

# Guided Pictorial Walk Down Gogar and Manor Loan from Blairlogie Car Park

Places which can be seen on the walk



© National Library of Scotland

Route of walk

## Introduction

The pleasant circular walk from Blairlogie car park is suitable for pushchairs and bicycles and should take approximately an hour.

There is a major road that requires care when crossing and the Loans are likely to have cars driving down them, so care should be taken to keep to the side and to be alert to traffic.

At different seasons there is often a variety of wildlife and farm animals to be seen, so keep a watchful eye out for birds and animals.



© Blairlogie Archives  
**Car Park Entrance**

## The Walking Guide

1. Park your car in the Blairlogie Car Park.
  - a. Before starting the walk it is worth having a look around. You are now standing in the old orchard. The site was rather different in the 1920s: Orchard Cottage was a home which was still inhabited. The Cottage was in ruins in the 1970s. Later it was removed to allow the car park to be constructed.

One of the occupants of Orchard Cottage was John Sharpe, who was the gamekeeper to Lieutenant Colonel Hare of Blairlogie Castle. This is the John Sharpe who would later lose three of his sons; John, James and Hugh in the First World War. For information on the Sharpe brothers please visit [www.blairlogie-scotland.org](http://www.blairlogie-scotland.org) and look under the heading of "People of Blairlogie".

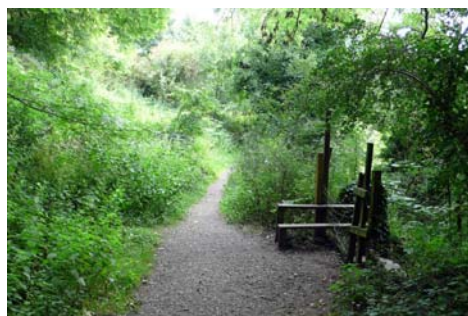


© Blairlogie Archives  
**1920s Orchard Cottage & Blairlogie Park**

2. Follow the path at the back of the car park, through the new metal gate to the footpath. Turn right and follow the path past the rear of Blairlogie Park.
3. On passing through the gate, you will find yourself on an ancient footpath; it is 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.



© Blairlogie Archives  
**John Sharpe (with gun) and 2 helpers taken in the 1890s**



© Blairlogie Archives  
**King's Highway to Menstrie with stile on right existing until 2012**



4. Soon Cotkerse Cottages will be in sight on the other side of the road. Carefully cross the road and start down Gogar Loan.
- Cotkerse Cottages are located on the crossroads of the A91 and Gogar Loan.
  - Loan is an old Scottish name for Lane.
  - Opposite Cotkerse Cottages can be seen West Lodge which was used to house the butler or chauffeur of Montague Cottage.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Cotkerse Cottages from  
Old King's Highway**

5. Cotkerse Cottages have not changed much over the years.
- The photograph shows Miss Finlayson and Mrs Edgar at the doors to their cottages in 1912.
  - The 1911 census shows that there were five families living in Cotkerse Cottages. In 1911 there were 10 people in the cottages and one was unoccupied.
  - The homes were on two levels of the building with some families living on the ground floor and others on the upper floors.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Cotkerse Cottages circa 1912**

6. The building behind Cotkerse Cottage is Cotkerse House.
- Mrs Ann Archibald, also known as McGuffie, was listed as the owner of Cotkerse House and her estate was worth £4069 5s 3p in May 1896.
  - In the 1901 census, Duncan Cameron who was a 30 year old cattle dealer from Invernesshire. He spoke both English and Gaelic and was living with his 24 year old wife Agnes and son Duncan and daughter Lily.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Cotkerse House**

7. As you walk past Cotkerse Cottages, look back and view Dumyat and Blairlogie House.
- Blairlogie House has been called by various names over the years. In the 1970s it was Blairlogie Hotel and prior to that it was called Montague Cottage. At present it is a private home.
  - Montague Cottage was often rented out as accommodation for periods of time. The 1841 census shows the Cottage empty except for the housekeeper, 45 year old Marion Russell.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Blairlogie House**

8. The next building, Gogar House, is on the right hidden by the trees.

- a. The Glasgow Herald of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 1857 had an advert for Gogar House for rent as follows: *Furnished apartments and Board may be had on moderate terms for the Spring and Summer months at Gogar House, pleasantly situated in a sheltered and healthy locality, within an easy distance of Stirling and Blairlogie, and Bridge of Allan, and with convenient access to steamers and railways. A stable and coach can be let if required. Apply to Mrs McNab at Gogar House.*



© Blairlogie Archives  
**Gogar House**

9. The farm on the left is called Gogar Mains. The beautiful farm house is just past the farm buildings.

- a. The 1851 census shows that Alexander Galloway aged 41 years was dwelling in the farm and was a farmer of 142 acres employing 5 labourers. His wife Margaret and brother Robert were also staying in the farm with his employees.
- b. The 1861 census shows that Alexander and Margaret Galloway were still working the farm. The brother was no longer there but there were still five servants, though none from the 1851 census.



© Blairlogie Archives  
**Gogar Mains**

10. Carry on along the road, but look back and enjoy the view.

- a. Gogar Mains can be seen with Dumyat as a wonderful backdrop.
- b. The 1911 census shows that Gogar Mains was in the hands of Duncan Lawson, a 37 year old farmer and his 31 year old wife and 4 sons: John 3; Duncan 1; William 11 months and an unnamed son aged under 1 month. They had 1 servant, a niece and a midwife staying on the evening of the census.



© Blairlogie Archives  
**Gogar Mains and Dumyat**

11. The next section of the route is along the Loan where you can enjoy the view and admire the fields. The fields will vary from open earth in the early spring to full of crops in the summer. A wide variety of birds can be seen and heard as you walk along the Loan.

12. The next house that you come to is on the right hand side and it is an old stone cottage called Gogar Cottage.

- a. The cottage was used by ploughmen and labourers working on the farms and was a tied cottage.



© Blairlogie Archives  
**Gogar Cottage**



13. Just after the stone cottage is a relatively modern bungalow.



© Blairlogie Archives  
**Bungalow**

14. You will very soon be approaching the crossroads where great care should be taken in crossing the busy road.

- a. The road to the right goes to West Gogar which will be described shortly.
- b. The busy new A907 will have to be crossed to reach the old A907, which is much quieter, safer and more scenic.



© Blairlogie Archives **Crossroads**

15. The next farm that you come to is West Gogar which is on the right.

- a. The 1881 census shows that Archibald Mitchell was staying there and that he was a farmer of 72 acres. Also staying at West Gogar was Marion Mitchell the wife of Alexander and their six children called James 15; Donald aged 13; Maggie aged 10; Archibald aged 7; Isabella aged 4 and Annie not yet 1 year plus 2 servants,
- b. In 1871 Alexander Mitchell and his first 3 children were also resident in West Gogar, but at this time he was an agricultural labourer.



© Blairlogie Archives **West Gogar**

16. When you cross the dual carriageway, stay on the left hand side and follow the bicycle path to the right.

- a. You will have noticed on the sign at the other side of the road that this side of the road was called Blackgrange.
- b. Blackgrange was a very busy area and had 56 people staying there in 1841. The inhabitants varied from farmers to beggars and brickmakers to tile makers. A blacksmith's smiddy stood here until the construction of the new A907.



© Blairlogie Archives  
**Path to old road**

17. The view along the old road is very attractive and people who walk quietly often see hawks and buzzards either flying or resting on fence posts.

- a. There is a nice view of West Gogar to the right across the dual carriageway and the view to the left is the bonded warehouses.
- b. Also enjoy the view of the Wallace Monument sitting proudly on top of Abbey Craig.



© Blairlogie Archives      **The old road**

18. Continue following the road and do not be surprised to see lots of walkers on this stretch.

- a. You will eventually come to a galvanised gate which stops cars driving up this section of the road. Pass through the gap and carry on walking.



© Blairlogie Archives      **Gate**

19. Just through the gate is a sign for Manor Steps which points to the left.

- a. If you wish a wee detour you can wander down here and view the old Manor Steps building as well as the new additions for holiday homes.
- b. Manor Steps is listed as having 9 rooms with windows in the 1891 census. It must have been a noisy place as John and Jessie Blair were staying there with their 5 sons and two daughters.



© Blairlogie Archives      **Manor Steps**

20. As you walk along you may be lucky to see cattle and sheep in the fields next to the road.

- a. Scotland used to have lots of Black Cattle and in the highlands they were often stolen and given back to the owners after a ransom was paid. Hence the phrase Black Mail.
- b. There are a few old drove roads that the highlanders would drive their cattle for sale in the lowlands.



© Blairlogie Archives      **Black Cattle**

21. Keep walking along the road until you come to the crossroads.

- a. Turn right and carefully cross the road and take the road down Manor Loan.
- b. The Loan was widened in around 2012 to allow better access to the industrial buildings which are just along to the right of the road.



© Blairlogie Archives      **Cross Roads**



22. Walk down the new path and at its end walk down the road, listening carefully for cars.
- Quietly look to your right and if you are lucky you may see some roe deer in the wooded area.
  - Try whistling to encourage the birds to respond and you will be delighted by the wide variety of bird song.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Manor Loan**

23. Have a look to the right as you walk down the Loan and observe the animals and scenery.
- It is quite common to see sheep and cows in the fields to the left of the road as well as rabbits and hares.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Wallace Monument**

24. The next building on the right is the old Manor Farm.
- The first reference that we have of Manor is in the Commissariat Records of Edinburgh where in July 1589 Alexander Dickson's will and testament were heard.
  - The 1881 census shows that John Peat, a farmer of 200 acres was staying there with his wife, 3 sons and 6 daughters plus 2 servants in a substantial building with 12 rooms with windows.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Manor Farm House**

25. The next set of buildings are on the right are called Manor Farm Cottages.
- The tenants of these cottages were traditionally farm workers who were employed by Manor Farm. The buildings are now private houses.
  - The tenants in 1841 were from Perthshire: Daniel Napier aged 27 with his wife Elizabeth Napier aged 30. An agricultural labourer called John Nicol aged 30 was living in the other cottage with his wife Margaret aged 28 and their two children Hugh and William.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Manor Farm**

26. Follow the Manor Loan and enjoy the view of Dumyat to your front.



27. The next building is on the right and it is called Oakwood Manor and is the newest building in the Blairlogie area.

- a. As a brand new building it does not as yet have any history.



28. At the end of the straight section of the road there is a right turn. This is the site of Longkerse Farm, now long gone.

- a. Longkerse is featured on the <http://www.blairlogie-scotland.org/thomas-alexander.html> website under People of Blairlogie and tells the story of the Alexanders.



29. The next turn in the road is to the left and this is the site of another farm called Park which was located on the right at the bend.

- a. The 1851 census shows that Thomas Alexander was staying here and that he was a farmer of 52 acres.
- b. As the farm land was quite small it was absorbed into Manor along with Longkerse to make a more economically viable business in the 1930s.
- c. The only remains of this farm is a hard to find well just inside the tree line.







© Blairlogie Archives

**Park Farm circa 1935/6**

30. As you walk down the Loan you will see Blairmains Farm.

- a. The 1851 census shows that Blairmains farm was occupied by George Williamson and his wife Helen. George was a farmer of 106 acres and employing 4 labourers.
- b. The 1901 census shows that John Eadie, a farmer and his wife Annie McNaughton Eadie with their four daughters and two sons along with two servants lived there. One of these sons, John or Jock Eadie farmed at Blairmains until the 1960s.
- c. The farm house is now a lovely bed and breakfast and part of the farm buildings is the Farm Shop & Coffee Bothy. Why not stop for a wee coffee or a cup of tea and a cake before finishing your walk.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Blairmains Farm**

31. The last buildings on the right are Blairmains Cottages.

- a. According to the Valuation Rolls there used to be two cottages but they now form a single cottage.
- b. Local memory suggests that there three cottages in this one building at one time.
- c. The corner cottage was at one time the village post office and much gossip was also exchanged at this village meeting place.



© Blairlogie Archives

**Blairmains Cottages**

32. At the crossroads, turn right and then carefully cross the road and walk along the pavement to return to the car park on the left.

**The Archives team hope that you enjoy the walk  
and would love to hear your comments.**