

An aerial photograph of a river valley. The foreground shows a wide, green field with a small stream or ditch running through it. A river flows through the middle ground, curving to the left. In the background, a town or city is visible, followed by rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

# Inner Forth Landscape Initiative

Markers

Graphics

April 2018

bright

# Markers

## Structure



# Panels

95mm x 95mm

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Our Beacons and Markers celebrate the culture, history and wildlife of this unique landscape at the heart of Scotland. Each one has its own fascinating chapter to tell – but visit them all and you will begin to discover the full story of the Inner Forth.

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**Discover more...**  
about the Inner Forth Landscape with our **Inner Forth Explorer app**.



With its interactive GPS map you can find out much more about the fascinating wildlife and history of the area, wherever you are in the landscape.

Simply download from the app stores and start exploring!

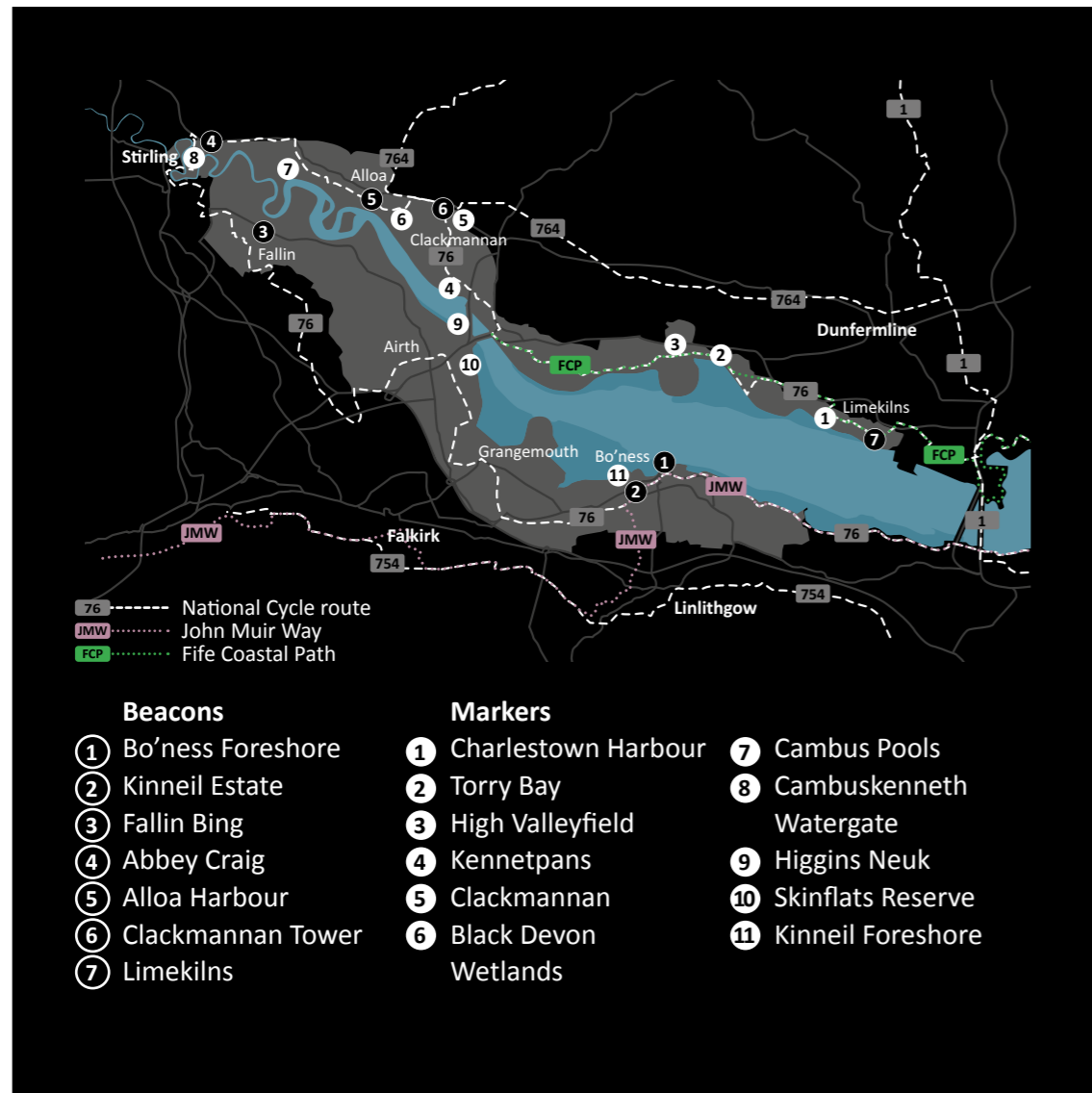


**LOTTERY FUNDED**

Shown at actual size when printed on A3

# Panels

145mm x 145mm



Shown at actual size when printed on A3

# Panels

195mm x 195mm

## 1 CHARLESTOWN HARBOUR

This peaceful harbour was once anything but quiet.

The air was full of the din of ships unloading, the roar from the furnaces burning lime, the clang of rail waggons and the yells of kilnworkers. Like so many villages and towns around the Inner Forth Charlestown was once a thriving port. They were home to some of the most important industries in Scotland, like whisky at Kennetpans near Clackmannan, coal and salt at Bo'ness and Alloa.

Find out more about them at  
[www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk](http://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk)



# Panels

195mm x 195mm

## 2 TORRY BAY

The wide expanses of mud in Torry Bay are a rare and tempting sight for the thousands of wild birds that seek winter refuge here.

Waders probe the mudflats for food, while geese and ducks roost here to avoid the attention of hungry predators. But they are vital for people too. They slow the waves and calm the storm-pushed tides before they pound the shore. As climate change causes rising sea levels mudflats like these, and those at Skinflats, Kinneil Foreshore and Limekilns, are being squeezed between the rising tides and the sea walls. If they disappear we will lose our first line of defence against flooding.

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# Panels

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## 3 HIGH VALLEYFIELD

Valleyfield Woodlands, just north of here, are now open for all, but 200 years ago they were gardens for the pleasure of one coal-rich family – the Prestons.

Designed by landscape architect, Humphry Repton, they included walled gardens, pineapple pits, and rustic bridges. Most are now ruins, but a new community orchard has been recreated on the site of the old kitchen garden by West Fife Woodlands, with help from local schools, for everyone to enjoy. New orchards have been planted at other historic estates around the Forth too, at Kinneil in Falkirk, and Cambuskenneth in Stirling.

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# Panels

195mm x 195mm

## 4 KINCARDINE

NO LONGER REQUIRED

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INNER  
FORTH  
LANDSCAPE

The Inner Forth Landscape  
is a Special Landscape Area  
of the Forth and Clyde  
Canal and is a key part of  
the Forth and Clyde  
Canal's landscape.

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# Panels

195mm x 195mm

## 4 KENNETPANS

This ruined building was once the most technologically advanced distillery in the country.

Kennetpans Distillery was powered by one of the first Boulton and Watt steam engines, conceived just over the river at Kinneil. The Inner Forth has long been at the heart of Scotland's industrial heritage, with the limekilns at Charlestown, in Fife, the largest in Scotland, and reminders of the heyday of coal mining and salt panning still clear in the landscape.

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# Panels

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## 5 CLACKMANNAN

Clackmannan sits high above the River Forth – though 200 years ago it was a busy port.

Carts from the mines further inland brought coal down on specially built waggonways to ships waiting in the town's harbour on the Black Devon. But the river silted up, ships moved on to Alloa, and Clackmannan was left high and dry. There were once busy trading ports all along the Inner Forth, most now lost or forgotten, like those at Alloa, Stirling, Charlestown and Bo'ness.

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# Panels

195mm x 195mm

## 6 BLACK DEVON WETLANDS

Over the last 300 years many hundreds of hectares of land were created along the Forth by building sea walls to keep back the river.

But farming and industry's gain was sometimes nature's loss. Now vibrant wetland habitats where wildlife, like wintering geese and summer songbirds, can thrive are being restored and created on reclaimed land all around the Inner Forth. Besides this one at RSPB Black Devon Wetlands, there are other wetlands at Cambus Pools, Skinflats Lagoons, near Falkirk, and Kinneil Lagoons, between Grangemouth and Bo'ness.

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# Panels

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## 7 CAMBUS POOLS WILDLIFE RESERVE

Over the last 300 years many hundreds of hectares of land were created along the Forth by building sea walls to keep back the river.

But farming and industry's gain was sometimes nature's loss. Now vibrant wetland habitats are being restored and created on reclaimed land around the Inner Forth. Here at Cambus Pools the Scottish Wildlife Trust is cutting back the reeds to open up the pools for the waders, warblers and wildfowl that find a haven here. Other sites include Black Devon Wetlands near Alloa, Skinflats Lagoons, near Falkirk, and Kinneil Lagoons, between Grangemouth and Bo'ness.

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## 8 CAMBUSKENNETH WATERGATE

700 years ago people crossed to and from Cambuskenneth not by bridge, but by boat.

Not far south of today's bridge is the abbey watergate, now buried, but once a busy mooring point for folk coming to trade or pray. It was one of many historic crossing points along the Inner Forth all the way from Stirling to Alloa, in Clackmannanshire, Limekilns, in Fife and Bo'ness, in Falkirk.

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# Panels

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## 9 HIGGINS NEUK

Higgins Neuk was once a great dockyard, built for King James IV of Scotland.

All visible trace of its royal past has now disappeared, but beneath the saltmarsh are traces of its 500-year-old maritime history. It was here that the king's pride and joy, the 'Great' Michael, the biggest warship in the Western world at the time it was built, was berthed. James could have admired it from his castle at Stirling.

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# Panels

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## 10 SKINFLATS NATURE RESERVE

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## 11 KINNEIL FORESHORE

Until the 1980s this Local Nature Reserve was part of Kinneil Colliery. But once the mines closed new trees were planted here, and nature started to reclaim it.

Now the place is full of birds, bees and butterflies. The Friends of Kinneil Foreshore Group is working with Falkirk Council managing the woodlands and creating new wildflower meadows so that the wildlife can thrive once more. There are old industrial sites all around the Inner Forth that are being reclaimed for nature, like Fallin Bing in Stirling and Black Devon Wetlands near Alloa in Clackmannanshire.

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