

Portmoak Parish Church

Built in 1660, this building replaced an earlier chapel that stood by the loch side opposite St Serf's Island. The bell is one of the oldest in Scotland and a memorial to Michael Bruce stands in the churchyard. Inside the Kirk is the Portmoak Stone, a 10th century Celtic cross-slab. On the opposite side of the road you will find a Michael Bruce Way way marker, which takes you to Kilmagadwood.

Kilmagadwood

This is one of two community woodlands owned by the Woodland Trust and managed by local people. Sycamore, ash, beech, rowan, larch and Scots pine trees dominate the wood. As the path winds up through the wood you will find a way marker, which will take you left above the Golf Course and the village of Kinnesswood.

Bishop Hill

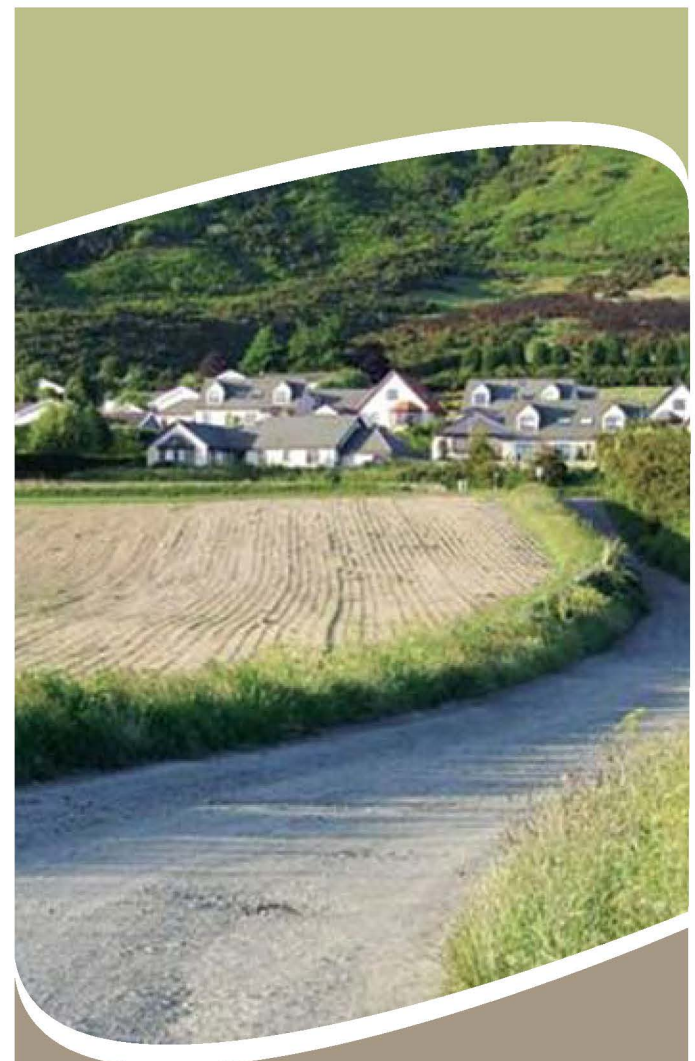
The hill above you is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. Below you is a magnificent view of the whole of Loch Leven.



Loch Leven

is valued as a National Nature Reserve because of its international importance for bird life. Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned for 11 months during 1567-68 on Castle Island and on the left is the much larger St Serf's Island, which was given to the Augustinians by Macbeth.

Continue along the path until you reach a gate, which will take you down into the historic village of Kinnesswood. At this point other tracks go to the villages of Wester and Easter Balgedie and up to the top of Bishop Hill.



Kinnesswood

is a fine example of a Scottish 'ferm tou' of crofters and weavers. From the 16th century until 1926 it was an important centre for the manufacture of parchment and vellum, including it is reputed the vellum on which the Declaration of Arbroath was written. On your right going down the Cobbles you will find Michael Bruce Birthplace Museum.

'Hail, beauteous Stranger of the wood!
Attendant on the spring!
Now heav'n repairs thy rural seat
And woods thy welcome sing.'

The parish of Portmoak is well served with a number of paths and trails to explore – from the heights of Bishop Hill and the Lomonds Regional Park, to the Heritage Trail around Loch Leven National Nature Reserve. The Michael Bruce Way is a fitting centrepiece to this network, celebrating the life and works of the eighteenth century Scots poet who lived in this parish and is buried in the parish cemetery.



Following the Michael Bruce Way

The Michael Bruce Way can be easily identified by the way markers – designed by local school children. At selected points along the path you will find plaques with verses from Michael Bruce poems highlighting the sites and sounds that he experienced.

This leaflet will guide you from Portmoak Church in an anti-clockwise loop around the circular path.



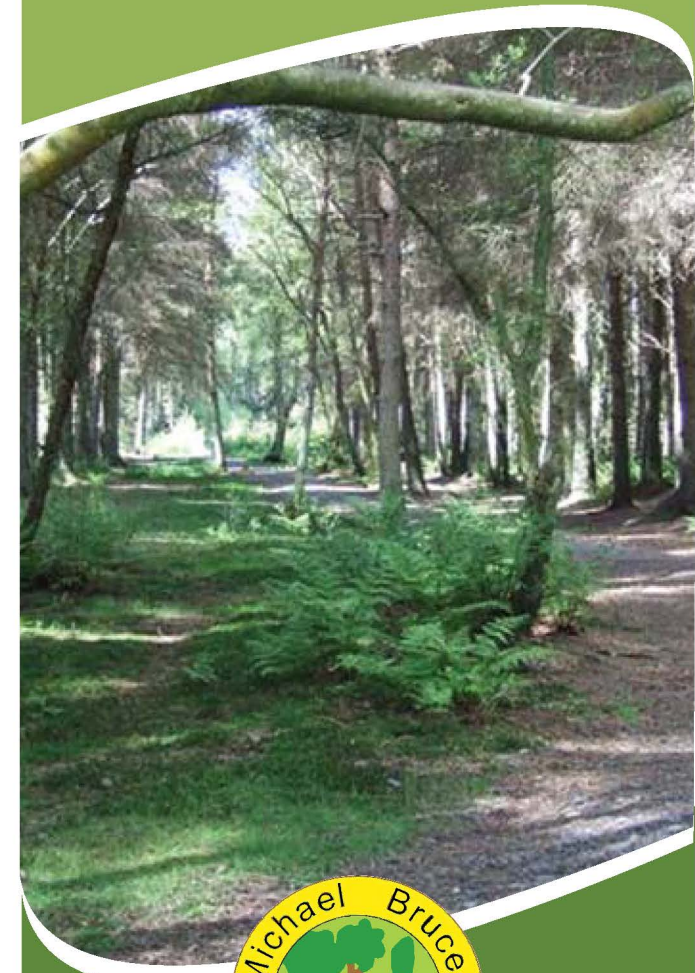
Contact Details

Portmoak Path Network is grateful for the support it receives from local landowners and managers and by the organisations below. For information on other walks and paths in Perth and Kinross, please visit www.pkc.gov.uk/countryside or call 01738 475000



Acknowledgements:
The Children of Portmoak Primary School (logo), Portmoak Paths Group, Charlie McConnell (text), Jeff Gunnell & Portmoak Photography Group (photos) and Niall Lobley (map).

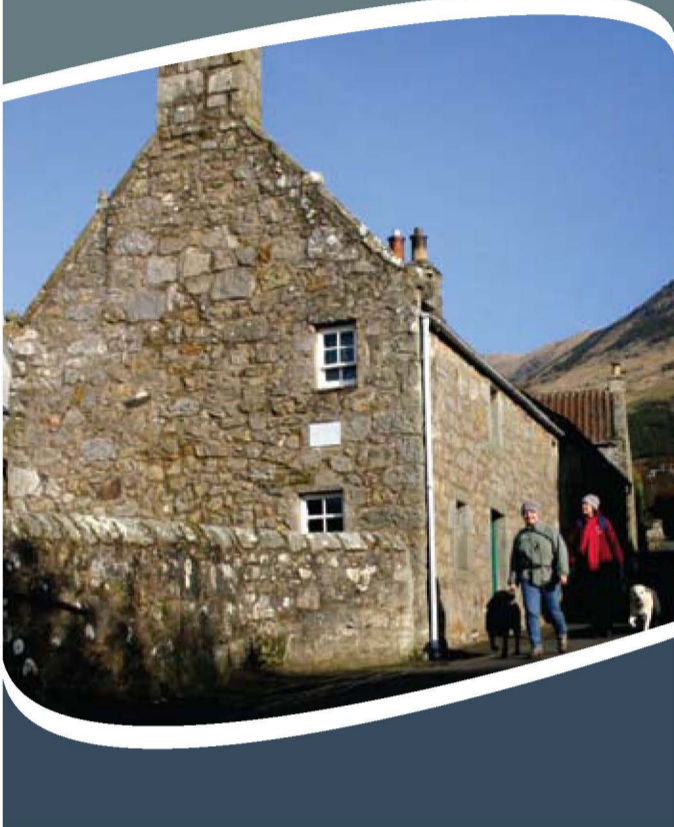
THE MICHAEL BRUCE WAY



Michael Bruce Birthplace Museum

This two-storied 18th century cottage was the birthplace of Michael Bruce. Keys to the Michael Bruce Cottage museum, which is well worth visiting, can be obtained at Buchan's garage in the main street. It is also worthwhile walking the various grass tracks which criss cross this pretty village and down on the main road you will find a pottery, pub and village shops.

Walk from Kinnesswood Post Office towards Scotlandwell. You will find a Michael Bruce Way way marker on the right hand side, which will take you down Peat Loan to the Loch Leven Heritage Trail and Portmoak Moss.



Peat Loan

This track was used for many centuries by the people of Kinnesswood giving them access to cut peat in the Moss. After a few hundred yards you will find a Michael Bruce Way way marker. At this point you can continue down the lane to connect with the Loch Leven Heritage Trail, or turn left to visit Portmoak Moss.



Portmoak Moss

The Moss is the second community woodland in the parish. It is a raised peat bog and an extremely rare European habitat. The peat is several feet deep and forms a high band, which you can clearly see from the path. You will find a number of trails throughout the Moss.

Scotlandwell

Another typical 'ferm town' of random clusters of houses with associated byres. It was mainly an agricultural community but had a thriving weaving industry in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the middle of the village you will find the ancient Well.

The Well

Whilst passing through Scotlandwell, take a detour to visit the Well, a short walk along the signed track on your left. This was on the traditional pilgrims route to St Andrews, reputed to have been visited by King Robert the Bruce for its healing powers. Return to the village and continue along the road to return to the Church Car Park.



The Michael Bruce Way and Portmoak Path Network

Distance: The Michael Bruce Way is approx 5km

Start & Finish: Start at the Church Car Park. The leaflet guides you in an anticlockwise direction around the route.

Terrain: Sections of the Michael Bruce Way are surfaced, however, the path mainly follows tracks which can become wet and muddy in places. Other paths on this leaflet follow tracks and can be wet at times. Routes to Bishop Hill are very steep.

Refreshments: There are farm shops & Cafes at Lochend Farm and Loch Leven Larder, pubs at Scotlandwell, Kinnesswood and Wester Balgedie and a post office and shop in Kinnesswood.

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|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Parking | Historical Building | National Nature Reserve | Woodland | Road: A Class |
| Refreshments | Golf | Path: Michael Bruce Way | Built up Area | Road: B Class |
| Information Point | Birdwatch Facility | Path: Other Paths | Water (Loch) | Road: Minor/Other |
| Museum | Photo (see Panel) | Path: Loch Leven Heritage Trail | River | Contours (50m) |



Know the Code... before you go

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors – responsibly! Everyone has the right to be on most land and water providing that they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to;

- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Respect the interests of others people
- Care for the environment



Read more by visiting: www.outdooraccess-scotland.com
If you would like a copy of the full code, phone Scottish Natural Heritage on 01738 444177