

Leisure

Walking / Jogging – A path network is being developed both long and short routes available, users can enjoy a diverse landscape with viewpoints.

Golf – Two privately managed courses are adjacent - Blairbeth and Cathkin Braes.

Orienteering – A sport for all ages and ability, mapping, navigation and route choice. Map packs available from City Leisure Centres or St Andrews Orienteering Group

Heritage Trail – Carmunnock Village has conservation status and visitors to the Country Park may wish to combine a walk with the heritage trail. Historical information can be found on Carmunnock web sites.

Cycling – Plans are being developed for an international standard mountain bike circuit, with a view to it being used as part of the 2014 Commonwealth Games facilities. Many of the existing paths are used by mountain bikers, but please observe the 'Scottish Outdoor Access Code' regarding responsible access, see www.outdooraccess-scotland.com Peripheral cycle routes also exist.

Conservation / Ornithology – There is a diverse range of flora and fauna suitable for field studies, photography and general interest throughout the year.

Events – The Countryside Ranger Service organise programmes throughout the year. Information can be found on the GCC Parks web site under events.

Safety – It is advisable to wear good walking shoes and waterproof / warm clothing due to the topography and park size.



Access

Train

There are no stations in the vicinity the nearest being Kings Park. There are options for cyclists or ramblers to travel to a peripheral station and utilise minor roads or core paths, enjoy the countryside and catch a return train from a different station.

Bus

Regular services operate between the city centre to Ardencraig Road (10 minute frequency) and Carmunnock Village (30 minute frequency) Travel times are approximately 20 minutes.

Cross city services operate less frequently through Castlemilk.

Car

Parking is available on Ardencraig Road Castlemilk, or at the viewpoint / lay-bys along Cathkin Road B759 east of Carmunnock village.

Walking

Main access points are: -

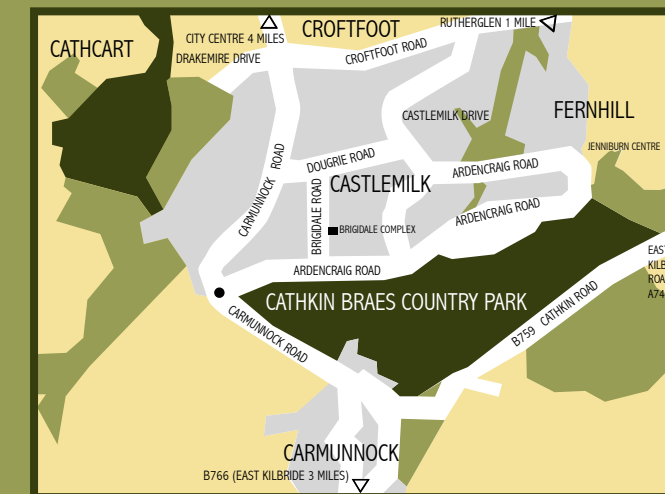
- Opposite Birgidale Road at Windlaw Road,
- Ardencraig Road at (1) Castlemilk Drive, (2) east of Mitchellhill (steep slope) and (3) across the public path towards Blairbeth Golf Club then south into the woodland.
- Carmunnock Village at 1) Windlaw Road, 2) Garrowhill Road at Cathkin Road
- Cathkin Road - west viewpoint car park and in the east Queen Mary's Seat viewpoint.

Cycling

From Castlemilk: Ardencraig Road is signed as a cycle route and has many traffic calming features along the northern edge of the country park. From Ardencraig Road, cyclists are advised to access the country park opposite Castlemilk Road or opposite Birgidale Road. From Carmunnock: 1) Windlaw Road, 2) Garrowhill Rd at Cathkin Rd
Additional routes are being developed.

Disabled Access

Disabled access is restrictive for some users given the topography of Cathkin Braes. The car park east of Carmunnock has disabled parking with viewpoint suitable for wheelchair access. Windlaw Road between Carmunnock and Ardencraig Road is suitably flat for the less able.



Travel Information

Travel Line Scotland Tel 0870 608 2 608

Opening Times

The Country Park is open all year 24 hours a day.

Contact Information

General enquiries via Land and Environmental Services
Access Centre Phone 0141 287 5064

Countryside Ranger Services / Biodiversity information visit:

Web www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks
www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity
www.stag-orienteing.co.uk



Cathkin Braes



history of Cathkin Braes

Cathkin Braes was originally known as the Cathkin Hills and during the Iron Age a Celtic tribe known as the Damnonii lived here. There are records of many artefacts been found and several cairns still exist today. Queen Mary's seat is a large cairn in the park from where Mary Queen of Scots is reputed to have observed the defeat of her forces at the Battle of Langside on 13 May 1558.

The Cathkin Hills formed part of the Carmunnock parish originally part of the Castlemilk Estate owned by Sir John Stuart (Baronet).

The eastern part of the park was gifted to the city in 1887 by millionaire Mr James Dick on condition that the open spaces are retained in a natural state for public enjoyment. A park pavilion was built and used until the early 1980's when it had to be demolished for structural reasons. At the beginning of the last century major events were held at the pavilion including music concerts attracting crowds in excess of 10,000.

In 1994 the City Council agreed to develop Cathkin Braes as a Country Park covering an area of 199.5 hectares (492.9 acres) which includes 72 acres gifted by James Dick.



features of Cathkin Braes

Landscape Character

As the highest point in Glasgow, spectacular views exist over the city and beyond to the Campsie Fells, Ochil Hills and Mountain Peaks including Ben Lomond.

Cathkin Braes has five distinct landscape characters Woodland, Plateau, Grassland, Heath and Craggy Slopes.

Wildlife

Cathkin Braes is a great place to explore. Visit in different seasons to discover the changing wildlife. Cathkin Braes is a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and is managed for the benefit of wildlife. There are a range of habitats which provide shelter and food for a variety of plants and animals- Biodiversity.

Woodland

The woodlands date back to the 18th century, and there are ancient woodland plant species that indicate that there has always been some woodland present on this site.

The Big Wood is an area of mature beech, sycamore, oak and other trees. In the spring and summer the woodland floor is carpeted with Bluebells and the delicate flowers of Pink Purslane. A range of woodland bird species can be

found here such as Great Spotted Woodpecker, Finches, Blackbird and Great Tit.

Grassland

This is the best unimproved, species rich grassland in Glasgow. Over 100 different wildflowers can be found here. The delicate white flowers of Burnet-saxifrage can be seen growing among the grasses in July. This southern edge of the city is the only area where this plant is found in Glasgow. Also look out for the small but colourful Mountain Pansy and the cream flower spikes of Greater Butterfly-orchid. The range of wildflowers provides an important source of nectar for bees, butterflies and moths.

In the summer, listen for the distinctive sound of Skylarks singing overhead. Skylark numbers have declined dramatically in the UK but they still nest in the grasslands at Cathkin Braes.

Heathland

Heathland and acid grassland thrive where the soil is more acidic. This is dominated by a mixture of Heather, Blaeberry and short fine leaved grasses. Visit in late summer to see the distinctive purple of the Heather in flower.

In wet areas Cross-leaved Heath can be seen, a smaller less common relative of Heather. In wet areas marshy plants can be found including Marsh Violet. This is a very important plant for the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

butterfly and is one of only two known breeding sites for this butterfly in Glasgow. The adults feed on the nectar of a range of flowers but the caterpillars will only feed on violets, Look out for this butterfly flying from June-July.

Facilities

Refreshments are available in Castlemilk and Carmunnock Village.

Castlemilk:

West side at Birgidale Complex, 10 Stravanan Street.

Café open weekdays Mon - Fri 9 am - 1.30 pm

Toilets 9 am - 9 pm.

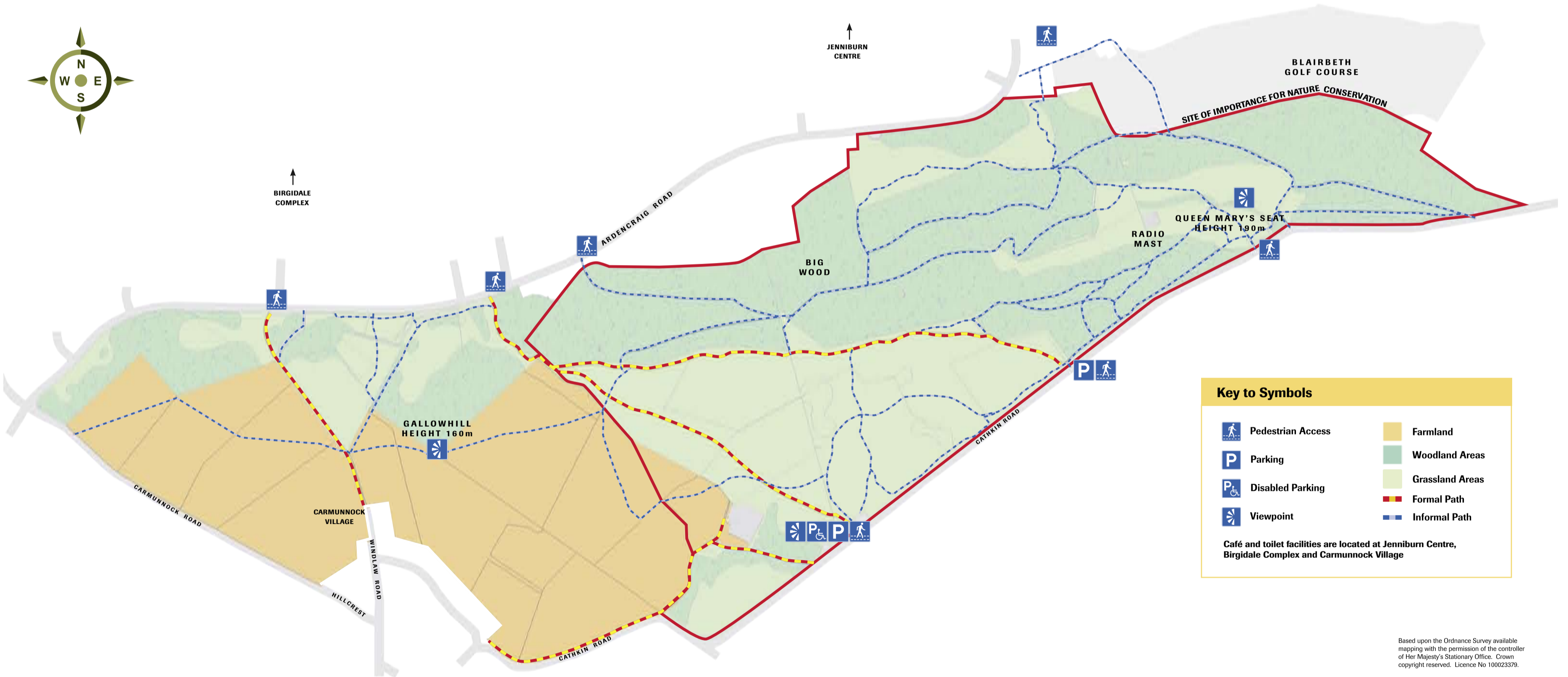
East side at Jenniburn Centre, 370 Tormusk Road

Drinks (vending) and toilets (open weekdays Mon / Tue 8 am - 7 pm, Wed / Thur 8 am - 9 pm and Fri 8 am - 5 pm)

Carmunnock Village to the Southwest has a tearoom and restaurant.

Public Telephones – Carmunnock or in Castlemilk see above. It is advisable to carry a mobile phone if walking long distances.





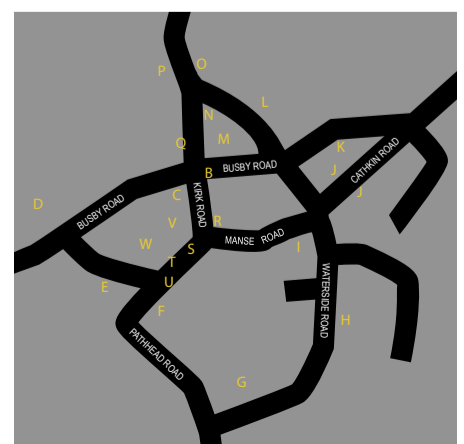
Key to Symbols

	Pedestrian Access		Farmland
	Parking		Woodland Areas
	Disabled Parking		Grassland Areas
	Viewpoint		Formal Path
			Informal Path

Café and toilet facilities are located at Jenniburn Centre, Birgidale Complex and Carmunnock Village

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- The Carmunnock Heritage Trail**
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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Village Cross | 9. Village Greens | 17. Former Post Office |
| 2. Busby Road – Old Cottages | 10. Greenside – Sunnybank Cottages | 18. Old Cottages at Church Gate |
| 3. Bankhead House | 11. Old School | 19. Trestemyre |
| 4. Kirk Road - Wellside | 12. Clason Hall – Site of the Smiddy | 20. Brae House |
| 5. Pathhead Road - Weavers' Cottages | 13. Former Boghead Inn | 21. Carmunnock Parish Church |
| 6. The Glebe | 14. The War Memorial | 22. The Church Yard |
| 7. Doo Well – Waterside Road | 15. Castlemilk Hall | |
| 8. Manse Road - Earliest School | 16. Kirk Road – North of the Cross | |
- For further information visit www.carmunnock.com

