

Guided Pictorial Walk To Old Logie Kirk from Blairlogie Car Park

Places which can be seen on the walk

Introduction

The walk from Blairlogie car park to Logie Kirk is a pleasant, over farm land with a climb over one stile. It is important to close all gates as you pass through them to prevent sheep and/or cattle escaping.

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. This was sold by Public Roup (Scots word for auction) in 1854 and was listed as *"being pleasantly situated in a favourite locality for summer quarters where the want of accommodation is severely felt"*.
 - b. If you look East you may see Blairlogie Park, built between 1865 and 1866. If you look closely you will see that there are only 4 chimneys in the front of house building and only 3 in the rear of house. Considering the size of the houses this seems quite a small number of chimneys when coal fires were a necessity.
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.
 - c. The old highway was maintained by the local population and it was often rutted and badly kept.
3. Turn left and walk along the path towards Blairlogie.
 - a. As you walk along it is worth noting the dry-stone dyke on your left. Much of it has now fallen down, but this wall lined much of the old King's Highway and very soon you will be following the old route of this once important highway to Logie Kirk.



© Blairlogie Archives
Car Park Entrance



© Blairlogie Archives
View of Orchard



© Blairlogie Archives
King's Highway to Blairlogie

4. Continue along the path until you come to a metal gate. To the left of the gate is a sheep gate which is easier to traverse.

- a. The large gate is still used by horse riders and the shepherd who delivers fodder to the sheep in the fields further on.
- b. For the more adventurous there is a path up Dumyat immediately to the right of the gate.
- c. Blairlogie website has a description of the route up Dumyat.



© Blairlogie Archives
Gates to Blairlogie

5. The blairlogie-scotland.org website has “*A guided walk through old Blairlogie*” with details of the buildings. For further information on the buildings and people who lived in them, please visit the website and look under the Buildings of Blairlogie.

6. The Blairlogie Hall and Reading Room is on the right hand side of the Loan.

- a. The Reading Room is the heart of the village and holds many different activities such as Hogmanay Parties, film nights, barbecue evenings, art exhibitions and much more.
- b. Anyone wishing to hire the village Hall may do so. For further information on hire charges etc. please drop us a line via the website.



© Blairlogie Archives **Reading Room**

7. Walk up the lane to the square.

- a. There used to be a ford across the burn before the culvert was constructed to take the burn under the roadway. In the winter the culvert runs in spate and one can only guess at what village life would have been like before the culvert.
- b. The square has changed little over the centuries and the photo on the right was taken in the early 1970s when the culvert first collapsed.



© Blairlogie Archives **Square**

8. Cross over the square after enjoying the view and walk down the West Loan.

- a. The West Loan is probably much as the old Kings Highway was in the past and it is maintained by the people of Blairlogie.

9. The last building is Blairlogie Cottage with its back to the old road.

- a. The 1881 census shows the owner of the house as Mrs Elizabeth Bain aged 71, who was living on her Dividends and by taking in lodgers. At this time she had a married couple from Glasgow called David White, a law clerk aged 22, and Grace White, aged 21, living in the Cottage.



© Blairlogie Archives
Blairlogie Cottage

10. The last cottage in the lane is Watergate.

- a. This cottage was built in 1979 as an extension to Blairlogie Cottage and it is now rented out as self-catering accommodation, keeping the tradition of Mrs Bain alive. Anyone wishing to rent the cottage should visit www.watergate-blairlogie.com



© Blairlogie Archives

Watergate

11. Watergate cottage is attached to the end of Blairlogie Cottage.

- a. To the right of the cottage is a very old gate that was the Watergate which gave access to the house's well where water was drawn for many years. When Blairlogie Cottage was built this would have been essential as this would have been their only source of drinking water.
- b. Have a wee look under the pantile roof and you will see the date the gate was constructed: 1772. The gate was originally located where the end of Watergate is now. It was moved to the other side in the 1970s.
- c. The name Watergate is a derivation of the older term Water Gait which meant the road to the water or well.



© Blairlogie Archives

Watergate

12. The route to Old Logie Kirk is through the metal gate.

- a. Please ensure that you close the gate securely to prevent the sheep/cows wandering the lanes of Blairlogie.
- b. Walk along the sheep path on the right hand side of the fence. Look around as you go and enjoy the view up the slope.
- c. Please ensure that if you have a dog that it is kept on a leash as you walk this route.
- d. The trees ahead of you is where the old village curling pond was during cold winters.



© Blairlogie Archives

Field Gate

13. Look back to your right as you walk along and you will see Dumyat hill.

- a. Dumyat is pronounced as "Dum-**eye**-at", a name which is meant to have come from 'Dun,' which means 'Fort' and 'Myat' from the old Pictish tribe called 'Myaetae.'
- b. Dumyat is the remains of a once active volcano and the hill used to be mined for lead, copper and silver.
- c. There is a guide to the walk from Blairlogie Car park to Dumyat on the www.blairlogie-scotland.org web site



© Blairlogie Archives

Dumyat Hill

14. Look to the left after the trees where the curling pond once stood and view the Wallace Monument.

- a. Wallace Monument was built in 1860 with money raised by public subscription.
- b. The climb to the top of the monument is well worth the effort. The view is fantastic and the story of Wallace and the building of the monument are told in an interesting manner.
- c. For further information on the Wallace Monument, please visit www.nationalwallacemonument.com



© Blairlogie Archives
Wallace Monument

15. Keep following the line of the fence.

- a. The land becomes rougher and you will walk below the outcrop to the right.
- b. Depending on the season, you will have observed sheep and highland cattle. Both are friendly and highly photogenic.



© Blairlogie Archives
View of landscape

16. Continue walking until you come to the fence with a stile.

- a. You will see old dry stone dikes to the left and ahead.
- b. Carefully climb over the stile and follow the path.
- c. If you look to your left will see Witches Craig Caravan Park. This is a popular place to stay in the area and is used by caravaners and campers alike.



© Blairlogie Archives **Stile**

17. After the stile, follow the path roughly following the line of the fence.

- a. If you walk through this area quietly you may well see Roe deer feeding.
- b. In spring this area is covered in Bluebell flowers and is a wonderful woodland scene.
- c. In early summer wild garlic grows in abundance in areas adjacent to the path.
- d. There is a wide variety of trees and shrubs in the wood.



© Blairlogie Archives
Path through the wood

18. Continue walking until you come to a dry stone wall.

- a. Take the path to the left and follow it round to the new Logie Kirk.
- b. The path goes past the new graveyard of Logie Kirk.
- c. The new Logie Kirk is over the dry stone wall.
- d. The gravestones nearest the new Logie Kirk are the oldest and are well worth a wee look.



© Blairlogie Archives

Logie Kirk



© Blairlogie Archives

Path through the wood

19. When you reach the road turn right and walk to the gate to the church.

- a. The Oak Lych Gate was presented by Lt Colonel Hare and his daughter in 1902. Lt Col Hare resided in Blairlogie Castle from 1892 to 1929 and was a generous landowner.
- b. The word Lych comes from the Saxon word for corpse.
- c. Lych Gates were traditionally used to hold the corpse on a bier and where the minister performed the first part of the burial ceremony prior to entering the Kirk for the rest of the funeral ceremony. It is unlikely that the gate was used for this purpose as the ritual had gone out of fashion by the 1900s.
- d. Have a look at the wording under the roof.
- e. The gate is unlocked and it is worth walking through and looking at the gravestones close to the church.



© Blairlogie Archives

Lych Gate

20. Passing through the Lych Gate you will see the Water Fountain presented by the daughter of Lt Colonel Hare.

- a. This lovely fountain was presented in 1907.
- b. In the 1900s many people would have walked to the kirk for the service and the fountain would have given the congregation a well-earned drink before going in to the service.
- c. Have a read at the appropriate inscription which could not be missed as the worshippers bent down to sup the water.
- d. The church was built in 1805 and extended in 1901.
- e. A visit to the Kirk on a Sunday at 11am when it is open is well worthwhile. The stained glass windows inside the Kirk are worth the effort of an extra visit.



© Blairlogie Archives

Water Fountain

21. After your tour of the graveyard walk back to the road and turn right and head up the road to the Old Logie Kirk.

- a. Logie Parish is one of the earliest Parishes in Scotland the Parish dates from between 1124 and 1153 when King David I of Scotland divided the country into Parishes.
- b. The first Kirk at Logie was dedicated to St. Serf in 1178.
- c. Old Logie Kirk was built between 1560 and 1592 during the time that Alexander Fargy was minister there.
- d. The road up to the Kirk is one of the main roads to Sherrifmuir and the car park for one of the walks to Dumyat.
- e. This road would have been part of the King's Highway and behind the cream building called Garden Cottage at the top of the road is the old highway from Blairlogie.



© Blairlogie Archives
Road to Old Logie Kirk

22. Enter the Old Logie Kirk by the wrought iron gate

- a. The graveyard and kirk have recently been restored and spending a short time reading the information board to the right of the entrance is well worth it.
- b. The wee building just inside the gate is where the tools were kept and when grave robbing was popular, it housed the people who wished to guard their deceased friends or relatives.



© Blairlogie Archives
Entrance to the Old Logie Kirk

23. The Old Kirk and Kirk Yard

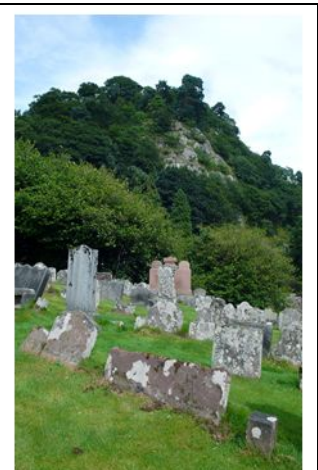
- a. Have a walk round the Kirk Yard and view the gravestones, many of which contain trade signs and old symbols for death.
- b. Old families of Logie were buried here until relatively recently and some of the stones tell the tale of their demise.
- c. This is a lovely peaceful place to have a picnic prior to walking back to the car park and there is a bench to the right of the gate that you entered.



© Blairlogie Archives
Old Logie Kirk and Kirk Yard

24. Look up to the crags which are called Witches Craig.

- a. It is reputed that Witches Craig is where the witches of the 15th century were thrown after having been found guilty of witchcraft.
- b. There are a number of witch stories concerning Witches Craig. The Crags were traditionally the place of heathen rites. One old woman was supposed to bless children by blowing on sickly children to ward off evil.
- c. Another story relates that around 1720 witches were believed to meet the Evil One who appeared as a large black dog.
- d. It is likely that the stories of witchcraft were passed down from Pictish lore.



© Blairlogie Archives
Witches Craig

25. When you leave the gate of the church, turn right and walk up the hill just past Garden Cottage.

- a. Looking right along behind the building you will see the Old Kings Highway. Sadly it is in a rather bad condition as it is not maintained by anyone.
- b. If you would like a longer walk, then one option would be to follow the Old Highway to Bridge of Allan. This walk will give you a better understanding of the walk that the people in the past would have taken.
- c. This walk goes along the rear of Stirling University and you may wish to cut through the University grounds and on to Bridge of Allan. The walk through the grounds of Stirling University is very beautiful.



26. Walk down the road again past the Kirk and down to the Crossroads.

- a. This is the old Crossroads and was used prior to the road alterations and the moving of the road to its new layout.
- b. In the past this crossroads was an important junction and due to its increase in traffic, had to be altered to improve road safety.



27. If you cross over the crossroads you will come to Crossroads Cottages.

- a. In 1871 Alexander Anderson, a shepherd aged 61, was staying in one of the cottages with his 45 year old wife, Elizabeth Anderson.
- b. The 1891 census shows Andrew McKenzie, a joiner aged 32, was living one of the cottages with his wife Eliza, aged 31, and their two daughters, Mary aged 2 and Johanus aged 9 months. The other cottage was occupied by Adam Sorley a gardener aged 50 and David Dickie a joiner aged 49.



28. Retrace your steps to the old crossroads and turn right heading for the new crossroads.

- a. There have been a number of alterations to this relatively new crossroads. The most recent being the construction of the roundabout that can be seen now.
- b. As part of the construction of the roundabout, great ancient oak trees had to be cut down. The trees have been kept and it is now hoped that they will soon form part of an art installation.
- c. At one time the roads leading from the old crossroads were lined with oak trees but sadly many have died or been cut down.



29. Walk along the Hillfoot Road heading for Blairlogie.

- a. The building on the right is called Logie Villa. It is now a cattery but prior to 1872 it was a School paid for by Logie Kirk.
- b. In 1650 the session at Old Logie Kirk applied for permission to build a school at their Kirk.
- c. In 1654 Marioune Thomsoune used Thomas Levingstoune, Schoolmaster at Logie as a witness.
- d. In 1758 William Foggo was appointed as schoolmaster at Logie.



30. As you walk along the pavement, look to the left and you will see an old hen battery.

- a. These were built in the 1970s and may have been a source of eggs for the people staying at Caravan Park.

31. As you get nearer the Chicken coops look closely and you will see an old red telephone box. It is unlikely that it still works.



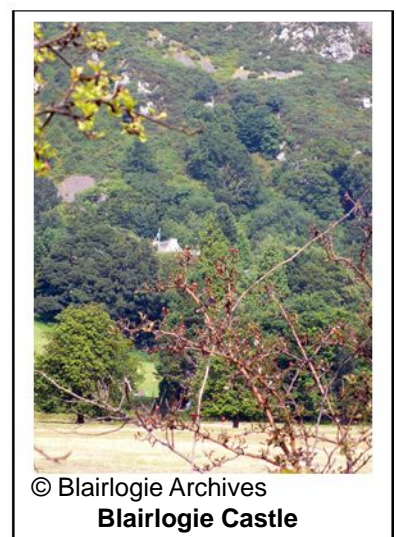
32. As you walk along, look to the right and you will see Blairmains Farm Shop and Coffee Bothy.

- a. This is a great place for a coffee and a scone after you walk.
- b. In the fields next to the Bothy you will often see a variety of different sheep and cows.
- c. If you are lucky you may see some roe deer from the Bothy window or if you walk further down the road. The deer often appear just as the sun is beginning to set, but please walk quietly as they run off at the least sound.



33. After Witches Craig caravan park, look over to your left and sticking up through the trees can be seen Blairlogie Castle.

- a. Blairlogie Castle was originally constructed by Alexander Spittal in 1543 and a wing was added in 1582.
- b. The building is 2 stories in height and the walls are approximately 2 foot 4 inches thick.
- c. The castle passed by marriage from the Spittal family in 1767 to the Dundases of Blair.
- d. In 1891 the castle was sold by Lord Burleigh to Lt Col Hare for £20 000.
- e. The Castle is still in use as a home to this day and a flag is normally flown from the high turret.



34. You can either walk back to the car park, past Blairlogie or you can turn right at the crossroads and walk to the Coffee Bothy for a cup of tea and a banoffee toffee pie.