

# A Walk in the Park



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE  
Leisure & Culture

*Calderglen* Country Park

## Introduction

Calderglen Country Park is a four-star tourist attraction which has a Children's Zoo, Conservatory, Ornamental Gardens, Nature Trails and Walks, Courtyard Cafe, Toddlers Play Area, Adventure Play Area and a 18 hole golf course.

The park extends along a scenic wooded glen forged out by the Rotten Calder River, a tributary of the River Clyde. The Glen extends over 5km and has many attractive waterfalls and important geological features. The northern section of the park is a Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest.

## History

Formerly part of the Calderwood and Torrance Country Estates, the first Torrance tower house was burned to the ground by the English army in 1570, the current House was rebuilt in 1605 by Robert Hamilton. In the late 18th Century coal mining brought prosperity to the estate and the courtyard and flanking wings were added (East burnt down in 1965), and many of the walkways were laid out in the glen. Torrance then became the HQ of East Kilbride Development Corporation until 1965 and was from here East Kilbride New town was planned. The Tower House is now two private residences.



## Facilities and services

Calderglen is operated by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Cultural Limited. The staff are responsible for the day to day operation of the Country Park, which includes running the full programme of activities and events throughout the year.

The receptionists are the first point of contact for most people, whether calling by phone or in person, they are located in the foyer of the Conservatory.

### Zoo

A day at Calderglen Zoo will allow you and your family to discover a range of exotic and endangered animals including Owls, Marmosets, Wallabies and the ever popular and watchful Meerkats and leave with a greater understanding of why conservation is so important for the future.

### Conservatory / Gardens

Take a break from the weather and visit the Conservatory with its tropical displays of plants from around the world and an Ornamental Garden, a must see especially for any keen gardener.

### The Courtyard Café

Offers a wide range of tempting hot and cold snacks or something more substantial with their daily specials within a welcoming atmosphere, where staff pride themselves on their customer service.

### The Gallery

Hosts a variety of both professional and amateur art work in its exhibition areas. There are three rooms in the gallery which are available for hire.

## Play area

For younger children we have a dedicated play area, while for older children the more demanding adventure play area will provide hours of fun for all children.

## Calderglen opening times

The Conservatory, Children's Zoo and Café are open daily throughout the year, except the Christmas / New Year public holidays:

### Visitor Attractions

(Phone: 01355 236644)

Monday - Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm

**Courtyard Café** (Phone: 01355 235141)  
Daily 10.00am - 5.00pm

*NB The Country Park itself is open from dawn to dusk throughout the year*

## Directions

Calderglen lies along the eastern fringe of East Kilbride town.

The main entrance to the Park is off Strathaven Road (A726), approximately 2km from the town centre, and is clearly sign posted. From the town centre, heading south, simply turn left off Strathaven Road (A726) at the end of the dual-carriageway.

Sat nav post code: G75 0QZ

## Park direction map



## Useful information

- Leaflets are available from reception with information on events programmes, detailing talks, tours and activities happening within the country park.
- Please wear clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions.
- Wet or cold weather may make the trails slippery. Contact reception for advice.
- Free parking is available, with reserved parking for badge holders.
- Cyclists / horse riders are welcome to use the trails safely / responsibly and beware of other users. There are cycle racks in the courtyard and main car park.



For further information on Calderglen Country Park please refer to our website [www.slleisureandculture.co.uk](http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk) and the Outdoor and Active section.

## Or contact

The Reception  
Calderglen Country Park  
Strathaven Road  
East Kilbride G75 0QZ

Phone: 01355 236644

Fax: 01355 570916

Email: [calderglencountrypark@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk](mailto:calderglencountrypark@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk)

# Choose your walk ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶

There are over eight miles of nature trail at Calderglen where nature lovers and ramblers alike can enjoy a walk through the woods or along the banks of the River Calder, Calderglen's four official nature trails all start from the Information Point at the top of the main drive.

## Quick trail guide

Trail	Distance	Time		Average calories	Elevation gain and equivalent in stairs
		Gentle pace	Fast pace		
Tor	1.6m	50 mins	30 mins	155	128 ft = 185 stairs
Calderwood Castle *	2.5m	1 hr 30 mins	50 mins	260	325 ft = 470 stairs
South Bridge	1m	40 mins	20 mins	100	123 ft = 177 stairs
Calderglen Langlands *	2.5m	1 hr 20 mins	45 mins	235	173 ft = 250 stairs

\* Calderwood Castle and Calderglen Langlands trails are linear and times and distance are one way. Burning 100 extra calories a day is equal to 10lb in weight over a year.

## Calderwood Trail

The Calderwood Trail follows the red markers. It winds downstream along the banks of the Rotten Calder to the site of the former Calderwood Castle. There are good views of scenic waterfalls along the way, as well as colourful displays of woodland wildflowers in late spring. The history of the Calderwood Estate can be traced back as far as the 13th century. The castle in the adjacent picture, originally built in 1790, was the stately home of the Maxwell family. In 1845, the then owner, Sir William Alexander Maxwell, added the grand gothic frontage. The death of Sir William Alexander's widow in 1900 marked the end of the Maxwell lineage. The castle subsequently passed through a number of owners, including the Scottish Co-operative Society who worked the land and opened the

grounds to the public in the early 20th Century. Sadly, by 1951 the castle had fallen into such a state of disrepair that it had to be demolished. Traces of the formal gardens and the family Mausoleum are all that now remain of this once majestic country estate.



*The Calderwood Trail is a linear path that is steep in places. It is approximately 4km each way. Average walking time of 3.0hrs round trip.*

## South Trail

The South Trail follows the **blue** markers. This popular trail explores the steep wooded glen of the Rotten Calder River, formed by the Rotten Burn flowing into the Calder Water just above South Bridge (pictured). The river is actually very clean and not at all 'rotten' as its name suggests. The name is a corruption of a word meaning 'red' referring to the colour of the ironstone over which the Rotten Burn flows. Look out for dippers and grey wagtails bobbing about on stones on the river.



*The South Trail is a 1.6km long circular route. Average walking time 30mins.*

## Tor Trail

The Tor Trail follows the **yellow** markers. It passes through open meadow, as well as broadleaf and coniferous woodlands. The trail follows the Rotten Calder then brings you back along the Kelvin Burn, crossing the main drive and back into the woodland.

The trail takes its name from the Tor, a man-made mound dating from the Dark Ages, that can be seen en route. Tors were often built to mark burial or battle sites. Unfortunately, the origins of this one remain a mystery.

*The Tor Trail is a 2.5km long circular route that is steep in places. Average walking time 40 mins.*

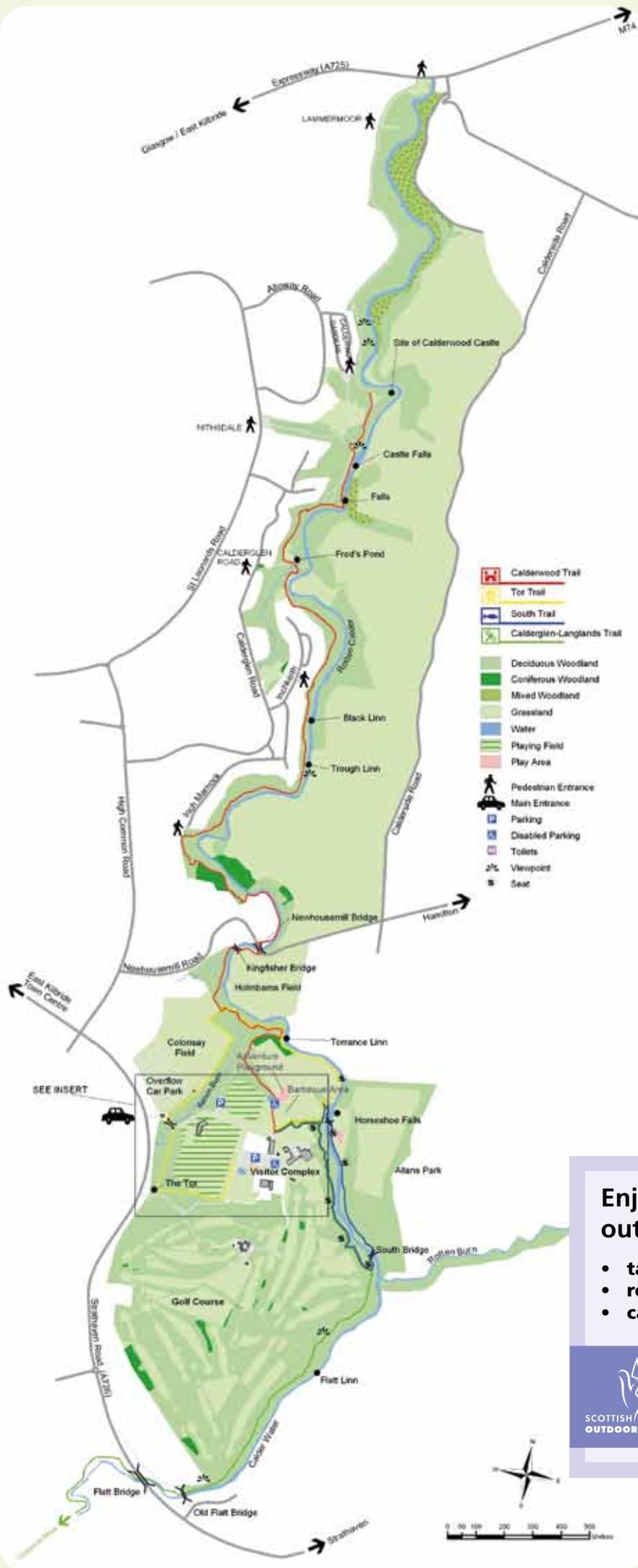
## Calderglen - Langlands Trail

Following the **green** markers this trail leads you to Langlands Moss Local Nature Reserve. This rare and ecologically important raised bog site supports a unique range of plant and animal life. A boardwalk running across the bog allows you a closer look at this interesting habitat. A separate leaflet about this trail is available from reception in the Conservatory foyer.



*The Calderglen - Langlands Trail is a linear route covering 4km each way. Average walking time 2.5hrs round trip.*





## Scotland's Outdoor Access Code

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

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

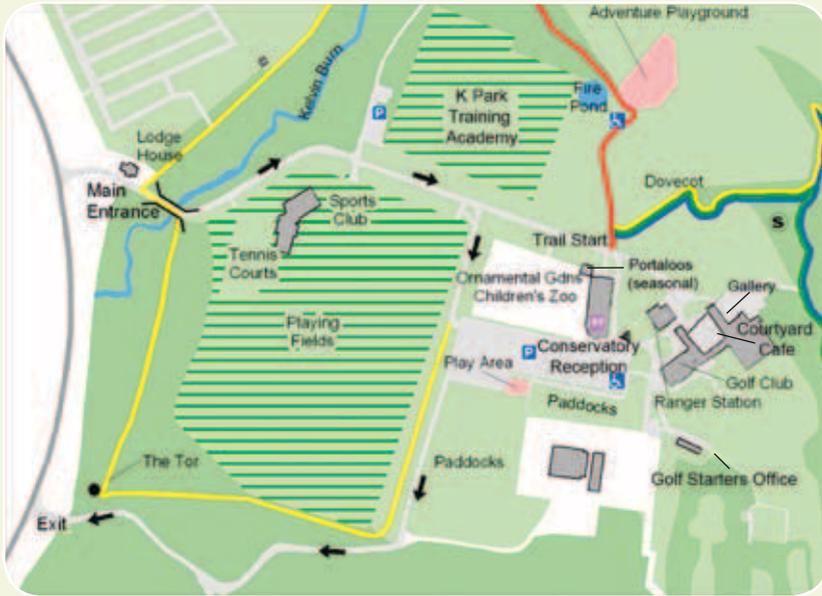


**KNOW THE CODE  
BEFORE YOU GO**

SCOTTISH  
OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

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