

Valleyfield Woodlands and Culross

Start / finish: Culross **Distance:** 9 miles / 14.5 km **Ascent:** 490 feet / 150 m

From the Culross West car park, head east on the coastal path alongside the Forth. This surfaced path hugs the coastline behind the village. After crossing a level crossing, a path junction is reached.

To include a loop around the reclaimed land of Preston Island go right at the junction. There is path around the outside of the Longanet ash lagoons, with views across the Forth. When the path starts to go inland the site of 19th century salt pans is reached. Beyond the salt pans the path brings the walker back to the railway line and into woodland. A footbridge over the railway is soon reached.

Cross over the railway bridge to reach a car park on the opposite side. From the east end of the car park there is a path that can be used to reach the public road. Turn right on to the pavement for a short distance to reach the road junction. Cross the road to the northern side.

Enter Valleyfield Woods on the path at the information board and follow the path above the river under the A985 road bridge. The path continues on the other side of the bridge now at river level. Stay on this side of the river until after an obvious junction with a core path sign (purple arrow). Bear right at this junction to stay close to the river and cross over at a bridge. The path continues on the opposite bank of the river until a further junction is reached. Turn left to cross back over the river on a stone bridge. The path now goes up hill slightly and the previous core path rejoins from the left. The path now crosses open ground as it heads south to the main road and an underpass.

After the underpass keep to the path until a path on the right into a housing estate is reached. Take this path through the houses to reach the B9037 road. Cross over the road and on the opposite side is another path.

This next path is a pleasant walk in a westerly direction with open stretches giving views over the Forth. At the end of the path is a quiet road. Follow the road and turn left at a junction walking south. A further junction is reached after 120m.

To continue with the West Kirk circuit go right at this junction still on a quiet road. When this road turns sharply left, an unsurfaced track continues straight ahead. Follow this track to reach the remains of the West Kirk. After the church the path continues onwards but can be quite muddy after heavy rain. After passing through farmland more woodland is reached. Look out for the information board regarding the plague grave in these woods. 1.2km after the church the path reaches a farm access track.

Turn left onto this track and walk downhill towards the Forth passing Blair Mains Farm. At Blair Castle keep left on the access drive and then keep right to walk out to the public road. Cross over the road and go through the gate opposite to reach the coastal path / cycle track. Follow this back into Culross.

