The Cadzow Oaks Trail

The Cadzow Oaks Trail takes you from the visitor centre along the front of the lodge towards the function car park. From here you can see where sand was quarried in front of the house. Stone for the lodge was cut nearby by the Duke’s Master Stonemason, Robert Mein. The trail then leads you west and down through the quarry, across the Dukes Bridge and continues south-west beyond the remains of Cadzow Castle. From here continue on to the Iron Age Earthworks and ancient Cadzow Oak Trees. Some of these trees are over 500 years old. Return by the same route.

The Cadzow Oaks Trail is approximately 2 km long, is tarmac up to Cadzow Castle then forest path to the oaks and earthworks. It has some moderately steep sections and can be wet underfoot on rainy days. Average time taken is 40 minutes. Follow the red markers.

The Hole Story Trail

The Hole Story Trail takes you from the visitor centre past the Lodge through the old quarry and into the Avon Gorge. Here you can see the many changes and “holes” in the landscape caused by years of rushing water flowing down through the gorge and washing away the rock, or by people removing some of the more useful rocks such as coal or sandstone. Looking closely you may still find some fragments of coal amongst the pebbles at the river’s edge. You can certainly see the layers of rock that make up the gorge along many sections of this route.

On this trail you will also pass through ancient woodland where you can see a great variety of native trees and plants such as Oak, Ash and Elm as well as many others brought from overseas for timber and landscape purposes.

The Hole Story Trail is just over 2 km long, is moderately steep in sections and can be wet underfoot on rainy days. Average time taken is 45 minutes. Follow the blue markers.
The Green Bridge Trail
The Green Bridge Trail takes you from the visitor centre along the golf course path and follows a line across the top of the Avon Gorge on the Chatelherault side. After approximately 3 km the trail descends steeply down to the Green Bridge. Once over the bridge there is a gradual climb and the summit offers a great view of the gorge below.
The trail continues through broad-leaved woodland before arriving at the junction with the White Bridge Trail. Here you have the option of a short cut back to Chatelherault or you can continue along past the famous ancient Cadzow Oak trees and the Iron Age Earthworks before heading up to the remains of the Cadzow Castle. At the castle the trail crosses the river over the Dukes Bridge and heads back to the visitor centre.

The Green Bridge Trail is approximately 8 km long, steep in a couple of sections and can be wet underfoot on rainy days. It is a challenging but rewarding trail for the more experienced walker. Average time taken is 3 hours. Follow the green markers.

The Deer Park Trail
The Deer Park Trail takes you north in front of the Visitor Centre through the Grand Avenue and across the former Deer Park, where you may see some of the famous white Cadzow Cattle. The path known as the Huntsman’s Ride then takes you west over fields, south through the ash and hazel coppice and eventually brings you back into the old quarry near the Function Car Park by the lodge.

The Deer Park Trail is approximately 2 km long and is a mixture of tarmac and forest paths. The route is easy and undulating but can be wet underfoot on rainy days. Average time taken is 45 minutes. Follow the brown markers.
The White Bridge Trail

The White Bridge Trail takes you from the visitor centre and follows a route through the park along the eastern side of the river, and the old mineral railway. Passing through a variety of woodland types and alongside small riverside beaches, you will soon discover the ruins of Hoolet Row, once a row of miners cottages. Across the White Bridge, other mining ruins stand amidst the Oak and Ash woodland quietly reclaiming the once busy industrial site. Moving on, the path winds up to the edge of the gorge to reveal views of the adjoining farmland, once the hunting grounds of the Dukes of Hamilton. Following this path brings you back along to the top of the gorge with many picturesque views and dramatic glens and soon you will reach the ancient Cadzow Oaks. Continue on and past the Cadzow Castle and over the Duke’s Bridge returning you to the Visitor Centre.

The White Bridge Trail is just over 4 km long, and is very steep in sections. It can be wet underfoot on rainy days. Average time taken is 1½ hours. Follow the purple markers.

Countryside code

A few tips to help you enjoy your walk:

• You have a better chance of spotting wildlife if you go quietly;

• Please take care of plants, trees and wildlife;

• Do not light any fires and report any you see to the visitor centre or ranger station if you can. We cannot risk any danger to people, wildlife and trees;

• Keep your dogs under control;

• Please take your litter home.
Useful information

- A range of leaflets and publications is available from the visitor centre.
- During opening hours first aid is available at the reception desk of the visitor centre.
- Please wear clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions.
- Wet or cold weather may make some of the trails wet or slippery. Please contact us for advice.
- Remember Chatelherault is home to a variety of plants and wildlife. Please take care to leave the park as you find it. Follow the management rules of the park.

The map data included within this leaflet is provided by South Lanarkshire Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey in order to publicise Council facilities.

For more information or if you want this information in a different format or language, please phone 01698 426213 or email alan.newberry@southlanarkshire.gov.uk