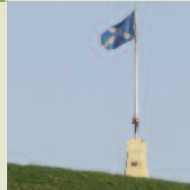
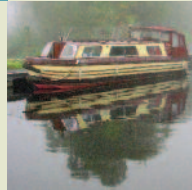
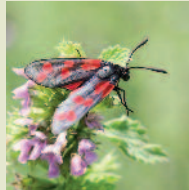




Discover the paths in and around Bonnybridge



Easy to use map and
six suggested
Bonnybridge trails.

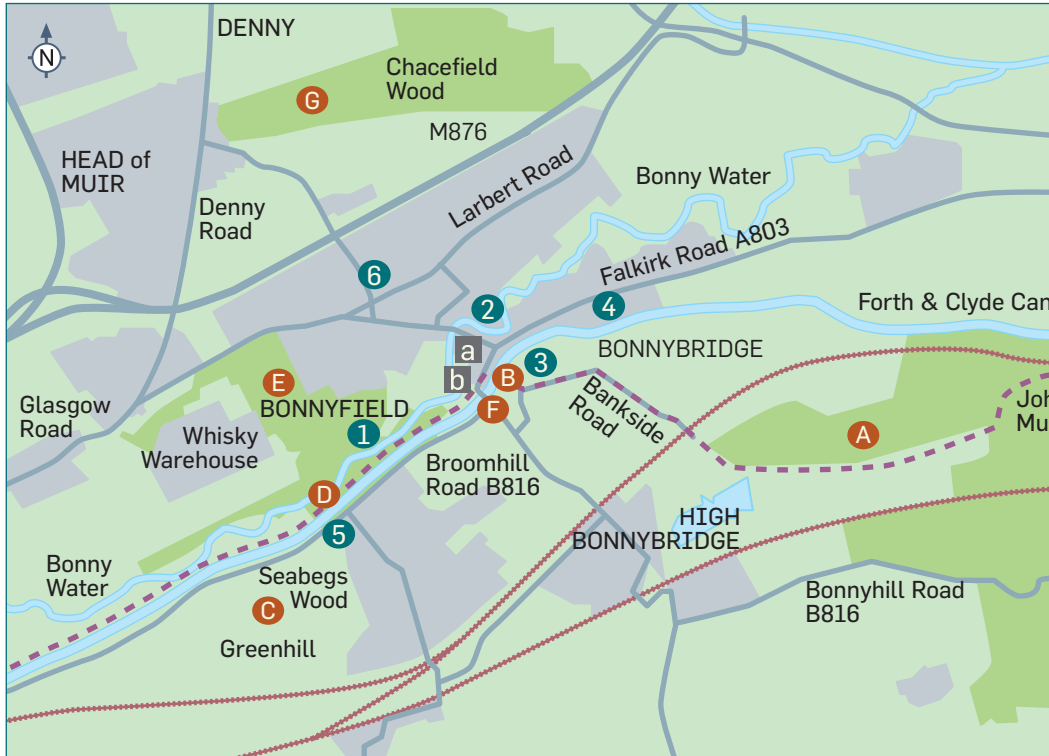
Something for everyone.

Includes part of the
John Muir Way.



Discover the paths in and around

Bonnybridge



Paths in and around Bonnybridge

- 1 Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve
- 2 The Bonny Water riverbank
- 3 Pend to Roughcastle Roman Fort and The Antonine Wall
- 4 Forth & Clyde canal to The Falkirk Wheel
- 5 The Doctor's Pend, The Antonine Wall and Seabegs Wood
- 6 Drove Loan to Chacefield Wood

A Short History of Bonnybridge

Bonnybridge is a small town which lies to the north of the Forth and Clyde Canal in the district of Falkirk. It is situated on the Bonny Water, a tributary of the River Carron which runs through the town.

A settlement has existed near the river crossing for several centuries and the current town was originally developed in the 19th century in association with a new paper mill, sawmill and iron foundries.

Particularly important for

Bonnybridge was the establishment of several iron foundries including the famous Smith and Wellstood Foundry (The Columbian Stoneworks), which produced American metal heating stoves for Europe under the "Esse stoves" brand. Famous clients include Florence Nightingale, Ernest Shackleton and Captain Scott, the Antarctic explorers.

Bonnybridge also has two well preserved sections of the Antonine Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; the

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



Interesting facts about Bonnybridge

William the Conqueror's full name was William De Rollo and Mr John Rollo who owned the small engineering works in High Bonnybridge is believed to be a direct descendant.

It is alleged that Burke and Hare used the canal to transport bodies from the Doctor's wood to Edinburgh. The Doctor's wood is named after Charles Grindlay, a local who was expelled from Glasgow medical school because of his dubious connections with Burke and Hare, the notorious murderers and bodysnatchers.

Bonnybridge is also famous for harbouring the Stone of Destiny after it was stolen from Westminster Abbey in 1950 by Scottish Nationalists. For some time after the event the Stone was hidden in the offices of Rollo Lathes in Bonnybridge by the founder John M. Rollo. It was returned to Westminster Abbey in 1951 before finally returning to Scotland for good in 1996 where it is now kept at Edinburgh Castle along with the Scottish Crown Jewels.

remnants of Roughcastle Roman Fort - the most complete of the surviving Roman forts of the Wall, and Seabegs Wood.

The town is also infamous for being the UFO capital of Scotland being in the "Falkirk Triangle" with over 300 UFO sightings a year!

Finding your way

Take a close look at the map for each route. This should be all you need to find the start point and get you on your way. OS Explorer map 349 covers the area.

Signs

Look out for sign posts and interpretation boards giving more information along the way.

It's up to you!

This leaflet gives you details of six locations with information on green transport options, path surfaces, gradients, parking and facilities. Just choose a route that suits your interest and ability and enjoy the paths in and around Bonnybridge.

In addition there are plenty of other interesting things to see and do in and around Bonnybridge. Take a wander along some of the local paths or follow the John Muir Way and you will find some great countryside, wildlife, fantastic views and a wealth of history waiting to be discovered.

Places of Interest

- A** The Antonine Wall, Roughcastle Roman Fort
- B** The Radical Pend
- C** Seabegs Wood, The Antonine Wall
- D** Seabegs Pend (The Doctor's Pend)
- E** Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve
- F** The Canal Bridge
- G** Chacefield Wood Cup and Ring Marks

Key Buildings

- a** Community Centre
- b** Library

Which site should I visit?

Simply read through the following suggested routes and choose one that suits your own interests, needs and abilities. Some sites have options for further exploration and the paths lead on to other areas in Falkirk.

Places of interest to visit



A The Antonine Wall and Roughcastle Roman Fort

This is the best preserved section of the Wall which separated Roman occupied Britain from the tribally controlled north. The remains of a fort and two signalling platforms can also be seen here.

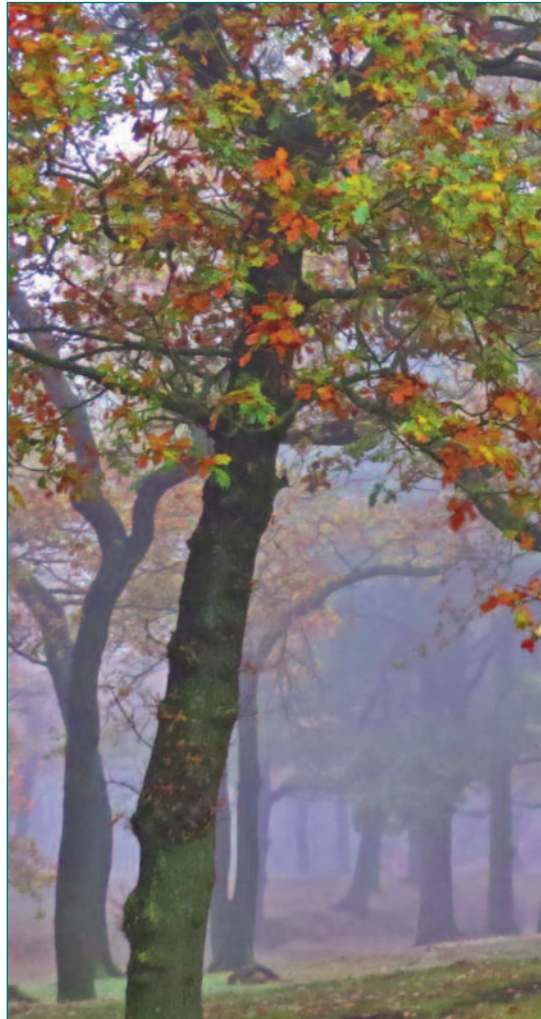


B The Radical Pend

Named to commemorate the Battle of Bonnymuir.

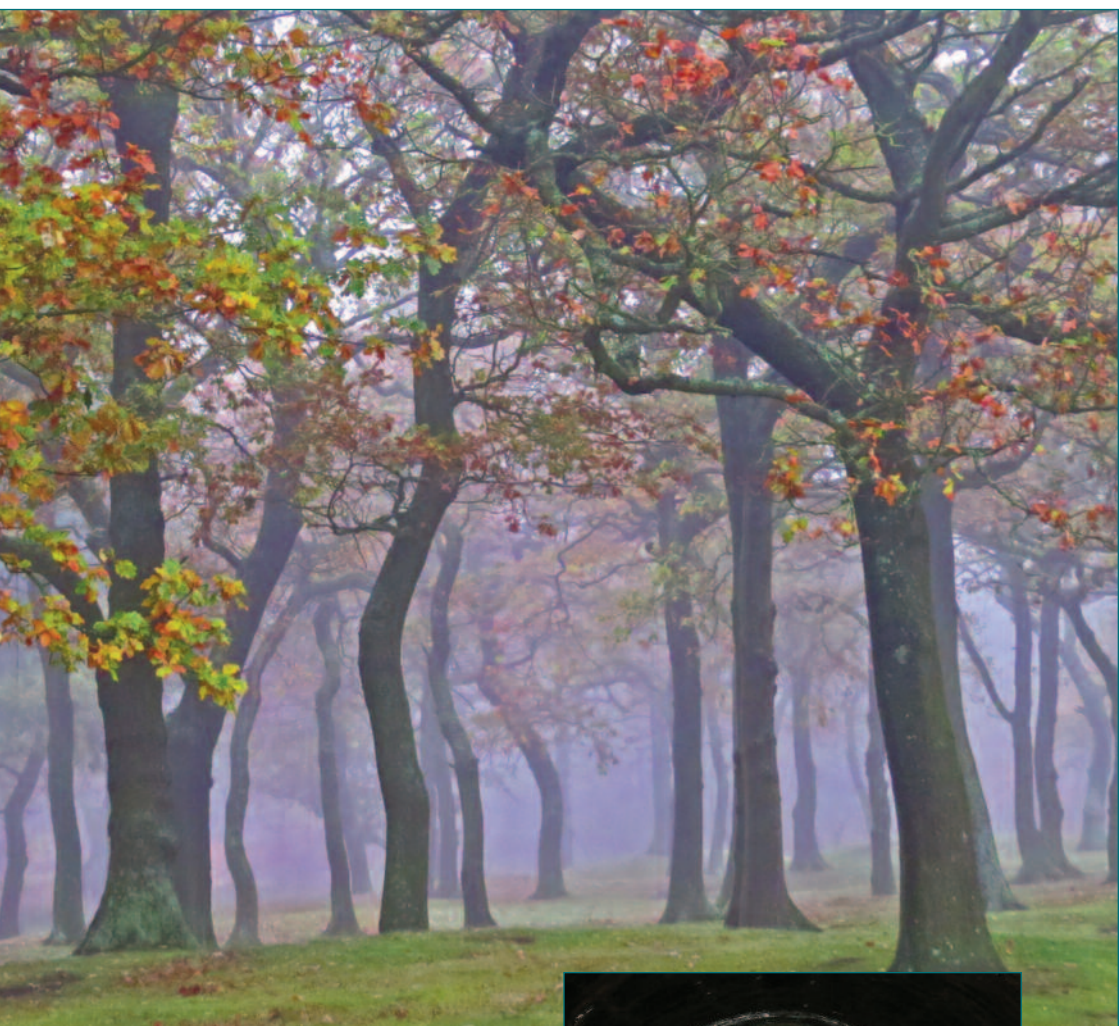
On 5 April 1820 a group of striking weavers were intercepted on the way to the Carron Ironworks. The group had been infiltrated by government agents.

The men, who were protesting about the right to vote, were ambushed by an armed force outside the village of Bonnybridge. In the ensuing struggle, at least four of the weavers, a police lieutenant and sergeant were badly wounded. Three of the rebel leaders - Andrew Hardie, James Wilson and John Baird were arrested and later executed.



C Seabegs Wood and The Antonine Wall

A well preserved section of the Roman wall and ditch that once divided the tribal north from the Roman south, can be seen here. The 'Military Way', the road that linked the forts along the wall can also be seen.



D Seabegs Pend (The Doctor's Pend)

The Doctor's Pend is so called after Dr Grindlay, a farmer and grain merchant who had premises at Barley Hill in the early 1800's.

The story goes that Dr Grindlay was not in fact a doctor because he did not complete his medical course at Glasgow University. This supposedly arose from an unsavoury incident connected with the body snatchers Burke and Hare.

Places of interest to visit

E Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve

Bonnyfield Nature Reserve is situated on the former Bonnyfield sand and gravel quarry. It was Falkirk's 1st Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and was officially opened in November 2008.

It is approximately 28.7 hectares in size and offers natural habitat to a wide range of wildlife and plants.

The site is mainly grassland, meadow and small woodland areas which include ash, aspen, sycamore and alder trees. There are several ponds in the reserve which attract a wide range of wildlife. One of the most important and unusual inhabitants is the brightly coloured red and black spotted Burnet Moth.

Bonnyfield was recently awarded Coronation Meadow status from HRH the Prince of Wales to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the coronation. www.coronationmeadows.org.uk



F The Canal Bridge

The first bridge to be built was a lifting 'basculer bridge' in the year 1900. It replaced the Pend as a way across the canal. The bridge tilted up on both sides to let boats through.

The modern bridge - built as part of the Millennium Canal development (exactly 100 years later) is also a 'lifting bridge' - but this time the section of roadway across the canal lifts vertically to allow boats to pass through.



G Chacefield Wood Cup and Ring Marks

The term "cup and ring carving" describes a range of rock carved symbols that are found mainly in northern Europe, although similar carvings occur in other countries around the world.



In Britain the carvings are estimated to be around 4000 - 5000 years old which dates them to the Neolithic and Bronze ages. The purpose and meaning of the symbols is unclear. Many of the rock carvings are sited near or on cairns and burial mounds, linking the symbols with death, ancestors and an afterlife.



1. Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve:

A choice of 2 circular walks



Finding your way

1 Start your walk behind Bonnybridge Community Centre. Cross the small footbridge behind the sports pitch over the Bonny Water and into Duncan Stewart Park, known locally as Jenny's Park. Head left towards the playing fields and you will see the entrance to Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve (LNR) on the other side of the fenced football ground.

2 Once in the LNR take the low path which runs alongside the Bonny Water.

3 The low path firstly passes through a marshy



area with several shallow ponds and a large sloping grassland meadow. Look out for the colourful red and black Burnet Moth and dragonflies in this area.

4 Continuing along this path you will see a large pond on your right. There is a bench here to sit and enjoy the peace and quiet.

5 When you come to the junction with a wide tarmac path you can



either;
(A) - Turn right and after the large colourful mural on what was the old bridge to the Whisky Warehouse turn right again along the high path to complete your circular walk.
or

(B) - Turn left and walk to a small bridge that goes over the Bonny Water to the Forth and Clyde Canal. Turn left onto the towpath then left at the road bridge to complete your walk back to the community centre.

Access Information

Bus:

For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc, call Traveline on 08712002233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: None, nearest train station Falkirk Grahamston.

Cycle:

Sustrans Route 754.

Parking:

There is limited or no parking at the access points to the LNR as they are in private housing. The main parking for the LNR is at Bonnybridge Community Centre. This is just a few minutes walk from the eastern entrance to the reserve.

Distance:

■ 1.4 miles (2.3km) circular route.
The Forth & Clyde Canal.

Path information:

Surfaced pavements and paths, mostly flat with one or two inclines.

Facilities:

Toilets, shops, cafes and parking are all available in Bonnybridge town centre.

2. The Bonny Water Riverbank



Finding your way

1 You can access these quiet riverside paths from many locations. From the corner of the High Street in Bonnybridge, at the War Memorial, take the little bridge over the Bonny Water and turn right. The bridge crosses the original 'Ford', which was used

when the river was low.

2 Follow the path along the Bonny Water over several small bridges then retrace your steps or explore the various paths from Bonnyview Gardens, Thornton Avenue or the old railway gardens at Wellpark Terrace.

Access Information

Bus:

For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 08712002233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: None, nearest train station Falkirk Grahamston.

Cycle:

Sustrans Route 754.

Parking:

Available in Bonnybridge town centre.

Distance:

0.3 miles (0.5km).

Path information:

Flat tarmac and surfaced paths

Facilities:

Parking, toilets and refreshments can be found in Bonnybridge town centre.



3. The Radical Pend to Roughcastle Roman Fort and The Antonine Wall



Access Information

Bus:

For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 08712002233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: None, nearest train station Falkirk Grahamston.





Cycle:

Sustrans Route 754.

Parking:

Available in Bonnybridge Town Centre. Limited parking is available at Roughcastle Roman Fort at the top of Bonnyhill Road.

Distance:

-  Pend- Roughcastle 1.6 miles (2.6km)
-  Pend- Falkirk Wheel 2.7 miles (3km)
-  Pend- Falkirk Wheel circular. 3.36 miles (5.4km)
-  Pend- Bonnybridge circular. 4 miles (6.4km)

Path information: Surfaced pavements and paths, grassy surface on the Antonine Wall and towpaths.

Finding your way

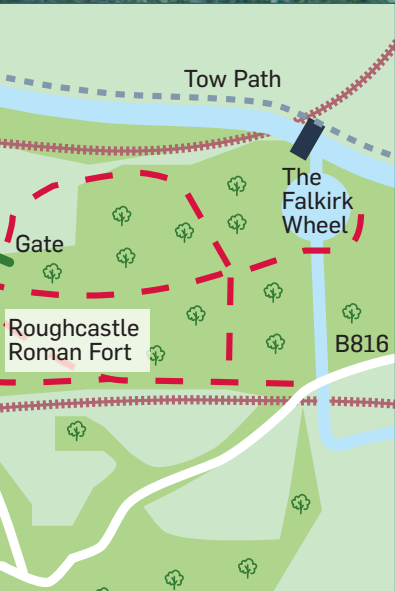
- 1** Begin your walk at Bridge Street opposite Bonnybridge Community Centre in the centre of town. Follow the path through the Radical Pend underneath the Forth & Clyde Canal beside Mill garage. On exiting the pend, turn left and follow the pavement uphill on Bonnyhill Road and over the railway bridge.
- 2** Continue on the track until you come to a car park.
- 3** Turn left through a metal gate onto The Antonine Wall.
- 4** Follow the desire line heading east until you cross a little wooden bridge over Red Burn.

Icon Key

-  Starting Point
-  Main Path
-  Dog Fouling Bin
-  Railway Line
-  Antonine Wall
-  Parking

At the top of the hill here you will be standing on Roughcastle Roman Fort. There are interpretation panels explaining the history of the fort.

- 5** You can retrace your steps to Bonnybridge or follow signs for a longer circular which will lead you to The Falkirk Wheel where you can return to Bonnybridge via the towpath on the Forth & Clyde Canal.

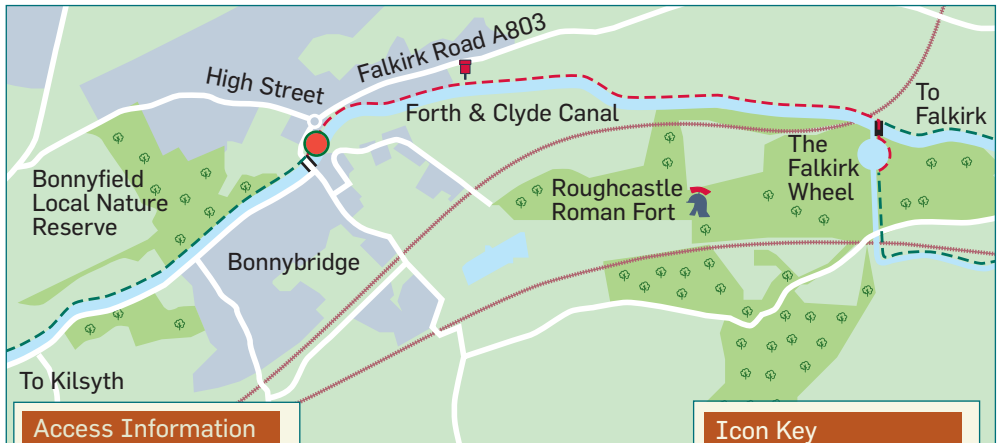


**ANTONINE WALL
ROUGH CASTLE**

The Antonine Wall was built by the Roman Army on the orders of Emperor Antoninus Pius in the 140's AD. The Antonine Wall replaced Hadrian's Wall as the far northern frontier of the Roman Empire at this time, and ran for 60 Roman miles (60km) from Bude's in the east, to Old Kilpatrick in the west. The Antonine Wall consisted of a wide deep ditch, with an earthen rampart behind it. There were towers, bastions and beacon-platforms along the Wall and a stone-paved road known as the Military Way ran along the whole length of the frontier. The Antonine Wall was abandoned by the Romans after only 20 years, but many sections have remained visible until the present day, even where the rampart has been flattened, the ditch often survives under the present ground surface.

CARED FOR BY HISTORIC SCOTLAND

4. The Forth & Clyde Canal leading to The Falkirk Wheel



Access Information

Bus:

For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 08712002233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: None, nearest train station Falkirk Grahamston.

Parking:

Available in Bonnybridge town centre.

Distance:

1.9miles (3.8km)

Path information

Hard surfaced canal towpath.





Facilities:

Parking, toilets and refreshments can be found in Bonnybridge town centre and also at The Falkirk Wheel. Please remember the canal towpath is also used by cyclists and horses as well as pedestrians.

Finding your way

- 1 You can access the canal from the centre of Bonnybridge. From here you can either walk west towards Kilsyth or head east towards The Falkirk Wheel and Falkirk.
- 2 Keep following the towpath to the east (left) until you see The Falkirk Wheel on your right hand side. Use the wooden bridge to cross
- 3 Paths from the Falkirk Wheel lead to Roughcastle Roman Fort and a rural path network. (See path No.3)

Icon Key

-  Starting Point
-  Main Path
-  Other Path
-  Dog Fouling Bin

over the canal to the world's only rotating boat lift.





5. The Doctor's Pend, The Antonine Wall and Seabegs Wood



Finding your way

You can begin your walk from any of the three different starting points on the map. All of them will take you to Seabegs Wood and to the Doctor's pend.

Starting point ①

1 Includes a short walk through Bonnyfield LNR. Begin your walk at the Community Centre.

2 Follow the path behind the community centre and take the wooden bridge over the Bonny Water and into Duncan Stewart Park (known locally as Jenny's Park). Head left through the playing fields to the eastern entrance of Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve (BLNR).

3 Follow the bottom path west past the smaller ponds and the large pond on your right.

4 At the junction turn left and cross another wooden bridge over the Bonny Water.

5 Head uphill towards the Forth & Clyde Canal. Just below the canal take signposted path



to the right and within a short walk you will come across the Doctor's Pend.

- 6** Walk down the centre of the pend on the raised platform and on exiting turn sharp right and head up a short incline to the Antonine Wall and Seabegs Wood. Take care on the slippery cobbles at the pend's southern exit.

Starting Point **2**

From Bonnybridge Road enter BLNR and head down the wide tarmac path. Pass the mural on your left and continue on to the wooden bridge over the Bonny Water. From here follow the same route as starting point 1.

Starting point **3**

You can reach Seabegs Wood as well as The Antonine Wall and the Doctor's Pend from Greenhill.

- 7** At Leapark Drive take the path through the wooden gate at the corner of the road.
- 8** Follow the path along the edge of the wood until it heads downhill onto a rough track.
- 9** From here you are on the Antonine Wall.
- 10** At the bottom of the track leading to Seabegs Road (B861) take the path down below the road and into the Doctor's Pend towards Bonnyfield.

Access Information

Bus:

For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 08712002233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: None, nearest train station Falkirk Grahamston.

Parking:

Available in Bonnybridge town centre.

Distance

- Starting point 1. 0.8miles (1.4km)
- Starting point 2. 0.8miles (1km)
- Starting point 3. 0.46 miles (0.7km)

Path information

Hard surfaced canal towpath. Restricted width and wet surface at pend underpass.






Facilities

Parking and toilets can be found in Bonnybridge town centre and also at The Falkirk Wheel.

6. Drove Loan to Chacefield Wood



Icon Key

-  Starting Point
-  Main Path
-  Other Path
-  Dog Fouling Bin
-  Parking

Finding your way

- 1** From Bonnyfield Road, start at the bottom of the hill called Drove Loan, which is just 5 minutes walk from Bonnybridge High Street.
- 2** Follow the Drove Loan uphill underneath the M876. At the road bend follow the signpost for "Chacefield Wood".
- 3** Follow the track into the

woodland and turn right onto the wide main forest track through the woods. This track heads east to the furthest edge of the woods where you can follow the well surfaced track downhill then west towards Denny past Cuthelton Farm.

- 4** From here the tracks are well signposted to either return to Bonnybridge uphill and back via Chacefield Wood or to carry on into Denny and explore the path network there.

Please remember this is farmland with livestock and to keep your dog under close control **at all times**.

Access Information

Bus:

For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 08712002233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com

Train: None, nearest train station Falkirk Grahamston.

Parking:

Available on Bonnybridge Road or Denny Sports Centre

Distance

 2.9miles (4.8km)

Path information

Rough but surfaced path throughout woodland. Linked by natural forest floor paths.

Facilities

Parking, toilets and refreshments can be found in Bonnybridge Town Centre. Please remember you are walking through working farmland and forests.

Chacefield Wood is owned and managed by Callendar Estate.
Tel: 01324 624236



Discover the paths in and around
Bonnybridge



Getting There:

Get your copy of the Green Travel Map call 01324 504950.

By Cycle: Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 754. Cycle route information available from www.sustrans.org.uk 0845 113 0065.

By Rail: There are no train stations in Bonnybridge. Nearest stations are at Falkirk High, Falkirk Grahamston and Larbert.

By Bus: For further information on bus times, numbers and routes, etc call TraveLine on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelinescotland.com.

By Car: See location maps.

Thank you: To all organisations, landowners and local communities for their cooperation and support.

For more information about the history and local facilities in Bonnybridge contact:

www.falkirk.gov.uk

www.visitfalkirk.com

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

www.visitscotland.com

www.antoninewall.org

www.johnmuirway.org

www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk

www.bonnyfieldlnr.co.uk

www.callendarestate.co.uk

For more information about your paths and countryside access please contact Falkirk Council's Outdoor Access Team 01324 504950.



Falkirk Council
Development Services

