

SECOND WALK ALONG THE RIVER FORTH TO SEE WILDLIFE RESERVES OWNED BY THE SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

These pleasant walks are circular, starting and finishing at Cambus village. Walk 2 is about 5 - 6 km in length and visits Cambus Pools..



Car Parking

There is easy car parking at Cambus (Grid Ref: NS 845 935) by a dead-end road, close to the weir on the River Devon and in front of Diageo's whisky depot. This parking area can be used for both walks.

Refreshments

The Tearoom at Cambus is an excellent place to have a coffee or lunch stop. It is located 4 Main Street, Cambus.

WALK 2 DETAILS: See map below



Cambus Pools Nature Reserve is made up of several pools, the west pool having some open water. It is situated, on the north shore of the River Forth, on a bend near to where the River Devon joins it. The reserve, on the east side, consists mainly of reed beds and is a haven for birds such as Water Rail, Reed Buntings, Grasshopper Warbler and possibly Snipe.

START at the same parking place, by the side of Diageo's major site for storing/maturing whisky in bonded warehouses. Walk away from Cambus village along the road (and National Cycle Path 76) between the River Devon and the Diageo warehouses. Go through the bollards and turn left. At the bridge, over the Devon River, turn left over the bridge.



Old bridge across River Devon at Cambus

Just upstream of the road bridge is a much older iron wagon bridge. This Cambus Iron Bridge is a Category A listed structure and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is a rare example, in Scotland, of a single span prefabricated lattice girder construction, 68 ft in length. It was built in the early 19th century to span the River Devon and link with the distillery, founded in 1806. The iron guide rails can still be seen on the bridge, which was used by horse drawn wagons as well as pedestrians.

Often it is possible to see the footprints of Otters on the muddy banks under the road bridge.

AFTER crossing the road bridge turn left immediately onto a riverside path signed "Blackgrange 2.8km". The track takes you along the tidal stretch of the River Devon where it joins the River Forth. On the left of the path, across the River Devon, are reed beds and eventually, there is an excellent view looking down the river towards Alloa.



View of River Forth looking towards Alloa

At this point, across the River Forth some large sheds can be seen. This area is part of the remains of the old military munitions storage site at Banded, dating back to World War 1 and used again in World War 2. It closed in 1978.

If you approach carefully you may be able to get close to Teal with their beautiful, iridescent heads. You can often see flocks of Long-tailed Tits here.

CONTINUE along the track for a short distance until a path, on the right, is reached.

Otters use this area and you may see their prints in the mud. Also Seals and Porpoises can, occasionally, be seen in the Forth.

WALK along the track for about 0.4 km until you reach a boundary fence and reserve notice board on the right. Extensive areas of reed beds can be seen but it is only on the left side of the path that there are open pools.

There is a good view of Stirling Castle in the distance.

Look out for Herons, Mallard, Coot and Moorhens with Sand Martins joining them in the summer. Many small birds breed on the reserve in the summer: Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Grasshopper Warbler, Wren, etc. Gadwalls are regular visitors and raptors such as Buzzards can be seen as well as an occasional Peregrine.

RETRACE your steps back to the River Forth and turn right towards a field in the distance.

In June and July Common Spotted Orchids can be seen at this junction.



Common Spotted Orchid (Bob Silverwood)

Large flocks of Curlew and Lapwings can often be seen in the field straight ahead and in winter they are joined by Pink-footed Geese.

FROM the sign, retrace your steps, following the same route back to the car parking area.



View from path looking towards Blackgrange Farm

Birds you may see on the Cambus Pools walk



Long-tailed Tit



White Throat



Grasshopper
Warbler



Gadwall



Water Rail



Moorhen



Sandmartin



Pink-footed Geese



Buzzard

Grateful thanks to Barry Boswell of Upper Boddington, Northamptonshire, for allowing us to use his wonderful pictures of birds to illustrate this walk and the walk above. For more information go to: www.britishbirdphotographs.com