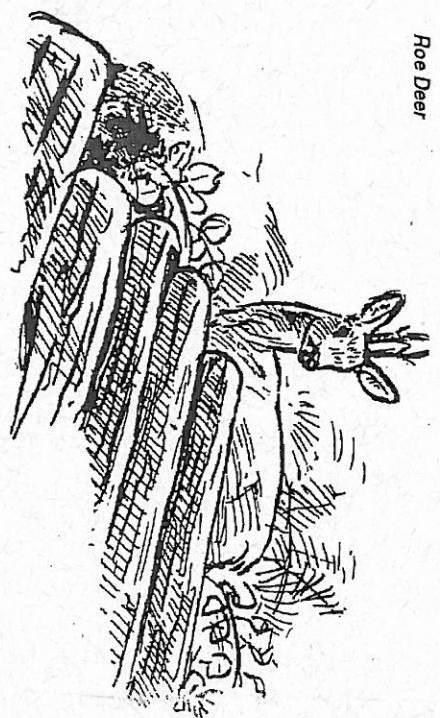


## Conservation management

One consequence of past management is that oak and to a lesser extent beech have been favoured at the expense of other trees. Some recent coppicing (cutting at ground level) of the oak should provide opportunities for other native Scottish trees such as rowan and birch to establish. Coppicing will also vary the age structure of the wood, which is remarkably uniform, perhaps a result of large scale felling at the beginning of the century. Some areas of oak have been thinned to provide habitats for pied flycatchers and redstarts. Nestboxes, which substitute for old dead trees, have further increased the populations of these birds. Elsewhere on the reserve sycamore and rhododendron are being removed. Both these species are not native to Scotland and generally they support less wildlife than our native species. Browsing by roe deer and thick growth of bracken both limit opportunities for natural tree regeneration and some planting and tree protection has occurred in the past.

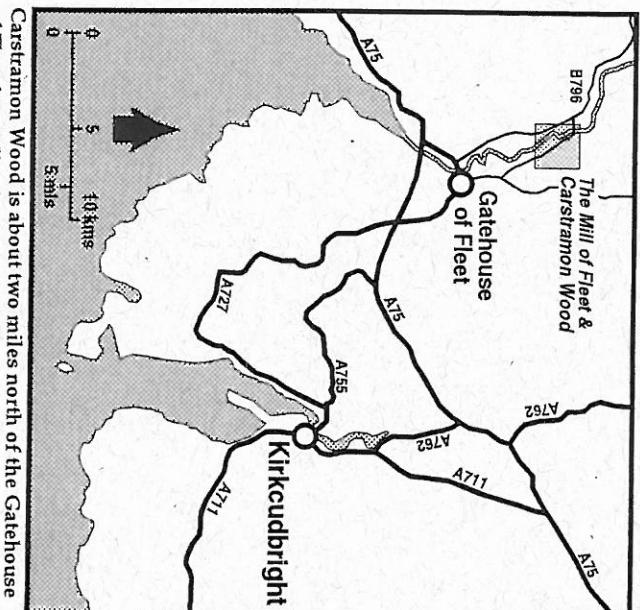


Roe Deer

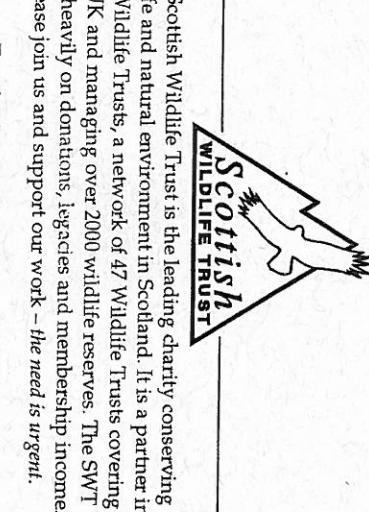
## Access to the reserve

Within the reserve there is a network of marked trails. Parking is available in a number of laybys below the wood.

## How to get there:



Carstramon Wood is about two miles north of the Gatehouse of Fleet immediately above a minor road.



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  
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Illustrations by D Powell

**WILDLIFE TRUST**

**SCOTTISH**

# Welcome to **Carstramon Wood**

## Wildlife Reserve

— DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY —

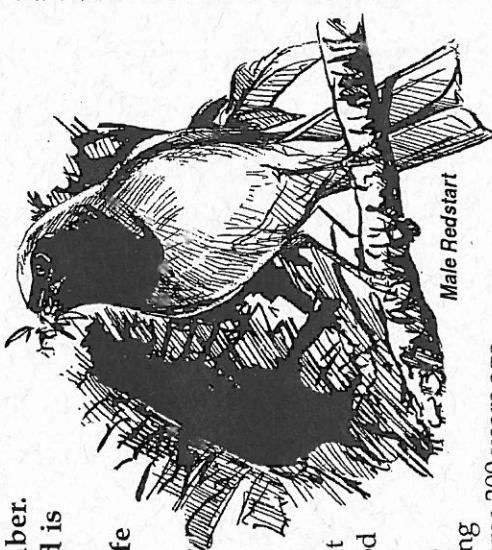


# Welcome to Carstramon Wood Wildlife Reserve

## Welcome to Carstramon Wood Wildlife Reserve

Reserve which, at 83ha, is one of the largest of the Fleet Valley oak woodlands. There has been woodland on this site for at least two hundred years, a fact well known to local people who found many uses for the timber.

Today the wood is owned by the Scottish Wildlife Trust.



## Wildlife

Although there have been trees at Carstramon Wood for a long time many of the oaks were planted using English acorns some 200 years ago.

However, as far as the wildlife is concerned an English oak is pretty similar to a Scottish oak! In spring the wood comes alive with the sound of summer migrant birds. Pied flycatcher, redstart, wood warbler and willow warbler all winter in Africa beyond the Sahara desert, and each year make the incredible journey north to breed in Carstramon Wood.

In May the woodland floor is carpeted with bluebells, and visitors come from far and wide just to experience this heady scent and spectacle. Notice the great abundance of ferns and lichens, which benefit from the humid conditions that arise from the woods western location and unbroken tree cover.

## Human impact

In 1747 Roy's map shows that woodland was restricted to the Doon Hill and this is supported by the remnants of field boundary walls within the present wood.

However, by about 1800 most of the present woodland had been planted.

From about 1830, maybe for a hundred years, oak was cut in the wood and converted to charcoal for use in the smelting of iron, brass and copper.

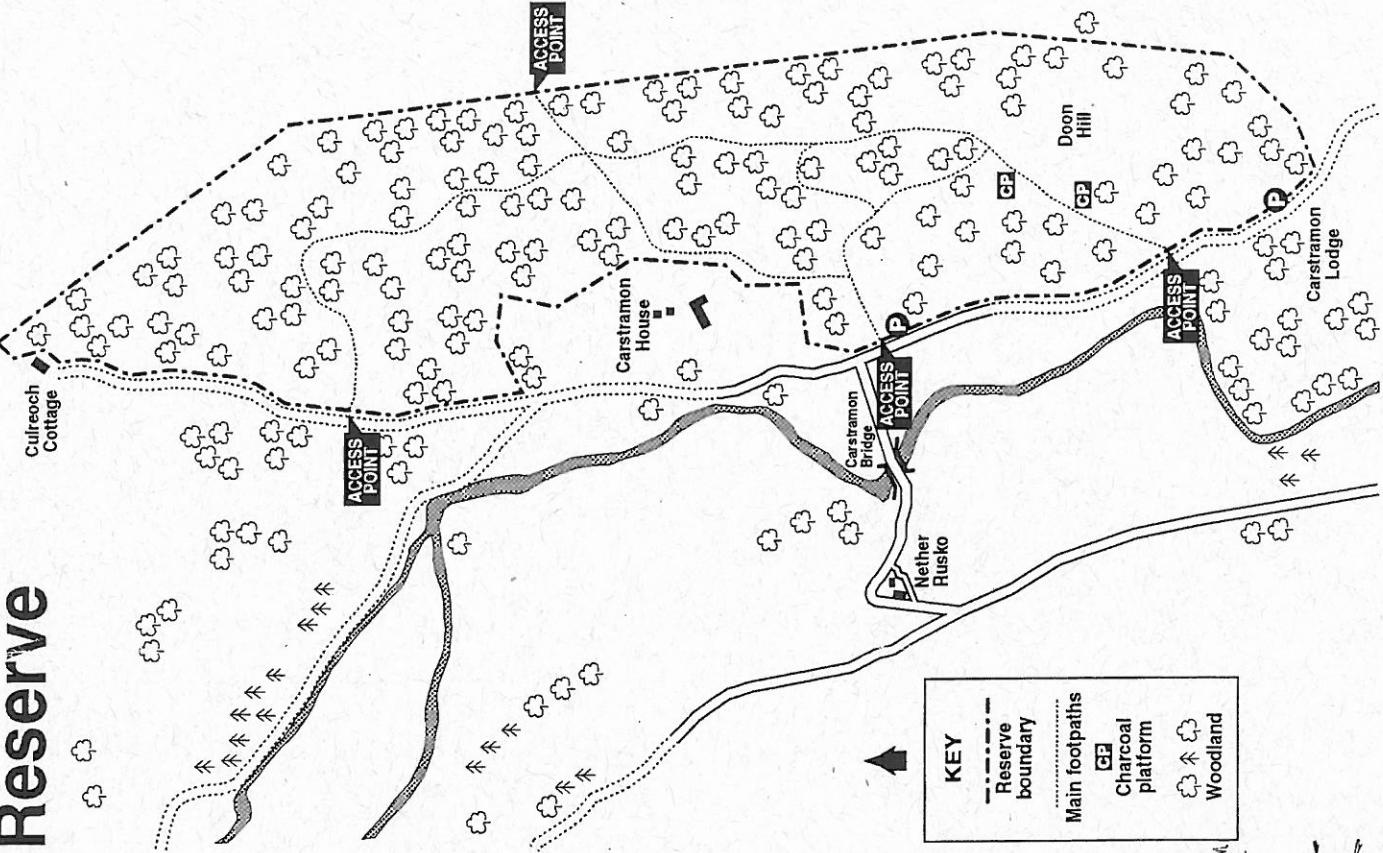
Below the Doon Hill there are at least five platforms, which were at one time used for making charcoal. The nearby track was used to extract charcoal and timber to the road.

Until 1931 oak was used from the wood to supply a small bobbin mill and wood products business in the nearby Gatehouse of Fleet. Bobbins were supplied to the local cotton mills.

A large oak tree above the road by the layby is known as the "Parliament Oak". Tradition has it that this was a meeting place for local people.



## Map of Carstramon Wood



KEY	
— Main footpaths	- - - Reserve boundary
■ Charcoal platform	• Woodland
↑ Access Point	