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.

Here you can walk among the Scots pine that the red squirrel loves. You can learn more about the animal, its habits and heritage along the way. Look for ‘squirrel shadows’ hidden high in the trees and maybe even catch a glimpse of the real thing leaping from branch to branch.

The waymarked Red Squirrel Trail meanders in a loop around a beautiful woodland loch overlooked by shaded picnic tables and well-placed benches.

This corner of Devilla is rich with wildlife and history and many of its intriguing stories are told by the side of the trail.

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

To learn more about red squirrels, visit: www.fiferedsquirrels.co.uk

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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 Blinadam. Three easy trails cross an 18th-century designed landscape blanketed in an attractive forest that includes lrowning spruces and beeches.

3 Calendar 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 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.

**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.

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 **damsels** dart over the basin mires and the fringes of lochs while butterflies can be seen flitting 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 autumnal colours.
- Tasty **blueberries** 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 **stinking coats** of red squirrels are at their most bushy and bright red.
- Migrating **Canada geese** might rest on Moor Loch mid-journey.