

# Welcome to DEVILLA FOREST

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.

Less than an hour's drive from Edinburgh, the Red Squirrel Trail is particularly popular with families.



## ●●● The Red Squirrel Trail

Watch for squirrels scurrying through the lodgepole pine on this short trail round Bordie Loch and past the legendary Standard Stone.

Firm gravel surface throughout with some uneven sections. Generally flat with some short fairly steep slopes. Two wide sections of boardwalk.

**moderate** 1 1/2 miles / 2.4 km Allow 1 hour

Red squirrel



Grey squirrel



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## Conserving the Red Squirrel

Red squirrels are in decline across Britain. They have been devastated by the deadly squirrel pox virus, the destruction of woodlands and by the spread of grey squirrels. The North American grey squirrel was introduced into Fife in 1919 and is now widespread in central and southern Scotland. You can see them on the fringes of Devilla but the red squirrel is better adapted to life among the Scots pine and so the cousins have lived in close proximity here for decades. We work with conservation groups to support the red squirrel population. You can help by recording sightings during your visit to Devilla.

You can also get involved in conservation work here. For details, please see: [www.forestry.gov.uk/centralscotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/centralscotland) To learn more about red squirrels, visit: [www.fiferedsquirrels.co.uk](http://www.fiferedsquirrels.co.uk)

### Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

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



A red squirrel's drey



The red squirrel's diet includes pine cone seeds and acorns  
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Scots pine in Devilla

## and the RED SQUIRREL TRAIL



When you step onto the Red Squirrel Trail, you step into the home of one of Scotland's most iconic residents. The red squirrel has made a stronghold of Devilla, which in turn has made these tranquil woodlands a focus for efforts to conserve the embattled native species in Fife.



### RED SQUIRREL detectives!

As you walk around the Red Squirrel Trail, look for 'squirrel shadows' among the trees that capture distinctive behaviour. You'll find clues on the special squirrel signal posts along the way...

How many 'squirrel shadows' can you spot doing the following:

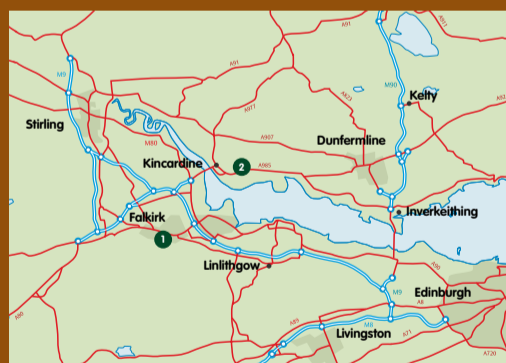
- Taking their first steps into the trees
- Eating their stashes of food
- Using their tails for communication and balance
- Climbing up and down tree trunks



Lowlands and Fife

Contact Forestry Commission Scotland  
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Tel: 0300 067 6700  
E-mail: [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 Devilla Forest** - The forest car park and way onto the Red Squirrel Trail can be found on the A985 Kincardine Bridge to Dunfermline road that runs along the southern edge of the forest. The car park is one mile east of Kincardine.
- 2 **Blairadam** - Three easy trails cross an 18th-century designed landscape blanketed in an attractive forest that includes towering spruces and beeches.
- 3 **Callendar Wood** - Choose from a variety of trails, including an all abilities trail, to explore an historic woodland close to Falkirk.

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# Devilla Forest and the Red Squirrel Trail

Explore | Discover | Enjoy





# Beyond the RED SQUIRREL TRAIL

Devilla covers 700 ha of forest, much of which was planted in the 1950s.

You can leave the waymarked trail and explore the network of paths that extend through one of the largest pine forests in the Scottish lowlands.

There are **four lochs** to find, home to thriving wildlife, including otters. Among the trees are many relics of past times, such as an enigmatic **stone monument** that tradition associates with Macbeth and a **gravestone** that marks the resting place of three children who died of the plague in 1645.

Devilla covers an historic landscape of farm and moorland whose place-names are rooted in Gaelic language and culture. Its own name means **'bad farm'**, which refers to land ill suited for farming, more than a mile north of the forest.



Common buzzard



**1 Danish Camp or Trench Knowe**  
A fort reputedly used by Scandinavian invaders but probably much older

**2 The Bore Stone**  
Where open-air court sessions were held and, curiously, leeks were left during processions around the parish boundaries

**3 The Red Squirrel Trail**

**Devilla's four lochs**  
Havens for wildfowl and other animals

**5 The Standard Stone**  
Linked by legend to Macbeth and an ancient battle

**6 Maggie Duncan's Stane**  
A boulder said to have been scarred by a witch's apron strings

**7 Plague grave**  
Where children Robert, Agnes and Jeane Baidis were buried in 1645

**4 Preybrae Second World War explosives research station**  
Ruins of a military base protected by blast walls and steel plates



Forest worker from a sawmill team near Moor Loch, 1913  
Courtesy of Bob and Meg Smith, of Kincardine

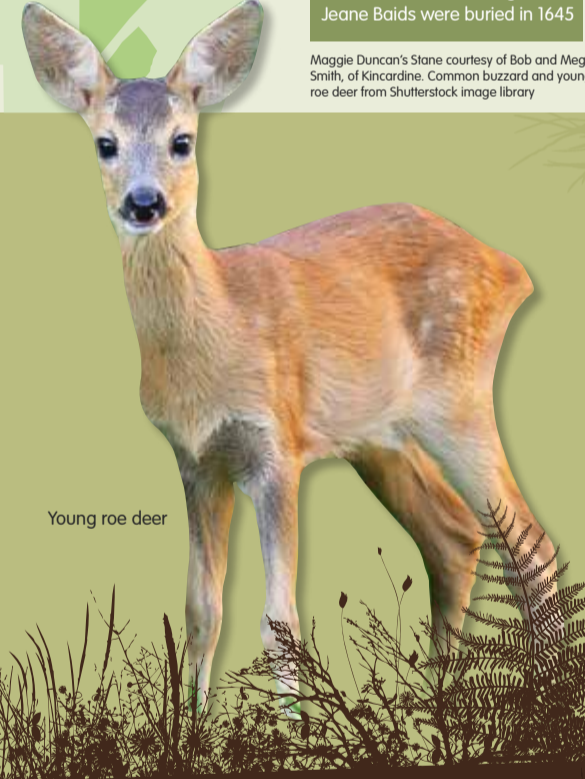


Scots pine seedling

### Devilla Today

Forestry Commission Scotland manages the forest to balance the demands of timber production with recreation and conservation. Local historians Bob and Meg Smith have pieced together much of the heritage of this special place.

Please treat the forest and its other visitors with respect and be aware that the trails are used by cyclists, horse riders and walkers.



Young roe deer



Red squirrel's winter food

Each season in Devilla presents new experiences to the visitor. Come back again to see what this remarkable forest can offer.

### Spring

- **Wild flowers** bloom, with primroses giving way to red campions and bluebells
- Vibrant green **new growth** transforms the Scots pine
- Hedgehogs, pipistrelle and Daubenton's bats **emerge** from hibernation

### Summer

- **Dragonflies** and **damselflies** dart over the basin mires and the fringes of lochs while **butterflies** can be seen fluttering over woodland flowers
- Common **lizards** bask in the sunshine on sandy soils
- **Great crested grebes** perform elaborate mating displays on Moor Loch

### Autumn

- **Larches** take on stunning autumn colours
- Tasty **blaeberrries** ripen across Devilla
- **Red squirrels** gather and hide food for the coming winter months

### Winter

- Animals leave **footprints** in the frost and snow – look out for red squirrels, pine martens, otters and badgers
- The **striking coats** of red squirrels are at their most bushy and vivid red
- Migrating **Canada geese** might rest on Moor Loch mid-journey



Azure damselfly



Autumnal oak



Great-crested grebe