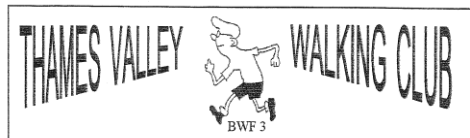


STIRLING HISTORICAL TRAIL (PT262)



- CONTACT:** Peter Tilbury - 116 Wykeham Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1PL
Telephone - 0118 966 6523 E-mail - BTreading@aol.com
- DISTANCE:** 11km
- ENTRY FEE:** £1.00 per walker (Cheques made payable to Thames Valley Walking Club)
- AWARD:** There is currently no award for this walk. (Please indicate on the entry form if you would like an award if one is produced)
- START VENUE:** Stirling Railway Station, Goosecroft Road, Stirling, Stirlingshire, FK8 1PF
(OS Explorer Map 366 GR: NS 798936)
- CAR PARKING:** There are various car parks around the city.
- FACILITIES:** Refreshments are available close to the Station in the city centre. There is also a cafe in the visitors centre at the Wallace Monument.
- TRANSPORT:** Train to the start point or various bus services to Stirling.
- TERRAIN:** A mixture of roads and non-tarmac footpaths (some of which are very uneven) with a couple of steep hills. Not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

(Updated 18th October 2023)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE GREAT CARE ON ALL ROAD SECTIONS OF THIS TRAIL

With your back to the station, turn right on road. After approx. 100m at traffic lights, turn right signposted 'Riverside'. Follow road crossing over railway to reach mini-roundabout. Turn left towards 'Cambuskenneth Abbey 1 mile' & follow road downhill (river briefly appears on right). Continue to follow road ignoring all turnings for approx. 350m. After mini-roundabout, follow road round left hand bend and immediately turn right onto footpath to cross river. At end of bridge go ahead and after approx. 50m, turn right on footpath into Cambuskenneth Park. Follow path round park to reach gate in far right hand corner. Go through metal gate & follow footpath, turning left (passing farm building on right) & onto farm drive towards the Abbey tower. Go ahead to reach information board attached to metal fence on right of gate by the Abbey. (1½ km)

Question 1: In what year was the Abbey burned down by the army of King Richard II?

Retrace your steps for approx. 20m to reach farm track. Turn right through metal gate onto road. Go ahead on road and follow road ignoring all turnings & as you leave the village, you have views of the Wallace Monument on the hill ahead and Stirling Castle to your left (both of which you will be passing later!). Continue to follow road for approx. 1,000m ignoring all turnings to reach the level crossing. Go ahead, crossing railway with care to reach t-junction with main road. Turn right and follow main road, crossing it when it is safe to do so. Continue to follow main road to reach buildings on left (Denis O. Brown). Continue ahead for approx. 30m passing 'School House' & at wooden telegraph pole, turn left through gap in wall onto footpath.

Follow footpath into wood, bearing right uphill. Footpath bears left between rocks to reach footpath junction. Turn left (ignoring path going ahead downhill) & continue to follow footpath as it winds its way uphill ignoring all side turnings. Continue to follow main footpath as it bears right & slightly downhill to reach footpath junction. Go ahead & continue to follow path as it winds its way uphill. Go round left hand hairpin & at footpath split, go ahead on left hand path & continue uphill to reach viewpoint. Continue to follow footpath as it turns right and meanders slightly downhill & then uphill to reach t-junction with tarmac road. Turn left uphill to reach the Wallace Monument. (5½ km)

Question 2: On information board on the left – how long should be allowed for The Abbey Trail?

Go ahead passing in front of the Wallace Monument enjoying the views to your left. After passing the monument, go ahead on footpath downhill with wooden fence on left taking care as the footpath winds its way steeply downhill to reach tarmac road. Turn left on road, go round bend then after approx. 50m bear right onto footpath signposted to the 'Car Park'. Follow footpath downhill to reach the visitors centre.

Go around the visitors centre and through the car park to reach the road. Turn left & follow road downhill for approx. 100m. Immediately after passing 'Abbey Craig Park', turn left by white building through metal bollards & down steps. Go ahead to reach junction with road. Turn left & follow road round right hand bend to reach roundabout. Bear right, then left to cross road with care using traffic islands. Turn right & after approx. 50m, turn left into Dunster Road (note the castle on the hill in front of you). Follow road & at cross roads (3rd turning on right), turn right into Easter Cornton Road. At cross roads, continue ahead to pass 20mph signs & follow road to reach mini-roundabout. (7 km)

Go ahead with fields on right & after approx. 170m & just before Birds & Bees P.H. turn left on footpath through children's play area. At end of play area, go straight ahead & follow road (Chisholm Avenue) to reach t-junction. Turn left & after 25m, turn right on footpath by 20mph sign. Follow footpath over bridge crossing railway to reach road. Turn left & follow road round right hand bend to reach t-junction. Turn left & follow road to reach next t-junction. Turn left (passing bench seats on right) & follow road initially with grass area on right. Take next turning on right (approx. 100m before t-junction) signposted 'Raploch, Station & City Centre'. Follow road towards bridge. (8½ km)

Question 3: What is the name of the last house on the right before the bridge?

Continue ahead onto bridge to cross river. At end of bridge, ignore first turning on left & go ahead for approx. 75m. Just before road junction, turn left on footpath (opposite bakers) to go under road. Continue ahead passing Orchard House Health Centre on left to reach road junction. Bear left & after approx. 30m just before mini-roundabout, turn right onto 'Public Path' at Gowan Hill' (signposted 'Back O'Hill Road / Mote Hill'). Follow track uphill, round left hand bend & after approx. 10m turn right & immediately right again on Public Path signposted 'Back O'Hill Road & Mote Hill'. Follow footpath uphill towards cannons & at path t-junction, turn right & continue uphill to reach the cannons and 'The Beheading Stone'. The view to the north is of the Highlands, to the east is the Wallace Monument, to the south is the city of Stirling & to the west is Stirling Castle. (9 km)

Question 4: On the sign to the left of the 'Beheading Stone' – in what year did an Act of Parliament bring the railway to Stirling?

Retrace your steps down the tarmac footpath and at path junction, turn right downhill to reach signpost at path junction. Go straight ahead on Public Path towards 'Ballengeich Road ¼'. Follow footpath uphill & at next path junction turn right. At road, go straight ahead onto Public Path signposted 'Stirling Castle & Corn Exchange Road'. [If footpath is closed – see ** below]. Follow footpath as it follows the side of the hill to reach path t-junction by cemetery. Turn left & go ahead on footpath between metal fences & up flight of steps to reach car park in front of Stirling Castle. Go ahead across car park to statue. (10 km)

[** If footpath is closed – turn left on road & follow uphill **WITH GREAT CARE**. Go round left hand bend & continue to follow road with castle on right. Just before road junction (at end of parking zone on right), turn right on footpath uphill. Go up steps & turn right, then immediately right again towards castle. Bear right to the statue]

Question 5: On the back of the statue - what was used to erect the statue?

With your back to the castle, bear right & go ahead through the car park (heading towards Portcullis PH). Go ahead down steps to road. Turn right on road & follow downhill. At road junction, bear left into Broad St & continue to follow road downhill towards ‘City Centre’. At next t-junction (with Darnley Coffee House opposite) turn right (Bow Street) & follow road downhill to reach pedestrian zone sign by signpost. Turn left by No 2 Baker Street P.H. towards ‘Bus & Railway Stations’. Go through pedestrian area to reach junction with road. Turn right towards ‘City Centre and Bus & Train Stations’. After approx. 100m, turn left to return to Stirling Station. (11km)

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To claim your IVV stamp, please use the ‘Permanent Trail Completion & IVV Stamp Claim Form’ which is downloadable from the BWF website and send with your record books to the walk contact.