

Smithhills to Causeyside

Directions

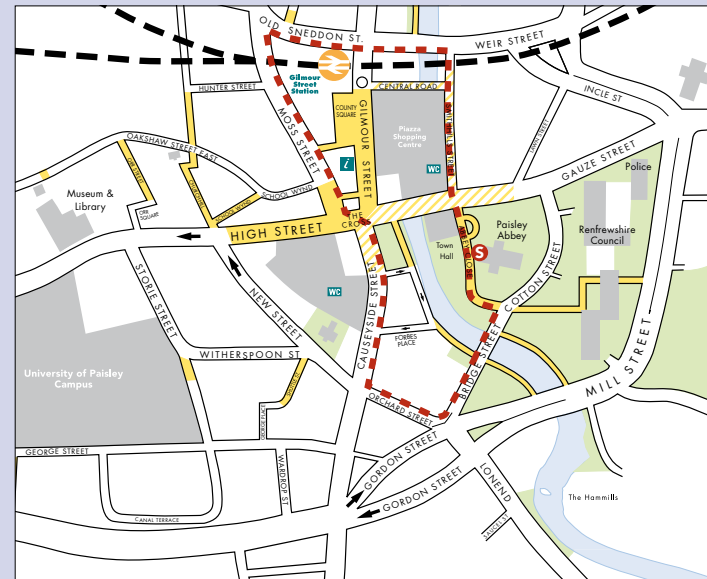
Start at the main entrance of Paisley Abbey. Pass the front of the **Town Hall**, cross straight over **Gauze Street** and walk down **Smithhills Street**. Carry straight on under the **railway arch** before turning left onto **Old Sneddon Street**. Walk along Old Sneddon Street passing an entrance to Gilmour Street Railway Station on the left. Then turn left into **Moss Street**. At **Paisley Cross** walk over to **St Mirren Street** and cross over using the pedestrian crossing. Walk down the street with the laid out gardens of **Dunn Square** on your left. Continue along **Causeyside Street** to the Russell Institute on the right, turn left into **Orchard Street**. At the end turn left again into **Bridge Street**. Cross the river and return to the start by turning left into Abbey Close.



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walking to health

Distance: 1.5kms Approximate time: 20 mins





A little local knowledge

Many of the grand buildings in Paisley were funded by the town's successful men. The **Town Hall** is no exception. The Clark family were prominent in the Paisley thread industry. The family provided the money for the town hall to be built. The initial benefactor was George Aitken Clark who left £20,000 in his will to build a town hall in Paisley. Statues of two of Paisley's famous weaver poets, **Robert Tannahill** and **Alexander Wilson**, silently watch the world pass by the front door of the Town Hall.

Moss Street forms one of the original streets in the town which led out towards the mossy waterlogged area north of the town towards the River Clyde. **Causeyside Street** led south towards Kilmarnock. Its name may be derived from the causeway built to carry people over the marshy ground.



In the early 19th century an old goose was swept down the White Cart during a storm. Being too old to eat, the goose was given the run of the Saracen's Head Inn yard at **Paisley Cross**. The goose regularly joined the soldiers in their patrols outside the tolbooth jail. It could be seen listening carefully as the recruiting officer encouraged the town's young men to take the King's Shilling and join the army.

In 1920 Miss Agnes Russell decided that her brothers contribution to Paisley should be commemorated. However she did not wish to spend her money on a 'useless' statue. She decided to build a clinic for mothers and young children. Notice the statues of small children, each with a different ailment, on the **Russell Institute** which is still a health clinic today.

