



University of Stirling

HILLFOOTS ROAD

To A91

Entrance

Exit

To Bridge of Allan and Stirling

Marsden Court (Private)

Ochils Viewpoint

P

Visitor Centre
Legends Coffee House

National Wallace Monument

Picnic Area








Causewayhead Park

Stirling Viewpoint

ALLOA ROAD



Key

-  Viewpoint
-  Parking
-  Picnic Area
-  Pathway to and from The Monument
-  The Stirling Trail
-  The Abbey Trail
-  Other Paths

The Abbey Craig

- Nature Trails and Woodland Walks

- This pathway** will take you from The Visitor Reception Centre to The Monument. Allow 15 to 20 minutes to walk from the start to The Monument.
- The Stirling Trail** - This walk will take you from The Monument to the viewpoint overlooking the city of Stirling and Stirling Castle. From this point you can return to The Monument, or you can continue on the trail, and re-join the pathway back to the Visitor Reception Centre. Allow 35 minutes for this trail.
- The Abbey Trail** - By following this trail you can complete a walk around the woodlands of The Abbey Craig, and re-join the pathway back to the Visitor Reception Centre. Allow 45 minutes for this trail.

The paths and trails all have a hard surface of loose stone. They are wide, but can be steep (especially at the start and the finish). Other smaller woodland paths can be narrow, steep and muddy. Allow extra time to enjoy the views!

Before William Wallace...

In 2001 archaeologists discovered the remains of an old hill fort in the grassy mounds at the rear of The Monument. This was believed to date from the period 500 - 780AD, when the four quarters of mainland Scotland were ruled by the ancient tribes of Picts, Celts, Britons, and Angles. Clearly The Abbey Craig was an important stronghold at the time.

The Abbey Craig Quarries

In the late 18th century a Mr. James Brownhill from The Alloa Mill Company discovered that the coarse stone from The Abbey Craig was ideal for making millstones, and subsequently over 300 pairs were carved during the years of the Napoleonic Wars, when the normal sources in France were unable to meet demand. Stone from The Abbey Craig was subsequently used in building projects, including the construction of The Monument itself, and of the Stirling New Bridge, designed by Robert Stevenson and opened in 1832. The core of The Abbey Craig is formed of dolerite, a hard volcanic rock.

The Trees of The Abbey Craig

The woodlands of The Abbey Craig have a mix of broadleaved trees including Oak, Ash, Sycamore and Birch; conifers such as Scots Pine, Norway Spruce, and Yew; and Holly, Hawthorn and Blackthorn shrubs. A good mix of trees supports a wide variety of plants and animals.

Plant Life on The Abbey Craig

The Abbey Craig woodlands have a rich ground flora, with Dog's Mercury covering the ground in spring (indicating an ancient woodland), and Ramsons (Wild Garlic) can be smelt, crushed underfoot. In early summer, Bluebells carpet the woods and abundant mosses, lichens and fungi grow from the trees.

Animals on The Abbey Craig

The Abbey Craig is home for many different animals - including Roe deer, which can be seen year-round. During the winter months their coats are thick and dark, but in summer they are much lighter. Bird life is also an important feature of The Abbey Craig, and its trees provide food to support over 30 different species.

Take a break at

Legends
COFFEE HOUSE



- † Speciality Coffees
- † Home-made Soups
- † Freshly Made Sandwiches
- † Wraps and Paninis
- † Cakes

