

Coal Mining

Coal mining was first recorded at Blairadam by Dunfermline monks in 1291. They describe shallow workings dug into the sides of the Kelty Burn. Similar workings are still discernible on the sides of the Pieries Burn.



When William Adam bought the estate there was one coal mine located at Loutenstane Wood. A number of coal seams on the estate were exploited as the years progressed. William Adam noted in the Blairadam Book that the lawn in front of Blairadam House had often been covered in coal.

The Blairenbathie Colliery was owned by the Fife Coal Company and at its peak employed



Blairenbathie Mine



Beech trees - Woodend



Keltyhill Glen

300 men. The pit opened in 1895 when 2 shafts were sunk to a depth of 112 fathoms (672 feet). A new railway was built over the Glen and many trees were felled. As well as transporting coal, the railway carried miners to and from the pit.

The Blairenbathie Drift Mine was opened in 1945. This was a sloped railway to the upper seams. Coal production only lasted until 1962. Due to difficult geology and water the mine was not as productive as expected. At its peak 150 men were employed at this mine.

WELCOME TO Blairadam

3 centuries of history

The notable Scottish architect William Adam bought the estate of Blair Crambeth in 1733 and built Blairadam House there. He added neighbouring estates to his land and began to plant trees for ornamentation and for commercial timber. His son John Adam continued this work.

Sir Walter Scott was a frequent visitor to Blairadam house in the early 19th century. He and the Right Honourable William Adam (John's son), were members of the Blairadam Antiquarian club, a circle of close friends who met at Blairadam every midsummer from 1817 to 1831. He describes the Kiery Craigs in his novel "The Abbot" as a romantic dell, where those that visit "desire to remain long and return soon". He also noted the views from Blairadam north to Loch Leven, which can still be enjoyed today.

William Adam bought the estate with the intention of exploiting the coal seams. As the 19th and 20th centuries developed, coal became an important local industry, at its peak Kelty had ten pits and a population of 8000. Remnants of some of these busy workplaces can be found within the forest.



Keltyhill Glen trail



Lochornie Burn bridge



The Kelty Heritage Trails Group have been working in partnership with Fife Council and Forestry Commission Scotland to improve amenities within Blairadam forest for the people of Kelty and as an attraction for visitors.

The partnership would like to acknowledge the following funders and thank them for their support.

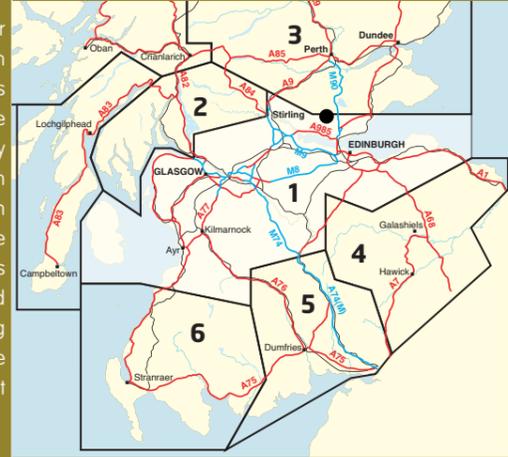
Fife Environment Trust ❖ St Ninians Trust



The Kelty Heritage Trails Group and Forestry Commission Scotland would like to thank Mr Keith Adam for kindly allowing access to his family archives and estate records in Blairadam house. The partnership would also like to thank the Garden History Society in Scotland for their report on the Designed Landscape at Blairadam. Information on Blairadam coal pits from 'Fife Pits and Memorial Book' website by Mr Michael Martin.

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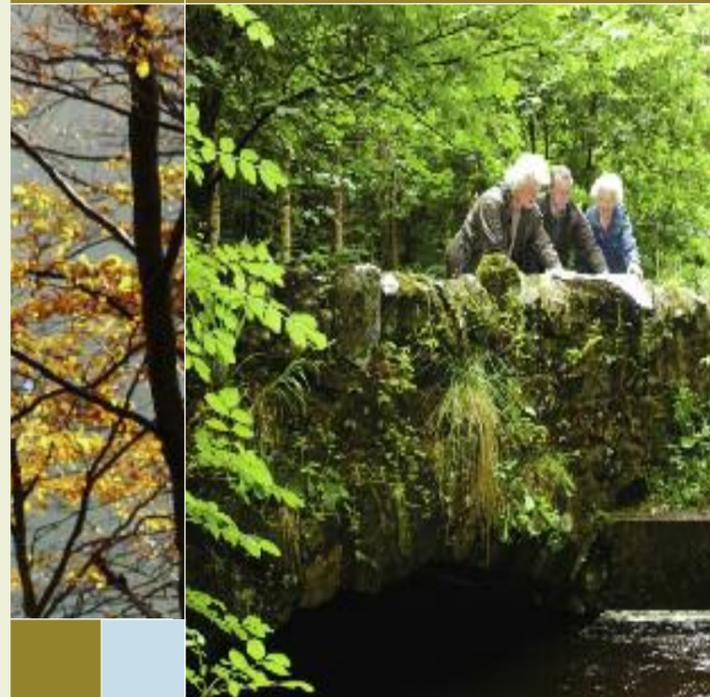


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Explore Enjoy and Discover

The Forest Trails of Blairadam



Blairadam Forest

A Designed Landscape

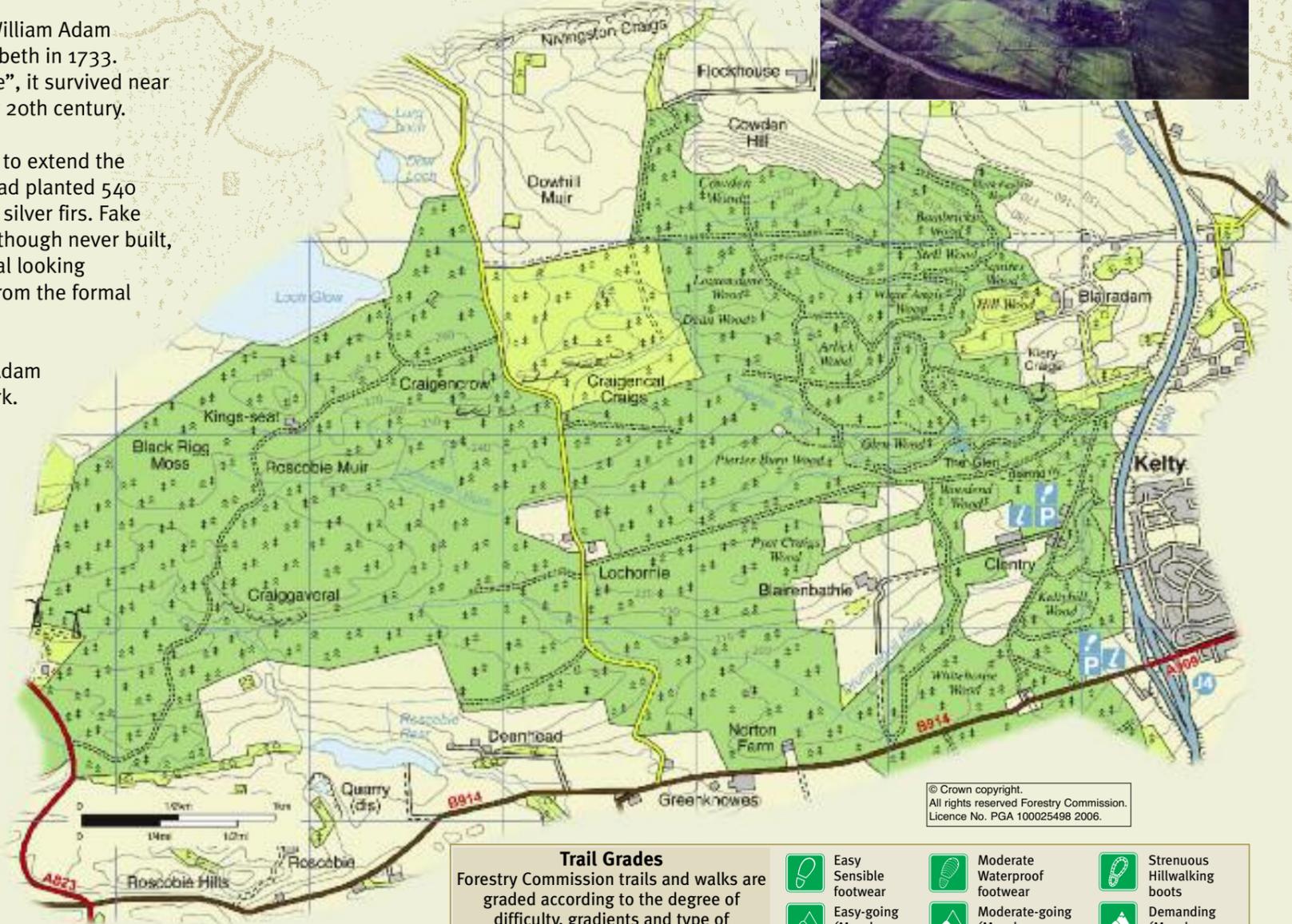
There was just one tree when William Adam bought the estate of Blair Crambeth in 1733. A great ash, known as "The Tree", it survived near Blairadam House until the early 20th century.

William Adam's son John began to extend the plantings in 1750. By 1784 he had planted 540 acres with larches, spruces and silver firs. Fake classical ruins were planned, although never built, to make an attractive but natural looking landscape which moved away from the formal designs of his fathers.

The Right Honourable William Adam continued his grandfather's work. Sir Walter Scott asked him to write a book on the creation of the wood and its management. Published in 1834, the book describes the estate in great detail and develops William Adam's philosophy of tree planting which was to create a "terre ornée" or "adorned estate", to combine "usefulness and profit with enjoyment and ornament".

The estate was sold to the Forestry Commission in 1925 for £2500. Many of John Adam's plantings were felled for both world wars.

View looking West over Blairadam
(Photography - Pat McDonald)



Trail Grades
Forestry Commission trails and walks are graded according to the degree of difficulty, gradients and type of conditions visitors can expect.

Easy Sensible footwear	Moderate Waterproof footwear	Strenuous Hillwalking boots
Easy-going (Muscle-loosener)	Moderate-going (Muscle-stretcher)	Demanding (Muscle-builder)

Keltyhill & Glen Trails

- Keltyhill Glen** 0.5 miles 20 mins
- The Glen** 2 miles 1 hour

Blairnathie mine Trail

- 2.5 miles 1 hour 30 minutes



KEY TO GUIDE MAP

Forestry Commission Land	Forest Walk Route
Other Woodland	Non Waymarked Route
Motorway	Car Park
Main Road	Information/Visitor Centre
Secondary Road	Forest Walks
Minor Road	Viewpoint
Forestry Commission Road	
Track	

Keltyhill Glen Trail
A gentle stroll alongside the Drumnagoil Burn through the mixed woodland of Keltyhill Glen. A good time to visit is after a period of heavy rain when the burn tumbles over the waterfall at the west-end of the Glen.

The Glen Trail
The Glen was one of the scenic highlights of the Blairadam estate in its hey day and is still delightful to stroll through today. The path meanders through the Glen, criss-crossing over the Kelty Burn on stone bridges. The brick foundations halfway along the Glen are all that remains of the "100 Foot Bridge" which carried the railway over the Glen to the Blairnathie pit. Although the Glen is dominated by massive spruce trees, which tower above the path, beech, pine and sycamore add variety to the landscape. The Kiery Craigs can be seen at the east end of the Glen.



'Formans-fauld' waterfall Keltyhill Glen

The now peaceful forest was once a busy industrial area. This route passes by the remains of the two Blairnathie pits. The first is the modern mine, close to the start of the trail. It opened in 1945 but closed in 1962 and has been reclaimed by the forest. Further on the path crosses the recently restored Lochornie Burn bridge with its tall narrow arch, characteristic of the Adam style. Before reaching the old Blairnathie Pit there is an attractive area of mature broadleaved woodland with oak, beech and birch. The remains of the pit and the associated pit bing can be found amongst the trees.



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