

# Welcome to our wonderful Woods

# A peaceable kingdom of nature

If you're looking for a touch of magic, come and explore Callendar Park Woodlands.

They were once a rich family's big back garden; now you can wander among a captivating variety of exotic and native trees and savour the sight, sound and signs of an engaging range of wildlife.

Walk, cycle, ride – or even jog – through the woods. Take time, though, to discover some of the intriguing history that's hidden among the trees and watch the sunlight dappling the leaves.

The woodlands form a relaxing backdrop to the chateau-like splendour of Callendar House with its parkland, loch and play park.



The woodlands offer simple pleasures but represent a complex habitat of interacting species - an ecosystem embracing everything from hidden insects to shy roe deer.

You'll find fungi, lichens, mosses and ferns on and around trees. In spring and summer, look for primroses and yellow pimpernel, wood anemone and wood sorrel, red campion and bluebells.

Smell hawthorn blossom in spring and see conkers in autumn.

A few oaks are about 250 years old but most are younger because the woods were (and still are) managed for timber. You'll find other native trees such as Scots pine, aspen, rowan, birch and - curiously - many yew trees. The Forbes family planted the soaring North American conifers - the Douglas, noble and grand firs, sitka spruce, western hemlock and cypress.



Living among the plants and trees is a mini-world of insects including spiders, beetles, clipshears (earwigs) and slaters (woodlice). They provide food for birds and small mammals. As well as chaffies (chaffinches), warblers and other small woodland birds, listen for noisy jays and hammering woodpeckers. Look up to see sparrowhawks and buzzards.

If you stay quiet, you might catch sight of a wood mouse or a shrew in the undergrowth and, early or late in the day, a tod (fox), roe deer or bawkie-bird (bat). You could even hear the haunting cry of a hoolet (owl).



# Explore the House and its Park

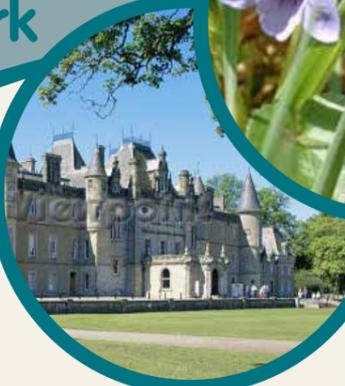
In these peaceful surroundings it's hard to picture their dramatic past.

The Romans built a wall through here, the turmoil of battles echoed nearby, the industrial revolution left its indelible mark, and queens, princes and other notable folk stayed here.

You'll uncover this fascinating story in Callendar House's exhibitions and learn all about life 'below stairs' in the working kitchen of 1825.

Follow in the footsteps of the soldiers who guarded the Antonine Wall – a World Heritage Site, stroll around the loch and picnic in the park. Kids will love the Castle Callendar play area which is open all year.

For information about the house and park, please contact:  
**Falkirk Community Trust**, 01324 503770  
 E-mail: [callendarhouse@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:callendarhouse@falkirk.gov.uk)  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org)



Contact Forestry Commission Scotland  
 Scottish Lowlands Forest District  
 Five Sisters House  
 Five Sisters Business Park  
 West Calder EH55 8PN  
 Tel: 01555 660190  
 Email: [scottishlowlands@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:scottishlowlands@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)  
 Web: [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)



For information on other places to visit in the area see below



- 1 Finding your way to Callendar Park From Edinburgh** follow M9 westbound, exit at junctions 5 and follow the brown signs for Callendar House.  
**From Glasgow & north** - follow M9 eastbound, exit at junction 6 and follow brown tourist signs.
- 2 Devilla** - Red squirrels play and legends lurk in Devilla Forest. You can take a peaceful walk, cycle or ride the trails among the trees, watch for wildlife or picnic by a loch.

If you need this publication in an alternative format, for example, in large print or in another language, please contact:  
 The Diversity Team  
 Tel: 0300 067 5064  
 E-mail: [diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

For information on public transport services contact:  
 Traveline Scotland, 0871 2002233 or [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)  
 © Crown Copyright 2014

# Callendar Park woodlands

Explore | Discover | Enjoy



# Working woodlands, working landscape

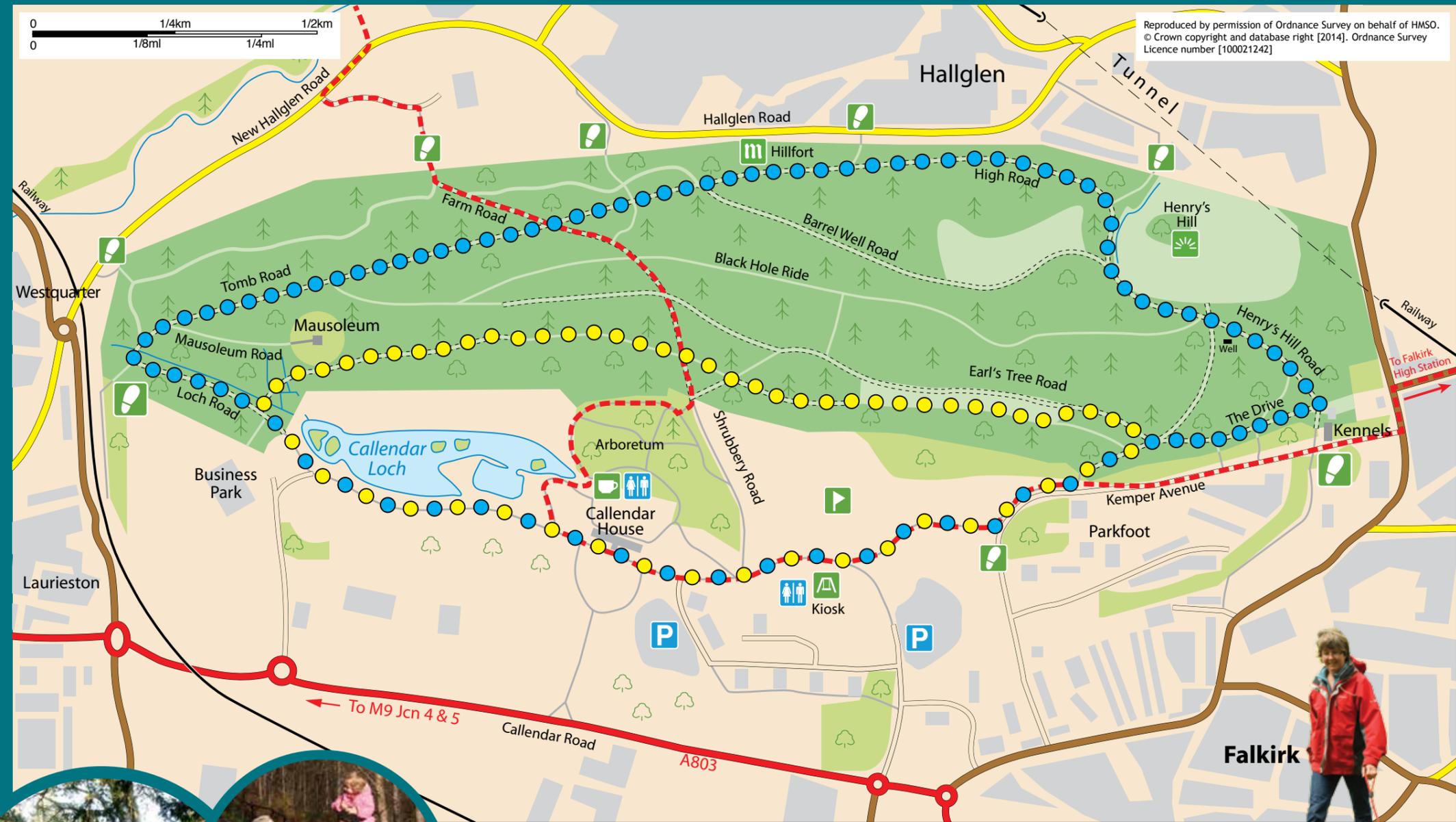
Ice Age glaciers scoured out the Forth Valley and left fertile land that was soon densely forested. **Callander Park Woodlands began that way.**

From earliest times, people exploited the natural resources. An Iron Age tribe raised a hill fort here from timber and earth. The Romans built their wall and forts from turf and stone. Medieval monks coppiced oak trees to heat their salt pans on the banks of the Forth.

When the Livingstone family owned Callander estate in late medieval times, the woods became part of their hunting forest and also supplied timber for building Linlithgow Palace. The Forbes family, who bought the estate in 1783, sold timber for pit props in mines and bark for use in tanning leather. They mined coal for powering steam engines and for the coke used in iron foundries.

The named carriageways that the Forbes family built through the woodlands were not simply for pleasure - they served the house, kennels, mausoleum and the coal and timber operations. Water from the estate was fed to the house and Falkirk town. **Nature worked hard for people!**

**Take one of the trails through the woodlands and see how much of this eventful past you can discover!**



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right [2014]. Ordnance Survey Licence number [100021242]



## Designed for pleasure

The estate - with its valuable timber resources - had only two owners until 1783 when William Forbes, a rich Aberdeen coppersmith, bought it for £100,000.

**The Forbes family**, following fashion, altered the house extensively. They also substantially altered the parkland and woodland with their views, carriage drives, observatory, kennels - and family mausoleum. They exploited the timber crop but also planted magnificent exotic trees. When **Forestry Commission Scotland** bought the woods in 1999, it set out to manage the woods as a place for people to enjoy.

### ●●● Yew Trail

A charming tour of Callander Park and the native oak woodland, suitable for wheelchairs and buggies. Look out for dense clumps of Yew and other specimen conifers, as well as the Forbes family Mausoleum enclosed within a vast circular wall above tranquil Callander Loch

**Wide path, with a smooth, firm surface. Gentle slopes into and out of the wood, with regular resting places, and a short moderate slope back up to the road. Suitable for wheelchairs.**



**2 miles / 3.4 km**  
Allow 1hr 30mins

### ●●● High Road

A moderate trail lined with specimen trees, such as lime, sweet chestnut and copper beech, which passes the Victorian kennels, Henry's Hill and the Well. This longer route follows many of the traditional carriageways that were laid through the wood in the nineteenth century.

**Largely broad and smooth surfaces, with moderate slopes and loose gravel path in places.**



**3 miles / 4.7 km**  
Allow 2 hrs

#### Map key

Forestry Commission Land	Minor road	Toilets
Forestry Commission woodland	Paths	Cafe
Other woodland	Railway	Viewpoint
Main road	Forest Trails (colour waymarked)	Play area
Secondary Road	John Muir Way	Access on foot
	Parking	Golf

**KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO**  
outdooraccess-scotland.com

**Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly**

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.

