



Inside the cathedral



Dunblane community gardens

About us

Strathallan Community Rail Partnership consists of representatives from local community groups which aims to link local railways with countryside and the communities it serves. It works with local organisations and businesses to maximise potential benefits for the local communities.

The Ramblers are a UK wide organisation with over 100,000 members which exists to promote the interests of ramblers at all levels of government and to encourage and promote walking. It works continuously on issues of importance to walkers and speaks for walkers when new legislation is being considered by both Scottish and UK Parliaments. Through its groups, it offers an extensive range of public walks with Stirling, Falkirk and District Group providing regular Sunday walks and other groups within 20 miles of Stirling providing an extensive programme of mid week walks and Saturday walks, which are available to all members. In Scotland there are 54 groups providing 3,500 walks a year.

Getting there

There are train and bus options to the start of the walk. <https://www.travelinescotland.com>
There is also car parking available in Dunblane, parking areas are signposted.

Route profile



Acknowledgements

Photographs by Hilary Thomson. Route developed by kind permission Colin Thomson.



Stirling, Falkirk
& District Group



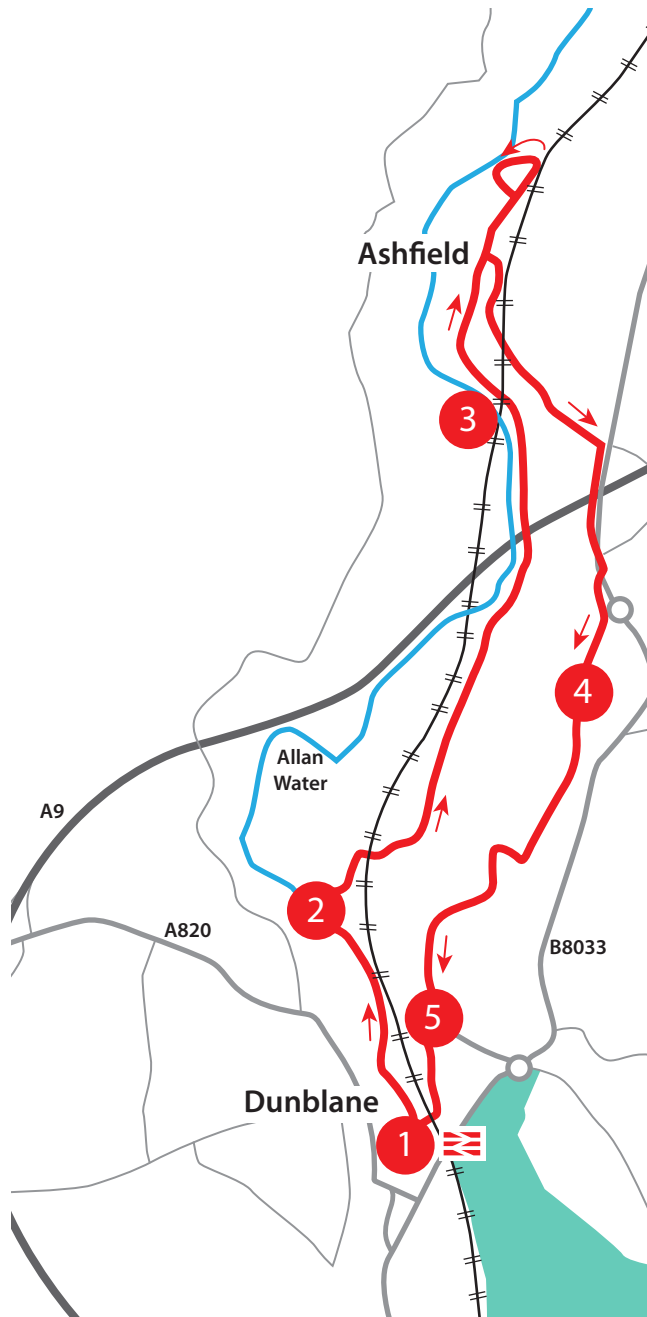
Dunblane to Ashfield riverside walk

STRATHALLAN COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP
LINKING COUNTRYSIDE AND COMMUNITY



A scenic and straightforward
riverside walk linking Dunblane
with the pretty village of Ashfield

A scenic and straightforward riverside walk linking Dunblane, with its attractive Cathedral with the pretty village of Ashfield.



**Starts and ends at
Dunblane Railway Station**

Difficulty Leisurely

Walking time 1 hour - 1hr 30 minutes

Length 4.25km / 2.75miles

Route instructions

- 1** Leave the station at Platform 1, turn left and, after crossing the bridge over the Allan Water, turn left into Mill Row opposite the Riverside and then take the footpath that runs along the side of the Allan Water. Keep to the riverside path which eventually joins a roadway which goes under the railway bridge. Walk along the road, keeping the river to the left, passing community gardens on the right, shortly before reaching Laighills Public Park. Keep a look out on the river for dippers (small robin sized birds with white breasts). There are facilities for children's play in the park.
- 2** Immediately upon reaching the park, climb the footpath that goes right. This leads to a footbridge over the railway. Cross the bridge then take the paths that are closest to the railway on the left. This leads to the edge of a housing estate. Keep on the path which leads to a woodland path which goes under the A9 road to reach open countryside. Keep following the path by the side of the water.
- 3** Go through the small tunnel under the railway then keep to the path that runs alongside the railway fence on the right, which passes by a footbridge over the railway just before reaching Ashfield. Have a look around the pretty village before returning to cross the footbridge. The path soon forks: take the left hand path that leads to a road. Turn right along the pavement, crossing over the A9. Soon after passing a junction on the left, take the steps

that descend from the road. The path then leads to a large roundabout. Keep to the right of this, crossing the road that joins it from the right then taking the path that leads directly ahead with a cemetery wall on the right and housing on the left.

- 4** At the end of the cemetery wall cross the road to a track straight ahead. This track passes gardens on the left and reaches a T junction: turn right, soon reaching a boardwalk. 200m further take the paved lane to the left. This eventually becomes a road which reaches a T junction. Turn right. The street is Ramoyle which leads to Braeport and then down a steep hill to Dunblane Cathedral.
- 5** Take time to explore the Cathedral (if open) and the Museum which overlooks it. Go down past the Museum to a roundabout. Next to this is a gold postbox, to commemorate the gold medal won at the London Olympics 2012 by local hero Andy Murray. Go past this down the High Street. Turn right at the bottom to return to the railway station.

The lower half of the cathedral tower is pre-Romanesque from the 11th century, and originally free-standing, with an upper part added in the 15th century (the change in masonry is very obvious). Most of the rest of the building is Gothic, from the 13th century. The building was restored from 1889–93. The Cathedral was once the seat of the bishops of Dunblane until the abolition of bishops after the Scottish Reformation. There are remains of the vaults of the episcopal palace to the south of the cathedral. Technically, it is no longer a cathedral, as there are no bishops in the Church of Scotland, which is a Presbyterian denomination. Dunblane Museum houses a collection of artefacts, paintings, prints and photographs about the Cathedral.