



CycleMap

Kirkcaldy & surrounding area

Greener Kirkcaldy is a community-led charity and development trust working locally to benefit people and our environment. We would like to see a future where everyone is able to heat their home affordably, eat well, and tread more lightly on the planet. We deliver projects to meet the needs and aspirations of local people, tackling fuel and food poverty, protecting and enjoying the environment and bringing the community together.

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Monday-Tuesday 9:30am-4:30pm
Wednesday 12-4:30pm
Thursday-Friday 9:30am-4:30pm

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Scottish Charity No. SCO41412

Three Parks

Distance: 11 miles
Connects: Beveridge Park, the Prom, Ravenscraig Park and Dunnikier Park.
Terrain: Almost all tarmacked surface, with paths between the Prom and Ravenscraig Park and in Dunnikier Park.
Hilliness: The top of the town (Dunnikier Park) is notably higher than the Prom, so the route includes some uphill sections when cycling away from the Prom and downhill sections when heading towards the Prom. The steepest sections are in Beveridge Park between Pathhead Sands and Nether Street; and from the top of Dunnikier Park to Kirkcaldy High; and from Dunnikier Way to Den Road. The rest of the route is fairly flat.
Description: This route connects the three largest parks in Kirkcaldy.

Beveridge Park 1
The park includes a variety of facilities, including a bowling club, a rugby club, a skate park, a green gym and two play parks. In the summer, there are boats on the pond, a bouncy castle and crazy golf. The park also plays host to a number of events throughout the summer.



The Prom 2
The Prom is just over a mile long, and forms part of the Fife Coastal Path. It offers views out over the Forth.



Leisure Route



Ravenscraig Park 3
Ravenscraig Park has outstanding views over the Forth. It has a children's play area and the woodland area includes some chainsaw carvings. A slight detour from this route to continue further along the coast will take you into the historic Dysart Harbour, which featured in the television programme Outlander.



Dunnikier Park 4
One of the largest public parks in Fife. It is home to a range of native wildlife, including deer, bats and owls. There are a number of paths you can take to explore the woodlands, although some of these can get very muddy following wet weather.

The route will take you on an underpass to go under Dunnikier Way, near Gallatown Park.



Castles and Towers

Distance: 13.2 miles
Connects: St Serf's Tower, Ravenscraig Castle, Balwearie Castle, Balwearie Tower, and Seafield Tower.
Terrain: A mix of off-road and tarmacked surface. Not recommended for young children, or for bikes with skinny tyres.
Hilliness: Hilly when heading towards Balwearie Castle and Tower, but relatively flat along the coast.
Description: This route takes in various towers and castles in the local area.

Seafield Tower 1
The tower was built in 1542 by the Moultrie family, who retained ownership until 1631. It was abandoned in 1733.

The tower is believed to have been five storeys high, and would have originally included vaulted storage and a great hall. The site also had a bakery, brewery and stables, but any evidence of these has been destroyed by coastal erosion.

Please note the approach to Seafield Tower along the coastal path will involve lifting your bike over a kissing gate.



Balwearie Tower 2
This is an early 19th century folly with cottage. It was built by the owners of Raith Estate, along with a similar tower known as Lambswell.

Balwearie Castle 3
This was home to the Scotts of Balwearie from the early 13th century and home to the 'Wizard of Kirkcaldy'



Sir Michael Scott, who is credited with being Scotland's first scientist, alchemist, astronomer and sorcerer. Michael Scott is included in many works of literature, including Dante's 'Inferno' and several pieces by Sir Walter Scott. There is also a folk song called 'Lammikin' or 'The Wronged Mason' that may have been based at the castle, which details a dastardly double murder! The remains that are there today are all that is left of the castle built by the Scotts sometime after 1463.

Ravenscraig Castle 4
James II ordered the construction of Ravenscraig Castle shortly before his death. Largely built in the 1460s, the castle was completed by the Sinclair family in 1471. The castle is said to be haunted by a lady in long flowing robes - she is thought to be Mary of Guelders, King James II's wife, who lived there until her death in 1463. Ravenscraig Castle played a major role in protecting ships from pirates in the River Forth. However, it suffered considerable damage in the 1650s when it was attacked by Oliver Cromwell's army, which was on its way to the Highlands.

In the 1900s, Sir Michael Nairn bought the castle and its grounds and his son later opened them up to the public as a park.

St Serf's Tower 5
The church is thought to date from the early 1600s, with the 80ft tower probably added in the 1540s. It was used as a place of refuge and defence against English pirates.



Heritage Plaque Track

Developed in partnership with Kirkcaldy Civic Society

Distance: 5.3 miles
Connects: Various historical sites within Kirkcaldy, all with Kirkcaldy Civic Society plaques.
These sites are listed in a clockwise direction, starting from Beveridge Park.
Terrain: Fully tarmacked surface with a mix of cycle lanes and roads.
Hilliness: Mainly flat. If travelling clockwise, there is a fairly steep downhill section from Ravenscraig Park to the harbour, and a short uphill section to the Auld Kirk.
Description: This route takes in various historical buildings and places within the local area.

Beveridge Park 1
A plaque commemorates the 100th anniversary of Beveridge Park in 1992, made possible by a sizeable bequest from Michael Beveridge (1835-1890), local linoleum industrialist and provost of Kirkcaldy.

Adam Smith Theatre 2
The theatre was planned as a memorial, one hundred years after his death, to Adam Smith (1723-1790), the world famous economist and moral philosopher, who wrote 'The Wealth of Nations'.



Ravenscraig Park 3
This area was originally known as the Three Trees Park and formed part of the estate of the Sinclair family, who also owned Ravenscraig Castle for centuries. The park and castle were subsequently purchased by the Nairn family, of linoleum fame. They gifted the park to the Royal Burgh of Kirkcaldy in 1929. A tree and plaque are there to commemorate the event.

Nairn's Folly Factory 4
Michael Nairn's 'Scottish Floor Cloth Manufactory', Scotland's first floorcloth (linoleum) factory, was built here in 1847-8. Many of the local townspeople were very sceptical, thinking Nairn had overreached himself, and so named the factory 'Nairn's Folly', but in fact the venture was well thought through and became highly profitable.



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Graveyard 5
This contains the graves of several notable local characters.

- Robert Philp (1751-1828) was a wealthy local linen manufacturer who left £70,000, a huge sum then, in a Trust Fund for the education of poor children in Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn.
- Michael Nairn (1804-1858) was a local industrialist who initiated the floorcloth/linoleum industry in Kirkcaldy, helping to transform Kirkcaldy into the linoleum capital of the world.
- The last duellists of Scotland: The last fatal duel in Scotland took place in a field to the west of Kirkcaldy, Fife,



Leisure Route

on August 23, 1826. The two men involved were David Landale, a linen merchant and pillar of the community, and George Morgan, a banker with a fiery temper who was a retired Lieutenant from the 77th Regiment of Foot. Morgan died from his pistol shot wound, but Landale was acquitted of his murder. Both are buried close together in the cemetery. The two families reconciled 25 years later when David Lansdale's daughter married George Morgan's nephew.

Society Nightclub (corner of Charlotte/Thistle Street) 6
This building is one of the four schools that were constructed and operated from the Robert Philp legacy. The poor children of Kirkcaldy were educated for free here from 1850 to 1891. This is an excellent example of 19th-century industrial philanthropy.



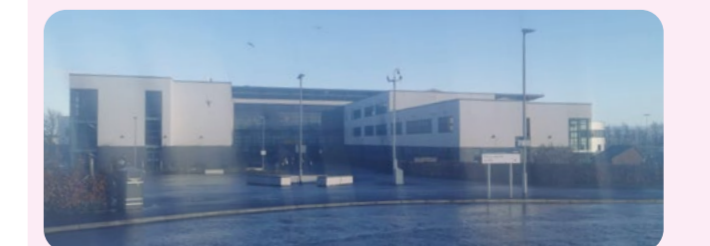
People's Institute, Glasswork Street 7
This building was where Sir Sandford Fleming (1827-1915) was born and raised. He emigrated to Canada in 1845, becoming the chief surveyor/engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway and constructing the railway which linked east and west Canada through the Rocky Mountains.

He was also one of the initiators of Standard Time, and designed Canada's first postage stamp, the three-penny beaver.

East Kirkcaldy Loop

Route: Day-to-day journeys
Distance: 3.6 miles for the loop, plus an additional 0.8 miles to get to the hospital (each way)
Connects: Victoria Hospital, St Andrew's High School, St Marie's Primary School, Mitchelston Industrial Estate, Gallatown Bike Hub, and Windmill Community Campus.
Terrain: Fully tarmacked route with a mix of roads, cycle paths and shared paths.
Hilliness: Mainly flat, with a slight slope downhill on Windmill Road and uphill on Beatty Crescent, if travelling clockwise.
Description: This route connects some key locations in the east of Kirkcaldy. It includes a newly created traffic-free, shared use path that connects Windmill Campus with Ravenscraig Park.

Windmill Community Campus is a Fife Council-run facility hosting: a public library; a customer service point; community use classes, sports, training and learning facilities; Viewforth High School and Rossllyn School. It is open during the day, in the evenings and at weekends.



Gallatown Bike Hub is also on this route. It provides a range of cycling activities for the community, including repairing, servicing and selling bikes at affordable prices. In addition, it runs bike rides, and has its own pump track.

If you prefer not to cycle round the roundabout at the top of Overton Road, you can use the crossing points next to it. The route will take you under Dunnikier Way via an underpass near Gallatown Park.

Kirkcaldy to Glenrothes

Route: Day-to-day journeys
Distance: 4.6 miles to Bankhead Central (council offices on the edge of Glenrothes).
If you wish to continue beyond Bankhead, the distances are approximately:
A further 1.7 miles to Glenrothes town centre
A further 2.1 miles to Markinch
A further 3.8 miles to Leslie
A further 1.4 miles to Fife College's Stenton campus, taking the left turning at the roundabout just after Thornton (before you reach Bankhead)
Connects: Kirkcaldy to Glenrothes, where there are a number of key employers, including Fife Council, Leslie Bike Shop, the Kino cinema and Fife College's Stenton campus are also in Glenrothes.
Terrain: Almost entirely tarmac, most of which is designated cycle paths. There is a section of pathway in the park in Thornton.
Hilliness: Climb uphill from Kirkcaldy to the A92, followed by a descent down Peatmans Brae (heading towards Thornton).
Description: This quiet route is a key commuting link that connects Kirkcaldy to Glenrothes.

This route will take you past **Leslie Bike Shop**, a family business based on the edge of Glenrothes, that sells a large range of bikes and accessories.

Fife Council has a number of large buildings in Glenrothes. Bankhead Central is based at the edge of the town, on this route. You can continue into the centre of the town to reach Rothesay House and Fife House (the council's headquarters).

The Kino, the nearest cinema to Kirkcaldy, can be found in the town centre. This route can also be used to reach Markinch and Leslie.

Fife college has a number of campuses across Fife and offers a wide range of courses, both full time and part time. Stenton Campus is located in the south of Glenrothes.

Please note that crossing the A92 will involve carrying your bike over a footbridge.

Keep an eye out for the turning into the park in Thornton, which is just after Glenrothes with Thornton train station.



Retail Park to Victoria Hospital

Route: Day-to-day journeys
Distance: 2.5 miles (each way)
Connects: Fife Central Retail Park, Templehall shops, Valley Primary School, the YMCA, and Victoria Hospital.
(The Cottage Family Centre, Templehall Library, Templehall Community Centre and Linton Lane Centre are just off the route).
Terrain: Fully tarmacked route with a mix of quiet roads, cycle paths and shared paths.
Hilliness: Mainly flat, but with a steep hill up and down Dallas Drive.
Description: This route connects various key destinations in the town, including Victoria Hospital and the retail park (which has bike racks outside Halfords and Costa Coffee). It highlights some of the quieter routes in Templehall, including some traffic-free paths.



Linton Lane Centre is just off this route, slightly further down Dunearn Drive. This is a hub of activity, hosting a range of essential services as well as numerous recreational groups, such as craft groups and fitness classes.

Templehall Library and Templehall Community Centre are also located just off this route, past the Templehall shops.

Templehall Library, in addition to providing access to a broad range of books, reference materials and free IT, the library hosts regular Bookbug sessions, story times and craft sessions. It also runs basic IT skills taster sessions.

Templehall Community Centre, hosts a variety of clubs and organisations.

This route also passes close to the **Cottage Family Centre**, which provides a range of services and activities to cater for the needs of families with pre-school children.



- Castles and Towers route
- East Kirkcaldy Loop
- Heritage Plaque Track
- Kirkcaldy to Glenrothes route
- Retail Park to Victoria Hospital route
- Three Parks route
- Traffic-free shared used path