



WL20 Ballencrieff Toll and Balbardie Paths

Start, route and finish

Both of these paths commence at Nethermuir on the A800 between Bathgate and the A801. First is a 0.8 mile (1.3km) path that heads east, through Dykeside Farm, to meet the B7982 at Ballencrieff Toll on the north side of Bathgate. The second 0.6 mile (1km) path splits off this first path to head south east up a hill to reach Belvedere Road. Belvedere is a district of Bathgate which overlooks Balbardie Park to the east.

Surfaces and features

The route through Dykeside Farm is on what is now a private road. To the east of the farm the road is in good condition but to the west sections of road are in poor condition. The path up to Belvedere Wood is steep and used by farm traffic. It is eroded in places and becoming overgrown and very muddy.



The experience

Attractive paths in a countryside setting with good views to the north and east to the Bathgate Hills especially up near Belvedere Wood.

Opportunities and constraints

Some upgrading, especially for the path up to Belvedere, is proposed within the plan period and signage will be installed. There are opportunities to improve path links between Belvedere Wood and Balbardie Park.

WL26 Puir Wife's Brae

Start, route and finish

A 0.6 mile (1km) steep gradient path that runs roughly parallel with the Puir Wife's Brae Road from which it starts near the junction with Kirkton Road and finishes opposite the end of Marina Road. It then heads uphill, using the grass verge, or the pavement on the other side of the road, before turning west to cross the fields to finish at Marchwood Crescent.

Surfaces and features

The section of path parallel with Puir Wife's Brae Road is 2 metres wide whinstone path that was upgraded in 2005. Where the path starts there is a choice of a flight of steps or a ramp with a chicane barrier. There is a gate at the top of the path to deter motor bikes so it is open to all but the gradient renders it unsuitable for disabled access. The path across the fields is unsurfaced with 2 kissing gates. These fields are often grazed so care should be taken if a dog is being walked.

The experience

There are excellent views across to the western fringes of the district and, through gaps in the trees, good views to the south over Bathgate, Livingston and across to the Pentlands.

Opportunities and constraints

The steep gradient does mean that this path is at risk from erosion during very heavy rain but, to date, it has stood up very well. The situation with regards to off road motor bikes use will need to be monitored. The field can be muddy during wet weather and care with dogs needs to be taken.



