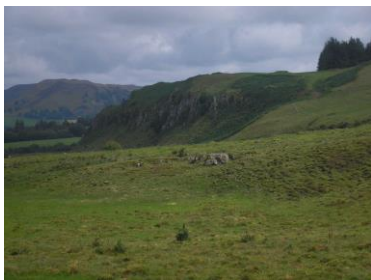


The Ramblers - St Andrews & N.E. Fife Group



A dull overcast day saw 8 members and one visitor start our walk to Loch Glow from Cleish. We were assured by the walk leader that the walk was only uphill as far as the top. It was a slow gradual climb towards the trees of Blackhill Woods, using a good forestry track. However, the latter part of this was a test of one's patience and perseverance as it was very overgrown and quite a challenge. It was also damp and wet underfoot following

recent rain. On reaching a more established forest track, we took a short drinks stop. It was then on towards Loch Glow via some undulating, squishy and soggy paths. Once clear of the undergrowth, we had our lunch break beside the loch. There was seating and benches available, obviously provided for those wishing to pursue the art of angling on the loch, though



there were few of these in evidence. Following lunch we returned to Cleish via some more forest tracks and a minor road, thankfully downhill all the way. It was only when going down this road that some members commented that they didn't realise how high up we had walked! After the walk we had refreshments in a nearby café. Other than the horrible path up towards the trees, we agreed that it was a fine walk, with some views to the Ochils, Lomonds, Loch Leven and the Firth of Forth, albeit very hazy.

The following Saturday an intrepid group of five made our way to Perth for a moderate, 8-mile circular walk taking in Scone, Macduff's Folly and Lynedoch Obelisk. As we approached Perth the skies were threatening rain, in keeping with the forecast. We set out along the paths through Quarrymill Woodland Park and sure enough, soon after we entered the Den of Scone, those optimists who had not donned wet weather gear in advance were forced to stop and struggle into waterproof trousers – a task performed much more easily before leaving home! After several more minutes' walking we stopped again for a quick refreshment break while still under the relative shelter of the trees. Here one of our



number learned the hard way that it is advisable to over-rather than under-dilute concentrated lemon squash when preparing one's drinks bottle. On reaching a minor road we headed along a path leading towards our first landmark, Macduff's Monument, or Folly. The final approach was the steepest, and most challenging, part of our walk as we clambered up a narrow muddy, gorse-lined path and over slippery rocks to the summit – where,

despite the light drizzle, we were rewarded with impressive 360 degree views. After a short rest for lunch at the foot of the Folly we tackled the undulating path to our second port of call, Lynedoch Obelisk, erected in memory of Thomas Graham who fought alongside Wellington during the Peninsular War. The skies were clearing as we started our steep descent towards Murrayshall, and some of us felt brave enough to discard our rain jackets. Alas, this must have displeased the weather gods; as we reached Scone, with well over a mile still to go, the rain descended again with a



vengeance. Jackets on again (and not entirely waterproof in some cases) we splashed our way back through the woodland to the car park at Quarrymill. There we recovered in the park's welcoming café before the drive back to Fife. And in spite of the weather, we had all enjoyed this scenic, companionable walk.

Our next walk is on Sunday 27th August, *a leisurely 8.5-mile walk on minor roads, forest tracks and field paths across the upland area above the Howe known as the Riggin o' Fife, with good views to the Lomonds and over farmlands. All of our walks are open to guests who would like to try out The Ramblers, and full details can be found on our website www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com*

(A late change had to be made to this walk: see the website and subsequent walk report for Lower Largo to Keil's Den)