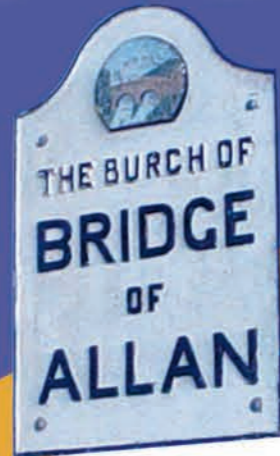




Bridge of Allan



Useful Information

Weekly led walks

Active Stirling - 0300 028 010
www.activestirling.org.uk

Services

Traveline Scotland - 0871 200 22 33
Scotland-wide public transport information
www.travelinescotland.com

Stirling Tourist Information Centre - 01786 475019
www.visitscotland.com

Bridge of Allan Library - 01786 833680

Bridge of Allan Health Centre - 01786 833210
www.bridgeofallanhc.co.uk

Map

OS Landranger sheet 57.

Community

Bridge of Allan Events
www.bofaevents.btck.co.uk

Bridge of Allan Times
Community magazine in shops and hotels
www.bofatimes.co.uk

Community Council
www.ccbridgeofallan.org.uk

Community Action Plan
www.bofaplan.com



Walk your way to health

- The greatest increase in **health benefit** comes to inactive people who start to take regular **moderate physical activity**, such as brisk walking, cycling, dancing, swimming or gardening.
- Physical inactivity is one of the most common **risk factors** for **heart disease** in the UK. People who are active have a better quality of life and a greater chance of **living longer**.
- Walking can therefore play a **positive role** in creating a healthier lifestyle overall.

Walk your way to health

What are the benefits of being active?

- Regular physical activity can lead to a **stronger, healthier heart**, which can help protect against heart disease, stroke and some cancers.
- Regular walking can **reduce** your risk of diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and osteoporosis.
- Walking can **increase** confidence, improve stamina and boost energy levels.
- Can also help **weight control** and promote a more positive frame of mind.
- Walking requires **no specialist equipment** or expense and is the most accessible way for people from all walks of life to become **more active**.



Healthy Living Enjoy your Walk

Acknowledgments

The 2012 edition was funded by a Stirling Council Community Pride Grant to Bridge of Allan Community Council. Partners for the original edition were: Bridge of Allan Merchants Association, Scottish Natural Heritage and Stirling Council.

If you have any comments or suggestions please contact:
Bridge of Allan Action Plan
Email: paths@bofaplan.com
or **Stirling Council**
Tel: 0845 277 7000
Email: info@stirling.gov.uk

Your comments can also be logged by visiting the on-line customer survey on www.greenstat.org.uk



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most 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.

Visit outdooraccess-scotland.com or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



Available in large print, braille, on tape or translated text. Contact 0845 277 7000

إذا تالقي صعوبة بفهم اللغة الإنكليزية وتود الترجمة، رجاء اتصل بالمجلس البلدي على الرقم 0845 277 7000 حيث يمكن أن نرتب هذا لك.

如果你看不懂英文，而又希望取得中文翻译版本的话，请致电 0845 277 7000 与地方议会联络，我们会为你作出有安排。

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਸਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਫ਼ਿਰਮਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕੋਲਲ ਨਾਲ 0845 277 7000 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਇਸਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

اگر بی زبان سمجھ سکتے ہیں اگر آپ کو مشکل چل آتی ہے اور اگر آپ کو ترجمہ ضرورت ہو تو براہ مہربانی کالوں سے ذمہ نبر 0845 277-7000 پر رابطہ کیجئے۔ آپ کے لئے اور دوسرے کے انتظام کیا جائے گا۔



Designed by Stirling Design & Print. Tel: 01786 449899. 5979
2012 update by HARVEY Map Services Ltd. www.harveymaps.co.uk

Bridge of Allan



Community Paths

Bridge of Allan



1 Abbey Craig and Wallace Monument

via Stirling University

(8 km / 5 miles)

A route through the grounds of the University to this historic landmark.

From Fountain Road, turn right, then take the first turning left, just before the St Saviour's Church along Keir Street. Follow the road around the back of the Pullar Memorial Gardens. These gardens were created by Edmund Pullar, Provost of Bridge of Allan 1870-1873 and member of the family who owned the bleach and dyeworks at Keirfield (see Little Carse route).

Turn right into Henderson Street and continue for half a mile. At the roundabout turn left up the hill and into The University of Stirling campus.



The University stands on the site of the former Airthrey Estate. Continue up the hill, crossing over a couple of smaller side roads, until you reach Airthrey Loch. Turn left to walk around the loch, home to many water birds such as swans, mallards and tufted ducks.

The Castle, which you'll see as you walk around the loch, was built in 1791 for Robert Haldane to a design by the famous Scottish architect Robert Adam.

Continue around the loch until you reach a small path near some benches leading up to "The Causeway" and left on to East Link Road. Follow this through the Innovation Park and out on to the Hillfoots Road with the Abbey Craig woodland and Wallace Monument ahead of you.

To visit the Wallace Monument and Abbey Craig turn right, cross the road and take the entrance after the new houses. Follow the road round to the Visitor Centre and gift shop at the foot of the hill.

Take the single track road uphill. When you get to the sharp bend why not go through the woods - there are lots of birds and beautiful wildflowers including carpets of bluebells, scented wild garlic and honeysuckle and tall purple and white foxgloves, depending on the time of year

The University was opened in 1967 - only 350 years after King James VI had told of his desire for a 'free university' in Stirling.

you visit. Look for the fantastic views over the river valley to Stirling and the Castle.

Millstones

Most millstones used to come from France, so while Britain was at war with France an alternative source was needed. The stone from Abbey Craig had a very rough surface when it was broken and was thought to be equal in quality to the French stone.

To complete the route descend to the car park and head out to the road and turn left, continue down the hill. When you get to the sharp bend take the road to the right, which is actually the continuation of the Hillfoots Road (signed as a no through road) follow this and return to Henderson Street and head back to Bridge of Allan.



2 Blairlogie

(4.5 km / 3 miles)

A pleasant linear route to the historic village of Blairlogie past the ancient Logie Kirk, with the option of a loop through Hermitage Wood. This walk has some steep slopes and loose surfacing.

Starting from Fountain Road turn left to cross Henderson Street at a safe point. Take Well Road up past the Provost's Park and follow the road as it curves round to the right, then take Kenilworth Road, the first on your right.

Many of the large houses you pass were built in the late 1800's when the town had begun to boom as a spa town.



Carry on along Kenilworth Road until you reach Wellgate Drive on your left. Head up Wellgate Drive and take the small path on the right leading through to Pathfoot Drive. Pathfoot was once a small village of shoe-makers.

Cross over to Logie Lane and continue over the bridge and round the front of Blawlowan. This, the last surviving house of Pathfoot, was an Inn and tannery in the 18th Century. Drovers passed down the main route of Sherrifmuir Road on their way to the Falkirk Tryst (Cattle Market).

Take care crossing the Sherrifmuir Road, then continue along the track, known as 'Back of the Dyke', around the back of the University.

From this point there are 2 options:

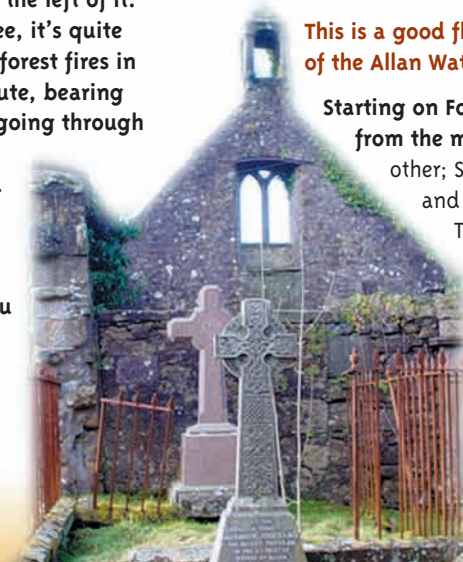
1. Go up the wooden steps on your left and take a loop up through Hermitage woods. (40 mins).

Turn left at the top of the steps and follow the path up the hill, don't go through the wall but bear right. Look out for a Wellingtonia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) at a fork in the path; go to the left of it. On your way past hit the bark of the tree, it's quite soft, giving it some protection against forest fires in its native North America. Follow this route, bearing left when there's an option, but never going through the wall, until the path drops back down to join the Back of the Dyke road.

or:

2. You can continue along the slightly muddy 'Back of the Dyke' road until you reach the metalled road.

When you reach the metalled road, branch right and walk down past Logie Kirk and the old Cemetery. Old Logie Kirk was built around 1400 and dedicated to St Serf.



In the cemetery you can see the graves of Dr Paterson, local doctor and internationally distinguished botanist and horticulturist (the clock in Henderson Street is a memorial to him) and the Henderson family, former owners of Airthrey Castle.

Above you to the north is the Witches Craig where 'The Witches of Logie' were reputed to meet the De'il on Carlie Crag (Carlie or Carlin being old Scots words for witch). Go along the road past the new Logie Kirk and down towards the main road. Take the small path to the left and carry on into Blairlogie.

In the early part of the 19th Century the village gained a reputation as a health resort. The oldest building is "The Blair" formerly known as Blairlogie Castle, a private residence built in the 16th Century for Alexander Spittal a Stirling merchant. To return, either retrace the route you've just covered or take public transport.

3 Cornton

(4.8 km / 3 miles)

This is a good flat route to the City of Stirling, with views of the Allan Water and the River Forth.

Starting on Fountain Road turn right, heading away from the main street. Pass two churches facing each other; St Saviour's Episcopal Church built in 1857 and Bridge of Allan Parish Church built in 1858. These churches were built to accommodate the number of tourists flocking to Bridge of Allan at that time. The Parish Church is open to visitors during the summer months and St Saviour's every day throughout the year. The chancel furniture of the Parish Church was designed by famous Scottish architect Charles Rennie Macintosh.



Follow Fountain Road to the Fountain the road is named after - this used to be Market Street.

The Fountain of Ninevah was erected by Major Henderson to commemorate important archeological discoveries made in Assyria (Turkey) in the 1840's. Go straight ahead at the roundabout. Further along on the right before the fire station you'll see a sign indicating the start of Centenary Walk. The path leads along to the riverside and to Centenary Park. If you look carefully you may see the brilliant blue flash as a kingfisher darts along the river but watch out for Giant Hogweed. This beautiful, very tall, plant has sap that can blister your skin.

Follow the river downstream until a path leads you back around the edge of the playing fields to Cornton Road. Turn right and be sure to check the lights when you get to the level crossing. You are now in Cornton. To continue into Stirling, continue along Cornton Road, bear right before the traffic lights, into Bridgehaugh Road and cross the old bridge into Stirling.

This bridge was probably built near the end of the 16th Century and was the only bridge into Stirling until its replacement was built 1831-1833. At the other side of the bridge, take the underpass to the Clocktower. You can turn left into Stirling centre, go ahead to the old town and castle or right to the Raploch and River Forth.

Bridge of Allan



4 Darn Road (4.5 km / 2.5 miles)

A ramble along the beautiful banks of the Allan Water to Stevenson's Cave and returning along the far bank. There is an option to continue along the Darn Road to Dunblane (see Dunblane Walks Leaflet).

Go up Fountain Road and on to Henderson Street, turn left and use the crossing to get safely to the other side, carry on in the same direction. As you pass the Allan Water Café you'll notice a plaque on the wall - there are nine of these along Henderson Street pointing out interesting features of this old spa town. Looking up to the path that leads behind the building you can see a standing stone, this is a tollbar stone, it used to stand at the south end of the old bridge and was used to control access to it.

Take Blairforkie Drive up to the right, the new flats on the left are on the site of an old paper mill. At one time there were 10 mills along the Allan Water between Bridge of Allan and Dunblane including paper mills, meal mills and sawmills.

A little further along take the path signed Dunblane 2 miles. Further along this path a small wooden bridge at the bottom of the fields takes you across the mouth of an old exploratory mine shaft.

The fields above are known as Fishers Green. A resident's mother could remember fishing nets (presumably for salmon) being hung out there to dry.

Take the path down to the stream and cross over the small bridge - the bridge is made from recycled plastic that should withstand the dampness of this shady gully better than wood.

The trees on the far side form a beautiful mature woodland, carpeted with bluebells and other wildflowers.

Further along the path over some bedrock there's a cave on your right. This is 'Stevensons cave' and is said to have been where Robert Louis Stevenson was inspired to write 'Treasure Island'. It's a peaceful scene, look for the white breasted dipper bobbing in and out of the water to feed.

At this point you can continue to Dunblane, stay on this side of the river and go a little further until you see a fingerpost by the next bridge - see the Dunblane Community Paths leaflet for further information.

Cross over the pipe bridge - this was converted into a bridge to stop people trying to walk across the pipe! Turn left downstream, then follow the waymarker up the hill and over the railway bridge, then bear left.

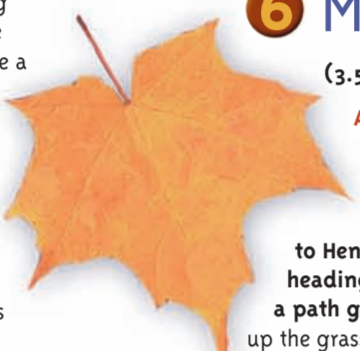
Milsey Bank House was once a bank for all the mills on the river and the path you've just followed was part of the main track to them all. Milsey Bank then became the Girls school with the Boys school being the large building on your left when you reach the main road. Once you're down here turn left and follow the road back into town.

5 Little Carse Route (4.5 km / 2.5 miles)

A route through some beautiful carse land returning through the old village of Kierfield, by the old dyeworks and workers houses.

From Fountain Road car park, head left up to Henderson Street and turn left again. Go past the shops and towards the bridge. The old bridge was at a different angle from today's and if you look down into the water you can make out the bottoms of the old supports. The first recorded bridge was built in 1520. The present bridge was built between 1957 and 1960 in 2 parts so traffic could continue to cross.

Cross straight over the Bridge and carry on up the hill to just before Lecropt Kirk. Take the road that goes off to your left and then the next left before the road goes under the motorway. Go straight along this section of road and on to the field, you are now down on the carseland (flat river side plain), follow the edge of the field around to your left and along the edge of the factory.



6 Mine Woods (3.5 km / 2 miles)

A slightly strenuous route passing the old Coppermine and the pump house for the spa that made Bridge of Allan so popular.

From the Fountain Road car park, turn left up to Henderson Street and left again then crossing and heading up Well Road. Near the sign for Alexander Drive a path goes off to the left, take this. A little way up here up the grassy slope on the right is a stone broken in 3, this was a coffin stone and would have been used to rest the coffins on as they were carried to the Kirk. The mound behind the coffin stone is an old ice house. These were used like our fridges are now. Ice would be cut from local ponds as they froze in the winter, it would then be stored in these buildings dug deep into the ground, stone lined and piled high with earth to keep them as cool and shady as possible. There is a gate on the northern side of it, take care if you're going to go up and look.

Carry on up the path and bear right when you get to the wall. Cross Sunnyslaw Road when you get to the far edge of the grass. Over the brow of the small hill in front of you, you can see the top of Wolf's Hole quarry cliffs. Take the path left and then right in to the bottom of the quarry. Around 390 million years ago this was part of the floor of a valley. This valley filled in with deposited sand over millions of years eventually resulting in the Old Red Sandstone which can now be seen here. The stone taken from this quarry was used for building houses in Bridge of Allan.

Continue out of the far end of the quarry up the slope. This is a popular area for off-road cycling so please be aware of bikes. A path goes off ahead of you, follow this and bear slightly left taking you uphill to the edge of the golf course, then turn right following the line of the wall. Cross through the broken down section of wall. Follow it left, up the hill then turn right into the small conifer plantation. Mine woods is an area rich in wildlife, there have been trees on the site for many years and a rich herb understorey means plenty of habitats for invertebrates and so plenty of feeding for small birds.

As the path leaves the edge of the golf course and continues across the hill, you'll cross the bottom of a mound of stones and gravel. This is one of the spoil heaps from one of the mines in the woods. If you look carefully you can see small bits of green oxidised copper left behind after the mining.

According to local tradition the mines were first worked in the 1500's and sporadically until the last smelter was dismantled in 1807.

Carry on across the hill until you reach Pendreich Road. You now have the option of exploring a short spur through charming woodland to the car park at Drumbrae. Otherwise, turn sharply back to your right. This leads you back down past the main entrance to the Coppermine.

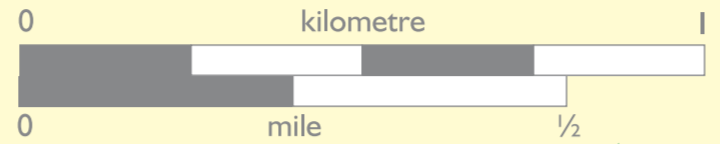
Follow this path until you're almost on the road, then turn left along the path at the bottom of the woods. When you get to the end, take the steps to your right and cross over into Mine Road.

As you continue down there is a small building to your right, this is the old pump house for the spa waters and the large building behind it was the Allan Water Hotel.

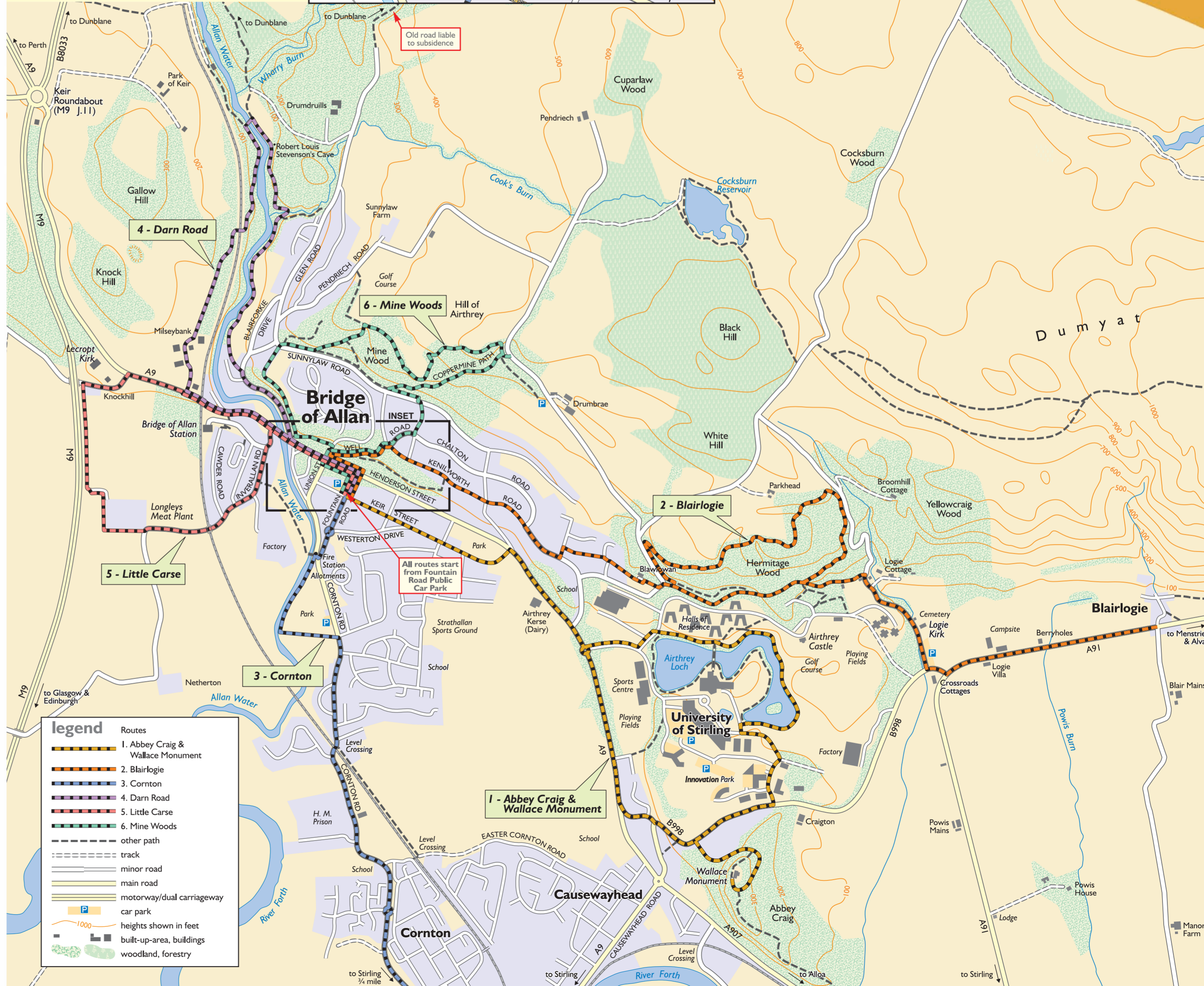
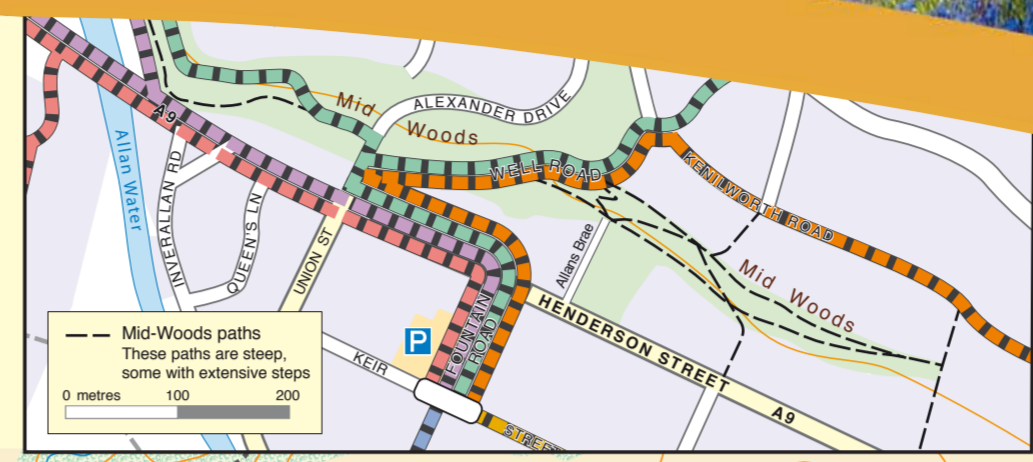
Bridge of Allan expanded greatly in the 1800's when its popularity as a spa town grew and wealthy people flocked to take the health giving waters.

Continue down Well Road and back to the Car Park.

Bridge of Allan



Based on 1901-1948 Ordnance Survey material supplied by the National Library of Scotland. Surveyed and drawn by Stirling Surveys May 2003. Minor revisions July 2006.



Legend

Routes	
	1. Abbey Craig & Wallace Monument
	2. Blairlogie
	3. Cornton
	4. Darn Road
	5. Little Carse
	6. Mine Woods
	other path
	track
	minor road
	main road
	motorway/dual carriageway
	car park
	heights shown in feet
	built-up-area, buildings
	woodland, forestry