairlogie Archives
Road to Dumyat Farm

14. The building on your left is now called Dumyat Farm, but old maps and documents refer to it as Lipney.

- a. The cottage that you now see is clearly not the original and there are now two cottages.
- b. The 1851 census shows that Lipney was occupied by James Paterson, his wife Isabella and 4 year old son James. They had a servant called Mathew Ellich and they were shepherds.
- c. The 1881 census shows that Lipney was still occupied and that it had 4 rooms with windows.



© Blairlogie Archives **Dumyat Farm 1**

15. Slightly further on you will come to the second home which forms Dumyat Farm.

- a. The 1901 census shows a bit of a change at Lipney as it was then occupied by Angus and Margaret McDonald and their four sons and two daughters; Angus was still a shepherd.
- b. What is different is that one of the sons is listed as a wood carver and another as a distillery worker. The remaining boys were still at school and one of the daughters was a domestic servant, whilst the youngest girl (aged 14) was still at home.



Blairlogie Archives **Dumyat Farm 2**

16. Before moving on, have a wee look over to your right and admire the view of Menstrie and the carse.

- a. You can make out the distant Clackmannanshire Bridge.
- b. Also clearly visible is the majestic sweep of the Forth, which used to flood and made the great open area very fertile.
- c. The carse was drained about 1800 and it was due to this that farming was able to expand in what was previously a flood plain.



© Blairlogie Archives
Menstrie and the Carse

17. Shortly after passing the second farm house you will come to a fork in the road.

- a. Straight on takes you to part of the Menstrie water works; you should take the high track to the left.
- b. The track has a surprisingly steep incline, but you will be rewarded with a magnificent view of the Blair, carse and the Kingdom of Fife in the distance.



© Blairlogie Archives
Track to Jerah

18. Continue following the track and you may be delighted to see the sheep which dot the hillside, darting away as you approach.



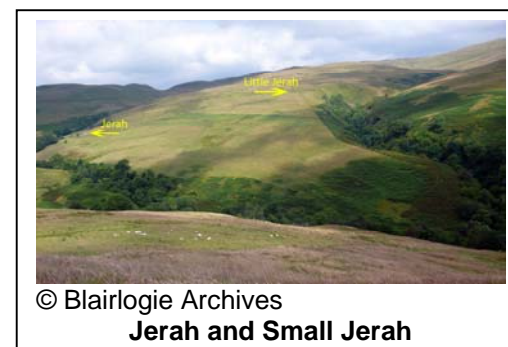
19. In the open fields to the left, Highland Cattle and sheep can often be seen on the hill and right next to the track,
- Dinnae fret; the great beasts are friendly and will most likely just give you a disdainful look as you take their photographs.
 - The calves are incredibly photogenic and they are happy to pose for a photograph.



20. Keep following the track and you will see a knoll straight ahead with a tractor trail leading upwards to a standing stone. On the right of the track you will see an iron gate.
- Follow the track to the top where there is a standing stone on the crest of the hill where you are rewarded for your efforts with a great panoramic view of Menstrie Glen.
 - Little is known of the people who placed the stone or why it is located at this position.



21. Look to your right and you will be able to make out a number of interesting features.
- Jerah Farmhouse is where this walk leads and it can be seen near the top of the wooded cutting.
 - Little Jerah is higher up the hill to its right.
 - On a good day it is clear to see that the fields surrounding Jerah and Little Jerah were at one time arable and fertilised by the sheep and cows which occasionally grazed on them.



22. From the top of the tractor trail you can easily cut down to the track.
- Follow the winding track until you come to a track on the right where there are no gates to obstruct you.
 - Do not be tempted by the apparent easy route across the fields to Jerah. This approach is difficult due to bracken and the steep sides of the Crunie Burn. The slightly circuitous route is therefore more pleasant and quicker.



23. Further up the track you will come to a rough track on the right which leads down to the outlet for Lossburn Reservoir.

- a. You will notice that there is a fork in the track: the left one is a pleasant walk to the reservoir, but you will be taking the right track.
- b. This track is extremely rough and is partially constructed with railway sleepers. It is advisable not to walk down the track but to take the sheep path on the bank above the track.



© Blairlogie Archives
Track to Loss & Jerah Farms

24. At the bottom of the rough track you will come to an iron gate which may be locked.

- a. Pass through or over the gate and then using the stepping stones, ford Loss Burn at the outlet of Lossburn Reservoir.



© Blairlogie Archives
Gate at bottom of track

25. After crossing the burn, follow the path and soon you will arrive at the derelict farmstead on the left of the track that was once the Loss farmstead.

- a. A 1783 map of the area shows Loss as an active farm and it was the centre of a fairly large estate.
- b. In 1802 a sale of land described Loss as a farm of about 212 acres and was ideal for sheep, black cattle and milk cows. It also indicated that a great part was arable and might be used for turnip crops.



© Blairlogie Archives
Loss Farmstead

26. Follow the path and you will come to a farm gate which you climb over and continue following the path to a wooden railway sleeper bridge.

- a. The view from the bridge down into the gully below is quite spectacular; after heavy rain the sound of the crashing water is quite deafening.
- b. Presumably at one time the occupants of Jerah may have had to collect their water upstream from the burn, this would have been difficult.
- c. At one time there were numerous farm steadings on the hill; it would not have been as lonely an existence then as it is now.



© Blairlogie Archives
Wooden Sleeper Bridge

27. After crossing the bridge, turn left and head up hill to Jerah.
- The chimney stack of Jerah is just visible over the crest of the hill that you are ascending.



© Blairlogie Archives
Hill up to Jerah

28. As the top of the hill is crested Jerah will be before you.
- The 12th August 1869 edition of the Glasgow Herald reported a “Horrible tragedy on the Ochils”. The paper reported that Andrew Ewing had been unwell for some days and showing signs of insanity. As Dr Paterson of Bridge of Allan approached the house, the two children desecrated him and rushed into the house crying that “the doctor was coming”. Mr Ewing had been in bed and, hearing the children, suggested that he come down stairs to meet the doctor and asked his wife for a glass of whisky. Whilst getting the whisky she heard a groan and a fall and found her husband with his pocket knife sunk into his neck up to the haft. Mr Ewing then ran from the house towards Crunie Glen and after a struggle he threw himself down the 80 feet to his death. If you are there and you feel an eerie chill, maybe it’s not the wind but the ghost of Andrew Ewing.
 - Prior to leaving Jerah, have a look around the once prosperous farmstead. Look at the other buildings, marvel at the construction of such a building in the wilds of the glen.
 - Note the holes for the floor beams and the old chimney routes.
 - Enjoy the view of Dumyat from the front door of the old farm house.



© Blairlogie Archives
Jerah Farm



© Blairlogie Archives
Jerah Farm

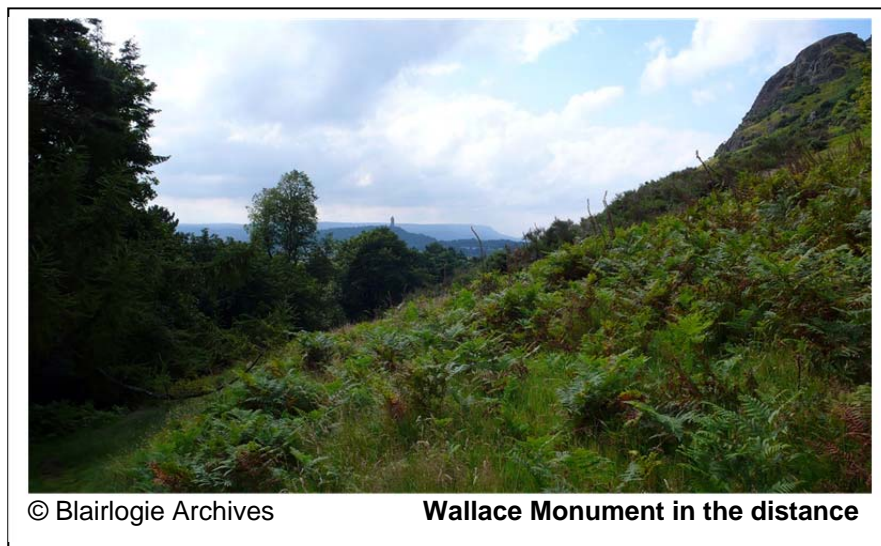


© Blairlogie Archives
Dumyat from Jerah Farm

29. Having reached Jerah, you have a choice of return routes:

- a. You can head up the hill towards Little Jerah and then on to the path at the top of Red Brae, which is clearly marked and will take you down to Menstrie. From Menstrie main street, turn right and head along the A91 to Blairlogie Car Park
- b. Another option is to retrace your steps to the track from Dumyat Farm and rather than turning left and heading back to the car park, turn right and follow the path to the Sheriffmuir Road and turn left and follow this to the first opportunity to turn left onto the road leading down to Logie Kirk, which you follow until you reach the A91, where you turn left to Blairlogie Car Park
- c. The last option is to retrace your steps to Blairlogie Car Park. This is a lovely return walk and when you view it from this new angle you may notice much more.

30. Below are a few shots taken on the return route to Blairlogie Car Park.



31. As you leave the Car Park, you may feel in need of sustenance; if so soup and sandwiches are available in the Coffee Bothy. Turn right when you leave the car park and then left when you reach the crossroads at the entrance to the village and you cannot miss the Coffee Bothy just up the Manor Loan.

The Archives group hope that you will find the guide informative and fun; we would be delighted to receive any suggestions on how to improve it. You can contact us at:
www.blairlogie-scotland.org