

# Lionthorn, Cleuch & Mavisbank Woods Circular

## Local Knowledge

What is now known as Lionthorn Woods was once Kilbean Wood. The narrow strip towards Wester Shieldhill is known as Easter Strip. The path through the Cleuch Plantation was a mineral railway serving a number of Callendar Collieries, Callendar Bricks Works and back up to Slammannan Road to join the main railway line at Falkirk High station. The scrapyard below the walk between Cleuch and Mavisbank was the site of Callendar Brick Works and Callendar Colliery (No 13 pit) was across the road. If you look at the Laughin' & Greetin' brig there is a laughing and greeting face on either side. This Brig is so called because during canal construction, the navvies on one side were hewing clay whilst those on the other side were blasting rock. Lionthorn Community Wood is on the southern edge of Falkirk. The Community Woodland Association represents local people who use the woods.

They also work with the landowner, Callendar Estate, to enhance the environment of the woods for wildlife, social events, work days and educational events are organised for members of the Association as well as for the local community.

### Information on the Walk

This walk is suitable for individuals who wish to give their heart a good workout without over stretching themselves. There are a few inclines on this walk, take these at your own pace. There are a number of places you can cut the walk short.

### Safety

Some of the paths have still to be completed and the path that descends to the canal from Mavisbank Wood, in particular needs good footwear. Vary your pace according to level of difficulty.

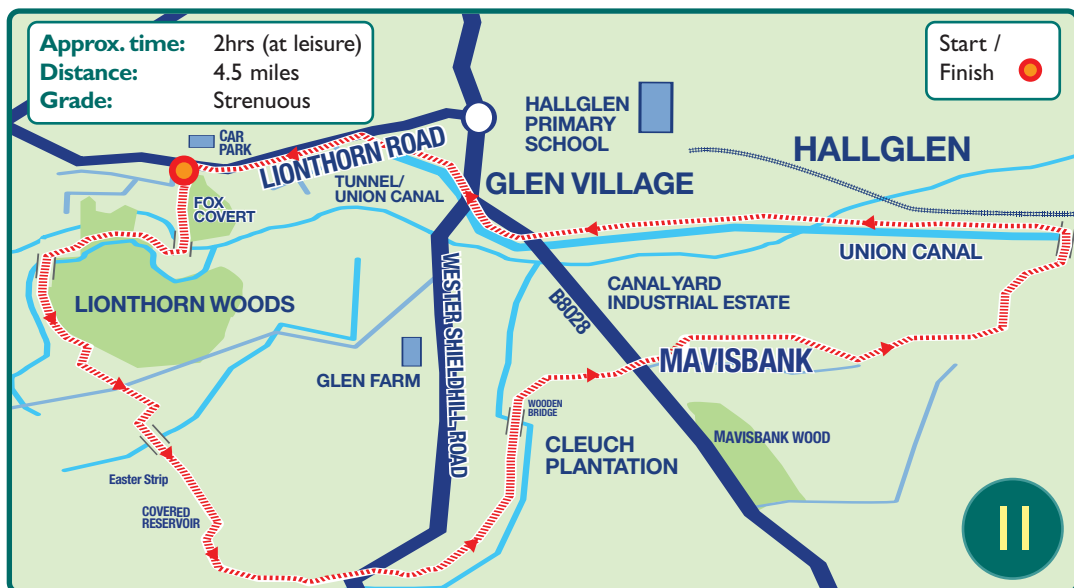


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Short health & scenic walks in Falkirk



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## Directions

**From the parking area, bear left onto the main woodland path. Follow the path as it curves around a small hill and where it splits, take the left fork and descend to cross a burn by a small wooden bridge.**

Follow the path up a fairly steep incline until a junction is reached at a 3-way finger post. Go left and continue to climb quite steeply. The path swings round to the right then turns 90° to the right.

After approx 100m, go left through a gate into a narrow wood. Follow the path as it zigzags first down then up to a covered reservoir. Cross the farm track and continue in the direction of Wester Shieldhill. On leaving the woods, the path turns sharp left and goes under the Glen Village/Shieldhill Road into the Cleuch Plantation. Follow the path as it descends into a small glen and crosses a burn by a small wooden bridge. The path then climbs to meet the main Falkirk/Shieldhill Road.

Across the road and slightly to the right there is a farm track. Cross the road and take this farm track past the farmhouse. Go through a large metal gate and follow the farm track, going through a series of kissing gates, until the track ends. Take the path to the left and descend to the Union canal. Here, the path swings round to the right to meet another path that crosses the canal via a bridge.

Cross the bridge and drop down onto the canal towpath. Walk back in the direction of Glen Village until the slip path before the "Laughin' & Greetin' Brig" (this is recognised by a face in the centre of the bridge). Walk up the slip path, cross the road and follow the signposts for Slammanan Road, crossing the edge of a football park and finally meeting Lionthorn Road. Return along Lionthorn Road to the parking area.

### Environmental Justice Fund (EJF) award

Falkirk wins EJF award of £610k to improve the environment and countryside access. Falkirk Council and Callendar Estate (Landowner) have been successful in obtaining funding to build new paths through woodland areas in South Falkirk. The scheme will include paths linking Lionthorn Wood to other local paths via the Cleuch plantation. The scheme is scheduled to complete in Spring 2008.

Visit the website below for further information:

**Source:** [www.lionthorn.co.uk](http://www.lionthorn.co.uk)

For further information visit:

[www.bellingram.co.uk](http://www.bellingram.co.uk)

Braveheart are pleased to announce that part-funding of this pack (£4,000) is thanks to the EJF award.



Photo kindly supplied by Falkirk Council, Countryside Access Team.