



Walk, Ride and Cycle in and around  
**The Falkirk Wheel and  
South Falkirk**

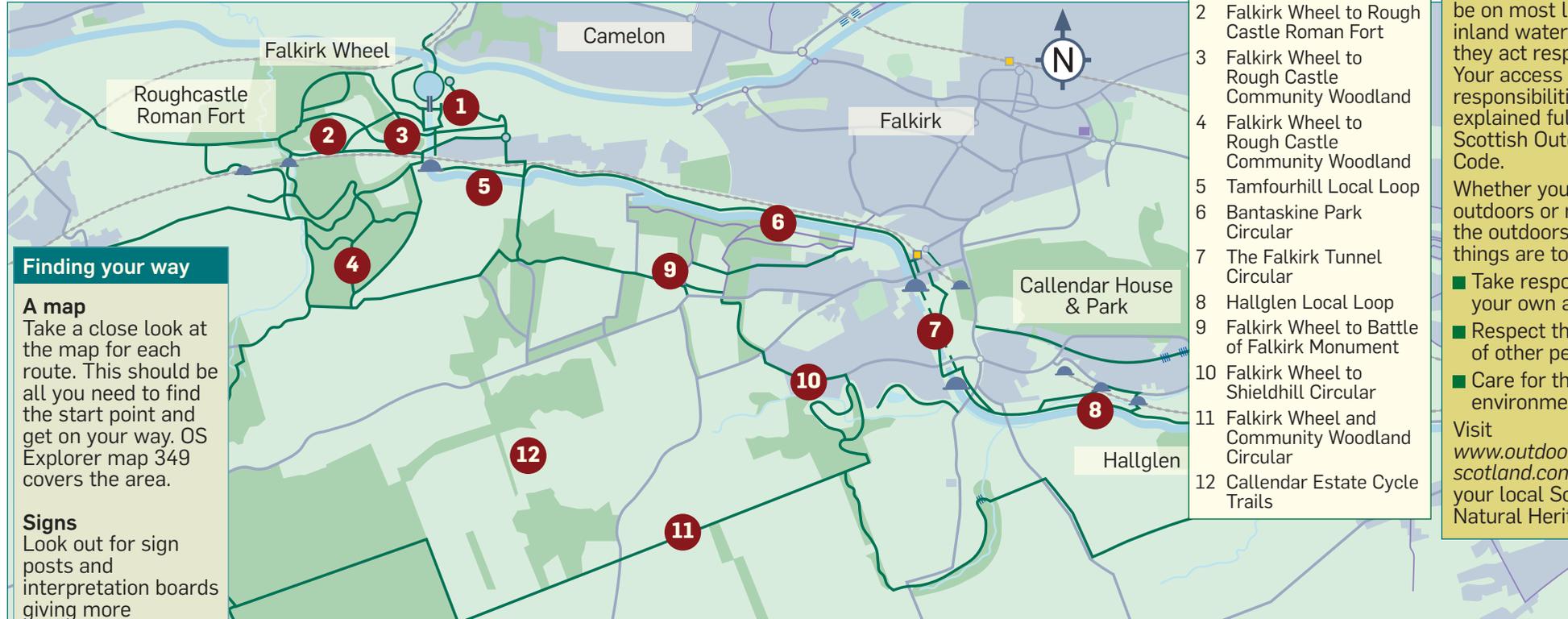


easy to use

map and 12  
suggested locations

something for  
everyone

# Walk, Ride and Cycle in and around The Falkirk Wheel and South Falkirk



## Finding your way

### A map

Take a close look at the map for each route. This should be all you need to find the start point and get 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

There are 12 routes in this leaflet, 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 the Falkirk Wheel and South Falkirk.

This leaflet has information about 12 routes in and around the Falkirk Wheel and South Falkirk. Many of these paths have been improved by Falkirk Council's Development Services, Callendar Estate and Central Scotland Forest Trust with help and support from local landowners and farmers.

This is your chance to get out and about to take a journey through our history - explore our Roman heritage, visit Rough Castle

Fort and the Antonine Wall, follow one of the old drover's roads, enjoy our woodlands and farmlands, the canal towpaths and the Falkirk Wheel.

Take a wander along your local paths and you will find some great countryside, wildlife, fantastic views, and a wealth of history, waiting to be discovered.

**Which site should I visit?**  
Simply read through the following suggested routes

and choose one that suits your own interests, needs and abilities. Some of these paths follow great short family-friendly routes, whilst for others you'll need a full day to explore the sites and sounds of South Falkirk's fantastic path network.

While you're out and about exploring these paths, why not visit to the Falkirk Wheel, Rough Castle Roman Fort, or Callendar House and Park.

## Paths Key

- 1 The Falkirk Wheel Shortie
- 2 Falkirk Wheel to Rough Castle Roman Fort
- 3 Falkirk Wheel to Rough Castle Community Woodland
- 4 Falkirk Wheel to Rough Castle Community Woodland
- 5 Tamfourhill Local Loop
- 6 Bantaskine Park Circular
- 7 The Falkirk Tunnel Circular
- 8 Hallglen Local Loop
- 9 Falkirk Wheel to Battle of Falkirk Monument
- 10 Falkirk Wheel to Shieldhill Circular
- 11 Falkirk Wheel and Community Woodland Circular
- 12 Callendar Estate Cycle Trails

## Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly!

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Respect the interests of other people
- Care for the environment

Visit [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

## The Falkirk Wheel

The world's first rotating boatlift, the Falkirk Wheel is an amazing feat of engineering. It lifts boats up 35 metres using the same amount of power as eight toasters.

Annual closure November. Check [www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk](http://www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk) for more information.

### Opening times

#### Visitor Centre, Café & Inner Basin

Summer (April - Oct): 10.00am - 5.30pm

Winter (Nov - March): Wed - Sun 11am - 4pm  
Closed Mon & Tues

#### Tunnel & Swing Bridge

April - Oct: 8.30am - 7.30pm

Nov - March 8.30am - dusk

# 1. The Falkirk Wheel Shortie



## Access Information

**Bus:** Number 3 bus to The Falkirk Wheel; for bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** Falkirk High Station - 4km (2.5 miles) along towpath; Camelon Station 2km (1.2 miles).

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Car:** North & South car parks - free parking. But please note the bridge connecting the North car park and the basin closes at 8pm.

## Distance

- Suggested route - 1km (0.6 mile)
- Other routes (see map).

## Path information

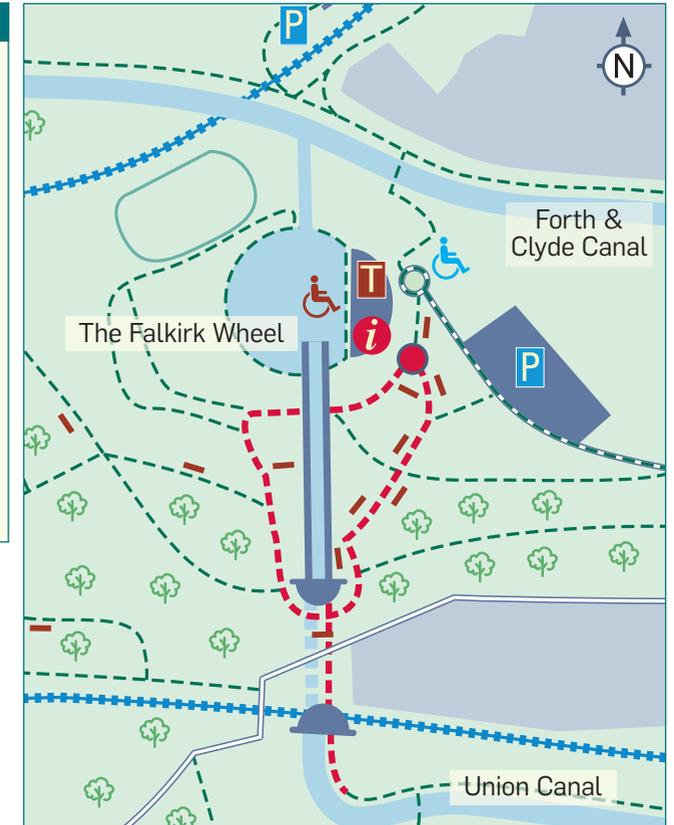
This route is easily accessible using surfaced paths with moderate inclines. However, the alternative return route has some steeper gradients over the tunnel entrance. If you feel like a rest, take an extended push up the hill to a stone seating area. The route is then along the canal towpath as far as the two locks returning via the same route.

## Facilities

Toilets, refreshments and Visitor Centre at the Falkirk Wheel.

## Key

- Starting point
- Main path
- Alternative paths
- Bench
- P Parking
- Railway line
- i Visitors Centre & Tourist Information
- T Toilets
- ♿ Disabled amenities
- ♿ Disabled parking
- ⤵ Tunnel



From the top of the Falkirk Wheel enjoy fantastic panoramic views of the Forth valley and the hills beyond. The tunnel at Roughcastle and the canal locks provide more interest, but please take care near the water.

## Finding Your Way

Start at the Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre

- 1 From the main entrance to the Visitor Centre take the path uphill signposted "Union Canal and Antonine Wall". Instead of branching off to the right under the canal aqueduct continue uphill to reach a stone seating area with views out over the top of the Falkirk Wheel.

- 2 Continue along the Union Canal towpath, through the short tunnel and follow the path to the bend. From here you can watch the canal boats using the two locks. The canal continues at this same level all the way to Edinburgh 50km/31miles away.
- 3 Return the same way, or from the seating area take the zig-zag path up over the tunnel entrance and down the other side to pass under the aqueduct back to the Visitor Centre.

## The Lowland Canals

The canals were built using manpower from the navvies. These migrant Irish and Highland workers came to Central Scotland looking for work. They dug out the canals using picks, shovels, wheelbarrows and early gunpowder.

Burke and Hare, the infamous Edinburgh body snatchers, were navvies on the Union Canal near Brightons.

The Union and Forth & Clyde Canals are managed for public benefit by British Waterways.

## 2. Falkirk Wheel to Rough Castle Roman Fort

### Access Information

**Bus:** Number 3 bus to The Falkirk Wheel; for bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** Falkirk High Station - 4km (2.5 miles) along towpath; Camelon Station 2km (1.2 miles).

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Car:** North & South car parks - free parking. But please note the bridge connecting the North car park and the basin closes at 8pm.

### Distance

— Suggested route - 3km (1.8 miles).

Easier option - 2 km (1.2 miles)

— Other routes (see map).

### Path information

This route generally makes use of compacted stone surfaced paths. There is one short grass section which may be muddy and the Roman Fort is mown grass. There are gentle slopes but no gates or stiles with two narrow gaps at the exits from the Roman Fort.

### Facilities

Toilets, refreshments and Visitor Centre at the Falkirk Wheel.

From the newest to the oldest - enjoy this circular route through restored countryside visiting constructions created two millennia apart but which are only 1km (0.6 mile) from each other. This route also gives good views of the hills to the north.

### Finding Your Way

Start at the Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre

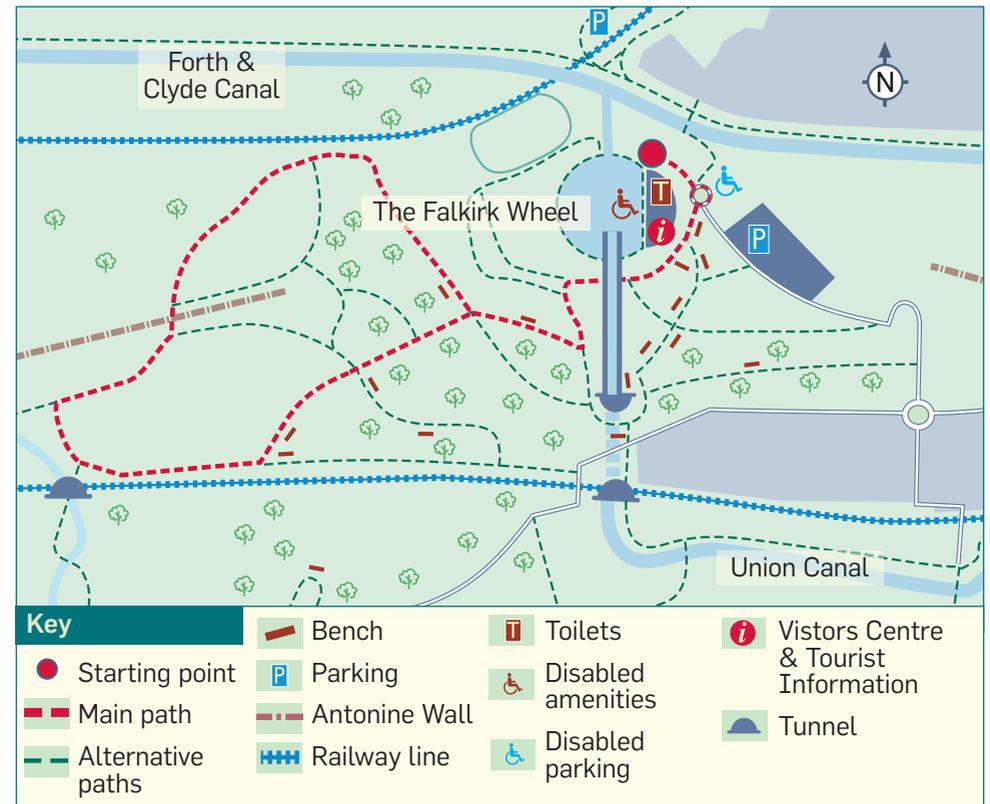
- 1 Take the path uphill signposted "Union Canal and Antonine Wall". Branch off to the right, passing underneath the canal aqueduct.
- 2 Follow this path for a short distance then take the surfaced path downhill to your right which sweeps round through Rough Castle Community Woodland to Roughcastle Roman Fort. This woodland was once the site of a huge open cast mining area. Explore the remains of the Roman Fort at your leisure; there are interpretative panels by the main features.
- 3 Cross over the top of the fort at the central grassy area near the central interpretation panel. This will lead you to a surfaced path next to the railway bridge. At this sign posted junction turn left.
- 4 Follow the main path beside the railway, go left at the first junction and heading straight on to enter The Falkirk Wheel site.



### Rough Castle Roman Fort

The best preserved fort on the Antonine Wall, Rough Castle could have been used by up to 500 men. There were gateways, ditches, roadways, ramparts and various buildings, which now show as earthworks in the grass. Look out for the lilia - stakes which defended the north of the fort.

For more information visit [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)



### 3. Taking it Easy: Falkirk Wheel to Rough Castle Community Woodland



#### Access Information

**Bus:** Number 3 bus to The Falkirk Wheel; for bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** Falkirk High Station - 4km (2.5 miles) along towpath; Camelon Station 2km (1.2 miles).

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Car:** North & South car parks - free parking. But please note the bridge connecting the North car park and the basin closes at 8pm.

#### Distance

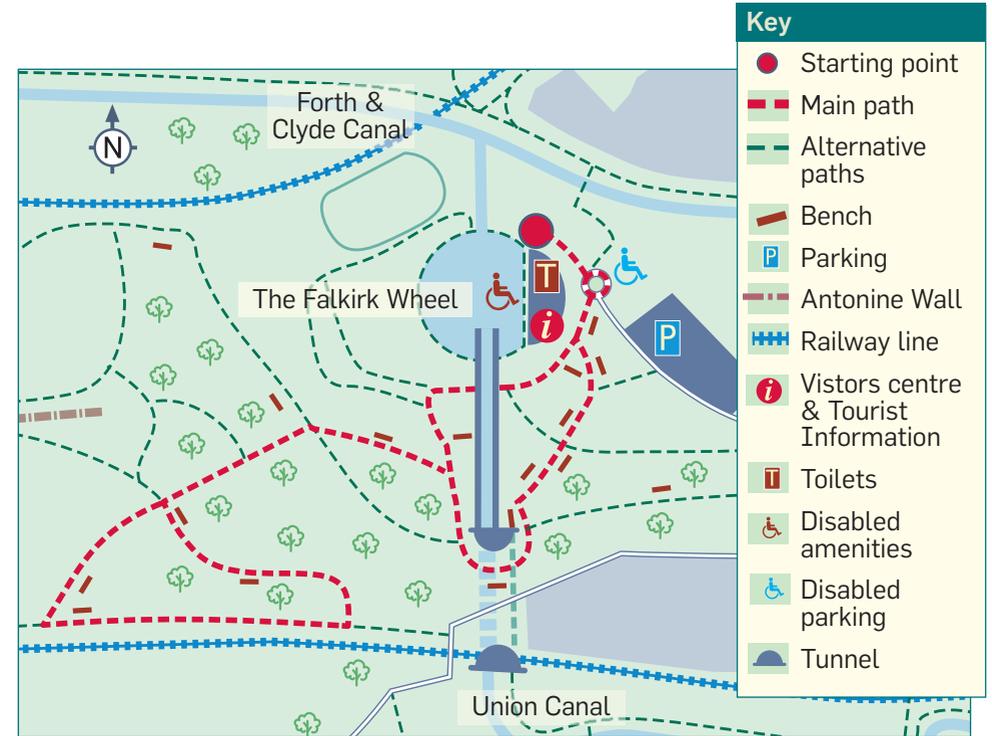
- - - Suggested route - 2km (1.2 miles)
- - - Other routes (see map)

#### Path information

The first path and zigzag path are hard stone with most paths surfaced with compacted stone. The zigzag path over the tunnel is steep, but you can avoid it. There are no stiles or gates and there are some benches.

#### Facilities

Toilets, refreshments and Visitor Centre at the Falkirk Wheel.



#### A short circular, countryside route near the Falkirk Wheel with good views

##### Finding Your Way

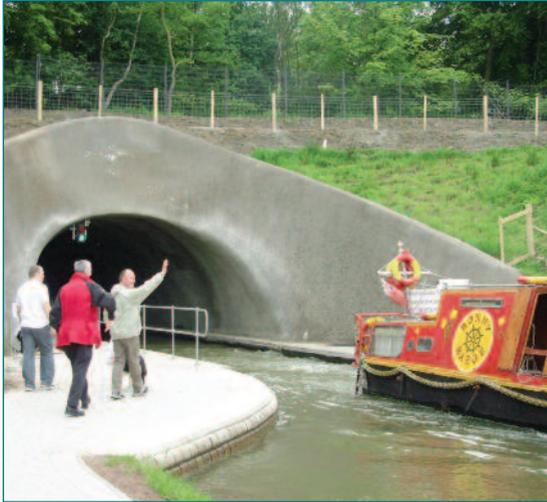
Start at the Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre

- 1 Take the path uphill signposted "Union Canal and Antonine Wall". Continue straight up the hill to the seating area by the tunnel. There are good views from here looking over the Falkirk Wheel to the hills beyond.
- 2 Take the zig-zag path over the tunnel entrance and head down the path away from the canal for a short distance. Turn left off the main path and head towards the signpost and the nearest pylon.
- 3 At the junction at the start of the woodland follow the path straight ahead, passing beneath the power lines. Continue along to the next signpost and a bench and then turn left up the hill. Enjoy the sights and sounds of this section of the route - listen to the birds, and look around as the views open up.
- 4 At the T-junction turn right parallel to the railway, turning next right to head down the hill back to The Falkirk Wheel. Back near the Falkirk Wheel, you can turn left to pass beneath the canal aqueduct and return to the Visitor Centre.

#### Rough Castle Community Woodland

The woodland was created by Coal Contractors on the restored opencast site. A variety of native tree species have been planted over its 60 hectares. It offers a network of paths suitable for walking, cycling and horse riding, seats and fine views.

## 4. A Little Longer: Falkirk Wheel to Rough Castle Community Woodland



A long circular countryside route taking you away from the Falkirk Wheel to visit woodlands old and new, and giving many chances of views over the Forth valley and the hills beyond.

### Finding Your Way

Start at the Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre

- 1 Take the path uphill signposted "Union Canal and Antonine Wall". Continue straight up the hill through the Roughcastle Tunnel, and continue past the two locks along the canal towpath to the first bridge (Station House Bridge).
- 2 Leave the canal and cross the bridge. Pass on through the woodland and, at the sign posted junction, turn right along the Drove Loan.
- 3 Further on a gate allows access through the field. Follow this path which leads down to a gate into Rough Castle Community Woodland.
- 4 Turn right then first left up the hill. At the top of the hill turn right to descend to the road. Cross the road carefully and use the path out of the car park to climb the next hill. At the signposted junction continue straight on down to the bridge under the railway. If you wish to explore the Roman Fort you are now only 100 metres from it down a signposted woodland path.
- 5 Follow the main path beside the railway and go left at the first junction. Head straight on to enter The Falkirk Wheel site.

### Access Information

**Bus:** Number 3 bus to The Falkirk Wheel; for bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** Falkirk High Station - 4km (2.5 miles) along towpath; Camelon Station 2km (1.2 miles).

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Car:** North & South car parks - free parking. But please note the bridge connecting the North car park and the basin closes at 8pm.

### Distance

— Suggested route  
5km (3 miles)

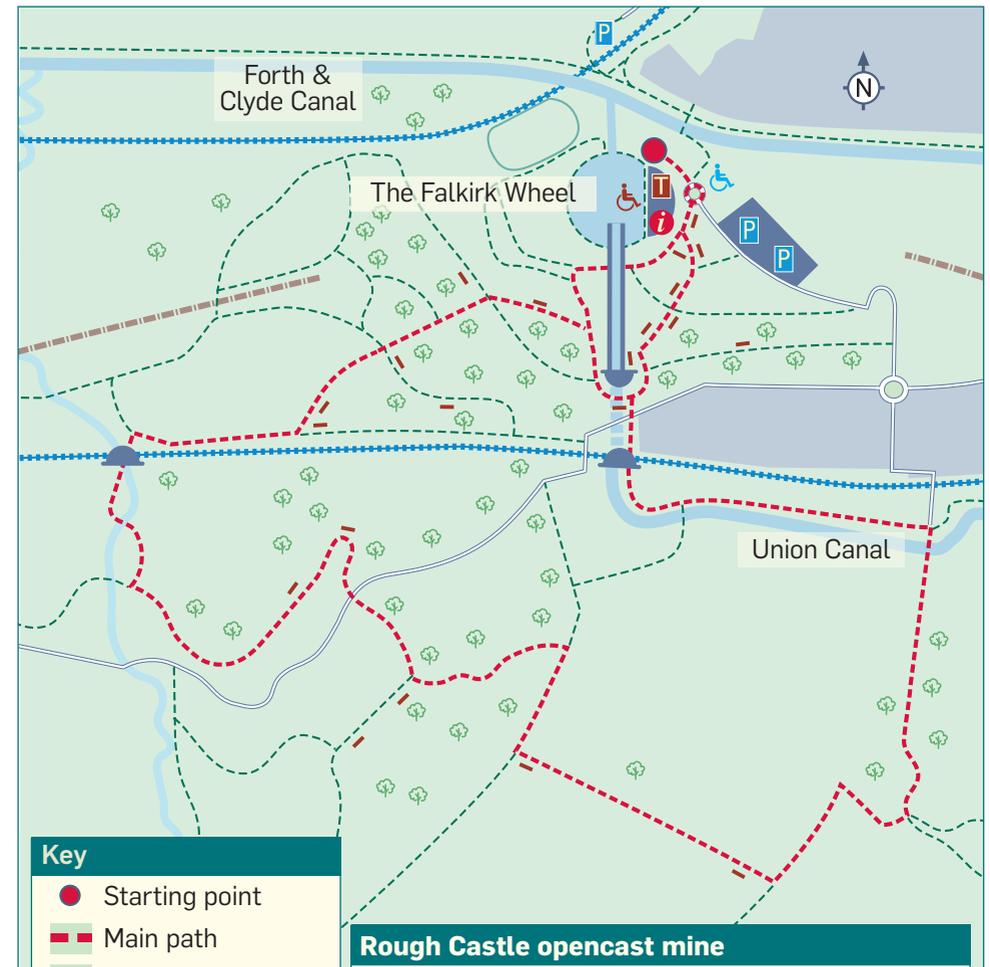
— Other routes  
(see map)

### Path information

Path surfaces are variable though most are surfaced. The path gradients are also variable, but sloping stretches are short. There are seats in Rough Castle Community Woodland.

### Facilities

Toilets, refreshments and Visitor Centre at the Falkirk Wheel.



### Key

- Starting point
- - - Main path
- - - Alternative paths
- Bench
- P Parking
- + + — Antonine Wall
- + + — Railway line
- i Visitors Centre & Tourist Information
- T Toilets
- ♿ Disabled amenities
- ♿ Disabled parking
- Tunnel

### Rough Castle opencast mine

This mine was once the largest excavation in Scotland. It closed in 1996.

### Antonine Wall

This Roman defensive fortification, built about 142AD, stretches 61km (38 miles) from Carriden on the river Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the Clyde. It was constructed mostly of turf on a stone base, probably with a timber rampart. There is a ditch to the north, with a cobbled roadway to the South, now known as the 'Military Way'.

Forts along the wall, including the one at Rough Castle, are approximately 3km (2 miles) apart. By 165AD the Antonine Wall had been abandoned, with the Romans retreat to the safety of Hadrian's Wall.

## 5. Tamfourhill Local Loop

### Access Information

**Bus:** Number 3 bus to The Falkirk Wheel; for bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** Falkirk High Station - 4km (2.5 miles) along towpath; Camelon Station - 2km (1.2 miles).

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Car:** North & South car parks - free parking. But please note the bridge connecting the North car park and the basin closes at 8pm.

### Distance

— Suggested route - 3 km (1.8 miles).

— Other routes (see map).

### Path information

This route follows surfaced paths but they are rough, and can be muddy in places. There are some moderate slopes up through the woodland and several gates.

### Facilities

Toilets, refreshments and Visitor Centre at the Falkirk Wheel.

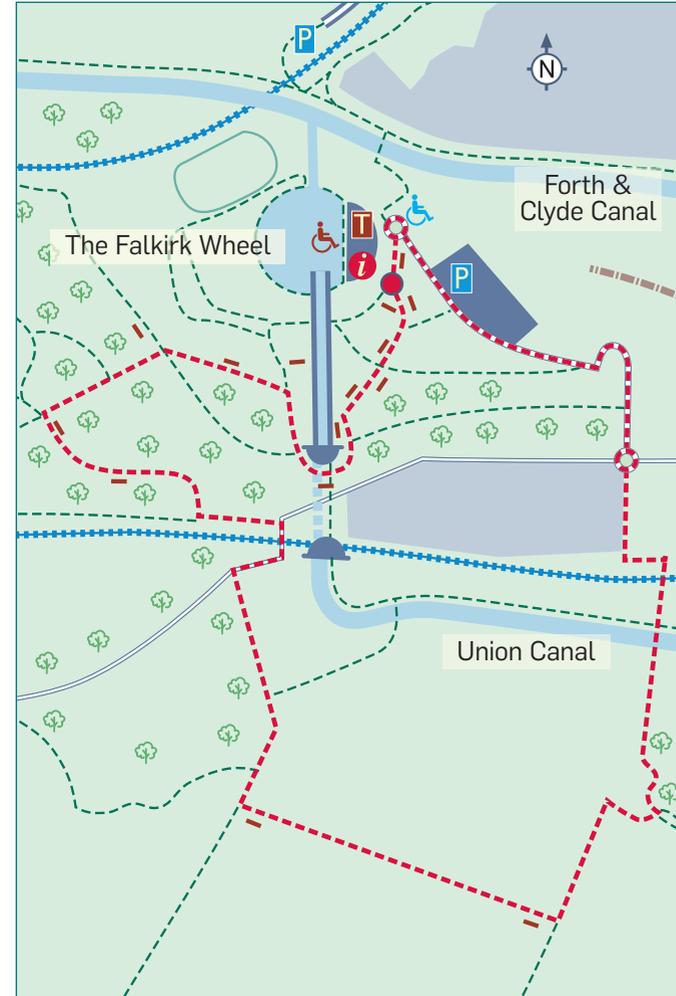


**A circular countryside route through woodland on surfaced paths.**

### Finding Your Way

Start at the Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre

- 1 From the top entrance to Falkirk Wheel on Tamfourhill Road, head directly onto Lime Road, past Maryfield Place and up onto the canal bridge. Follow the Right of Way uphill towards Drove Loan. When you reach the junction turn right.
- 2 Further on a gate allows access through the field. Follow this path which leads down to a gate into Rough Castle Community Woodland.



- 3 Follow this path for a short time until you come to another gate on the roadside. At the road, turn right. Please take care - there is no pavement here and traffic comes from both directions.
- 4 Cross the railway bridge at the traffic lights and take the path to the left then take the 1st path on your right.
- 5 At the path junction turn right and this will lead you along the top of the Falkirk Wheel and back to the Visitor Centre.

### Key

- Starting point
- Main path
- Alternative paths
- Bench
- P Parking
- Antonine Wall
- Railway line
- i Visitors Centre & Tourist Information
- T Toilets
- ♿ Disabled amenities
- ♿ Disabled parking
- ⤵ Tunnel

### South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan

The legacy of our industrial heritage has left its mark on our landscape - the mines, factories and smoke stacks may be long gone, but they left behind a degraded landscape.

The South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan has restored the countryside in South Falkirk for folk who live, work and visit the area - with the creation of 13km of paths for people and better habitats for wildlife.

## 6. Bantaskine Park Circular



### Access Information

**Bus:** For bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) Number 18 to the Station (infrequent). Frequent bus service to Glen Brae at the bottom of High Station Road - Numbers 5, 9, 12/13 and 17 pass this way.

Or Number 3 to Gartcows Road, and walk up the road sign posted 'Seagull Trust', under the railway, and over the canal to the Seagull Trust Boathouse (this reduces the walk by 1 km).

**Train:** Edinburgh - Glasgow trains: Falkirk High Station.

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Car:** Car Park at Drossie Road by Falkirk High Station.

### Distance

■ Suggested route - 4 km (2.5 miles).

--- Other routes (see map).

### Path information

All the paths on this route are surfaced with compacted stone. There are gentle gradients with a short, steeper section on Greenbank Road and level back along the towpath. There are no gates or stiles, and there are occasional benches throughout, up to 1km apart.

### Facilities

Toilets (limited facilities) at Falkirk High Station.



An easy circular route with a few steep inclines through the woodlands and grassland of Bantaskine Park. There are excellent views over Falkirk to the hills beyond. Return along the Union Canal towpath.

### Finding Your Way

Start at Falkirk High Station

- 1 There are many access points to this route, but for ease, begin at Drossie Road car park at Falkirk High Station.
- 2 From the car park follow the underpass under the railway and take the path on your right up to the Union Canal.
- 3 At the canal turn right and follow the towpath. Continue along the towpath under the stone bridge (Walkers Bridge 62) carrying on along the

towpath until you reach a barrier gate with diverging paths.

- 4 Take the path on your right downhill and away from the canal. At the end of this path you will reach Greenbank Road.
- 5 Turn left and head uphill back towards the Union Canal's finish point. This is a steep section.
- 6 Once back at the canal follow the signpost that reads "Bantaskine Public Estate, Woodland walks and Battle of Falkirk Monument."
- 7 Keep to the lower path through the woodland until you return to the Seagull Trust Boat House beside the canal. Cross over the bridge again and head back towards Falkirk High Station.

### Bantaskine Park

Formerly the Policy Grounds of Bantaskine Estate, the park has the feel of a country park, even though it is within the boundaries of the town. There are several interesting woodland and canal side paths along with open areas suitable for picnics.

Though the Mansion house was demolished in the 1950's the windows were saved and are now on display in the Howgate Shopping Centre in Falkirk.

## 7. The Falkirk Tunnel Circular

### Access Information

**Bus:** For bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk). Number 18 to the Station (infrequent). Frequent bus service to Glen Brae at the bottom of High Station Road—Numbers 5, 9, 12/13 and 17 pass this way. Or Number 3 to Gartcows Road, and walk uproad sign posted 'Seagull Trust', under the railway, and over the canal to the Seagull Trust Boathouse (this reduces the walk by 1 km).

**Train:** Edinburgh - Glasgow trains: Falkirk High Station.

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Car:** Car Park at Drossie Road by Falkirk High Station.

### Distance

- Suggested route - 3 km (1.8 miles).
- Other routes (see map).

### Path information

These are mostly compacted stone paths. In the tunnel, the path is slippery and uneven, and you may need a waterproof or umbrella. A torch can be handy for picking out the features of the tunnel or in case the lights are not on. There is a handrail. Cyclists should dismount.

The return route over the tunnel follows a trodden path which may be muddy.

There is a steep slope up from the towpath and some steps at the end of the route.

### Facilities

(limited facilities) at Falkirk High Station.

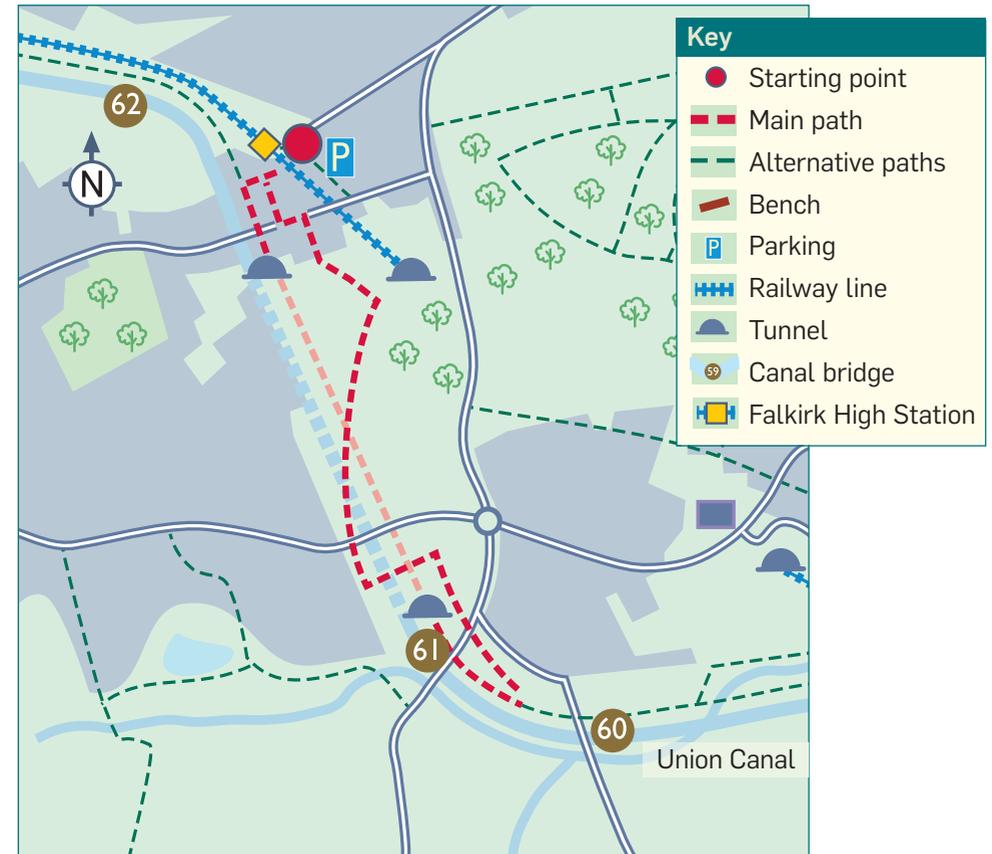


**An Underground / Overground route visiting the spectacular lit tunnel and returning over the hill above it.**

### Finding Your Way

Start at Falkirk High Station

- 1 Follow the path through the underpass below the railway line and then take the path on your right up towards the Union Canal. At the canal turn left and head into the Falkirk Tunnel. You should be able to see the stalactites and changes in the rock and tunnel lining.



Please take care as lighting is poor and the path in the tunnel is wet.

- 2 Once you have left the tunnel follow the path under "The Laughin' Greetin' bridge". Take the 1st path on your left and head up onto the bridge. There is a signpost here directing you to "Slamannan Road, The Union Canal & Falkirk High Station".
- 3 Cross the road and skirt the grass playing fields, and then cross Lionthorn Road. Follow the path until you come to the ash playing fields.
- 4 Follow the sign post and take the path on the left of the playing fields down to Slamannan Road. At the road, turn left and head uphill.
- 5 Follow the signpost directing you to the path across the road that leads to Falkirk High Station and the Union Canal.

### Falkirk Tunnel Facts

At 630m long and at least 3.6m high, Falkirk Tunnel was the longest canal tunnel built in Scotland.

It was built because the owner of Callendar House would not allow the canal to be dug within sight of the house.

The tunnel was cut using picks, shovels and gunpowder through solid limestone and millstone grit. It was lit as part of the Millennium Link project in 2000.

## 8. Hallglen Local Loop



### Access Information

**Bus:** Bus Number 5 loops through Hallglen along Glenburn Road. For bus timetable information contact TraveLine on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Train:** Falkirk High

Station - 1.5 km (1 mile).

**Car:** No designated parking areas.

### Distance

— Suggested route - 1.3 km (0.8 mile).

— Other routes (see map).

### Path information

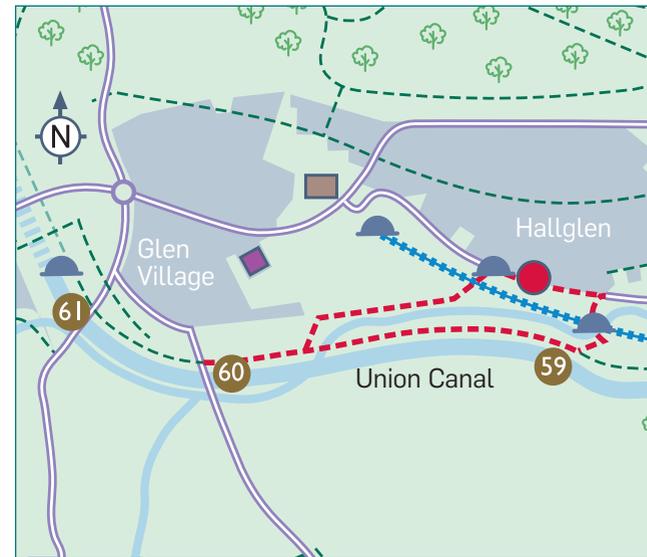
All these paths are surfaced, mainly with compacted stone.

The cobbled weir is rough and may be under flowing water after heavy rain. Take care when crossing it.

There is one short rough and steep section down to canal.

### Facilities

Toilets at Hallglen Community Centre, Islands Crescent, Tel 01324 503747



### Key

- Starting point
- Main path
- Alternative paths
- Railway line
- Tunnel
- Canal bridge
- Hallglen Primary School
- Halglen Community Centre



### Laughin' Greetin' Bridge

If you look up at the first bridge east of the Falkirk Tunnel (bridge 61), you will see faces carved into the top of the arch.

The Laughin' face looks east where the contractor digging the level canal had an easy job all the way to Edinburgh.

The Greetin' or crying face looks west, where the contractor had a hard job of digging the tunnel through the hillside followed by 11 locks down to meet the Forth & Clyde Canal.

**An easy circular route taking in the Union Canal towpath which could also be tackled as a continuation of the Falkirk Tunnel Circular (Route 7).**

### Finding Your Way

Start at Glenburn Road opposite Beauty Court

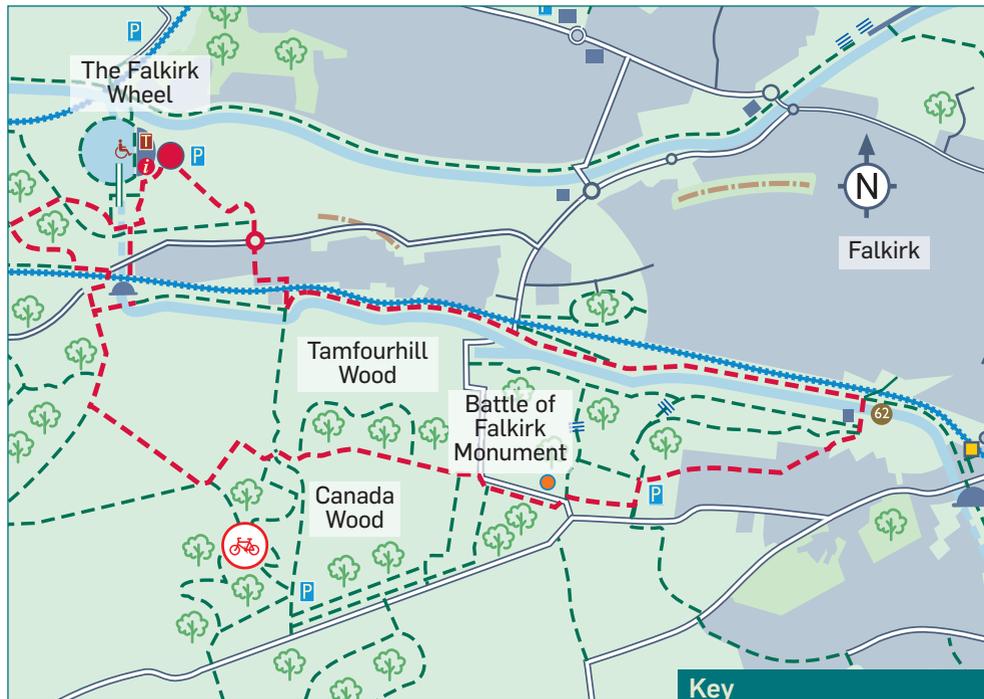
- 1 Cross Glenburn Road carefully, or use the subway to reach the old road to Glen Village. Just before the houses of Hallglen Terrace, turn left, taking a steep sign posted path down to the Union Canal.
- 2 At canal turn left towards Hallglen or alternatively, turn right to see the Laughin' Greetin' bridge (number 61) and to explore the Falkirk Tunnel.

- 3 Notice the cobbled spillway or weir, where excess water from the canal joins the Glen Burn in times of heavy rain. There are also two winding points where the canal is wider to allow boats to turn or 'wind' round.

- 4 Pass over the spillway and continue along the canal towpath. As you approach bridge no.59 take the path that leads off to your left.

- 5 The path now goes downhill slightly. Follow this under the railway bridge and cross over the burn via a wooden bridge. Continue along the path as it heads back up to Glenburn Road - turn left to get back to your starting point.

## 9. Falkirk Wheel to Battle of Falkirk Monument



**A circular route from Falkirk Wheel, through Bantaskin Park and past the Battle of Falkirk Monument.**

### Finding Your Way

Start at the Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre

1-3As for route 11.

4 Cross the road at the entrance to Bantaskin Park. Take the signposted path which cuts through farmland to Slamannan Road and takes you to the viewpoint in Bantaskin Estate.

5 When you reach the viewpoint follow the path around the side of the private house. Instead of continuing up the main drive, follow the sign posted grass path along the southern edge of the walled garden.

6 Cross over the small wooden bridge then follow the track on the left over a second bridge. This bridge will bring you to Greenbank Road and the Battle of Falkirk Monument. Cross the road, go through the



gate and follow the path towards Canada Wood and Tamfourhill Wood.



7 Take the main path into Tamfourhill Wood, passing a pond on your left. There is seating here if you wish to take a rest. When you come to the path crossroads, carry on straight ahead passing a viewpoint of the Ochil Hills.

8 Keep following this path and continue through a field gate to farmland. Continue on this field edge path past the red-roofed barn in the field on your left. Just past this you will come to a set of gates. Follow the path to your right and continue downhill into Rough Castle Community Woodland.

9 **When the tunnel is open:** Near the bottom of the hill near Lochgreen

Road, take the 2nd path on your right which will lead you back towards the Lock on the Union canal. Cross over the lock and turn left. This path will take you back to the Falkirk Wheel.

or

10 **When the tunnel is closed:** Continue to the main road and turn right on Bonnyhill Road. Please take care - there is no pavement here and traffic comes from both directions.

11 Cross the railway bridge at the traffic lights and take the path to the left. Take the 1st path on your right signposted "The Falkirk Wheel". At the path junction take the route on the right and this will lead you back to the Falkirk Wheel and Visitor Centre.

### Access Information

**Bus:** Number 3 bus to The Falkirk Wheel; for bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** Falkirk High Station - 4km (2.5 miles) along towpath; Camelon Station 2km (1.2 miles).

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Car:** North & South car parks - free parking. But please note the bridge connecting the North car park and the basin closes at 8pm.

### Distance

Suggested route - 7 km (4.5 miles).

Other routes (see map).

### Path information

This route follows mainly surfaced paths, with a couple of un-surfaced sections which can get muddy. Some of the tracks are very uneven, and care should be taken when crossing any roads along this route. There are some moderate-steep slopes on parts of the route.

### Facilities

Toilets, refreshments and Visitor Centre at the Falkirk Wheel.

## 10. Falkirk Wheel to Shieldhill Circular

### Access Information

**Bus:** Number 3 bus to The Falkirk Wheel; for bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Train:** Falkirk High Station - 4km (2.5 miles) along towpath; Camelon Station 2km (1.2 miles).

**Car:** North & South car parks - free parking. But please note the bridge connecting the North car park and the basin closes at 8pm.

### Distance

 Suggested route - 16 km (10 miles).

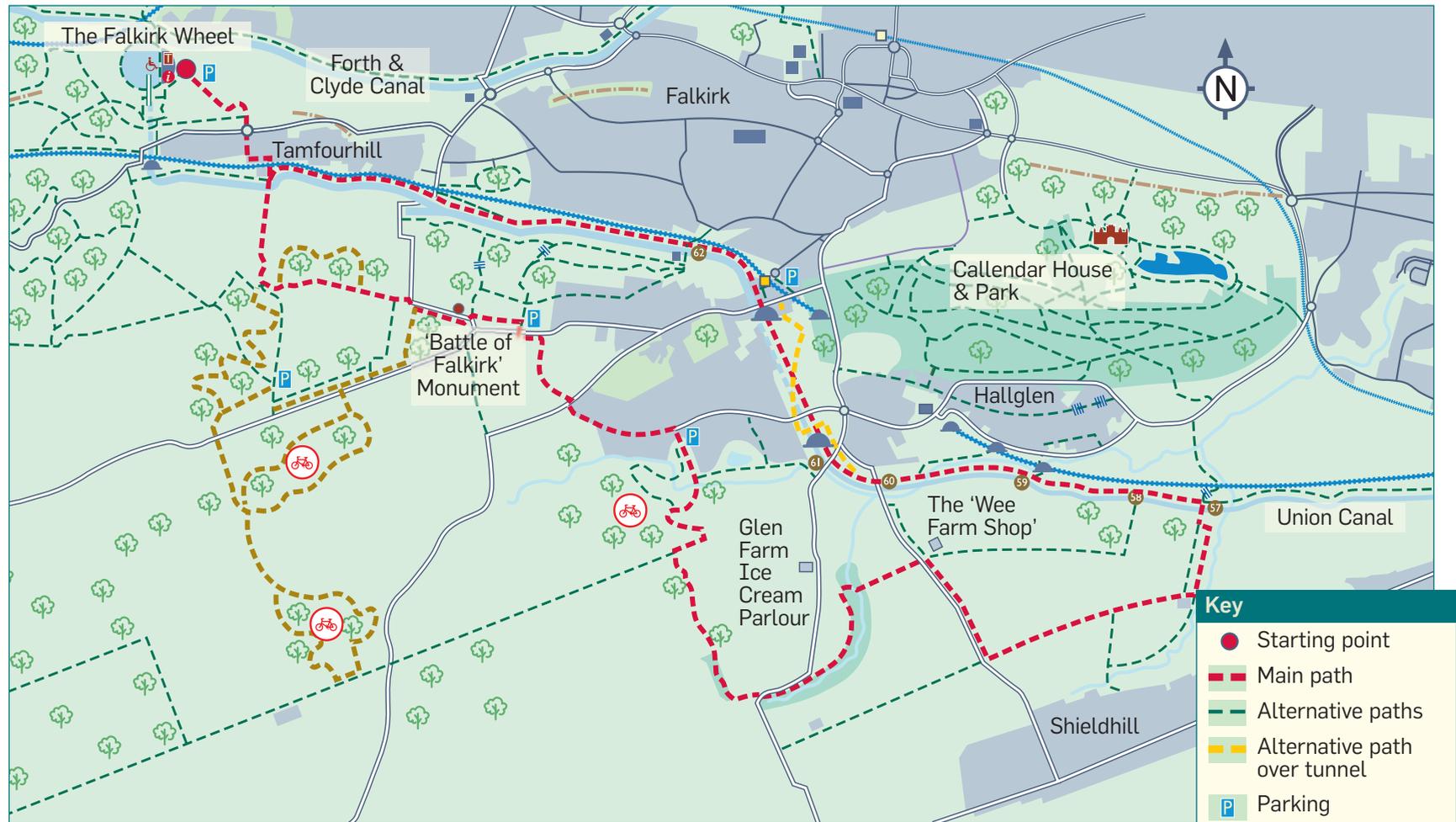
 Other routes (see map).

### Path information

Mainly on surfaced paths with three short sections unsurfaced. These can get muddy. The towpath is relatively flat, but there are some steep sections leading up from the Canal towards Shieldhill, and through Cleuch Plantation.

### Facilities

Toilets, refreshments and Visitor Centre at the Falkirk Wheel.



**16km (10 miles) route taking in the water, woods and history of South Falkirk.**

### Finding Your Way

Start at the Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre

- 1 From the top entrance to Falkirk Wheel car park on Tamfourhill Road, head directly onto Lime Road, past Maryfield Place and up onto the canal bridge.

Turn left and follow the Union Canal towpath passing the Seagull Trust Boat House, Falkirk High Station and the Falkirk Tunnel. If you prefer not to go through the Tunnel, there is a rough path that takes you up and over (see Route 7). Please note the towpath is muddy in places.

- 2 Stay on the towpath passing over the spillway

### Key

-  Starting point
-  Main path
-  Alternative paths
-  Alternative path over tunnel
-  Parking
-  Antonine Wall
-  Railway line
-  Tunnel
-  Canal bridge
-  Falkirk High Station
-  Falkirk Grahamston Station
-  Callendar Estate Cycle Trails
-  Mountain Bike Trail (see route 12)



## 10. Falkirk Wheel to Shieldhill Circular *(continued)*

(cobbled section) and continue alongside the canal. After 5 km (3 miles) you will reach Bridge No. 57. Follow the path up and over the bridge sign-posted "The Old Drove Road". Cross the stile at the far side of the bridge, and then head over a short rough grass section to the kissing gate ahead.

3 The kissing gate leads you into a woodland and onto a compacted stone path. Follow this up the hill to your left and through another kissing gate. Continue up the hill until you reach a path junction. Take the short steep unsurfaced path on your right which will take you onto the farm track past Pirleyhill Farm.

4 At the end of this track turn right and follow the path down through Mavisbank Wood. There are good views across the Forth here and a bench where you can take a well earned rest. At the foot of this path adjacent to Falkirk Wood turn left to cross Shieldhill Road and follow the Public Right of Way to Cleuch

Plantation.

5 Follow the path to Glen Farm road. Cross under the road and follow the track down through Easter Strip woodland. You will go through a number of gates on this route. At the path junction turn right following the path downhill through Kilbean Wood and Lionthorn Community Woodland. Turn left on Lionthorn Road and continue up the hill taking care when you cross Slamannan Road. Follow the signposted path to Lochgreen Road.

6 Take care as you cross Lochgreen Road, and then head into Bantaskine Park. Turn left along the surfaced path to the Battle of Falkirk Monument. Again, take care as you cross the road to take the path to the Drove Loan. Along this path turn left and at the path crossroads, turn right taking the path back downhill to the Union Canal. When you reach the canal towpath, retrace the first part of this route to take you back to the Falkirk Wheel.

### Callendar Estate Cycle Trails

An exciting new initiative by Callendar Estate to develop a network of mountain bike trails in the woodlands to the South of Falkirk.

For more information please visit [www.callendarestate.co.uk](http://www.callendarestate.co.uk)

### Old Drove Road

Cattle (and later sheep) from the Highlands and Islands were driven to market along routes which became known as drovers roads.

A vast network of these drove roads crossed the Highlands and converged on "tryst" (meeting place) sites such as the Falkirk Tryst.

The cattle were sold at these Trysts and then taken south to grazing areas like those in Northumberland and the Yorkshire Dales where they were grazed and fattened after their long journeys. They were then driven south to the London markets.

### The Wee Farm Shop

Visit [www.theweefarmshop](http://www.theweefarmshop) for more information and opening times.

### Glen Farm Ice cream Parlour & Farm Shop

OPENING SOON  
Serving quality coffee and cakes as well as ice cream made from milk produced on the farm.  
[www.glenfarmicecream.co.uk/](http://www.glenfarmicecream.co.uk/)

# 11. Falkirk Wheel Community Woodland Circular

## Access Information

**Bus:** Number 3 bus to The Falkirk Wheel; for bus timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Train:** Falkirk High Station - 4km (2.5 miles) along towpath; Camelon Station 2km (1.2 miles).

**Cycle:** Towpaths alongside Forth and Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**Car:** North & South car parks - free parking. But please note the bridge connecting the North car park and the basin closes at 8pm.

## Distance

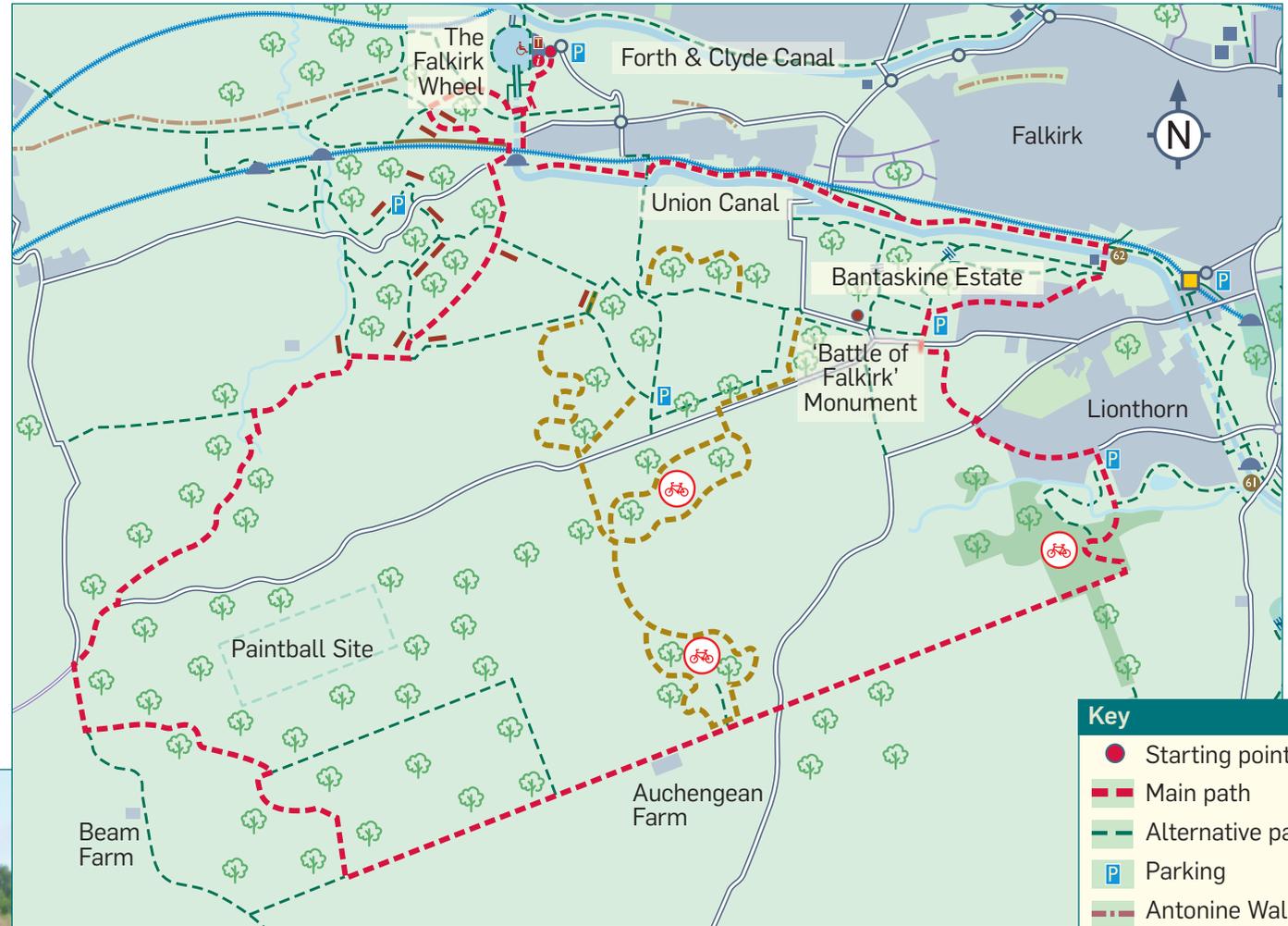
- - - Suggested route - 16 km (10 miles).
- - - Other routes (see map).

## Path information

This route follows mainly surfaced paths, with a couple of un-surfaced sections which can get muddy. Some of the tracks are very uneven, and care should be taken when crossing any roads along this route. There are some moderate-steep slopes on parts of the route.

## Facilities

Toilets, refreshments and Visitor Centre at the Falkirk Wheel.



Key	
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Starting point
<span style="color: red;">- - -</span>	Main path
<span style="color: green;">- - -</span>	Alternative paths
<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</span>	Parking
<span style="border-top: 1px dashed gray; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Antonine Wall
<span style="border-top: 2px solid blue; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Railway line
<span style="border-top: 1px solid gray; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Tunnel
<span style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;">62</span>	Canal bridge
<span style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;">61</span>	Falkirk High Station
<span style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> </span>	Callendar Estate Cycle Trails
<span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">🚴</span>	Mountain Bike Trail (see route 12)



**16kms (10 miles) of paths and tracks through South Falkirk's Community Woodlands at Lionthorn, Drum Wood and Rough Castle.**

## Finding Your Way

- Start at the Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre
- 1 From the Visitor Centre

follow the steep surfaced path leading uphill towards the Union Canal. Pass through the tunnel and follow the canal on the main towpath. There is seating at various points along the canal.

- 2 Cross bridge (no.62) onto a wide track and

## 11. Falkirk Wheel Community Woodland Circular *(continued)*

head uphill passing the Seagull Trust Boat House on your right. Continue uphill crossing over a bridge just before approaching a private house and viewpoint. There is seating on the route and at the viewpoint. Take the track which passes behind the house and follow the main drive to Lochgreen Road.

4 Cross the road at the entrance to Bantaskin Park. Take the sign posted path which cuts through farmland to Slamannan Road. Cross the road and turn right towards the bus stop. Turn left and head downhill following the main road which passes through Lionthorn housing estate. As you near the end of the housing estate on your right you will see the entrance to Lionthorn Community Woodland. Cross the road and take the path which follows to the left of the woodland.

5 Cross over the small wooden bridge over the Glen Burn and follow the zig-zag route uphill and through Kilbean Woodland. When you reach the top of the path it turns right and heads west. Pass

through the gate which will take you onto a long farmland track. Continue straight along the track for approximately 1.5 km (1 mile) passing through several gates as you go. This brings you to Slamannan Road very close to the Westerglen Transmitter Station.

6 Cross the road and continue on the farm track for about 1.5 km (1 mile) passing Auchengean Farm until you reach a path junction. Take the path to the right which winds through Drum Wood. This brings you out onto a farm track. Turn right down the farm track which brings you out onto Lochgreen Road.

7 Turn right on to a new section of path that runs parallel with Lochgreen Road. After 500m cross Lochgreen Road and follow the woodland track through Drum Wood to a T junction.

8 At the T junction turn right and follow the path through farmland with Bonnyhill Farm on your left. Continue on this path until you come to a junction. Take the path on your right and continue until

the next junction.

9 Take the path on your left that leads down into Roughcastle Community Woodland.

10 When the tunnel is open, follow the path downhill and take the 2nd path on your right. This takes you to The Union Canal tunnel and the Falkirk Wheel.

or

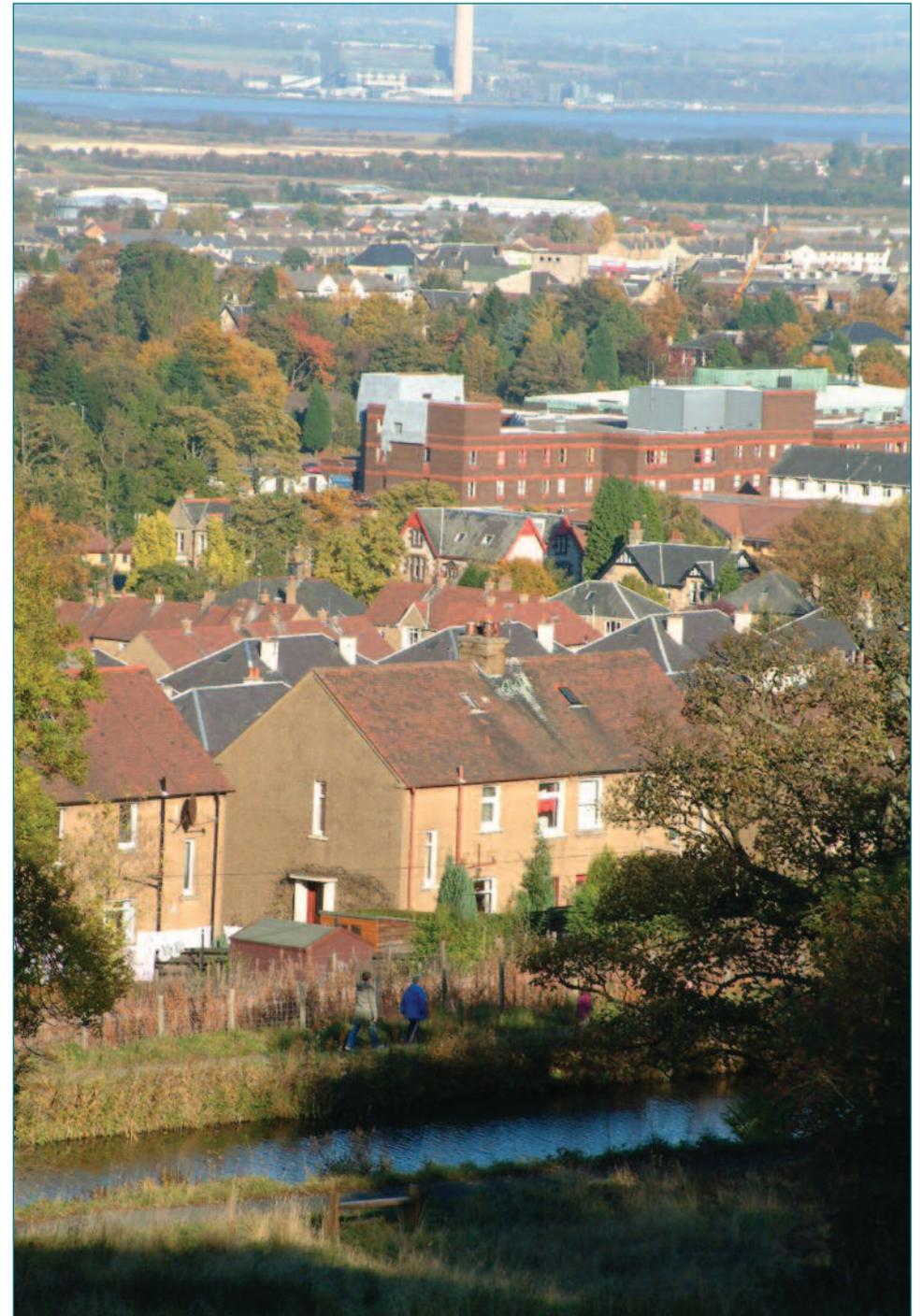
11 When the tunnel is closed continue to the main road and turn right on Bonnyhill Road. Please take care - there is no pavement here and traffic comes from both directions.

12 Cross the railway bridge at the traffic lights and take the path to the left. Take the 1st path on your right signposted "The Falkirk Wheel". At the path junction take the route on the right and this will lead you back to the Falkirk Wheel and Visitor Centre.

### Bean Geese

To avoid disturbance to Bean Geese please use route through the woodland from mid September to early March.

For further information on Bean Geese see [www.bean-geese.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk](http://www.bean-geese.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk)



## 12. Callendar Estate Cycle Trails

At Callendar Estate we have built a network of single track mountain bike trails to complement the walking and horse riding routes already available.

The cycle trails are easy family friendly routes that wind in and out of the attractive woodland on the edge of Falkirk. For your safety and enjoyment they are designed to be ridden one way. Please follow the directions of the arrows shown on the plan and the on site way marking. Please also be considerate of other users of the wider path network and be aware that, whilst the cycle trails have been designed for mountain biking other users may also be present.

### Directions

The trail network is accessed from the Greenrig car park, 3 miles from the centre of Falkirk. From the centre of the town follow the signs for Slamannan. Once on Slamannan Road take the 3rd exit off the mini roundabout on to Lochgreen Road and continue on for a mile to the car park. The trails can also be accessed from the Falkirk Wheel and Falkirk High Station following the Union Canal tow path.



### Canada Trail (Easy single track - see map 4.1km (2.5 miles))

An easy graded route suitable for most cyclists. There are no steep hills, just gentle ups and downs which let you flow along. Look out for Charlie's Stanes on the way which marks the site of the Battle of Falkirk in 1746. An optional board walk provides a bit of a challenge for those wishing to test their skill level.

### Craigieburn Trail (Moderate single track - see map 3.4km (2 miles))

A slightly more challenging route with a few gentle hills to work the heart and lungs and a few twisting drops for a bit more adrenaline. The route winds through Craigieburn Wood and returns to the start through Howierig Moss, an important site for nature conservation. Please take care where the trail crosses the main road



### Auchengean Trail (Challenging single track - see map 6.8km (4.25 miles))

Intended to be ridden as an extension to the Craigieburn trail, adding an extra 3.4km to the trail. This is for more experienced cyclists with a reasonable level of fitness and involves a fairly strenuous climb to the top of Auchengean wood with a rewarding fast descent. Watch out for the two short sections of raised board walk. If in any doubt get off and walk.

### Kilbean Trail (Moderate single track - see map 3km (1.8 miles))

The Kilbean trail is accessed from the Lionthorn car park and involves a steady climb followed by an exciting descent. We have added in some technical challenges, including steps and big berms as optional extras. The top part of the trail is graded red due to its steep descent and fast switch back corners and is for more experienced cyclists. To extend the ride follow the farm track passed Westerglen Transmitter for 1.8km to join the Auchengean Trail.

### Bespoke Community Development Company

The cycle trails and paths at Callendar Estate are managed by the BeSpoke Community Development Company, a community interest company working in partnership with Callendar Estate to manage, maintain, promote and enhance the path network. For more information about the company and about how to get involved go to [www.bespokefalkirk.co.uk](http://www.bespokefalkirk.co.uk)

# Walk, Ride and Cycle in and around The Falkirk Wheel and South Falkirk



**Getting There:** Get your copy of the Green Travel Map at [www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk) or call 01324 504950.

**By Foot:** If you live nearby.

**By Cycle:** Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 76. Cycle route information available from [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk) 0845 1130065  
Towpaths along Forth & Clyde Canal and Union Canal.

**By Rail:** Nearest Train Stations are at Camelon, Falkirk Grahamston or Falkirk High.

**By Bus:** For further information on bus times, numbers, routes, etc call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**By Car:** Follow signs to The Falkirk Wheel.

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

## Further information

[www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk)  
[www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk](http://www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk)  
[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)  
[www.forthstimeline.com](http://www.forthstimeline.com)  
[www.callendarestate.co.uk](http://www.callendarestate.co.uk)  
[www.bespokefalkirk.co.uk](http://www.bespokefalkirk.co.uk)

For more information contact Falkirk Council's Access Officer, Development Services on 01324 504950.



**Falkirk Council**  
Development Services