

# DOLLAR GLEN & CASTLE CAMPBELL (moderate)

## What you'll see: a lush glen route to a castle that's been besieged, burned and restored

AT the head of the NTS-owned Dollar Glen, just above the meeting of the Burn of Sorrow and the Burn of Care lies the partly ruined, partly restored, Castle Campbell.

The original castle appears to have been known as Castle Gloume and the small hill overlooking it to the east is still known as Gloom Hill.

Colin Campbell, first Earl of Argyll and Chancellor of Scotland, had the name changed by Act of Parliament in 1489 and it has been known as Castle Campbell ever since.

Besieged during the civil wars but never taken, it was later burned in retaliation for the Earl of Argyll's support for Cromwell and parliament. At the restoration of Charles II, the Campbells took up residence in Stirling at Argyll's Lodging.

The original 15th-century tower house was subsequently restored, leaving the more extensive later additions in ruins. The castle passed into state care in 1948.

Dollar Glen below the castle is deep, rocky and filled with waterfalls. The path network in the glen is well maintained by the NTS and rather dramatic in places, so care is needed in wet weather. Beyond the glen and the castle, the ascent of Bank Hill does not require excessive effort, although sturdy footwear is recommended.

A variety of starting points are possible, but Hillfoots Road car park near the start of the minor road leading to Castle Campbell offers the best round walk. From the car park, walk back down the road towards the road bridge over the burn. Follow the path signposted to Dollar Glen and Castle Campbell beside the burn.

After entering the woodland, cross a footbridge to the west (left) side of the burn and follow the path to Castle Campbell. Cross the Burn of Sorrow and visit the dramatic castle.

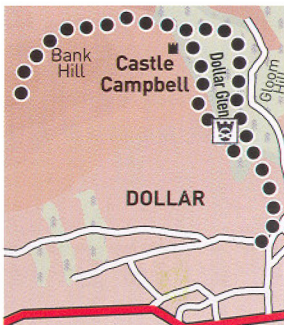
Bank Hill is the lower of the grassy hills overlooking the castle on the left. From here,



the path crosses the Burn of Sorrow again and climbs to a high viewpoint on the flanks of Bank Hill, then on to the top which is marked by a cairn.

To the north, behind lie the main tops of the Ochils, while to the south the view stretches across the plain to Stirling, the Campsies, the Firth of Forth and the urban sprawl of the Central Belt all the way to Edinburgh.

Return by the same route to Castle Campbell and pass through a gate left of the castle entrance. Cross the Burn of Care and follow the path down the east (right) side of Dollar Glen back to the road and the car park.



## An NTS property

The wooded expanse of Dollar Glen has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its range of habitats – which means it's a great place to spot wildlife – and important geological features. It can be enjoyed all year round. Tel: 0844 493 2134 or visit [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

## The essentials

MAP OS 1:50,000 SHEET 58

DISTANCE 4 MILES (6.5 KM)

TIME 3-4 HOURS

START/FINISH HILLFOOTS ROAD CAR PARK, OFF THE A91 IN DOLLAR

EXTRA INFORMATION CASTLE CAMPBELL IS OPEN MON-SUN 9.30AM-5.30PM. ADULTS £4.50, CHILDREN £2.25. DOLLAR GLEN IS OPEN ALL YEAR