

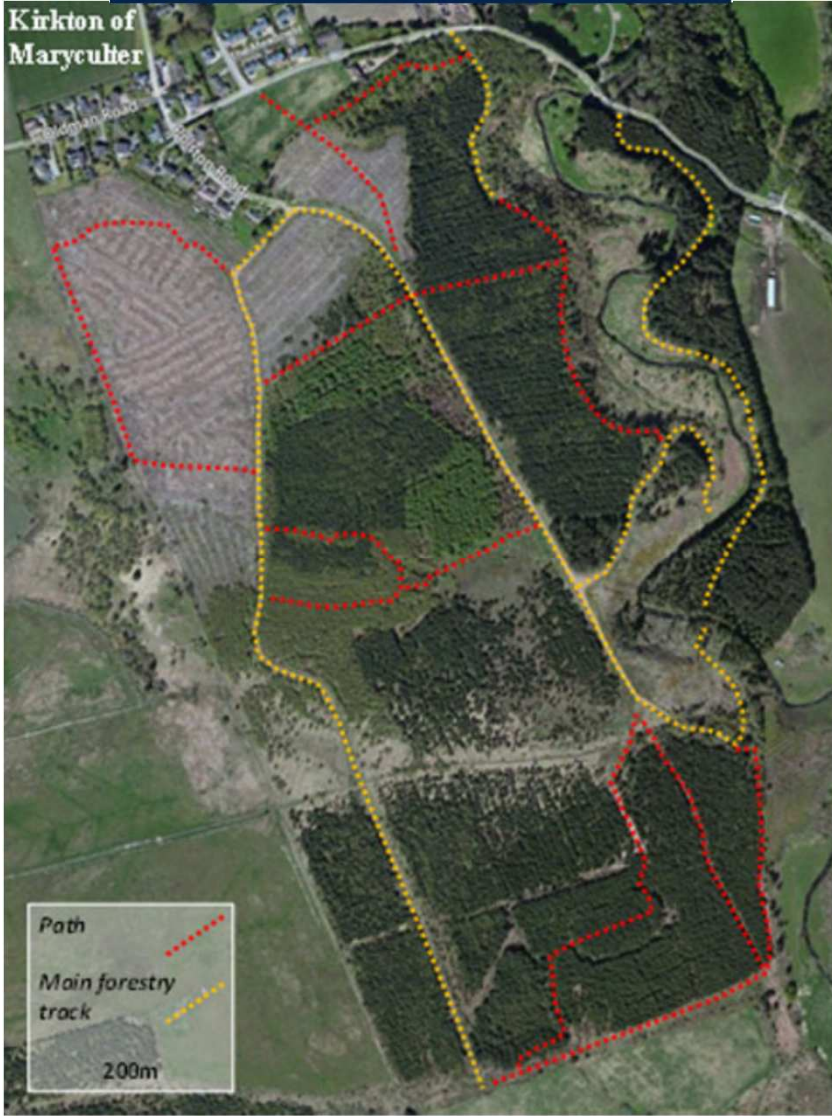


MARYCULTER

WOODLANDS TRUST

A SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION SCO44224

Kirkton of Maryculter



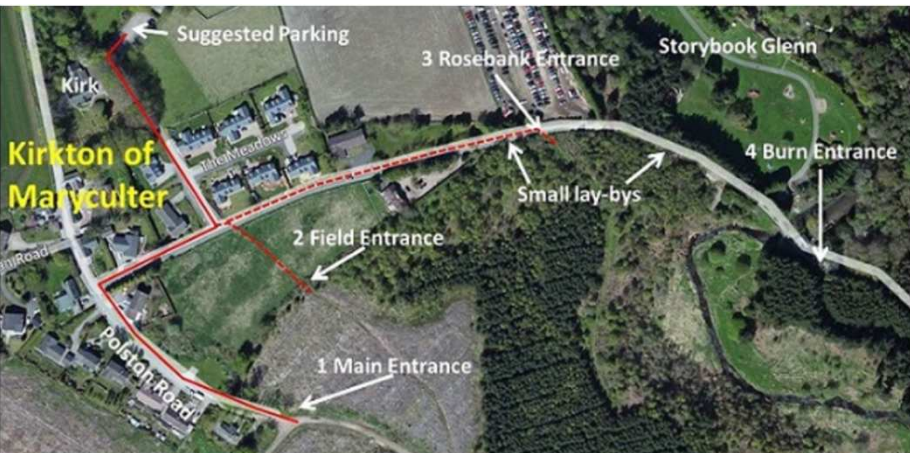
In 2007, the local community set up the Maryculter Woodlands Trust to help manage the wood, in partnership with FCS. The first task of the trust was to prevent the vigorous natural regeneration from blocking all the smaller tracks and paths in the wood. The Trust has since grown to take on additional replanting (with FCS), create new paths and desire lines and thin out some of the smaller regenerated spruce.

The oldest things in the wood are the rocks. The most easily recognisable rock in the wood is white granite which represents the now solid core of volcanoes which were active 470 million years ago. The volcanoes would once have been as high as the Andes are today, though erosion over millions of years has slowly worn the mountains down to their present size.

The area was fully buried under ice during the Ice Age (10,000 years ago) and you can still see plenty of evidence of this in the wood. There are rock outcrops worn smooth by ice, large boulders dropped by glaciers as the ice retreated and glacial boulder clay in the valley of the Crynoch Burn.

On Oldman Hill there are clearance cairns, field systems and even a possible round house that are all thought to date back as far as the Bronze Age. More recently, maps from the 19th Century show that part of the area was cleared to create new fields and the large drainage ditches were dug. The oldest trees in the wood (Scot's Pine) probably date from this time.

In the 1940s the land was acquired by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and planted with various types of spruce, larch and lodgepole pine. Over the last 20 years FCS have had a policy of clear-felling the mature trees and allowing natural regeneration, supplemented by limited planting of native broad-leaf trees (particularly abundant on the steep slope down to the Crynoch Burn).



- 1 Main Entrance. Park behind the Kirk & walk in along Polston Road. Please do not park on Polston Road
- 2 Field Entrance. Park behind the Kirk & walk in over field (climb over a small dyke to get into the wood)
- 3 Rosebank Entrance. There is a small lay-by near this entrance but it is only big enough for 2 cars.
- 4 Burn Entrance. There is space for a car or two, off the road. Please don't block the gate.

There is an information board at the main entrance

