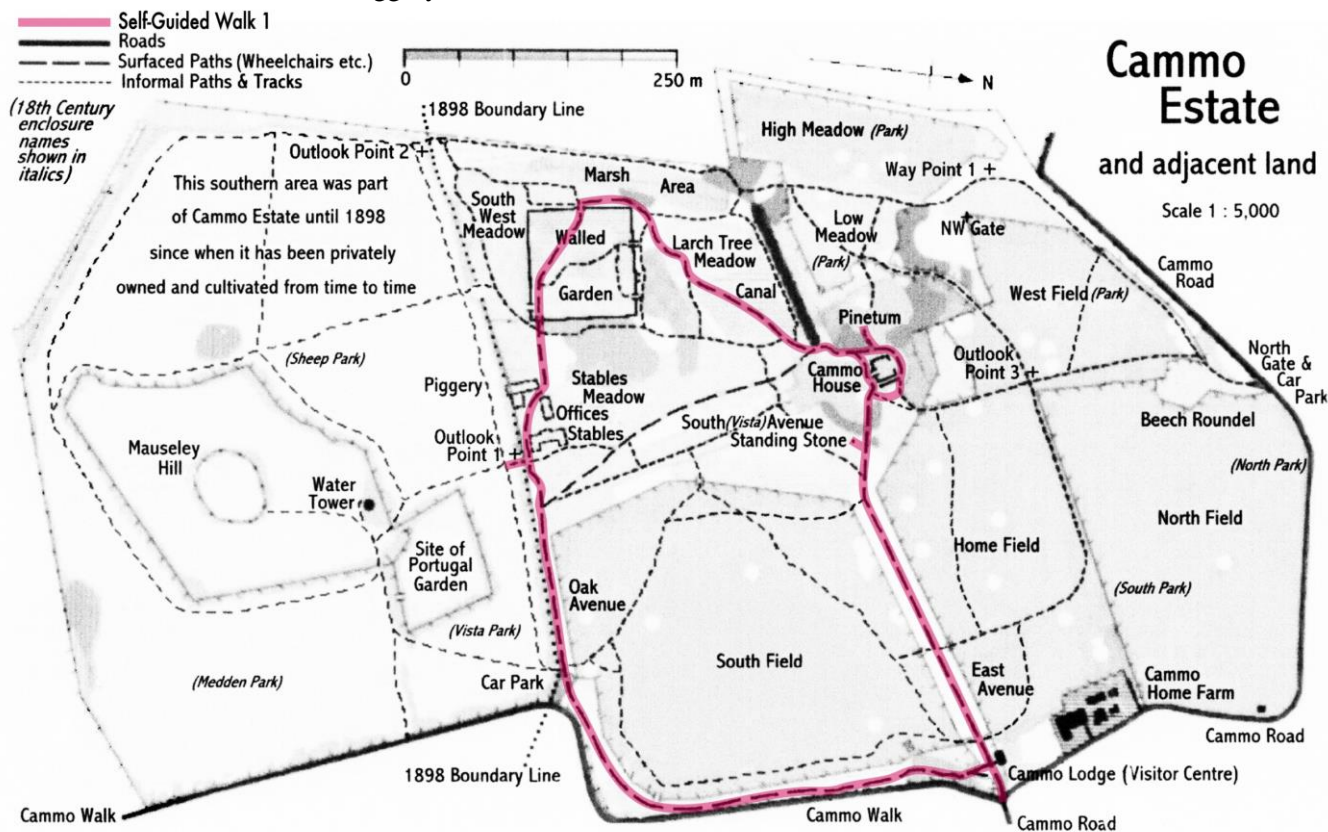





This walk of 1.5km uses surfaced paths mostly suitable for wheelchairs

Visitor Centre – East Avenue – Standing Stone – Cammo House – Pinetum – Canal – Larch Tree Meadow – Walled Garden – Offices/Piggery – Stables – Outlook Point 1 – Oak Avenue – Car Park – Visitor Centre.



1. **Cammo Lodge (Visitor Centre):** Cammo Lodge was built in 1789 as a gatehouse. It was still inhabited in the 1890s but eventually became a derelict and roofless shell, before being restored in 1992 to serve as a Visitor Centre. Inside are the Cammo Sundial (1795) and Stone Vase (1843) and just outside the doorway is a Stone Bench; these three artefacts were originally in the Pinetum area. The main entrance gateway piers and walling were built at the same time as the Lodge. The approach bridge from the main road over the Bughtlin Burn dates from 1762. Just north of this bridge are the ruins of an earlier bridge.
 
2. **East Avenue:** From Cammo Lodge proceed up East Avenue. This was laid out in 1717 by Sir John Clerk, then owner of Cammo Estate, and was originally lined on each side by elm trees, none of which now survive. By the early 19th century oak and sycamore had also been planted between the original elm trees. After about 250 metres, just before the drive curves to the right, a large sycamore and a hollow elm pollard on the right of the drive are the oldest surviving trees of this feature.
3. **Standing Stone:** After another 50 metres on the left side of the path a Standing Stone can be accessed by faint paths through the vegetation (not wheelchair accessible). It is believed to date from the later Neolithic Period or early Bronze Age. Return to the main drive, and continue along it for a further 50 metres, passing a grassy area on the left to reach the side of Cammo House.
4. **Cammo House:** Built in 1693, this originally consisted of three storeys set over a ground floor basement, but by 1814 its size had been considerably increased by the addition of an east wing and a north wing. At the height of its splendour in the mid-1800s the house contained more than 50 rooms. After many years of neglect in the 20th century, followed by vandalism and two disastrous fires in the 1970s, it was reduced to a safe ruin in 1980. The path circles the ruin, and visitors can appreciate the house from all aspects, including the view down South (Vista) Avenue.
 

5. **Pinetum:** From the front of Cammo House, the entrance into the Pinetum is to the left of the house ruin. The area originally contained a terrace which ran along the top of the sloping bank, formal flower gardens and rose gardens. A sloping retaining wall and stone stairway, supporting several stone sculptures, separated the formal gardens from the lower-level rose gardens. Planting of exotic conifers in the Pinetum commenced about 1857 and the Pinetum was well established by 1875. Endangered conifers have been added to the Pinetum in recent years. An information panel a short distance into the Pinetum shows the locations of species planted.
6. **Canal:** Return to the Pinetum entrance and turn right along the main path, to reach the end of the Canal. The Canal was created in the late 1720s or early 1730s as an ornamental feature, very fashionable at that time, and may also have been used as a curling pond. The Canal is 140 metres long, 10 metres broad and 1.2 metres deep, and is constructed of puddled clay. It is fed and drained by stone-lined underground channels. In early 2017 it was dredged and overhanging vegetation removed, to help bring life back to the pond.
7. **Larch Tree Meadow:** Continue a short distance along the main path, ignore the faint path running beside the Canal, and take the surfaced path which branches off to the right, then take the right fork, passing to the right of Larch Tree Meadow. This meadow (now overgrown between annual cuts) is named after two European Larch trees that were planted in the 1790s, among the earliest in Scotland. One veteran tree in the centre of the clearing has now collapsed, and in summer is hidden by surrounding vegetation. Three younger European Larch planted in 2003 can be seen. The path enters a wooded area where the second dying veteran of European Larch can be seen on the left.
8. **Walled Garden:** Continue along the path, passing through a small clearing, to reach the north-west corner of the Walled Garden. Follow the path along the outside of the Walled Garden to enter the garden through a doorway. The Walled Garden was constructed between 1780 and 1782 and occupies an area of 2.5 acres. The walls are between 4 and 5 metres in height, constructed of rubble stone, with the south and west facing elevation of all walls lined with brick to maximise retention of solar heat. The north wall was also a heated wall with furnace houses on the outside, and there were two large glass-houses within the garden. The garden supplied Cammo House with fruit and vegetables, including some exotic varieties. Continue to follow the path through the Walled Garden until the main entrance gateway at the south-east corner is reached.
9. **Offices and Farm Steading / Piggery:** From the Walled Garden main gateway turn left along the path and take the right fork to stay on the surfaced path. The path passes between two ruins – the Farm Steading / Piggery on the right, then former Offices on the left. It is probable that these two buildings were constructed around 1780, for gardeners and other estate workers. The building on the right was later used as a farm steading, and was extended to include accommodation for pigs and other animals, while the building on the left provided accommodation for coachmen after the construction of the new stable block in 1811. Both of these buildings fell into disuse about 1920. They are the subject of archaeological investigation in 2017-18.
10. **Stables:** Continue to follow the path downhill until you arrive at the south-east corner of the Stables, constructed in 1811. It was very grand, having all its walls, except the rear, faced with sandstone blocks of fine quality. The building was a classical, symmetrical, two storey construction, with cart-shed pavilions at either end. The central bay supports an octagonal clock tower with a bulls-eye window, and was originally capped by a domed roof. Most of the windows on the front elevation and the two side elevations were built blind, for decoration only. The Stables would have housed about seven horses, a forge, harness room, hayloft and accommodation for several carriages.
 
11. **Outlook Point 1:** Outlook Point 1, at the south-east corner of the Stables, looks out over areas that were originally part of Cammo Estate, but sold off in 1898 and now privately owned. They include the fenced-off remains of the Portugal Garden (dating from 1714), the Water Tower and Mauseley Hill. The Water Tower, built between 1819 and 1823, originally supported a large water tank at the top of the structure. A wooden sail acted like a windmill to drive a pump that pumped water from a nearby well to the water tank. The water gravitated from this tank, along an underground pipe, to fill the storage tanks in the attic of Cammo House.
12. **Oak Avenue (South Drive):** From Outlook Point 1 continue down the path to join Oak Avenue. This avenue, recorded by Sir John Clerk in 1722, was originally lined with oak trees and connected the old Corstorphine / Braehead road (now Cammo Walk) to the original stable building near the Portugal Garden. Continue along Oak Avenue towards the car park and observe on the left, prior to entering the car park, the large stump of an oak tree dating from 1710, which was the last remaining tree from the original planting of this avenue.

Cross through the car park to a gateway on the left, and continue to follow the path along the eastern boundary of the estate, which runs parallel to Cammo Walk, for about 400 metres until it crosses a wooden bridge over the Boughtlin Burn, and arrives back at the Visitor Centre.