

Kirkintilloch and Waterside

Trail data

- Distance: 5.1km/8.7km
- Potential Trail Hubs: William Patrick Library
- Destination Points: Bridge at Waterside
- Nearby amenities: Kirkintilloch town centre, Library and museum
- Transport connections: Buses at Kirkintilloch, Parking in Kirkintilloch
- Connecting routes: To Torrance, Lenzie, MOC and Twechar
- Distance to next nearest trail: Approx 2.5km to MOC
- Recommended start point: Baldernock Parish Church
- Recommended direction: From Kirkintilloch and then anti-clockwise at Waterside Loop

Trail length

Complete trail from Kirkintilloch to Waterside loop (including loop): 5.1km.
 Ascent: 54m.
 Descent: 50m.
 Kirkintilloch linear route to Waterside: 3.6km
 Waterside loop: 1.5km climbing approximately 18m.

NB: this is a linear route encompassing a short loop within - it does not return back to the starting point. To return back to the trail hub would be a total trail length of 8.7km.

Trail overview

The proposed Kirkintilloch trail forms a linear route along the Luggie Water, which then loops at Waterside. The trail could then be followed in reverse to return to Kirkintilloch or a connecting route utilised to explore the Spider Bridge area close by and on towards the Lenzie trail. William Patrick Library is the proposed trail hub.

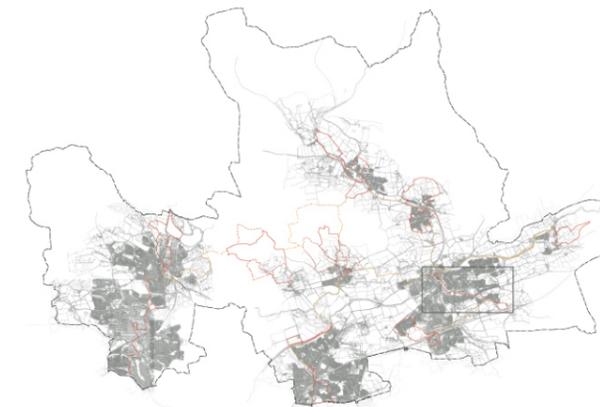
Notes on additional routes

Initially proposed was a trail route starting at William Patrick Library and heading directly south along the Cowgate until joining the canal path at Saint Mary's Parish Church and following the canal until just after the aquaduct. However an alternative section has now been proposed which takes in the more hidden heritage industrial areas or Kirkintilloch including the site of the Lion Foundry and more of the Luggie Water.

Initially the Waterside Loop proposed was to follow the south bank of the Luggie and cross at the bridge near to the railway line, however the Trails and Tales team have since been advised that this bridge is currently closed due to structural issues with no clear schedule for re-opening. Therefore an alternative route has been proposed which unfortunately includes some on-road trail which was not necessary with the originally proposed route.

Key to proposed trail map

- Recommended Trail Start / Finish 
- Destination point / Trail hub 
- Heritage interest site 
- Viewpoint 
- Trail marker 
- Trail interpretation point 
- Lure location 
- EDC boundary 
- Proposed Trail route 
- Additional / extension trail route 
- Recommended connecting routes between trails 
- Railway lines 
- Railway stations 



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The following maps demonstrate the spatial strategy for the Kirkintilloch and Waterside trail.

The heritage and proposed trails are presented on two maps per area:

- Map 2A - Existing heritage locations
- Map 2B - Existing heritage locations plus proposed trail routes hubs, lures, interpretation, markers, viewpoints.

The heritage that has been mapped is the information which has been uncovered by the Trails and Tales team through the life of the project from desk research, site visits and community consultations. It is not an exhaustive list but a snapshot of heritage which has been communicated as important in the life of the area. Through the process of matching locations and heritage stories, many important sites have been noted on the following maps. Only heritage which has a place or site associated with it has been shown in the list and maps, however the project does have repositories of other heritage information for each area which are for now 'place-less' but may inform the production of artistic responses in other ways.

We have been as accurate as possible in defining heritage locations but some discrepancies may remain.

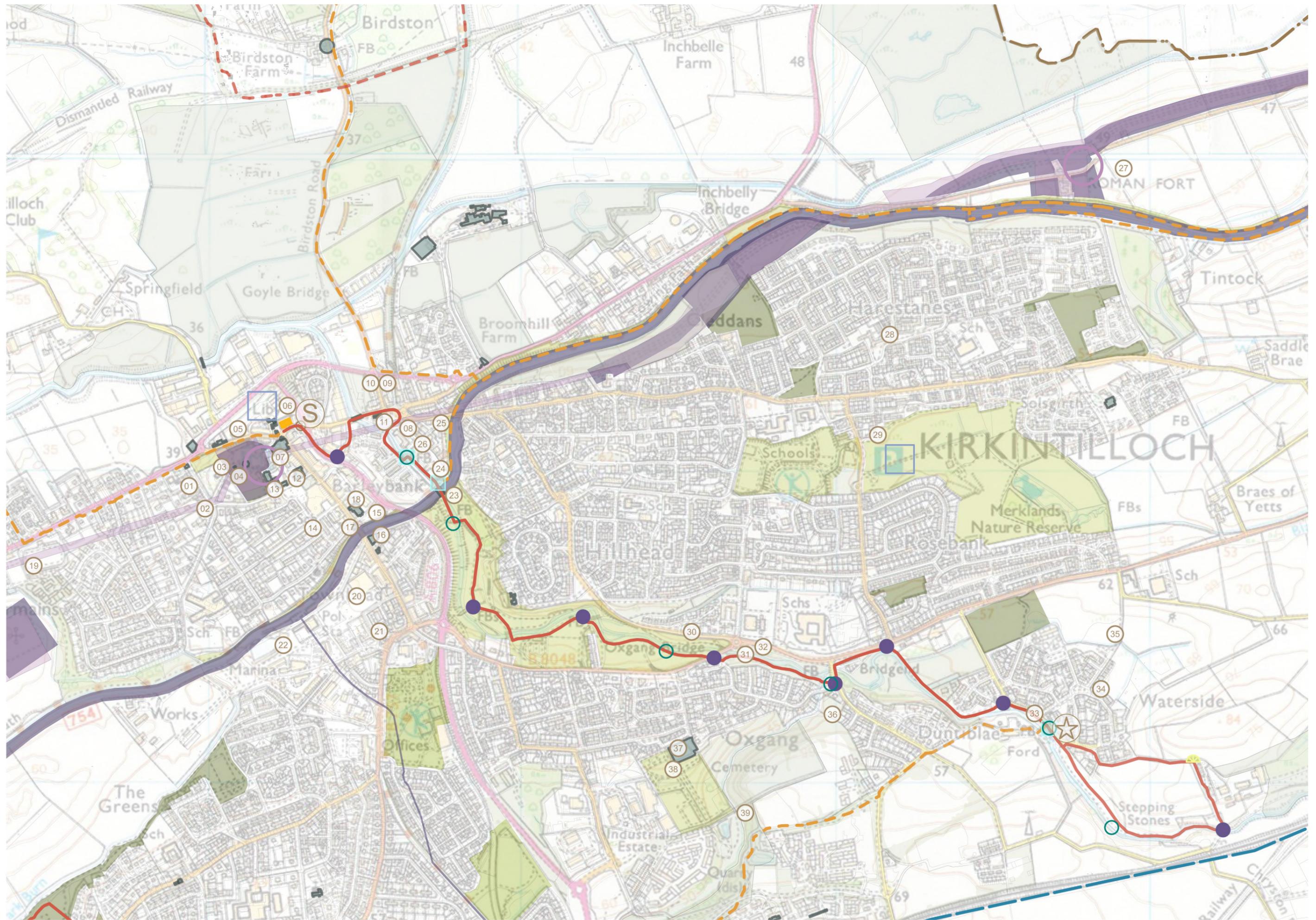
Mapped Heritage

01. Weaver's cottages
02. Jenny Coutts
03. Antonine Wall
04. Roman Fort - Peel Park
05. Rita Cowan
06. Talking newspapers (Alice McKenzie)
07. Auld Kirk & Barony Chambers (Auld Kirk wooden statue of St Flannan)
08. Caurnie soaperie
09. M&C Switchgear manufacturer on Milton Road
10. Kirkintilloch slaughterhouse was opposite M&C - pigs were kept there by the council during the first world war.
11. Mackintosh door in the Ledgate
12. Town Hall
13. James Slimmon (Mill location TBC).
14. Kerr Street sweet shop.
15. Orchard Burial Ground
16. Kirky Puffer pub - Willie Rodger Artwork
17. Red phone box. Lion Foundry
18. St Mary's Church - Gordon Webster. Willie Roger.
19. Robroy Football Club.
20. Sainsburys site was formally Star Foundry - in use until 1981
21. Wagtail Pet Shop - former weaving shop
22. Boat Building (Peter McGregor, J&J Hay).
23. Aquaduct
24. Monkland & Kirkintilloch railway station
25. Potato pickers disaster
26. Lion Foundry location
27. Roman altar stones at Auchendavy Antonine Fort (North of Harestanes and the canal, south of B8023)
28. Burns County Place names
29. David Gray Drive (poet from Merkland).
30. 'Roman' bridge at Ofgang (Wimpey Housing location) was knocked down and the new bridge has a memorial to the old bridge. Recognised as a beauty spot.
31. Mausoleum at Luggie Water (no longer there)

32. Luggiebank house - Category B Listed (former Herald building) - important in the Thomas Muir story. William Dunn
33. Site of former lint mill, which became a shovel works (Lint Mill and Distillery at Corn mill at Conscripton School site) - attractive example of a mill building
34. Flax mill and retting ponds north of Waterside
35. Quaker cemetery at Waterside
36. Ofgang Farm (dairy farm history)
37. Alexander Bain
38. Old Aisle Cemetery and Belfry
39. Site of Spider Bridge

Trail themes

The heritage research for Kirkintilloch and Waterside has uncovered many stories and diversity of important material, however themes of Flax, Linen and Weaving were thought to be particularly apt for the route along the Luggie to Waterside. The theme of Foundries could also be explored within the northern end of the trail in Kirkintilloch and this contrast in material form and industrial process along one relatively short stretch of river could provide plenty of inspiration.



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Trail description

Kirkintilloch to Waterside linear route:

The suggested trail start is at William Patrick Library which can provide trail information, parking, toilets and cafe facilities. From the library entrance the trail turns left down W High Street and crosses New Lairdsland Road at the traffic lights. Once across the road, the trail route turns right to walk along the main road for a short distance before turning off to the left at Broadcroft Road. Turning right onto High Street and across the bridge over the Luggie Water, the trail then takes a footpath on the right which connects to Peter D. Stirling Road passing the Lion Foundry site and access to Caurnie Soaperie. A footbridge crosses the Luggie Water from where the trail continues along the north bank of the river for a short distance before crossing under the aqueduct. The trail then continues to track the river after a short culvert, crossing the river again and meandering past playing fields and the skate park. The route continues through particularly pleasant surroundings with much of the path and waters edge lined by mature trees. At Waterside Road the route crosses the road and continues along the waters edge. The trail then crosses a small bridge over the Bothlin Burn and turns left to join the road at Market Road for a short distance, then turning right at the T-junction with Waterside Road. The trail follows Waterside Road for approximately 200m and then reverts back to off-road footpath, taking a right just before the junction with Merkland Drive. The path again follows the north bank of the Luggie Water, skirting the edge of housing, before joining the road through Waterside at Bankhead Road for a short distance until reaching the bridge in front of the Conscription School site.

Waterside Loop:

From the bridge at the Conscription School site, the trail continues along the north bank of the Luggie for another 700m along a much rougher path than the previous section, with direct connection to the water edge in places. The path continues through woodland and then takes a left at the path junction to skirt between fields and farm buildings. The trail continues along this path until Pit Road, where it turns left to follow the road back to the water-side path and to the centre of Waterside.



Waterside



Aqueduct



Canal and Luggie Water

