



THE PERTH LADE

EXPLORE ON FOOT OR BY BIKE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ITS HISTORY AND WILDLIFE



Cover image, Lis Burke

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Lade has a rich heritage, with records suggesting that it could be one of Scotland's oldest waterways at nearly 900 years old.

It has had many uses during its history; one of the earliest as a defensive moat outside the medieval city walls.

However, the Lade is most associated with Perth's industrial age; used to power the mills and textile-based industries including bleachworks and dyeworks.

The Lade also once served as a drinking water supply, but was so polluted from industrial chemicals that an alternative source (the River Tay) had to be found.

Little evidence remains of its industrial past. The mills and factories are long closed (although parts of buildings still exist, notably at the City Mills and Tulloch Works).

Today, the Lade's importance continues on as a green corridor and a busy walking and cycling route.



AN URBAN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Look and listen as you walk or cycle along the Lade – you may be surprised at the wildlife making their home here.

Lining the banks of the water are a wide variety of native trees, plants and colourful wildflowers, including some rare specimens.

Of the many species of birds, the largest is the Grey Heron, with a wingspan of up to 1.8m. The smallest is the Wren, a secretive bird with a mighty song. You may hear the Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming on a tree trunk, but it can be hard to spot. But if you're lucky, you may glimpse the Kingfisher's blue and orange flash as it flies past.

Beneath the water's surface are fish such as minnows, sticklebacks and small trout, all food for the Heron and Kingfisher, and for the otters who are known to swim in the Lade.

At dusk you're likely to see bats out feasting on midges and moths. Did you know that a bat can eat up to 3,000 midges a night – couldn't we do with more bats?!

AN URBAN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

Walking or cycling can be quick ways to travel for local journeys. They're great ways to get the exercise we need and they're free!

The Lade path is a largely off-road walking and cycling route with easy access from many residential areas. It's convenient for regular journeys and a pleasant option for leisure walks or rides.

At nearly 4.5 miles, it begins in Almondbank and runs via Huntingtower, Tulloch and Crieff Road right to the heart of the city centre.

The majority of the path is surfaced and bicycle and wheelchair friendly. It is step-free, apart from the White Bridge near Fairfield which cannot be used by wheelchairs but does have a bike rail for cyclists. The new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the A9 provides improved walking and cycling connections to Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Bertha Park and Almondbank.

The map overleaf shows the Lade's route, access points and connecting paths.



EXPLORING FURTHER

Perth has many good walking and cycling routes on off-road paths and quiet streets. To find the best routes, search online for the Perth City Walking and Cycling Map, or try walkit.com or cyclestreets.net to plan journeys from door to door.

Led walks are available in and around Perth if you are less confident getting out by yourself or like to meet up with other people. Search online for Live Active's Stride for Life programme or ask at any Live Active leisure centre.

If you might want to buy a reconditioned bike or get your bike back on the road, visit Perth Bike Station at 284 High Street, or see their website thebikestation.org.uk/perth

Travel along the Lade into town and visit Mill Street Café – they offer free water refills if you bring your plastic bottle and water bowls for dogs.

ABOUT THIS LEAFLET

The Lade has long been an important asset for our city, full of historical and biodiversity significance, and an attractive and convenient route for walking and cycling.

If you don't often walk or cycle along the Lade path, we hope this leaflet inspires you to get out and explore it. If you do currently use it, we hope you learn something in this leaflet that you didn't already know!

If using the Lade path inspires you to explore further afield, get ideas from the 'Walks and paths to explore' page of pkc.gov.uk/paths

For information about PK On the Go or to get specific advice on travel options that are relevant to you, visit pkonthego.co.uk

Contact us if you want to discuss your own journey choices: transportplanning@pkc.gov.uk

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