

Xpert Xplorer

ROUTE - 2.3 mile / 3.66km
(approx. 50 minutes at an average walking pace)

From the Community Centre car park cross the road and follow the main road past Bruce Memorial Church. Take your first left into Murray Place and then your first right along Thomson Place. Continue along the path past the primary school until you reach Quarry Road.

Here you can decide to visit Gillies Hill. For this trail go down Quarry Road to Touch Road. Cross the road and turn right back towards the village.

A little further along Touch Road turn left down the steps into the park. This is a narrow path which leads you to the edge of playing fields within the park. Continue along the edge of the playing fields to the bridge at the northern entrance to the park at Mill Park Road. Cross the road and follow the road past Hayford Mills and round to the right along a farm track.

Turn left at North End and cross over the M9 footbridge. At the top of the slope, turn right along Douglas Terrace to Birkhill Road. Turn right and follow this route back to the village, cross over the motorway bridge and keep to the right hand side where you will come to the George Smith Path opposite the park. Turn right down this path to Bruce's Well. Cross the small bridge to the memorial and panel.

Go up the steps and join the main street again. Turn left and cross the road to King George Park.

Go through the stone entrance gate and past the memorial well. Stay to the right and at the top of the slope turn right again back to the Community Centre car park.



This leaflet is intended to help you explore Stirling Heritage Trails and enjoy Stirling as a "Walkable City".

The trails on the map allow you to enjoy and plan circular routes. The pink core paths are additional routes to enjoy the area.

Visit travelinescotland.com to help you plan your journey to, in and around Stirling.



txt 84268

www.traveline.info

0871 200 22 33
calls from landlines cost 10p per minute

Visit walkit.com to help you plan your way around Stirling on foot.

Remember to follow the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code** while exploring the Stirling Heritage Trails.

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.



KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO
outdooraccess-scotland.com

This leaflet is one of many produced in partnership with Stirling's communities to help you explore the rich and varied heritage of our wonderful city. You'll find them at www.stirlingheritagetrails.co.uk

For led walks in the area see the Stirling Walking Network at www.activestirling.org.uk

Cambusbarron Heritage Trail

Xplore Stirling

HERITAGE TRAILS

www.stirlingheritagetrails.co.uk



Welcome to the Cambusbarron Heritage Trail

Along with this leaflet, there are leaflets on Gillies Hill to help you explore Cambusbarron and its surrounding areas.

Gillies Hill

To the west of the village you will find Gillies Hill. Its name comes from the Gaelic word "ghillies" and refers to the servants, cooks, blacksmiths, armourers and other trades necessary to accompany an army. The army was that of Robert the Bruce, who is said to have hid his ghillies in this area during the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Poet John Barbour, writing a century after battle, tells us that Bruce:

Syne all the small folk and vital
He sent with harnes and victual
Into the park, well far him fara,
And fra the battles gart them ga:
They held their way to a valley
Out of the fight of the battaley

Barbour goes on to suggest that the Sma' Folk played a key role in the latter stages of the battle.

Sensing a Scottish victory, they advanced towards the battle field to watch the closing stages and secure the spoils of war. The English, however, perceived them to be a reserve force, sent in to reinforce Bruce. Already demoralised, this is said to be the moment many of the English realised the fight was lost and fled the battlefield.



1| Gillies Hill from North Third Road, © K Ratcliffe

2| Bruce Memorial Church

www.stirlingheritagetrails.co.uk

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The Bonnety Tree

The Bonnety Tree is an ancient Scots Pine tree which, till the early 1960s, grew on a cliff face on Gillies Hill. For centuries Cambusbarron folklore maintained that the Sma' Folk left their hats on its branches before descending onto the battlefield.

Iron Age Forts

On Gillies Hill you will find two Iron Age forts. Wallstale Dun is still loosely identifiable on the slopes above Wallstale Farm and was a favourite picnic spot for Victorian locals. The other is Gillies Hill Fort and is now mostly underground at Touchadam Craig on the hill's western cliffs. There you will find superb views over North Third, Touch Hills and the carse.

Bruce's Well

On the eve of the Battle of Bannockburn, King Robert the Bruce is said to have taken sacrament at the site of Cambusbarron Chapel. He also drank from the chapel well, which was reputed to bring health and good fortune.

The Abbot of Inchaffray accompanied Bruce and took holy water away with him to bless the Scottish army before the battle, sprinkling it onto the battlefield. Because of that great victory, it became known as Bruce's Well.

Ironically, in Victorian times, the Well may have become a source of disease within the village. In 1870, a local doctor, Dr Moodie claimed that 116 cases of fever and 52 deaths in 15 months were down to poor sanitation within Cambusbarron. The streets had open sewer channels which converged into the nearby burn. It was not until the 1930s that



Cambusbarron had proper water and sewage pipes installed. However, as late as 1937, two siblings, aged seven and five, died within weeks of each other, of diphtheria.

The chapel would have had a cemetery. In the 1860s, the Cullen family took over the house immediately above the well and excavated a new cellar to store meat for their butcher's shop. Six skeletons all over six feet tall were found. Locals have wondered ever since if they might have been English Knights from Bannockburn.



Polmaise and Touchadam Estate

In 1369, a charter granted Sir Andrew Moray the land around Cambusbarron and over the years, it became known as Polmaise and Touchadam Estate. Twenty two generations later, John Murray built Polmaise Castle on the Gillies Hill, one of four castles on the Estate. The estate was broken up and the castle abandoned in 1956. It fell into such a state of disrepair that it was blown up by the army in 1966.

Hayford Mills

In 1833, local businessmen John Campbell, William Watson and Alexander Donaldson founded the Hayford Mills. These were clothing mills and marked the introduction of the industrial revolution to Cambusbarron, with power looms replacing the traditional hand weaving. The mill complex continued to expand and at one point, with over 500 power looms, was the largest tweed manufactory in Scotland, employing over 1200 people. Declining demand, along with foreign competition, led to the closure of the mill complex in 1896. In the last 100 years it has been used as an army barracks and a civil defence storage facility. In recent years has been converted into houses.

Bruce Memorial Church and War Memorial

The Bruce Memorial Church is named after Robert the Bruce's visit to the village. The church was built in 1910 as a permanent home for the congregation which originally met in an old weaving shed within the village. The War Memorial was unveiled in October 1920 by the local Laird, Major Murray of Polmaise Castle. Major Murray's twenty year old son was the first Cambusbarron soldier killed in the First World War in September 1914, just two months after the conflict began.

John Grierson

Next to the Bruce Memorial Church is the Schoolhouse, which was once the home of filmmaker John Grierson. John's father Robert was headmaster here for a time. Grierson was a film maker and one of the first to see the power of film to record real life rather than simply tell fictional stories - in fact, he was the film maker who coined the word "documentary" and went on to make many of them both here and across the Atlantic. Grierson is affectionately called "the father of British and Canadian Documentaries".



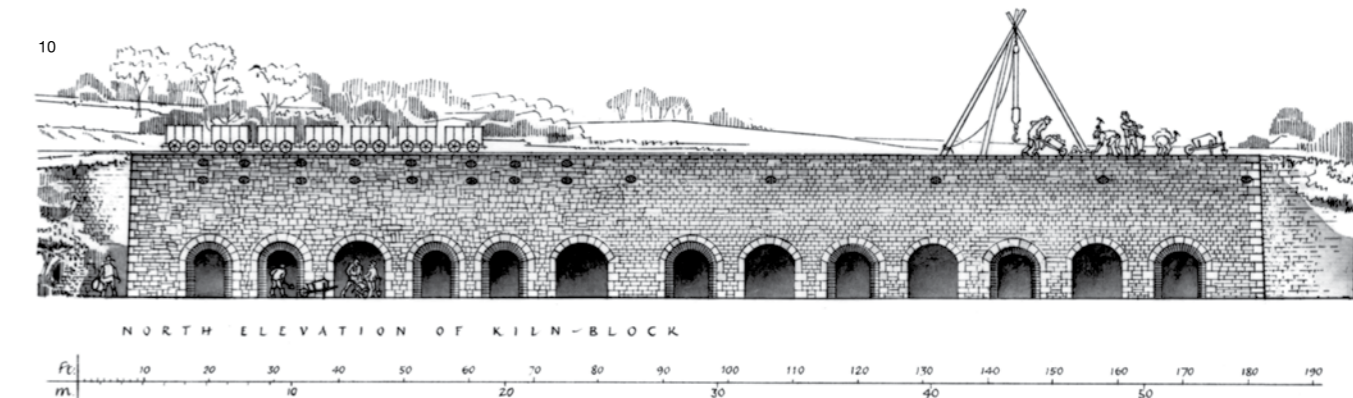
Local Voices

Local historian Peter Paterson has been recording the history of Cambusbarron for many years. Here is one of his favourite walks that takes you from the Community Centre to Bruce's Well.



"From the Community Centre car park, you'll first see the Schoolhouse, home of John Grierson, the father of the modern documentary. Next to that is the Bruce Memorial Church and the village War Memorial. Continue along Main Street and turn left into Murray Place, or as it's known the "Coo Loan".

It was, along with the Commondry on your right, where farmers on their way to market would drive their cattle. William "Citizen" Jaffray (1749 – 1828) a local weaver lived here. William is still held in high regard in the village because he personally paid for 13,000 Stirlingshire children to be inoculated against smallpox. Past both the Commondry and the primary school you will find the Fairy Hill, made in the



1850s from the spoil heap of the lime mine there. Descend Quarry Road to Touch Road and head back toward the village. You'll pass Pin Wright's Fields, supposedly given to him after his skills as a joiner are said to have helped collapse the bridge during the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. Turn into Mill Park Road and in the adjacent field was once the entrance to the Lime Mine under Gillies Hill. You can see the lime kilns if you follow Mill Road to Hollandbush, the 90 degree turning, and then cut left. You'll pass Hayford Mills, which in recent years has been turned into housing. At

the end of Mill Road, turn left at North End, cross over the M9 bridge and you'll come to Douglas Terrace. At 22 Douglas Terrace you'll see a plaque to William Moyes, an engineer on the doomed HMS Titanic. Turn into Park Place back towards the village and after around 200 meters you'll turn down the George Smith Path towards Bruce's Well and the site of the ancient Cambusbarron Chapel."

