

Scottish Outdoor Access Code

Know the Code before you go... enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly.

Everyone has the right to be on most land and water for recreation, education and for going from place to place providing they act responsibly. These access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.



The key things are:

When you're in the outdoors

- take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely
- respect people's privacy and peace of mind
- help land managers and others to work safely and effectively
- care for your environment and take your litter home
- keep your dog under proper control
- take extra care if you're organising an event or running a business

Find out more by visiting www.outdoor-access-scotland.com or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway is patrolled and managed by Midlothian Ranger Service. Please act responsibly and do not damage or remove any plants or animals. Please do not drop any litter, and clean up after your dog. Thank you.

Midlothian Ranger Service
Vogie Country Park, Gorebridge,
Midlothian EH23 4NU.
Tel. 01875 821990

PLEASE REMEMBER

- No Firearms
- No Fires
- No Swimming
- No Fishing



Translations and larger format can be provided on request contact 0131 270 7500



The first paper mills were established at Valleyfield in 1779 by Charles Cowan, a former grocer from Leith. Paper produced by the Cowan family was used to make bank notes, writing and art paper. Sir Walter Scott's novels were printed on Cowan paper. Cheap imported paper forced the family to sell-up in 1966. The new owners closed the mills in 1974 due to dwindling profits.



The mill owners provided homes and recreation facilities for their employees. After a hard days graft they could retire to the bowling green, play tennis or go fishing.



New housing now stands on this former industrial site. Eskmill had the first cotton mill in Scotland, built in 1775. In 1811 it was used during the Napoleonic Wars to house soldiers who were guarding 6,000 French POWs based at Valleyfield. At the time it was the largest POW camp in Scotland.



Ironmills played a vital part in the industrial heritage of Dalkeith. Iron was the main industry with the foundry supplying gates, railings and shovels to the Duke of Buccleuch. Buildings date from 1728.



Penicuik to Dalkeith



Walkway



Penicuik-Dalkeith Walkway

Welcome to the Penicuik - Dalkeith stretch of the former Edinburgh - Peebles railway line, a 9.5 mile route that passes through many of Midlothian's historic towns and villages. The gentle gradient and nature of the route allows easy access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to explore and enjoy the spectacular landscapes and visitor attractions of the county.



Railway Embankments

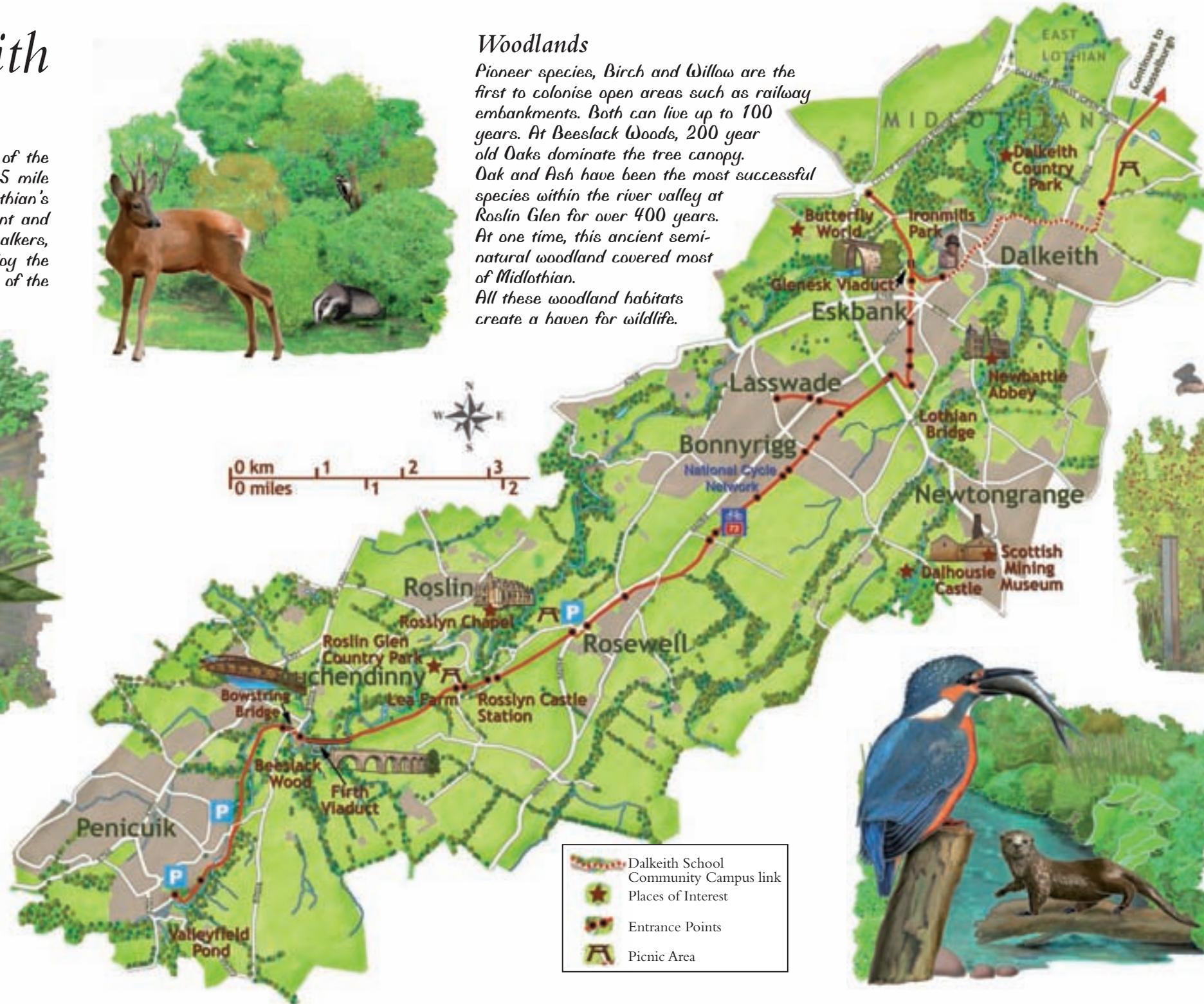
Since the closure of the railway line in 1967, nature has created an intricate wildlife corridor with a diverse range of habitats. A carpet of ferns, rushes and mosses dominates the embankments, while open verges are ideal for grasses and wildflowers.

Buddleia, a butterfly favourite, readily colonises vacant spaces on walls and old platforms.



Woodlands

Pioneer species, Birch and Willow are the first to colonise open areas such as railway embankments. Both can live up to 100 years. At Beeslack Woods, 200 year old Oaks dominate the tree canopy. Oak and Ash have been the most successful species within the river valley at Roslin Glen for over 400 years. At one time, this ancient semi-natural woodland covered most of Midlothian. All these woodland habitats create a haven for wildlife.



Farmland and Hedgerows

80% of Midlothian's land is dedicated to arable, dairy and hillside sheep farming. Farmers have influenced the appearance of the landscape we see today. Wildlife adapts to this environment by building homes in hedgerows, field margins and small wetland areas. When managed sensitively, grasslands are a favourite home and food source for Skylarks and Brown Hares.



The River North Esk

From its source in the Pentland Hills, the river meanders through the Esk Valley, flowing into the Firth of Forth at Musselburgh. At one time polluted by Midlothian's industrial past, the river now is home to a rich variety of wildlife, including the shy Otter and the exotic-looking Kingfisher.