Kings Knot and the Butt Well
Phototrail

This trail was produced by residents of Camphill Blair Drummond - a community which provides homes and meaningful daily activities for people with learning disabilities. A countryside walk on outskirts of historic Stirling with wonderful views of Stirling Castle and the countryside towards Trossachs. Kings Knot Garden was created in the 17th century and is known locally as the Cup and Saucer. Part of the walk is across grass which can become muddy in wet weather. There are a number of irregular stone steps in part of the walk. There are a few seats in the second half of the walk.

Surveyed by: May 2012
Accessibility Rating: 5
Distance: 1.4 km

The Smith Art Gallery and Museum is a good place to visit when open - Tuesdays to Saturdays 10.30 to 17.00 and Sundays 14.00 - 17.00. You might be able to park here when its not too busy, but there is also metered parking on the street.

We drove into the car park and got ready to go.

The walk starts at the barrier. We turned left and walked on the pavement.

We turned left into Greenwood Avenue. No pavement so be careful of oncoming cars.

We looked at the gardens. it looked good. We want to come back here next time.
We walked on the road. It's a one way street, cars come towards you.

We stepped up onto the pavement then we turned left into Royal Gardens.

We walked along the path beside these lovely houses. They had pretty gardens.

This was another path. You could come back this way if you can't manage steps.

We saw the fire station

Cross road by the mile stone, turning right and stepping off the kerb. Watch out for cars.

The entrance to Kings Knot. Heavy metal gate. The gate is about 1.2m wide, hinged and opens in towards the gardens. It is operated by a handle that should turn (but is currently broken).

We read the story about the Kings Knot Gardens
It can be muddy by the gate when wet.

We followed the grassy path.

This is a picture of Kings Knot with the castle behind.

We walked up the steep bank - gradient 10.8%. The slope up is around 12m long. You can avoid this slope by walking around the mound to the other side.

It looks like a cup and saucer.

Standing on top, (to our left) we saw the golf course behind the trees.

We helped each other down the steep bank on the other side - gradient 10-17.4%. The slope down is bigger on this side - around 20m long.

We walked straight on towards the three trees and the footpath signpost.

A little muddy when wet.

Turn right in front of the wall - don't go through the gate. But look at the gate - it swivels.
We walked by the wall. You might see cows here.

What a view of the castle!

We walked towards the gap in the wall.

We walked through the gap. We measured this with our hands. It is narrow - 4 hand spans or about 80cm at ground level.

Uneven path.

We walked straight on across the grass.

Pretty buttercups.

Head for the stone steps.

Path gets stony, and a bit steeper. Gradient - 7.4%.

Path by barrier gets narrow - 3 hand spans or about 60cm.
We walked up 7 steps, some of them quite high (35cm).

We didn’t go down this path on the left, but kept straight on, up 11 more steps.

We turned right and climbed 3 more steps.

We got a good view from here.

The Butt Well - people used to get their water from here.

We sat on the seat for a rest and enjoyed our picnic - and the lovely view over the Carse.

We walked back towards The Smith on this level path. Good surface.

Keep straight on.

Tree overhanging path.

Steep forest (to the right). We stopped and looked at the sun shining through the trees. Lots of different colours. We listened to the birds singing too.
The path slopes down towards the steep bank -(gradient is 8.3% across the path). Be careful here.

You could stop for a rest on the curved stone seat to enjoy the view.

A lovely view over the Kings Knot garden.

Look at the carvings

A dragon!....

A unicorn...

.....and a dog - or was it a wolf?

Keep straight on

We looked down to the right and saw the road we walked on earlier - Greenwood Avenue.

Take the right path, down the hill.
Watch out! The surface is a little a bit loose and quite steep. The gradient is 20.4% and is around 16m long.

We turned right onto the tarmac path.

We turned left back onto Greenwood Avenue towards the Smith. Remember to listen for cars coming from behind you.

We turned right.

We stepped back up onto the pavement.

We walked back to The Smith Art Gallery and Museum. You could visit the cafe if the museum is open. The Smith Gallery gave us a token to raise the barrier at the end of our walk.