

## Dalkeith Estate

### Introduction

The Dalkeith Estate consists of 2,817 acres, comprising 5 let farms, 564 acres of dedicated woodlands of which 381 acres are situated within the Park (850 acres). There are also grass parks (285 acres), commercial and industrial properties.

### Dalkeith Palace/Dalkeith House

Sitting above the North Esk River, Dalkeith Palace is considered one of Scotland's grandest early classical houses. Parts of Dalkeith Palace date back to a 12<sup>th</sup> century castle. Anne of Buccleuch, the first Duchess of Buccleuch, commissioned James Smith, Scotland's leading architect at that time, to build the house in its present form during the period of 1701-1711. The interior of the house still includes a large amount of marble, including a large marble staircase, all of which was introduced by Anne of Buccleuch. The George IV addition was built prior to George IV's stay at Dalkeith Palace on his first visit to Scotland in 1832. He used the Music Room to receive Scottish noblemen and dignitaries. In 1942 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were also guests. The house was last used as a Buccleuch family residence prior to WWI and during WWII it was used to billet soldiers of the Polish Free Army. Since 1986 it has been let to the University of Wisconsin for the Wisconsin in Scotland Program. The house provides enough room for student living, recreational areas such as a pool room, dining facilities, a laundry room, a computer lab, lounge and study areas, and offices. The student residential area is dorm style with community bathrooms. Students share rooms with 1-5 other students. The close facilities and special experience lead to a family atmosphere. The spacious lawn provides an excellent area for studying, lounging, or playing Frisbee. Finally, in fine British tradition, no 300-year-old manor is complete without ghost stories, which Dalkeith House also has in abundance.

### Adventure Playground and Nature Trails

The formation of Buccleuch Recreational Enterprises in 1976 resulted in the construction of the Adventure Playground and layout of Nature Trails within Dalkeith Park. About 35,000 visitors make use of the facilities each year.

### Dalkeith Stables

William Adam designed these buildings in 1740 with additions by William Burn in 1840. From 1932 to 1989, the property was let to the Greyhound Racing Association for kenneling their dogs, which were exercised in the Park and raced at Powderhall Stadium in Edinburgh. In 1995, the Estate undertook a major refurbishment to convert the buildings into a tea room, a shop, and offices for the estate manager, ranger, and county park staff.

### **Conservatory**

The Conservatory was built in 1832 to the design of William Burn to form a 12-sided glasshouse with oak-framed sash windows flanked by Roman Doric columns on a stepped base. The central chimney provides the support for the elaborate geometric cast iron roof girders. The heating systems consisted of two hot water boilers together with furnaces located in the vaulted cellar below. Plans to restore the conservatory are on hold due to cost.

### **Laundry House**

The laundry house was built in the early 1800's to serve the mansion house and later it was divided into two dwelling houses. In 1993, the Estate converted the building into two offices, which are let to SNH and the Edinburgh Greenbelt Trust.

### **St. Mary's Church**

Just within the gates of Dalkeith Country Park is St. Mary's church. The church was built in 1843-45 for the Duke of Buccleuch. The church is a good example of English University Chapel style and hosts beautiful examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century painted glass windows, designed and finished in France. Tiles depicting the crests of Buccleuch decorate the church steps. The church crypt is still the resting place of the remains of some of the family even though the family no longer owns the chapel.