



The Trossachs and Ben Lomond

Ochil Hills

River Forth

Cleish Hills

Blackness Castle

Limekilns

Rosyth Naval Base



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Woodland Walk

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West Driveway

Old East Driveway

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Entrance

Old South Approach

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6

Bo'ness

A904

Old East Gateway

Edinburgh



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The House of the Binns



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The House of the Binns

Parkland Trail

Description

The Binns parkland was designed to produce a visual impact. As the carriages of guests approached the house from the east, they would pass through contrasting landscapes, first woods, then open meadows where cows grazed. New views would be revealed at every turn, culminating in the breathtaking panorama of the Firth of Forth. Finally the house would appear emerging imposingly from the surrounding trees. Walkers today can enjoy the same beautiful parkland and stunning views.

Grade

Easy / Moderate, but with some hills

Terrain

This trail is mostly unsurfaced and includes some steeper sections and broken ground.

Distance

Parkland Trail 2 miles / 3km

Time

Parkland Trail 1½ hours

OS Map

Landranger Sheet 65

Facilities

Parking
Suitable for picnics



1 VIEW OF BLACKNESS CASTLE

When Thomas Dalrymple bought 'the land of bynnis and the manor place thereof' in 1612, Blackness was one of Scotland's busiest harbours. You can see Blackness Castle from the meadow in front of the house.

2 HOUSE OF THE BINNS

The house has seen many changes over the centuries: its entrance was moved from the south to the north in the 18th century, and it was given turrets and battlements, like a castle, around 1810.

3 BINNS TOWER

This prominent landmark – built in 1826 – was intended to catch your eye. A plaque near the base of the tower tells the story of how it came to be built.

4 HOPETOUN WOOD BOUNDARY

The colour, texture and positioning of trees was an important aspect of the original parkland design; many of the trees planted at that time still stand. Look out for hares and buzzards around here.

5 PADDY'S COTTAGE

The cross on this building suggests it was once a chapel before Paddy Gallagher, a farmhand, made it his home in the 1930s.

6 ERRICK BURN WOOD

This wet woodland is a haven for wildlife. You may spot breeding dippers and up to 40 species of fungi down by the weir bridge. The east driveway entrance once lay just beyond the bridge.

7 OLD SOUTH APPROACH BRIDGE

During the late 18th century guests crossed this stone bridge in their carriages to reach the house.



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Bulbous buttercup



Look out for foxes and roe deer



Peafowl roam in front of the house – please keep your dog on a short lead when walking this area



East Lodge gateway

8 WALLED GARDEN

The Dalryells grew fruit, vegetables and flowers in this garden, completed around 1820. The brick walls were important for retaining heat for growing fruit, while the adjacent curling pond provided a handy water source.

9 OLD STABLE BLOCK

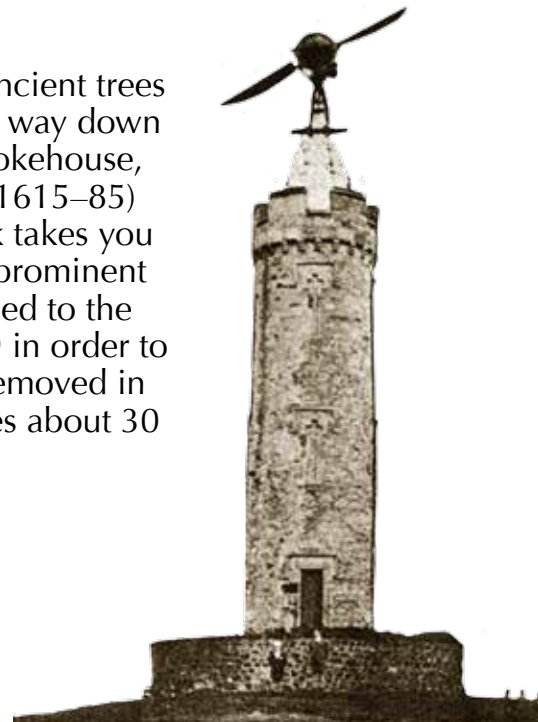
The Royal Scots Greys – the regiment founded by General Tam Dalryell – stabled their horses in these early 19th-century buildings. See if you can spot the sealed musket slots in the walls.

10 SERGEANT'S POND

This natural pond was enlarged around 1681 to water the horses of the Greys when they encamped here. Look out for wildflowers – such as bulbous buttercups – growing nearby.

11 WOODLAND WALK

Discover woodland wildlife, ancient trees and rewarding views. On your way down look out for General Tam's Smokehouse, used by General Tam Dalryell (1615–85) as an outdoor retreat. The walk takes you past the Binns Tower (right), a prominent landmark. A windmill was added to the top of the Binns Tower in 1919 in order to generate electricity. This was removed in 1935. The woodland walk takes about 30 minutes.



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