

Turn left at the direction arrow to find post 7.

POST 7

At this point you can look out over the Estate grounds and possibly catch sight of the herd of Fallow Deer. Turn right to enter the woodland ride with a large **Turkey Oak** at the entrance.

Take time along this shady walk to listen to the bird song of the many species that favour this area. Robin, Wren, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Blackbird, Tits and Thrushes to name a few.



Wren

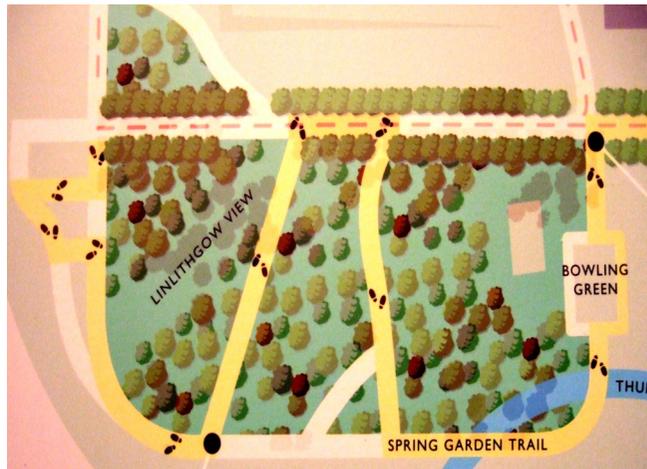
POST 8

Around post 8 are several ornamental shrubs including a double **Deutzia** with pretty white flowers. The small birch tree on the left is growing next to an old stump which in the autumn is surrounded by the spectacular fungi, **Giant Polypore (*Grifola gigantea*)**. Many fungi grow around this area with more than 200 species recorded at Hopetoun.

From here you can return to the start point along Lime Avenue.




Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad



SPRING GARDEN TRAIL

The Spring Garden Trail on the South side of Hopetoun House is in a warm sheltered part of the grounds, much favoured by the Third Marquess, who planted many of the ornamental trees and shrubs growing there. The distance between posts 1 to 8 is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1 km) or about 30 minutes of easy walking. Follow the yellow on green markers.

POST 1

As you descend the steps look to your left, you will see the evergreen **Holm Oak**, a native of the Mediterranean region. In front of you is the **Bowling Green** and beyond that the **Bowling Green Vista**, golden with daffodils in the spring. The two ornamental urns were purchased in Italy and placed here by the 3rd Marquess. Notice how they have been colonised by mosses and lichens. Several old **Sycamore** and **Beech** trees grow to the side of the **Bowling Green Vista**.



POST 2

You have now come to the **Thunderbolt Burn**, in which grows several plants. Look for the bright blue flowers of **Water Forget-me-not**, the familiar leaves of **Watercress** and the aromatic **Water Mint**. Cross the bridge, turn right and you will see some of the many shrubs which make this an attractive corner in May and June when they are in flower. Among them '**Flame of the Wood**', bell flowered **Rhododendrons** and **Pieris**.

On the left of the path is a small **Laburnum** and on the right is a high protective stand of **Cypress**. You will notice that the burn has disappeared, being piped underground to allow access into the paddock. In front of the **Beech** hedge grows a **Lime Tree** and below is a bed of **Azaleas**.

On the left a small **Cornelian Cherry** opens tiny yellow flowers before its leaves in early Spring. The damp slope is covered with **Wood Anemones** and **Meadow Cranesbill** with a **Flowering Cherry** growing above them. Later in the summer both **Northern Marsh** and **Common Spotted Orchids** and their hybrids flower in profusion together with **Yellow Flag Iris**, **Himalayan Cowslip**, **Martagon Lily** and **Leopardsbane**. A happy mix of wild and garden flowers.



Red Dogwood grows on the right where the burn is seen again. On the far bank is a Persian Witch Hazel with its dark red flowers and mottled bark. Other shrubs along this section include Snowy Mespil, Kerria and Forsythia. As you cross the second bridge you will notice a dead Elder tree which has been left as a habitat for minibeasts. You are now leaving the Spring garden and entering the South Woods.



POST 3

The tall tree here is a **Cedar of Lebanon** that is nearly 300 years old. On the other side of the path from the Cedar stands a large evergreen Holm Oak. The pretty blue flower of the **Periwinkle** covers much of the ground here in Spring. (*At the next direction marker, wheelchairs continue ahead to post 6.*) At the corner look for the Norway Maple, Rhododendron, **Lilac** and Philadelphus growing beside the path just ahead. Down the slope you may see the small purple flowers of **Selfheal** growing beside the path as you pass the Holly, Yew and Portugal Laurel.

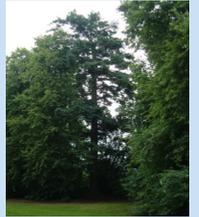
POST 4

Beside this post is a Giant Redwood tree, native of Western North America. Look on its fibrous, soft bark for the roosting hollows made by the small Tree-Creeper. The large tree opposite is another Cedar of Lebanon, while further down the path grow two large Morinda Spruce (*Picea smithiana*). The Morinda was first introduced to Britain in 1818 and the Smith referred to in its botanical name was a gardener at Hopetoun who was the first to grow it. This tree is also known as the "Weeping Fir" because of the way its branches droop to allow it to shed the weight of snow that falls in its native Himalayas. These Morinda Spruce have just been featured in the "Heritage Trees of Scotland" book published by the Forestry Commission.



Primroses, bluebells and other woodland flowers abound here and the loud call of the Wren is frequently heard, along with many other woodland birds. The dead tree to the side of the path has been left as a micro habitat for many species and is often used by feeding Great Spotted Woodpeckers.

Fungi and various "minibeasts" help in the decay process by feeding on the rotting stump. As you reach the end of the path is an evergreen Delavay's Silver Fir, the gnarled old tree on the corner is a Sweet (or Spanish) Chestnut. On the right is a majestic Noble Fir and at the arrow turn left down Linlithgow Avenue.



POST 5

As you turn left here and walk up the path the leaf litter underfoot is very rich and provides a habitat for many insects and larvae as well as small mammals such as the Wood Mouse, Shrew and Hedgehog.

The many types of **Rhododendron** planted here add to the beauty of this part of the South Woods. The delicate trifoliate leaves of Wood Sorrel open here and the Dog Violets make a lovely show in the spring. On the left are three **Silver Pendant Limes** and a lovely Chinese Red-Barked Birch.



POST 6

You have now returned to the carriage drive. In front of you is the "Pulpit" containing a modern sculpture of Salomé. The "Pulpit" is thought to have been part of the first section of Hopetoun House (an entrance portico), before it was remodelled by William Adam in the early 18th century.

Turn right onto the path and beside the post is an unusual tree with pale green needles on upward swept branches. The Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) known also as the fossil tree was only known through fossil records until 1941 when botanists in S.W. China found more than 100 mature specimens growing well. Seed was collected and given to tree collections in Europe and America, where it is now widely planted. Due to the cold it is difficult to grow in Scotland. This is one of three trees given to Hopetoun by the Duke of Northumberland, a friend of the 3rd Marquess.

Continue along the path between stands of Cypresses. The Beech trees here provide cool shady conditions favoured by ferns such as the broad Buckler Fern that grows well here on old tree stumps alongside mosses and lichens.