

CLARITY GUIDES

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PARKS · HILLS · WOODS · COAST

Green Spaces of Fife

Easy nature walks, with the practical details



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Preview – full guide coming soon – goclarity.uk

How to use this guide

This is a short, practical guide to some of Fife's best-loved green spaces: town parks, a country park, the Lomond Hills, a woodland den with a waterfall, the ancient rock-carved den at Dunino and a few stretches of the Fife coast. Each walk page gives a plain description followed by the details people usually want before they set off.

DISTANCE & TIME	Approximate figures taken from the official route page where one exists. Walking times are rough guides, not targets.
TERRAIN	What the paths are like underfoot, including hills, steps and gates where these are mentioned officially.
PARKING & FACILITIES	Car parks, toilets and cafés as listed by the council, trust or park. Where we couldn't confirm something, we say so.
DOGS	Any site-specific rules, plus the Scottish Outdoor Access Code basics.
ACCESSIBILITY	A general note only. If you have specific needs, contact the site before visiting.

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Parkland edge near Glenrothes. Photograph: Clarity Guides

Opening hours, toilets, parking and path conditions change. **Check before you go** with the official sources listed, and follow any signs on site. This guide is for general information only; you are responsible for your own safety outdoors.

Balbirnie Park & John Dixon Park



Spring daffodils at the entrance to Balbirnie Park, Markinch. Photo: James Allan, CC BY-SA 2.0



The Balbirnie Burn from a footbridge in the park. Photo: James Allan, CC BY-SA 2.0



Balbirnie Stone Circle, rebuilt in the park after excavation. Photo: RRRW001, CC BY-SA 4.0

Balbirnie lies on the north-east edge of Glenrothes beside Markinch: 416 acres of parkland and woodland garden, known for its rhododendron collection and unusual specimen trees. Gentle paths wind through the estate, past Balbirnie House and along the edge of the golf course, crossing the Balbirnie Burn.

John Dixon Park is a small local park on Balbirnie Street, Markinch, close to the Balbirnie entrance, and an easy add-on to a Balbirnie walk. It has a children’s play area and grass pitches, and hosts the Markinch Highland Games, first held in 1871.

DISTANCE & TIME	Walk Fife’s Balbirnie Park Loop is about 5 km, starting at the small car park near the estate entrance. Shorter circular routes of roughly 2.4–3.7 km (one including the ancient Balbirnie Stone Circle) are described by Markinch Heritage Group. John Dixon Park: a short stroll; no official route.
TERRAIN	Described by Walk Fife as gentle and easy to walk; footpaths and a bridle path. Part of the loop uses roads through Markinch.
PARKING	Balbirnie: free parking (Fife Council). John Dixon Park: not verified. Markinch has a railway station and bus services.
TOILETS & CAFÉ	No public toilets or café are listed for the park itself; Markinch village is close by. Not verified: check before you go.
DOGS	Popular with dog walkers. No specific park rules found: follow the Access Code, keep dogs under control and off the golf course.
ACCESSIBILITY	Walk Fife calls the loop suitable for most people. Surfaces and slopes vary.

Sources: Fife Council (fife.gov.uk, Balbirnie Park); Walk Fife (walkfife.org, Balbirnie Park Loop); Markinch Heritage Group (markinchheritage.org.uk); Fife Council (Grass pitches list for John Dixon Park); Markinch Highland Games (markinchhighlandgames.co.uk).

Craigtoun Country Park



Mixed woodland in central Fife (not Craigtoun). Photograph: Clarity Guides

Craigtoun is a public country park a short drive from St Andrews, open all day, every day. Visitors can walk around the gardens, through the much-loved wooded Fairy Glen and around the open lawns. From Easter to October the Friends of Craigtoun run paid seasonal attractions, and the Fife Pilgrim Way links Craigtoun with the Lade Braes walk into St Andrews.

DISTANCE & TIME	No official route length found. A gentle circuit of the gardens and Fairy Glen is roughly 1.5 km (unofficial estimate), so allow 30–45 minutes plus time to explore.
TERRAIN	Park paths and lawns. No official surface details found.
PARKING	Free car park with dedicated disabled bays and an overflow area; donations are welcome. It can get very busy on sunny days and event days.
TOILETS & CAFÉ	Two public toilet blocks. The café-side block lists level access, an accessible toilet, baby changing and a Changing Places toilet (Fife Council lists 9am–4pm). The café opens daily 10am–4pm (to 5pm on attraction days).
DOGS	Dog-friendly, including the café. Keep dogs under control and on a short lead around the children’s play areas.
ACCESSIBILITY	Disabled parking, accessible toilets and an all-inclusive play area. The park asks visitors with specific needs to contact them beforehand.

We don’t yet have our own photograph of Craigtoun, so the picture above shows similar woodland elsewhere in Fife.

Sources: Friends of Craigtoun (friendsofcraigtoun.org.uk: Opening Hours, Plan Your Visit, FAQs); Fife Council (St Andrews Craigtoun Park Public Toilets); Fife Coast & Countryside Trust (Craigtoun to Lade Braes).