

# Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Walks



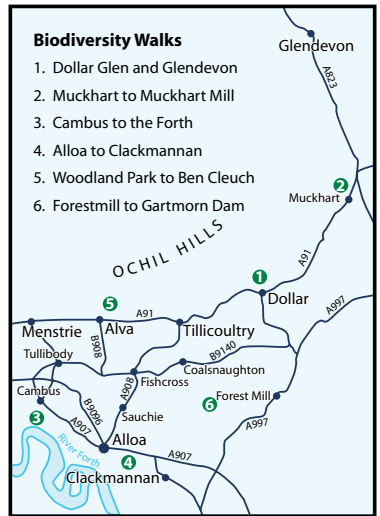
Welcome to Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Walks which shows 12 local walks of varying length and difficulty. Each map is accompanied by a description of the local wildlife you are likely to encounter.

## Safety First

The walks are suitable for casual walkers – stout footwear and warm/waterproof clothing are advisable. If you attempt the harder walks or venture into the Ochil Hills ensure you are properly equipped - take an appropriate map and compass, make sure you are able to navigate. Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to arrive back. Some sections of the paths are uneven, slippery and unfenced with some steep drops, so please be careful and wear suitable footwear. For their own safety please take care of children and keep dogs under close control.

## Selecting a walk

The start location of the different trails is shown on the map below. Each walk follows a path and is clearly shown on specially prepared maps which include a route description. Whilst every care has been taken in preparation of this leaflet, we cannot accept responsibility for changes or obstacles on the routes described, nor for any accident or injury.



### Biodiversity Walks

1. Dollar Glen and Glendevon
2. Muckhart to Muckhart Mill
3. Cambus to the Forth
4. Alloa to Clackmannan
5. Woodland Park to Ben Cleuch
6. Forestmill to Gartmorn Dam

The walks are graded into  
**3 broad classifications:**

**Easy: short level walk on well marked route (less than 2 miles)**

**Moderate: undulating terrain, some steep sections (1.5–5 miles)**

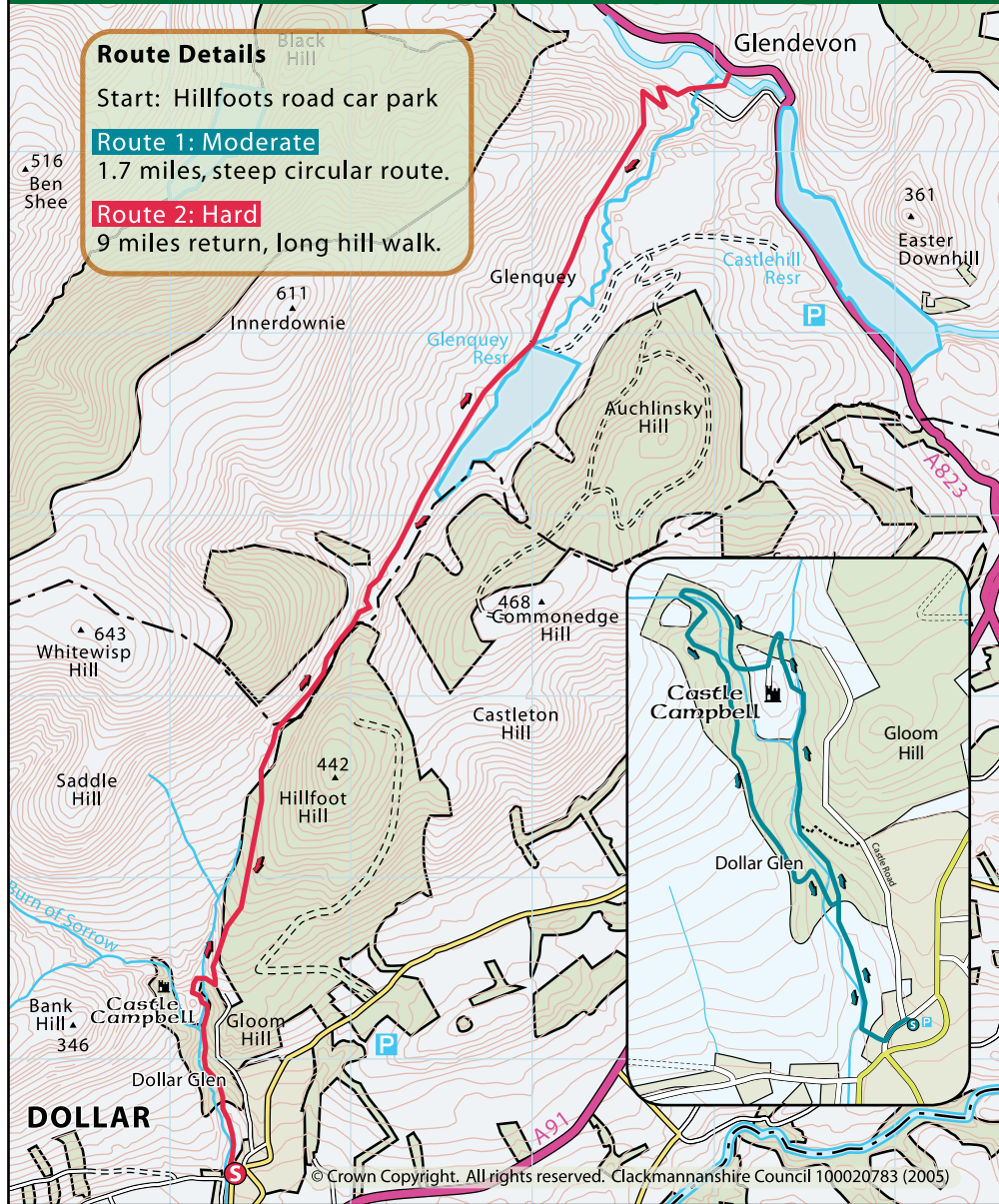
**Hard: strenuous walk, steep terrain (5+ miles)**



**Clackmannanshire Council**

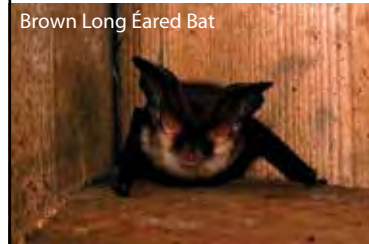
# WALK 1 Dollar Glen and Glendevon

*A steep hike through a spectacular glen to Castle Campbell followed by a longer route through upland to Glen Devon reservoir.*



## biodiversity

Brown Long Eared Bat



Bandit and soprano pipistrelle bats can be seen in Dollar Glen most evenings, except during their winter hibernations. Watch them swoop along the surface of the burn catching insects. These mammals are only about 4cm long and weigh less than a 2p coin!

The otter population in Clackmannanshire has increased notably during the last decade. Signs of otters have been detected recently in Dollar Burn. Otters are indicative of good water and habitat quality, being high up the food chain they depend on a diet of fish and aquatic invertebrates.

Otter



Pellitory-of-the-wall

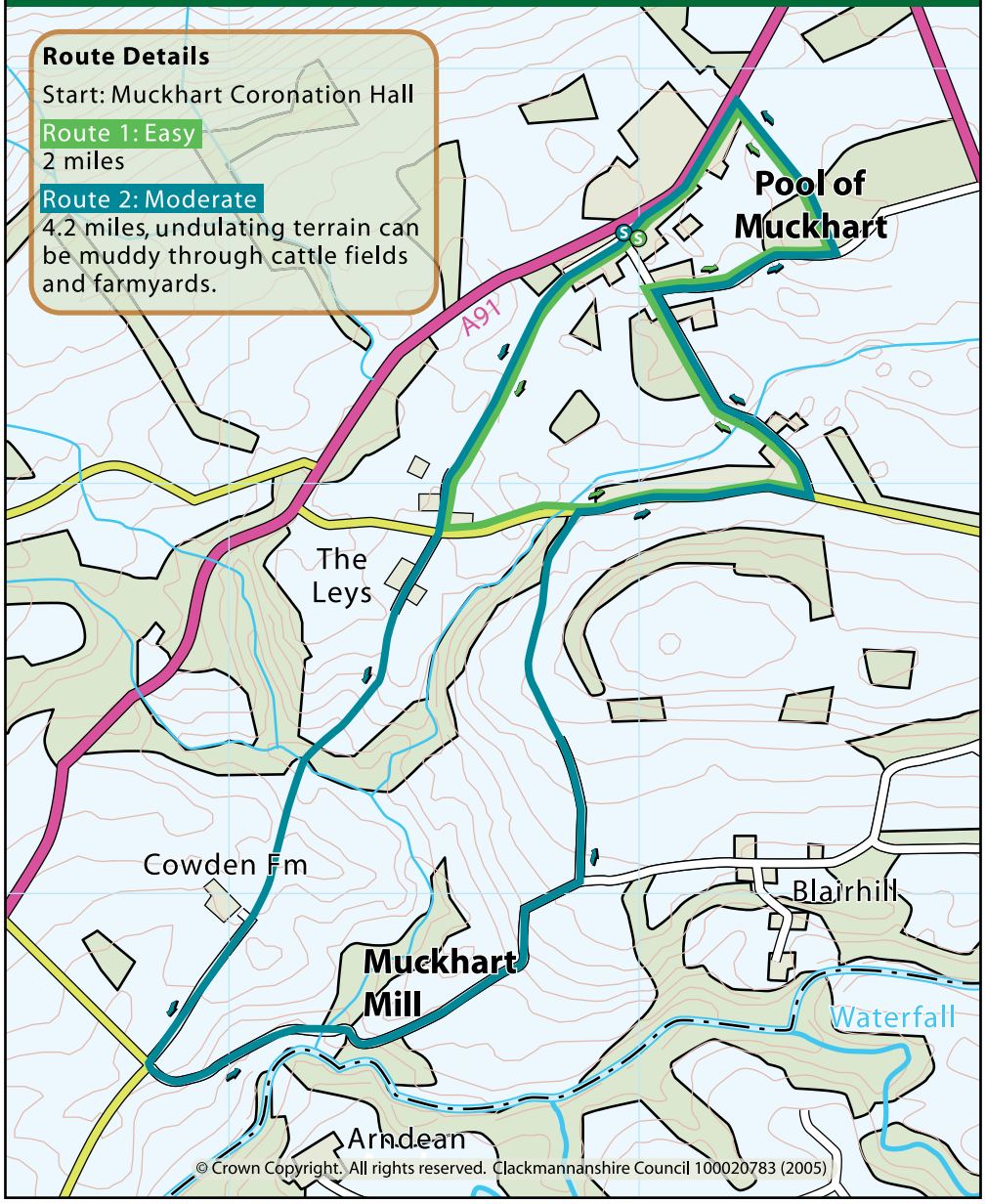


Dollar Glen contains a number of locally rare plants, keep a look out for hart's tongue fern, field gentian and pellitory-of-the-wall, which grows in rocky places. Dippers and grey wagtails are frequently seen in burns above Castle Campbell.

As you approach Glenquoy Reservoir, you may be lucky enough to see osprey hunting for fish during the spring and autumn migration.

# WALK 2 Muckhart to Muckhart Mill

An undulating trail through village and fields with distant views to Stirling Castle and the Trossachs



**Route Details**  
 Start: Muckhart Coronation Hall  
**Route 1: Easy**  
 2 miles  
**Route 2: Moderate**  
 4.2 miles, undulating terrain can be muddy through cattle fields and farmyards.



## biodiversity



Frogs

Amphibians may be seen or heard throughout the walk. Frogs have a moist, smooth skin, lay their spawn in clumps and can hop a distance of over six times their body length. Toads have a warty skin, lay their eggs in strings and hop or crawl along the ground. Throughout the UK many wetlands have been lost to development pressures, you can help by creating a wetland or pond in your garden.

Common lizards have been recorded in this part of Clackmannanshire. Look out for them from March to September basking on sunny rocks near hedges, forest edges and dry stonewalls.



Common Lizard



Ragged Robin

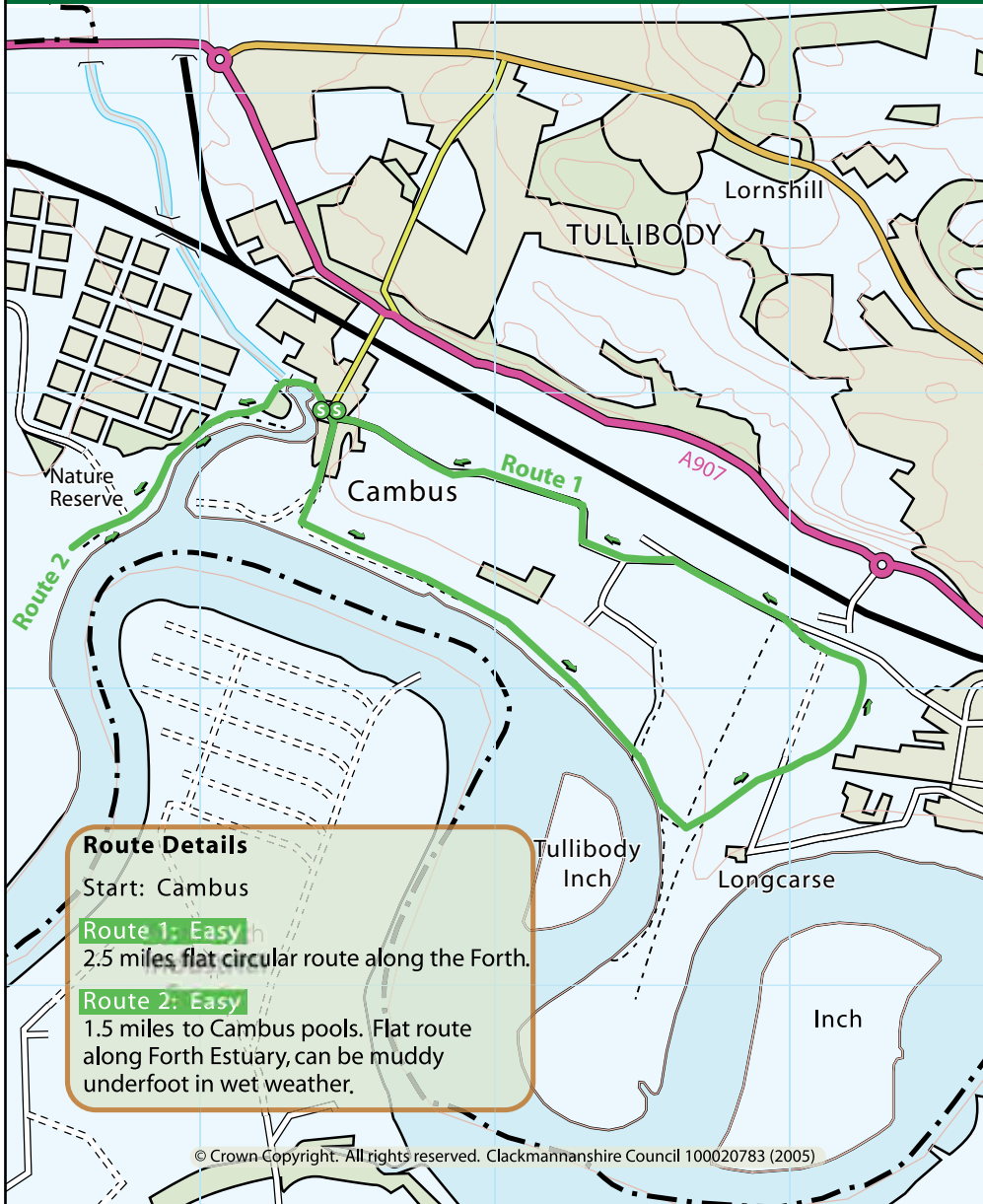
Ragged Robin is a pretty pink wildflower that grows on wet grassland.

While heading towards Muckhart Mill look out for buzzards, they are commonly seen around Blairhill.

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# WALK 3 Cambus to the Forth

A flat trail with access along the Forth Estuary and views to Tullibody and Alloa Inches



## biodiversity

The trails in Cambus provide a rare opportunity to view the Forth and see grey seals. About two-thirds of greys seals' time is spent at sea where they hunt and feed. Sand eels and cod are their most important foods, but grey seals are opportunistic feeders and probably take whatever fish are most abundant.



Grey Seal

Peacock Butterfly



The peacock butterfly is very colourful with brilliant eyespots, hence its name! From late summer it can be found in the shelter of woodland clearings, ridges, and gardens. Their main food plant is common nettle.

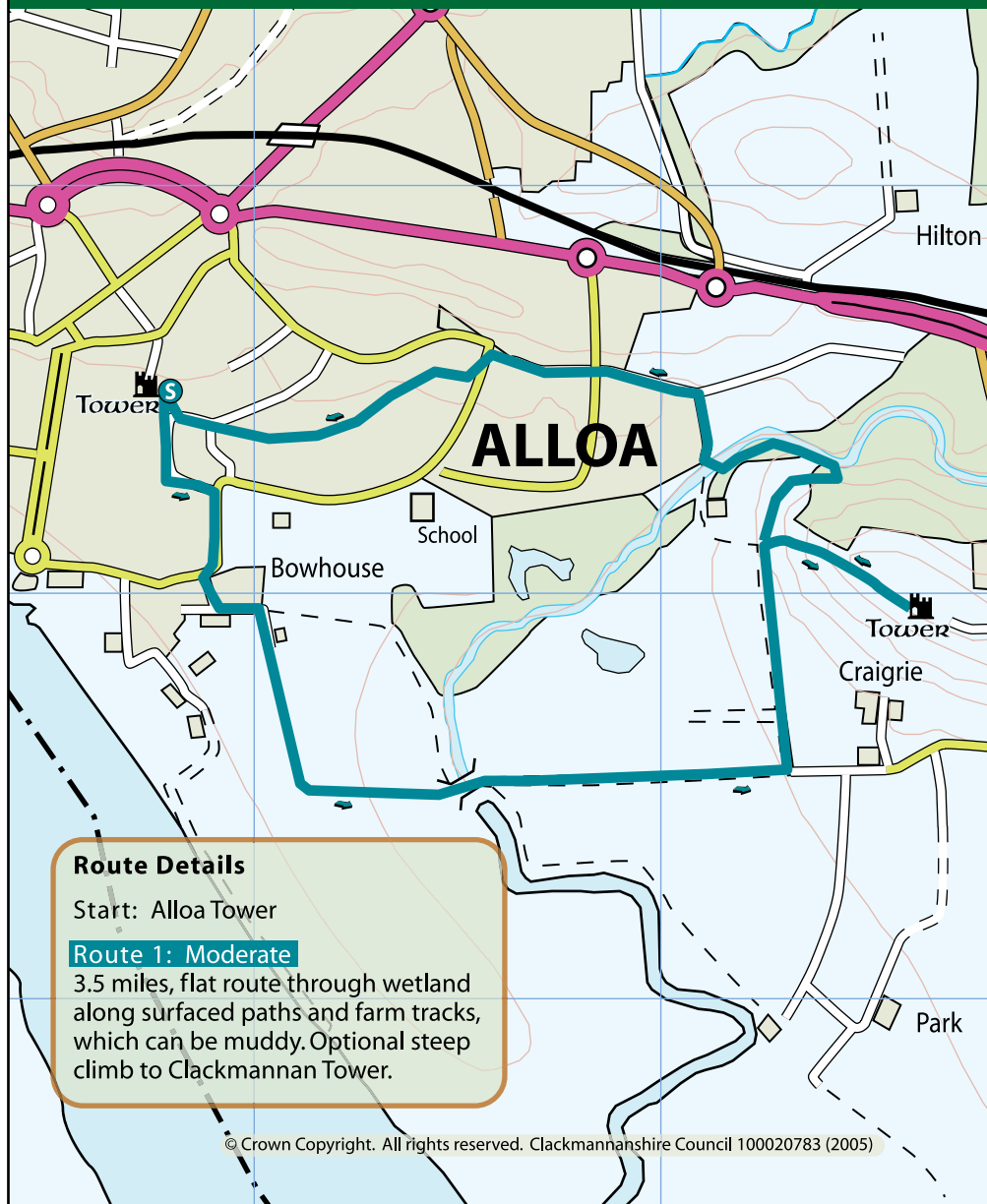
Shelducks can be seen throughout the year along the Forth Estuary. These birds nest in old rabbit burrows near to the coast and they winter on the Estuary where they feed on invertebrates like aquatic snails.

Shelduck



# WALK 4 Alloa to Clackmannan

A flat trail from Alloa Tower to Clackmannan Tower through the Black Devon lagoon habitat



## biodiversity

The grasslands along this trail provide a home for brown hares, a nationally rare species. They usually live alone, except in the late winter and early spring when small groups gather, leading to boxing shows!



Hare



Redshank

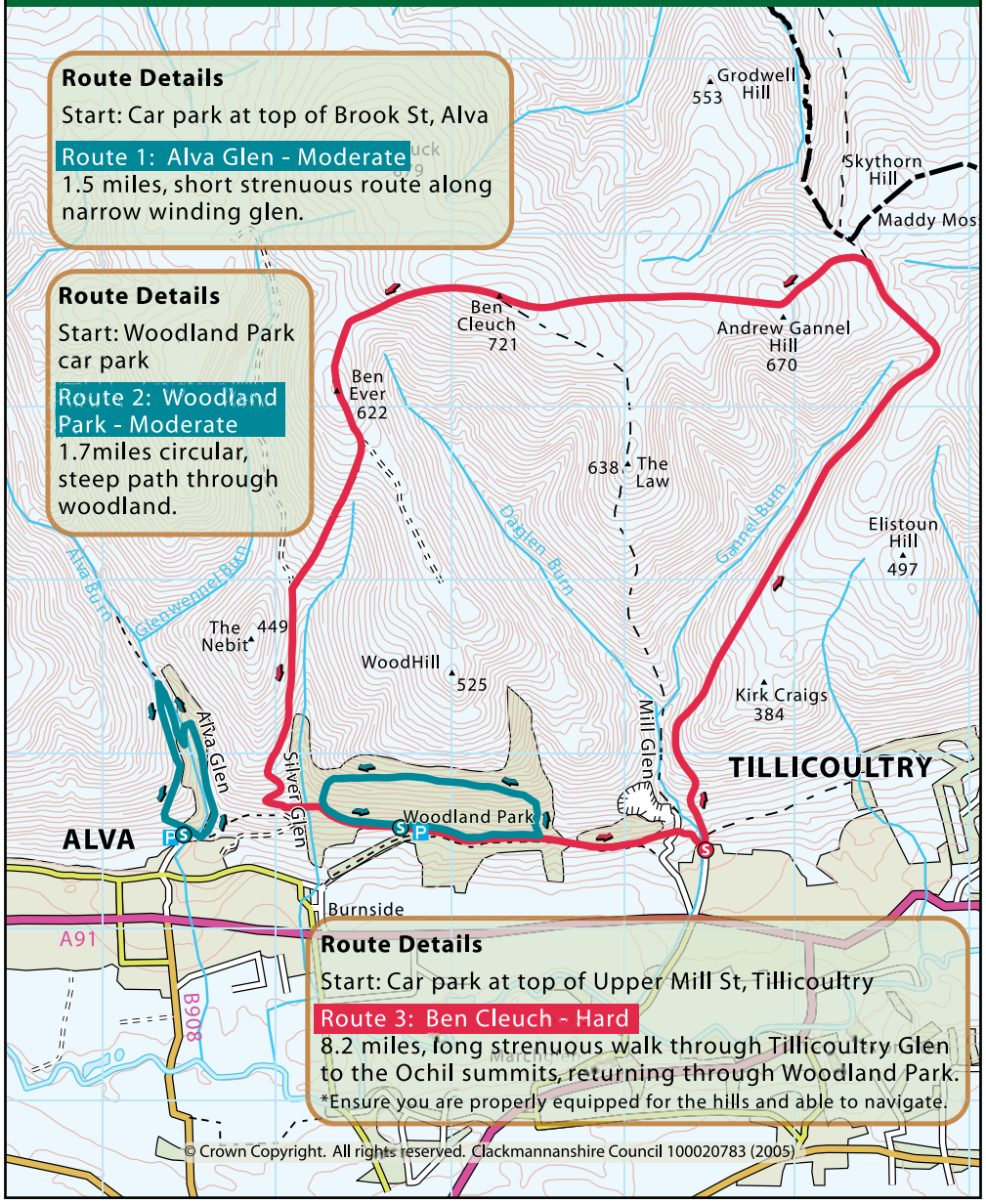
The Black Devon wetlands are particularly important for waders (any long-legged bird that searches for food in shallow water) – lapwing and redshank are two types of waders that can be seen here. Also keep a watch out for moorhens, mallards and coots.

Mute swans, recognised by their orange bills live in the wetlands and River Black Devon throughout the year.



# WALK 5 Woodland Park to Ben Cleuch

Three varied routes through the Hillfoot Glens – dramatic steep-sided wooded glens with fast flowing watercourses



## biodiversity

Bluebells



A brilliant display of bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* can be seen in the spring in the Woodland Park. The non-native Spanish bluebell has paler blue flowers and stiffer stems and is hybridising with the native bluebell. Be sure to plant the native species in your garden.

Green woodpeckers, spotted flycatchers, blackcaps and various tits may also be seen in the Woodland Park.



Northern Brown Argus

In late June and July watch out for the northern brown argus a locally rare butterfly. Identify this butterfly by its chocolate-brown upperside, usually with a characteristic white spot in the middle of the forewing.

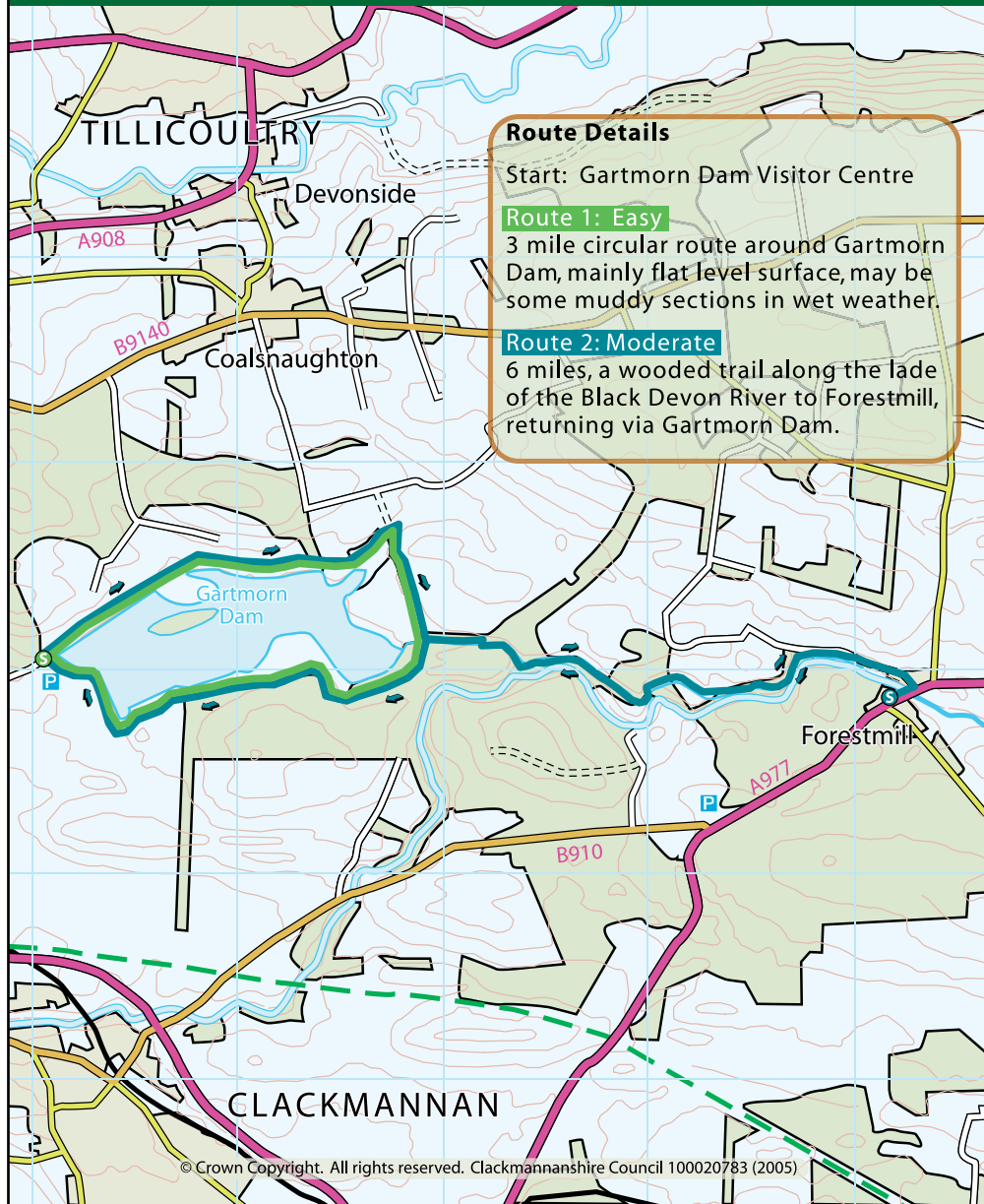
Alva Glen



The steep fast flowing burns and the ability to harness their power, was a major factor in the growth of the hillfoot towns as textile manufacturers during the late 18th century. Remains of weirs and sluices to control the flow of water can still be seen in Mill Glen and Alva Glen.

# WALK 6 Forestmill to Gartmorn Dam

A level route around Gartmorn Dam Country Park, from industrial beginnings the park has become a haven for wildlife and recreation



### Route Details

Start: Gartmorn Dam Visitor Centre

#### Route 1: Easy

3 mile circular route around Gartmorn Dam, mainly flat level surface, may be some muddy sections in wet weather.

#### Route 2: Moderate

6 miles, a wooded trail along the lade of the Black Devon River to Forestmill, returning via Gartmorn Dam.



## biodiversity

Goldeneye



Migrating wildfowl such as wigeon and goldeneye can be seen feeding on Gartmorn Dam during the winter months. Watch out for goldeneye drakes displaying in the spring, watched by large numbers of ducks.

Great crested grebes have long, thin beaks for catching their prey of small fish. Look out for their courtship dance in the spring!

Great Crested Grebes



Throughout the trail, look out for brightly coloured bullfinches, which live in mature woodlands, hedges and gardens.

Red Squirrel



Red squirrels can be seen within the conifer woods along the lade. They are easily identified by their red/brown fur, pointed muzzle and in winter, tufted ears. The future survival of red squirrels is threatened by loss of habitat and spread of the non-native North American grey squirrel.