One of the two viewing platforms next to the river Ericht looks down to the famous ‘Cargill’s Leap’.

From here the Old Mill Road runs along side the Balmoral Road, and the bridge across the Ericht. The path leads to a track known as the ‘Weasel Route’.

The Cateran Trail follows a farm track past the Knockie, leading to views of the Lorn Valley and the hills beyond. The Knockie is actually the last (or first) foothill of the Crampains. Stop for a rest to view the Sidlaws, before heading back downhill. You can pick up the Ardblair Trail or continue down to Blairgowrie via Newton Street.

The Ardblair Trail

Distance: 3 miles/5 km
Approx time: 1½ hours
Start fin ish: Wel meadow, Blairgo wrie
Terr ain: Gentle gradients and level paths make this route suitable for wheelchair users. The route from Myreside Farm to Ardblair Wood is suitable for horse riders and walkers.

The Ardblair Trail is a short route, passing castles, and goes through mixed countryside and ancient woodland. The route leaves the town along the Gallowbank, aptly named as this is where executions used to take place (Gaula is Scots for gallow). Nearby is Newton Castle, an ancient fortified farmhouse, once the stronghold of the Drummond Clan but now the home of Sir William Macpherson. Chief of the Clan Macpherson. At Myreside Farm you will find an interesting collection of 18th century farm buildings.

The path leads to a track known as the ‘Wesale Road’. Not far from this point is Ardbald Castle, belonging to the Blair-Offord family, which dates back to 1115. Legend has it that in the 18th century two Drummond men, father and son from Newton Castle, were ambushed and murdered by the Blairs. This did not bode well for Lady Jean Drummond who was in love with a Blair. Heartbroken, Lady Jean wandered out into the mountains, and never returned. Her ghost, dressed in green silk, now divides her time between the two castles.

The Knockie Path

Distance: 3 miles/5 km
Approx time: 1½ hours
Start point: Riverside Car Park
Terr ain: Level path by the river, with steps beside the Cullie Burn and a climb to the summit of the Knockie.

Drimmie Wood

Distance: 4 miles/6.5 km
Approx time: 2½ hours
Start point: Car park at Drimmie Wood
Terr ain: Most of the route is on good tracks with gentle gradients. Suitable for walking, mountain biking and horse riding.

North Wood, Meikleour

Terrain: Even ground with good tracks suitable for walking, mountain biking and horse riding.

The path goes through farmland with sheep and cattle and much of it is on unsurfaced paths through open countryside. Access for mountain bikes and horses is therefore limited. Blackcairn Forest at Bridge of Cally offers very good access for horses as mountain bikes all year round.

The route will take you through some stunning countryside, passing through Strathblane, Glenknock and Glenisla.

www.caterantrail.org

North Wood, Meikleour

Terrain: Even ground with good tracks suitable for walking, mountain biking and horse riding.

The path leads to a track known as the ‘Weasel Route’.

The path is only suitable for walkers.

The path loops back up another drove road to regain the original route through Drimmie Wood.

SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

Know the Code before you go...

Everyday the right to be on 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

For information about other paths visit www.pkc.gov.uk/paths

For ideas on what to do in Perthshire visit www.perthshirebigtreecountry.co.uk

To check the weather forecast visit www.bbc.co.uk

www.pkc.gov.uk

PKC Design Team - 2013835

Explore Blairgowrie Path Network

Perth & Kinross Council and several private landowners own and manage the Blairgowrie Path Network. Perth and Blairgowrie is one of the six cluster areas included in the Perthshire Big Tree Country Heritage and Access project, celebrating the amazing woodland heritage in the area, and co-ordinated by Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust.

Big Tree Country sites in this cluster area:

- Scone Palace
- Almondbank Memorial, Scone Old Church
- Moncrieffe Hill Wood
- Aitken Arboretum
- Den o’ Alyth
- David Douglas Memorial, Scone Old Church
- Monarch’s Way
- Meikleour Beech Hedge
- Queen Elizabeth Park
- Scone Palace

www.perthshirebigtreecountry.co.uk

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The ‘Knockie’ Drimmie Wood Path

River Erich Path
Distance: 8 miles/13 km
Approx time: 4-4½ hours
Start/finish: The Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie
Terrain: The start and finish of the route is on minor roads so please take care. The off-road sections follow a field edge and flood banks with gentle gradients; stout footwear is recommended. Due to soft ground conditions the route is only suitable for walkers.

Welton Road - Blairgowrie Railway Station stood near here. Many local people remember the ‘raspberry specials’ from the 1950s, bearing their sweet cargoes all the way to London’s Covent Garden. The way-marked trail takes you through a mixed landscape with huge barley, wheat and strawberry fields.

Stormont Loch
Terrain: Even ground with good tracks suitable for walking, mountain biking and horse riding.

Stormont Loch is well worth a visit, there are good tracks around the loch and through the adjacent woodland. The loch is a very important area for over wintering wildfowl. Tufted ducks and great crested grebes nest next here.

Other Popular Paths

The majority of the paths shown in grey are through open farmland so please adhere to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

River Crossing - Kitty Swanson operated a ferry crossing here for many years in the late 1800s and lived in a cottage nearby. From Kitty Swanson’s bridge on the south side of the river, the route is more open. To the south west you can get excellent views of the Sidlaws. Kinpurney Tower, above Newtyle, was built as an observatory in 1774. The route back takes you past several old mills.

Ashgrove Road leads back towards Rattray. Then onto Davie Park, gifted to the people of Blairgowrie and Rattray by local business man William Davie and his sister Mrs Nicoll in 1892.

Blairgowrie Further Information
Situated on the south facing slopes of the last foothills of the Grampians, the separate towns of Blairgowrie and Rattray were joined in 1928 by an Act of Parliament.

They are separated by the River Erich, which has its sources in two of the loveliest glens in Scotland, both being natural passes to the north from Strathmore - Strathardle and Glenshee, the Glen of the Fairies.

By the end of the 18th century the Blairgowrie area was a huge centre for the growing of flax. Initially the linen weaving industry was home-based but the first industrial mill was erected in 1798. Others followed in the 19th century. In 1855 the railway arrived as a branch line from Coupar Angus.

Making the most of your visit
Even in summer the weather can change quickly, so always take appropriate clothing. The paths can be muddy in places so sensible shoes or walking boots are recommended. Take a snack or drink along with you - it’s always a good excuse to stop and enjoy the view. The Blairgowrie Path Network has been set up with the support of local landowners and farmers. Please remember that they make their living from the land so please don’t damage crops, disturb livestock and do adhere to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

River Bright Path
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