

The woodland is home for many kinds of birds, including willow and wood warblers, spotted flycatchers, green and great spotted woodpeckers and the tawny owl. You may catch a fleeting glimpse of vivid blue as a kingfisher flashes over the river, and the bird with the long tail, grey back and yellow underparts which bobs along the rocks by the water is the grey wagtail.

If you walk quietly along the path, especially early or late in the day, you may be rewarded by seeing several roe deer which are resident in the wood.

Conservation Management

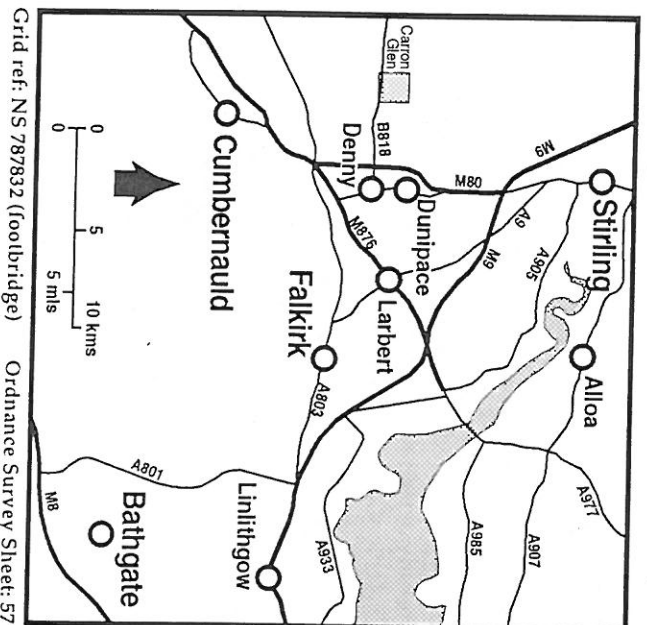
No timber has been removed from the wood for many decades, and our aim is to interfere as little as possible in the natural development of the woodland. However, some of the non-native trees that are present, such as beech and sycamore, can grow in the shade of other trees and could eventually dominate them. To prevent this, many young beech and sycamore trees have been removed, but all the large specimens are being allowed to live into old age. Only where a tree is a possible hazard to public access will it be felled. Many elm trees, which are all eventually going to die from Dutch elm disease, have already been felled for this reason.

Access to the reserve

Parking is possible in a small layby about 50m uphill from the small wooden community hall in Fankerton on the B818. From here a path leads downhill to a footbridge across the River Carron. Walking up stream (go left after crossing the bridge) takes you to the western boundary of the reserve where the path stops. Downstream from the bridge, a public right of way leads eventually to Denny.

Please keep dogs under strict control at all times.

How to get there:



The Scottish Wildlife Trust is the leading charity conserving wildlife and natural environment in Scotland. It is a partner in The Wildlife Trusts, a network of 47 Wildlife Trusts covering the UK and managing over 2000 wildlife reserves. The SWT relies heavily on donations, legacies and membership income. Please join us and support our work – *the need is urgent.*

For further information and details of membership, please contact:

Scottish Wildlife Trust, Cramond House,
Cramond Glebe Road, Edinburgh EH4 6NS
Tel: 0131 312 7765 Fax: 0131 312 8705

Scottish Wildlife Trust Charity
Registration No. SC 006592



Designed by H Scott (Pica Design)
Illustrations by D Pennell

Welcome to
Carron Glen
Wildlife Reserve

CENTRAL



SCOTTISH
WILDLIFE TRUST

Welcome to Carron Glen Wildlife Reserve

Carron Glen has long been recognised by residents of Denny and Fankerton as a local beauty spot. There is an established footpath through the wood, and in the past there was a bandstand on the south bank of the river, where musicians played during the summer months. This has long since disappeared, but the shady woods remain a haven for wildlife and a popular place for quiet recreation today. The 19ha reserve became the Trust's 100th Wildlife Reserve when it was gifted to the Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1996 by Mr D. Forbes of the Callendar Estate.

Geology and Landscape

Carron Glen is a hidden woodland. The reserve lies on the north bank of the River Carron in a steep sided glen which is largely concealed by the folds of the adjacent hills. The river created this narrow valley when it was a raging torrent carrying meltwaters from glaciers 10,000 years ago. The river now plunges down a series of small waterfalls caused by bands of harder rock which are more resistant to erosion than the adjacent areas of softer rock.

Woodland History

Much of the woodland which once covered the surrounding hills has been cleared over many centuries for cultivation or sheep grazing. Although the slopes of the gorge were too steep to clear and have probably been wooded since just after the Ice Age, Man has had a significant impact on the woods and the river. Many of the oak trees have several stems growing from one base, indicating that they were coppiced over 100 years ago. This process involves cutting down the mature tree and allowing the stump to regrow. This can be done with oak repeatedly at intervals of 20 years or

Wildlife

The long history of woodland cover means that a wide variety of wildlife has survived and thrived. This diversity is aided by the large number of tree species in the wood. Native trees such as oak, ash, elm, rowan and alder compete for space and light with non-native species such as beech and sycamore. The smell of onions hangs in the air around damp areas where ramsons or wild garlic occurs. Bluebells, wood sorrel and wood anemone flower in profusion in the spring, while later in the summer the woodland flowers include red campion, herb robert and wood avens. In places on the river banks and on the small islands, a deep cushion of yellow flowers in late spring is provided by the globeflower, a plant which is rare in Central Scotland. At a distance it could be confused with marsh marigold which also grows on the river banks. Both of these members of the buttercup family are poisonous.

more, and is an early example of sustainable management.

The bark from the felled trees was used in the tanning of leather. The wood was turned into charcoal and used in iron smelting. If you look carefully across the river from the reserve, you may see signs of old stone walls. These are the ruins of old mills, one a charcoal

mill, which were powered by water from the river. Downstream, there is a weir across the river which still supplies water to the Carrongrove paper mill.



Charcoal burning

