



Balkail Glen

A review of the cultural and natural heritage

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1.Introduction

Glenluce is a village located in Wigtownshire, south-west Scotland. In 2016 the community were donated the woodland running parallel to the village by Wemyss Estate and it is now managed by Old Luce Development Trust on behalf of the community. It is known as Balkail Glen or Glen Wood to the locals and is a popular walk alongside the Lady Burn. There is a well defined circular route which is designated as a core path (core path 383 around 1260m in length see Appendix 1). Members of the community have developed a 'Friends of the Wood' group with the aim to keep the area as natural as possible and improving access to encourage use by the community and its visitors.

2.Cultural heritage

2.1 Balkail history

The history of Balkail (Bailcaill, Balcail, Balcaill, Balkel) is linked to the development of Glenluce as a settlement based on a religious site, fortified house and market place.

Old Luce parish church was built on the site of a predecessor in 1814. An arched doorway of an earlier church, said to have been erected in 1637, is incorporated in the east end of the present church. Sculptured cross fragments gathered from the graveyard and built into the church walls suggest that the church site may have been in use as early as the 8th century. A complete cross slab from the church yard is held in the National Museum Scotland.

Glenluce Abbey was founded in 1192. A charter to erect Ballinlach to a burgh of barony in 1497 'on account of its singular devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, patron of the monastery' appears to be an attempt to establish a market place and settlement probably located immediately to the west of Glenluce. The market and settlement failed to prosper and Ballinlach does not appear on early maps.

The first reference to Bailcaill is in a list of ferme-lands held by the abbey at the reformation in a charter dated 1574. The name Bailcaill suggests the place name is derived from the Gaelic *baile* meaning place or piece of land and by extension farmstead. Caill is open to various interpretations with the Gaelic *coille* meaning wood, *caol* meaning narrow (glen) or *cill* meaning church all being possibilities for a farmstead adjacent to a narrow wooded glen and parish church.

A 1616 charter includes the 20/- lands of Balcail in land passed to Gilbert Ross of Millanerdail and in a 1628 charter Gilbert Ros[s] passes it to his second son James Ros[s].

The 1654 Blaeu Atlas of Scotland was based on manuscripts surveyed by Pont in the 1590s. On the map of Wigtownshire Blaeu has marked Balkel with an 'o' identifying it as a modest habitation distinct from the tower house symbol depicted at Parck or the church symbol at Glenluz K[irk] (see figure 1).



Figure.1 Blaeu map (1654) showing Balkel adjacent to Glenluz K. (Kirk)

An act granted in 1669 identifies the Kirk of Glenluce as a good location for a market because it is located in the centre of Wigtownshire where people need to pass on their travels to and from Ireland and England. The king granted 'Sir James Dalrymple, his heirs and successors, a weekly mercat upon Saturdays, with two free fairs yearly, the one upon the last Tuesday in May, the other upon the first Tuesday in August, to be kept at the kirk of Glenluce upon the lands of Balcaill'.

The 1692 list of Hearth Tax identifies Brigston House in Balcaill suggesting the existence of bridge over Lady Burn. Roys Military map of the 1750s does not name Balkail but does depict a growing settlement immediately south of the church. It also shows roads converging on the settlement from all directions including a route from Wigtown to the south crossing a bridge over Lady Burn.



Figure.2 map (1776) showing Balkail as a mansion belonging to Major Ross

In 1775 Mr. Buchan, architect at Laurencehouse, had been asked to survey Balkail in order to make a plan for making the house 'safe, comfortable and commodious'. A road map from 1776 depicts a mansion belonging to Major Ross.

In 1899 Wilson described the oldest portion of the house as, 'a good specimen of an old-fashioned house of a laird' and probably identifies an early building that had been subsumed within later developments.



Figure.3 Ainslie map 1782 showing Balkail as a mansion surrounded by woodland

The 1782 Ainslie map depicts Balkail as a mansion set within policies belonging to Major John Ross. Robert Heron in his book 'Observations made in a Journey through the Western Counties of Scotland, in 1792' describes "Balkail, formerly the residence of Major Ross, is agreeably situate immediately above Glenluce. Mr Ross was at considerable pains in improving and decorating the grounds lying adjacent to this house. He planted some wood in a glen, and upon a hill, south east from this house. He cultivated his arable lands on a regular plan of agriculture: and dressed his grass fields with some care. The consequences have been happy. The scene is charming in its situation on the edge of a wild muir. The value of the lands has been greatly augmented. The example begins to be imitated."

The 5th Earl of Stair died 1789 and it appears that Balkail was purchased from Major Ross to be altered and become the dower house, the residence of a widow, typically one near the main house on her late husband's estate. A letter between Thomas Smith and the Countess of Stair describes the scale of the improvements, 'I looked into Balkail when I passed and observe your Ladyship has done a great deal. I am afraid the charge will come higher than your ladyship and I was thinking of as there is a great deal more done than imagined.' In a letter to the Earl of Stair he writes 'Her Ladyship in General approved of your Lordship's alterations only thought taking away the Pillars hurt the Old Dining Room it being too low in the roof for the length. She went into the hothouse and seemed pleased with the Gardener's management'.

The Countess of Stair died in 1798 and the same year Balkail was purchased by Thomas Adair.

The 1846 entry to the Ordnance Survey name book describes Balkail as a 'property and residence of John Adair with a large and commodious house in good repair.... there are very large and beautiful gardens.... the glen that Lady Burn Runs down consists chiefly of forest wood'. Glen Wood is described as an ornamental piece of plantation along the Glen of Lady Burn.

John Adair had inherited the house and when he emigrated to Australia in 1862 he sold Balkail to the Earl of Stair.



Figure.4 OS Map 1850

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows Balkail house set immediately south of the village and straddling Lady Burn. On the north side of the burn is a walled garden walled on three sides with the burn forming the southern boundary. An orchard appears to be planted to the north of the walled garden. In the pasture to the east of the house is the dove cot.



Figure.5 Dovecote remains
(*Scottish National Buildings Record*)

Further upstream a bathing house is shown on the north side of the burn. The bathing house building may have contained a cold water tank fed by the burn where residents in the house could take a healthy 'dip'. The Dye Mill further upstream may have limited the appeal of a bath. The burn is crossed numerous times with bridges and a ford connecting the house with a farm steading to the south.

Glen Wood is shown as a mixed wood and by the late 1800s is known as a beauty spot. Local artists have captured the scene including Thomas Faed who painted *In the Balkail Glen* in 1872 and is held in Stranraer Museum.

Robert George Kelly exhibited a picture called *Balkail Glen* although the painting has not been traced.



Figure.6 OS Map 1892

The third edition Ordnance Survey map shows further development of the house and the walled garden. The fruit orchard has been expanded to the south side of the burn, a sundial has been installed and glass houses have been built on the south facing wall. A well is shown to the west of the walled garden, perhaps known as the haunted ghost well.

At this time a headstone was erected in the woodland to Nettie, presumably the grave of a favourite dog.



Figure.5 Balkail House 1900 (*Historic Environment Scotland*)

Further research is required to establish the history of the house during the 1900s but by the early 1960s the house had been demolished (Binney et al.,1980). The site of Balkail house and walled garden is now occupied by Glenluce Caravan Park. In 1953 the woodland was sold to Wemyss Estate and was transferred to community ownership in 2016.

2.2 Ghost well

Old houses and ancient woodlands are home to myth and legend and Balkail and Glen Wood are no exception. The following tale was reported in the Gallovidian in 1914:

‘The story of the ghost who haunted the well in Balkail Glen used to be firmly believed in about forty years ago. A beautiful young lady named Genzia was murdered in Balkail house, and the well is called after her – Genzia’s Well. She was supposed to be buried below the large flagstone at the front porch. On any night when there was a party, or any festivity going on, Genzia was heard moving about the house jingling a bunch of keys. Her bed was kept in order for her, and though she was never visible in the room, the bed always appeared to have been slept in.

One night the butler thought he would play a prank on her, so he filled her bed with pins. The next night he was going upstairs, when something invisible caught him and nearly squeezed him to death. He never got over the fright, and died soon after.’

The ancient well in the garden was named after Genzia and was also known as the Ghost Well. The location of the well has not been determined.

3.Natural Heritage

3.1 Lady Burn



The Lady Burn rises in the north east of Old Luce parish in the raised peat bogs of Dergoals Moss and Grennan Moss and flows west through the glen south of the village and then falls into the Luce Water at its entrance into Luce Bay. It is probably named after Our Lady the Virgin Mary. As a Lowland River and Backwater it is a Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat and has a very high importance for fishes, non-flowering plants and invertebrates and medium importance for birds, flowering plants, mammals, fungi and lichens.

Figure.6 Lady Burn

3.2 Glen Wood



The woodland is identified in the Ancient Woodland Inventory Scotland as a woodland of semi-natural origin. The definition of an ancient woodland in Scotland is a wood mapped as being of semi-natural origin, in the case of Balkail because it appears on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. It is a policy woodland and has been planted with a mix of native and non-native species during the development of a designed landscape for Balkail House. It is a mixed woodland consisting mostly of broadleaves with occasional conifers.

Figure.7 Glen Wood

The ornamental quality of the planting in Glen Wood is illustrated by the description in the 1914 Gallovidian by Nona Labour as 'the greatest attraction to visitors with its walks and numerous bridges across the burn flowing through it'. The steep sided glen is unlikely to have been cultivated in the past it may have had long established woodland origins and retained the complicated ecological inter-relationship found in ancient woodlands. An ecological survey of plants growing on the woodland floor will help to verify the ancient woodland designation.

The Woodland Trust have a U.K wide ancient tree inventory with an online interactive map that does not identify any ancient trees in Glen Wood. The majority of ancient trees are unprotected although, they may hold legal protection if they provide home to a protected species such as bats.

As a Broadleaf and Mixed Plantation it is a Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat and has a high importance for fungi, lichens, birds and mammals (especially bats). This is a recreational woodland with little commercial value and will benefit from management for wildlife conservation. The woodland has a wider landscape value as a shelter belt between Glenluce village and the nearby A75 trunk road.

3.3 Fauna

Appendix 2 shows recorded species found within Glen wood and Appendix 3 shows recorded species within 2000m surrounding Glenluce. There is a wide variety of flora and fauna found in the area because there is a mosaic of habitats including village gardens, woodland, the burn and the fields behind.

The Lady Burn contains salmon (*Salmo salar*), sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) and eels (*Anguilla anguilla*). Salmon only go up the burn as far as a natural obstruction known locally as the 'Pot'. There are trout throughout burn and this type of waterway is particularly important to them as they thrive in cold, well-oxygenated water.

Red squirrels (*Squirrel vulgaris*) are resident in the woods and are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981. They are priority species in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and are recognised by the general public as 'iconic' species. Their presence shows that the woodland is suitable for them to be able to forage there and sustain a population. Badgers are another protected species found nearby. They are protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.

Bats are another protected species. The Pipistrelle bat (*Pipistrellus pipisrellus*) and the Long-eared bat (*Plecotus auratus*) have both been recorded in the area. The Clefts in branches, holes and loose bark in mature trees make good roosting spots.

The woodland is of high importance to many bird species. They use trees to nest on, escape from predation and forage for food. There is a rookery within the Glen Woods and the rooks can be heard in the early hours of the morning as they fly from the trees to the fields surrounding the village.

Woodland, and particularly decaying wood, are good habitats for insects which in turn provide a food source for birds and bats. Running water in the burn provides valuable habitat for insects.

3.4 Flora

In spring the glen is very attractive in bloom as it is covered in native wood anemone (*Anemone nemoros*) bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*) as well as ornamental plantings of daffodils (*Narcissu*) and solomons seal (*Polygonatum*). If looking closely there is a chance to see wild violets (*Viola*) too. By autumn, there are brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*), elderberries (*Sambucus*) sloes (*Prunus spinosa*) and rowans (*Sorbus*) to be picked.

Trees are important as they are a habitat for a wide variety of wildlife especially the oak (*Quercus robur*) which have been shown to support over 280 species of insects (Woodlands, 2019). Trees help combat climate change and help us breathe. They are able to remove excess carbon dioxide (CO₂) from our atmosphere and convert it into oxygen (O₂) via photosynthesis. In the glen the roots of mature trees help prevent erosion of the steep slopes. There are many mature trees including sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), elm (*Ulmus minor*) and even an old field maple (*Acer campestre*) that sits at the entrance to Kennel Cottage which has been suggested to be one of the biggest in the region.

Rhododendrons (*Rhododendron ponticum*) are plentiful in the area. Planted for ornamental value Nona Labour commented in 1914 on planting at Balkail as ‘a magnificent bank of rhododendrons.’ Over the decades, they have spread to become invasive and shadow vegetation on the ground under their large canopies while the leaves can be toxic to some animals. Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is also found in the wood and is problematic as it can easily tolerate areas of drought and shade which allow it to out-compete the native species.

Herbaceous invasive plant species found in the area are Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). They both grow rapidly and colonise on a large scale. Growing very tall they will out-compete native plants for light and create an unsuitable habitat for the native wildlife. These invasive species are particularly a problem when found on river banks where they can easily be dispersed further downstream.

4.Recommendations

4.1 Engagement

- Historical research of house/garden/wood

Balkail Glen has a rich history and is a source for further community engagement to discover the stories behind features such as the dovecot, headstone and well. Local people are likely to remember the house before it was demolished and may have had relatives who worked in the house or gardens. Photographs and oral reminiscences will provide resources that can be used to interpret the glen and how it has changed.

An understanding of the glen and the characteristics that are valued by the community can be used to develop interpretation or inspire art work that explores the elements that make the woodland special to local people. There is potential to create a glen map or an ‘ABC’ of distinctiveness to highlight the woodlands natural and cultural heritage.

- Survey trees

The woodland was not surveyed in the most recent Native Woodland Survey of Scotland probably because of its small size. It would be beneficial to take a closer look at any ancient, veteran or notable trees to establish and raise awareness of the value of old trees.

Working in partnership with the Woodland Trust a workshop could be organised to survey and assess the trees within the glen and add trees to the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory.

- Survey and education of burn species

Consulting with Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) would be useful before any changes are proposed for the burn to ensure the salmon, sea trout and eels are protected. Working in partnership with GFT a workshop could be organised to survey the burn for invertebrates and fish. A survey will raise awareness of the importance of the burn and provide valuable data. GFT may also visit the local primary school running a 'Salmon/ Eels in the classroom' project.

- Survey and education of woodland species

Citizen science events can be organised to enthuse the community so that they can take pride in what interesting species they have on their doorstep. While being especially useful to conservation organisations. It would be beneficial to take a closer look at the woodland to identify plants that are ancient wood indicators

Squirrel pox has been spreading on the Solway and in 2019 has been recorded nearby at Gatehouse of Fleet. It is carried by the Grey Squirrel (*Squirrelus carolinses*). To prevent this from spreading it is important that feeders are removed because they are believed to be the main route for the virus spreading. Locals can survey the area for both grey and red squirrels and report sightings to the Saving Scottish Red Squirrels (SSRS). The woodland must be managed to ensure there is a healthy variety of trees for the squirrels to feed on and any works must be done out-with nesting season.

Surveys of bats can be completed by the local community with the help of the Dumfries and Galloway Bat group. Data gathered will help evaluate distribution and raise awareness with the community. To ensure the bats are not disturbed, any strong outside lighting from neighbouring properties to the Glen should be kept to a minimal. Unless a hazard, keeping dead/decaying trees within Glen Wood is beneficial for bats as they provide preferred roosting sites. Local youth groups can be engaged by getting involved in building bat boxes which provide additional roosting sites.

- Outdoor education events

Elizabeth Tindal is a local freelance ranger specialising in providing outdoor educational activities that fit with the school curriculum for all ages.

Activities available include:

- Pond dipping/ minibeast hunting
- Mud walks
- Den building/ nature art
- Safe campfires/ campfire cooking
- Stargazing/ moon watching
- Bird/bat box building

4.2 Opening event

- Tree planting
- Art work (stone trail, tree decoration/wishing tree, entrance features)
- Story telling (ghosts, old house, dogs grave, poachers pot)
- Poems
- Time capsule
- ID booklet/trail/interpretation

The completion of the footpath improvements provides an opportunity to celebrate Glen Wood. An opening event can provide the catalyst for gathering historical information and promoting wildlife surveys.

Information gathered, including past leaflets, may be used to develop an id booklet and trail with interpretation panels. The panels should be unobtrusive and attractive and link with booklets and leaflets to promote Glenluce and the attractive Glen Wood.

Appendix 4 and 5 show examples of leaflets providing a guide to common wildlife and woodland activities in Glenwood.

4.3 Physical Recommendations

Donald McPhillimy Associates Ltd have produced a woodland management plan which has included advice which support the recommendations below:

- Maintain paths

Some of the footpaths within the Glen Wood have been improved, however the southern loop should be the next priority to create firm stable surfaces that are easier to access for the less able. Overhanging vegetation should be removed and any old trees taken down if identified as hazardous. Dead wood is an essential component of woodland ecosystems so should be retained where possible.

When re-placing the bridges and updating pathways it will need to be made sure that any engineering techniques are kept soft and environmentally sensitive using natural materials. To minimise disruption to habitats it is important to consult with environmental organisations.

- Reduce erosion

Where the path ascends higher up the steep embankments of the glen there is erosion apparently caused by runoff from the field / A75. Drainage work will be required to resolve this issue but it is important to establish where the water is coming from so that the source of the problem can be tackled.

- Improve boundaries

Damaged fencing should be repaired to separate farm stock from people and dogs.

- Survey and remove non-native species

Invasive species can be kept under control by pulling/cutting down, digging out, spraying with chemicals or burning. While some work can be undertaken by volunteers specialist guidance should be sought when planning the works.

- Enhance habitat for wildlife

Encouraging natural regeneration of native species will be key to expanding woodland and improving biodiversity. The wood requires management to retain a diverse structure to maximise habitat for wildlife.

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Appendix 1

Map showing core path (383) through Glen Wood.



Appendix 2

Species list of Glen wood recording in 2005 from South West Scotland
Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC).

Taxon group	Scientific Name	Common Name	Date	Year	Location
lichen	Flavoparmelia caperata	lichen	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
lichen	Ramalina farinacea	lichen	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
lichen	Ramalina fastigiata	lichen	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fungus	Xylaria hypoxylon	Candle-Snuff Fungus	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fungus	Ganoderma applanatum	Artist's Bracket	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fungus	Trametes versicolor	Turkeytail	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fungus	Stereum hirsutum	Hairy Curtain Crust	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
liverwort	Pellia epiphylla	Overleaf Pellia	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
liverwort	Lophocolea bidentata	Bifid Crestwort	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Atrichum undulatum	Common Smoothcap	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Dicranella heteromalla	Silky Forklet-moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Dicranum scoparium	Broom Fork-moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Barbula unguiculata	Bird's-claw Beard-moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Mnium hornum	Swan's-neck Thyme-moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Kindbergia praelonga	Common Feather-moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Rhynchostegium confertum	Clustered Feather-moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Brachythecium rutabulum	Rough-stalked Feather-moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans	Elegant Silk-moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Thamnobryum alopecurum	Fox-tail Feather-moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
moss	Isoetecium myosuroides	Slender Mouse-tail Moss	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fern	Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fern	Asplenium trichomanes	Maidenhair Spleenwort	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fern	Athyrium filix-femina	Lady-fern	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fern	Dryopteris affinis	Scaly Male-fern	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
fern	Dryopteris dilatata	Broad Buckler-fern	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fern	Dryopteris filix-mas	Male-fern	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
fern	Polypodium vulgare	Polypody	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	Allium ursinum	Ramsons	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	Juncus effusus	Soft-rush	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	Luzula sylvatica	Great Wood-rush	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood

					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	Welsh Poppy	30/04/2005	2005	
flowering plant	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks Buttercup	30/04/2005	2005	
flowering plant	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Red Currant	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry	30/04/2005	2005	
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage	30/04/2005	2005	
flowering plant	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	30/04/2005	2005	
flowering plant	<i>Malus</i>	Apple	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	30/04/2005	2005	
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	30/04/2005	2005	
flowering plant	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog-rose	30/04/2005	2005	
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	30/04/2005	2005	
flowering plant	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	30/04/2005	2005	
flowering plant	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>argentatum</i>	Yellow Archangel	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
					Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	30/04/2005	2005	

flowering plant	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common Hemp-nettle	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Indian Balsam	10/09/2010	2010	Lady Burn, Glenluce, Wigtownshire
flowering plant	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	Three-nerved Sandwort	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Claytonia sibirica</i>	Pink Purslane	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Montia fontana</i>	Blinks	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser Periwinkle	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall

flowering plant	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Taraxacum ekmanii</i>	Dandelion	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Sweet Cicely	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood - West section past wall
flowering plant	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
flowering plant	<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Tuberous Comfrey	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	Picidae	Woodpecker	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Coal Tit	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Treecreeper	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood
bird	<i>Corvus</i>	Corvid Species	30/04/2005	2005	Glen Wood

Appendix 3

Records within 2000m around Balkail Glen from data taken from the National Biodiversity Network Atlas (NBNA).

Species	Species group	Last recorded	No. of records
Red Squirrel <i>Squirrelus Vulgaris</i>	Mammalia	2019	34
Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>).	Plant	2019	
Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Plant	2019	
Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Plant	2018	6
Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	Mammalia	2018	2
Grey Squirrel <i>Squirrelus carolinesis</i>	Mammalia	2018	4
Wandering Snail <i>Radix balthica</i>	Mollusca	2017	1
Pfeiffer's Amber Snail <i>Oxyloma (Oxyloma) elegans</i>	Mollusca	2017	1
Japenese Knotweed <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Plant	2017	6
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Aves	2015	7
Himalayam balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Plant	2014	5
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	Aves	2014	25
Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Mammalia	2013	3
Fly <i>Phytoliriomyza melampyga</i>	Insecta	2013	
Snowdrop <i>Galanthus elwesii</i>	Plant	2013	
Butterfly-bush <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Plant	2013	
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Aves	2013	
Small tortoiseshell <i>Aglaia urticae</i>	Insecta	2012	

Pipistrelle bat <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Mammalia	2003	1
Brown long-eared bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Mammalia	1996	1
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	Mammalia	1991	3
Roe deer <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Mammalia	1991	2
European eel <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>	Fish	1984	4
Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	Fish	1984	4
Trout <i>Salmo trutta</i>	Fish	1984	4

Appendix 4

Leaflet example for common species identification

If you go down to the woods today...

What will you find?

There are many different trees, plants, insects, birds and mammals in the woods.

You can identify a tree easily from its leaves and even though many animals living in the woods are nocturnal there are various signs to look out for their presence.

Look for footprints ...



Badger



Deer

Look for burrows/nests...



Rabbit burrow

Look for feathers...



Pigeon



Buzzard

BALKAIL GLEN

A guide aimed at children to identify common species

This guide is aimed at children to help identify common leaves, lichen and animals found in the woods of Glenluce.

Please leave the woodland as you found it by taking your litter home and cleaning up after your dog!

To report any issues please contact Old Luce Development Trust at thetrust@oldluce.org.uk

This leaflet has been produced as part of the PLACE project managed by Southern Uplands Partnership.









BALKAIL
GLEN

FOR KIDS!

A guide to help to identify common species

Which leaves can you find?



Oak



Elm

Did you know?
Trees can live for thousands of years and you can count how old a tree is by using the rings in the wood!



Sycamore



Horse chestnut

The world is home to more than 60,000 different kinds of trees!



Hawthorn



Hazel

Trees produce oxygen to help us breathe!
Walnut wood can conduct electricity!



Holly



Lime

Some trees talk to each other even when they are threatened by pests and can produce chemical deterrents



Beech



Norway maple

Trees grow from the top not the bottom!

Did you know?

Lichens grow on trees and can tell us how healthy the air is where you are breathing!
Can you find any?



Ulex is thin like bushy hair and has a grey/green colour



Evernia has lobes that are flat and branch out. It is a grey/green colour but is white underneath

Fungi are used for food and many medicines such as Penicillin!



Common inkcap



Can you smell the wild garlic?

What insects/annelids can you find?
Look under leaves, branches and rocks!


Woodlouse


Money spider


Red admiral butterfly


Earthworm


Slug


Dor beetle

What birds can you find?
Listen and look up in the trees!


Buzzard


Woodpecker


Wood pigeon


Jackdaw


Robin


Blue tit

What mammals can you find?
Look quietly and closely!


Red Squirrel


Rabbit


Wood mouse


Hedgehog


Badger


Roe deer


Pipistrelle bat

Appendix 5

Leaflet example for information on woodland activities.

The wonders of BALKAIL

This wood is a mixed plantation of broad-leaves which has been planted upon by the owners of land many years ago. The area was part of Balkail house before it was demolished in the 1960s and it is now the site of the caravan park.

The woodland and Lady burn holds high importance to many plants, insects, birds and mammals.



BALKAIL GLEN

A guide of fun activities for kids

This guide is to provide children with fun things to do in the woodland.

Please leave the woodland as you found it by taking your litter home and cleaning up after your dogs!

To report any issues please contact Old Luce Development Trust at thetrust@oldluce.org.uk

This leaflet has been produced as part of the PLACE project managed by Southern Uplands Partnership.





BALKAIL GLEN

FOR KIDS!

A guide to fun activities

Fun things to do in the woods:

-  Climb a Tree
-  Hide and seek/ torch-tag
-  Nature faces
-  Design an obstacle course
-  Build a den
-  Make a birds nest
-  Build a molehill castle
-  Do some bark & leaf rubbings
-  Design your own nature jewellery
-  Create your own perfume/potion with berries and leaves
-  Race sticks under the bridge (pooh sticks)
-  Decorate walking sticks/broomsticks and wands
-  Twig Jenga
-  Noughts and crosses



Can you follow the map to find Nettie the dog's grave and the ruins of a Dovecote?



Nature Scavenger Hunt!



Can you find?..



- 2 identical rocks
- A stick that looks like the letter Y
- A white flower
- A green pointed leaf
- A very long piece of grass

Freelance ranger
Elizabeth Tindal is a local ranger specialising in providing outdoor educational activities for all ages. For more information see: <https://www.freelanceranger.com/>



Fun small projects for the woods:

-  Build a bug hotel
-  Build a hedgehog house
-  Create a stone trail
-  Bury a time capsule
-  Design an orienteering trail
-  Create stories and poems
-  Start a wishing tree

Become a citizen scientist!

The Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) network is a UK-wide citizen science initiative that allows everyone to get hands-on with nature, whatever your age, background or level of ability!

Surveys include:
Air, water, soil, trees, bugs, biodiversity and pollinators!

For more information visit:
<https://www.opal.explorenature.org/surveys>

