

The Ramblers - St Andrews & N.E. Fife Group



A sunny Wednesday morning at the beginning of August saw nine Ramblers meeting on the southern edge of Moncreiffe Hill by Perth for a 5-mile circular walk. Moncreiffe, an ancient name translating as 'hill of the tree', is aptly-named with its 132 hectares of Douglas firs, Scots pines and broadleaved trees. This is a popular spot, as evidenced by the busy car park, but we met only a handful of other walkers as we made our way through the extensive, undulating woodland. Our route began with a steady ascent,

punctuated by the occasional steep stretch, and soon we gained sweeping views to the south over the River Earn and beyond to the ever-present Lomond Hills. As the track swung round to the north we left behind the roar of traffic from the motorway, and shortly afterwards stopped for coffee and to identify some of Perth's landmarks below. Now it was onwards and upwards again to Moredun Top, an Iron Age hillfort, where we had a leisurely lunch break while enjoying the sunshine and the panoramic, mid-summer views. Suitably replenished, we then continued on the (mostly) downhill path back to our starting point. Our first attempt to adjourn for post-walk refreshments having been thwarted (the nearest café was closed) we were, happily, successful with our next choice on our route back to Fife. On arriving in Cupar, as some of us emerged rather stiffly from our car, your correspondent learned the unfamiliar word 'stechie' – and in her case it was most certainly apposite!



Details of our walks – which are open to guests as well as members of Ramblers – can be found on our website www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com