



the National Trust
for Scotland
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Kellie Castle

Woodland walk

Description

Kellie Wood is a beautiful place to walk. There are many features of interest to enjoy including a large pond, an adventure playground, a bird hide and stunning views of the castle and Kellie Law. The woods are home to a wide variety of wildlife, from colourful carpets of flowers to the resident foxes, badgers, roe deer, buzzards and rabbits.

Follow the path as indicated on the map and find out more about the hidden treasures contained within Kellie Wood.

Grade

Easy

Terrain

The path is generally flat but is unsurfaced.

Distance

½ mile / 0.8km

Time

30 mins

OS Map

Landranger Sheet 59

Facilities

Parking
Suitable for picnics
Tearoom at castle
Toilets
Dogs welcome on lead



The Trust is supported by



FERNERY

The fernery, which was planted into an old log pile by the pathside in the woods, contains many species of fern. These ferns can also be seen around the woodland walk, and by the pond. The dead wood and tree stumps around the fernery provide a great home for fungi, mosses and beetles. You may also see wrens scooting around in the trees and on branches on the ground.

THE POND

The large pond is fed by Kellie Burn, and provides a home for common frogs, dragonflies and water snails. You may see a heron standing silently by the side of the pond, waiting patiently for food, or the ducks which nest on the pond each year. Soprano and bandit pipistrelle bats have also been sighted feeding around the pond and wood edges. Watch out for mink which is a visitor to the pond and burn at Kellie – an introduced species that is a deadly enemy to many other forms of native wildlife.

The planting around the pond provides interest for most of the year. Red-stemmed dogwood, kaffir lily and the yellow flowers of the woodland shrub mahonia provide a splash of colour in the cold winter months. Snowdrops herald the arrival of spring and are followed by daffodils and the white flowers of wild garlic. Summer brings a rich tapestry of colour with the white plumes of meadowsweet and goat's beard, the yellow spires of *Ligularia*, 'The Rocket', irises and the beautiful blue flowered poppy, *Meconopsis x sheldonii*, which enjoys the shade of the overhanging trees.

KELLIE LAW

Law is a Scots word for a hill, especially one that is round or conical in shape. From the summit of the Law, you can see across the entire East Neuk of Fife. Enjoy the view over the Firth of Forth to the City of Edinburgh, as well as the view in the opposite direction over the Firth of Tay.



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Great tit



Wild garlic beside the pond



The fernery



Meconopsis x sheldonii

BIRD HIDE

The woodland path passes our bird hide, from which you may be able to spot great tits, blue tits, great spotted woodpeckers, house sparrows, tree sparrows, greenfinches and chaffinches.

CROW WOOD COTTAGE

Sir Walter Scott's publisher, Archibald Constable, grew up here. His father was factor to the Earl of Kellie. The cottage used to be a two-storey building with dormer windows but after a fire in the 1920s it was made into a cottage. The building now provides accommodation for students taking part in the Organic Garden Studentship at Kellie.

MEADOW AND VIEWPOINT BACK TO THE CASTLE

From this viewpoint you can see a large horse chestnut tree at the edge of Crow Wood. It is close to the fence, about halfway down the boundary of the woods, and is one of the tallest trees there.

The woods and landscape around Kellie provide a home for a wide variety of wildlife. We haven't created a pathway into Crow Wood in order to respect the privacy of these birds and animals, and to make sure that we continue to provide a peaceful, safe environment for them to live.

This point in the woodland walk offers a fine view of the castle. The artist J H Lorimer, who first came to spend his summers at Kellie in 1878 with his parents and siblings and lived at the castle until his death in 1936, was inspired by the picturesque castle and often included it in his paintings.

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