

## Our Heritage Project

In our Under the Trees project we have been learning about the history and natural heritage of the Falkirk Wheel and the surrounding area. We learned about the Romans, made Roman pottery, went to Rough Castle and made masks and decorated them with stones, leaves and sticks to recreate the laughing and greeting faces of the same named bridge. We also went on the Falkirk Wheel, built a mini canal, made dens and investigated the nearby trees.



### Where are we?

The Falkirk Wheel is in Camelon in Falkirk. It is 50 minutes or 28.3 miles from Edinburgh.

### When you can visit?

You can visit the area surrounding the Falkirk Wheel, follow our trail and extend your experience with a walk up to Rough Castle at any time.

To visit and go on the Falkirk Wheel itself, it is open 7 days a week from 10am until 5.30pm. There is a shop, café and lots of places to play and have fun too.



HISTORY  
HERITAGE &  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
• 2017 •

# Heritage Trail

*The world's only rotating boat lift*

*This trail has been created by P5/6 from  
Easter Carmuir Primary School*

## History of the Area

*There is a lot of history around the Falkirk Wheel. There is the Antonine Wall which was built by the Romans in 142AD, there is Rough Castle which is the second smallest fort on the Antonine Wall and there are the Union and the Forth and Clyde Canals.*

### The Romans

The Antonine Wall was 37 miles long and around 7,000 soldiers were stationed along the Antonine Wall. To the Romans they knew the wall as Vallum Antonini and it was used as a checkpoint to stop or allow people to pass through and trade goods.

Rough Castle was one of 16 forts along the Antonine Wall used to defend the Roman frontier. One of the best methods of defence was a group of pits, each with a sharp wooden stake. The Romans covered these so their enemies would not see them when they tried to attack the fort. Today you can still see the holes as this is one of the best preserved forts.



Visitors to Rough Castle can also see:

- The tallest surviving section of rampart
- A short length of the Military Way
- Fort and annexe defences
- Multiple ditches and gateways

## The Canals

The famous Falkirk wheel joins the Forth and Clyde canal and the Union canal so you can travel to Glasgow from Edinburgh. The canal engineers for the Forth and Clyde were John Smeaton, Robert Mackell and Robert Whitworth. It was built from 1768 to 1790 and is 35 miles long and has 39 locks. The Union canal was built in 1822 and runs from Edinburgh to Falkirk. On May 24<sup>th</sup> 2002, the Falkirk Wheel was opened, with a height of 35 metres, it is the world's only rotating boat lift.

The navvies, who built these canals in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century, often worked a tough 17 hours a day and got paid only 4p per day. After the canals were built, banksmen looked after the canals.



## Nature in the Area

There are many signs of life surrounding the Falkirk Wheel, here are some things that **YOU** might see.

**Mute Swan:** Beautiful creatures which live at canals and on the water.



**Kingfisher :** Cute, small and colourful birds that hunt for fish in areas near clean water.

**Grey Heron:** They mainly eat fish but they can also eat small birds and small mammals.

**Common Toad:** They can live in lots of different types of water including canals.

**Peacock Butterfly:** Very common at the edge of the canal and they look like a peacock.



**Otter:** They live in dark and rocky places and they hunt for their prey under the canal.



**Beaver:** Since settling nearby, they have been busy building lodges and dams and swimming in local lochs and canals..

**Common Hogweed:** It is like a small umbrella that rises in the late summer.

**Common Poppy:** It is a very nice flower and they are thought to cause headaches.

**Meadowsweet:** A fluffy plant that smells lovely in late summer.