



# THE BLAIR ESTATE

## GARDENS



The history of the gardens at Blair goes back many generations. Timothy Pont in the late 16th century describes 'beautiful gardens, orchards and parterres'.

However the main features evident today stem from the 19th century.

The Private Gardens at Blair were extensively remodelled and landscaped by William Fordyce Blair in the 1850s. He continued his father's innovative planting of specimen trees both in the Gardens and the Park. The Bombo Burn was rivetted at this time the labour being drawn from the prisoners of war from the Napoleonic campaign.

William Fordyce Blair also built the Policy Walls enclosing the Park and had the road to Dalry diverted.

Recently Luke and Caroline Borwick have been focussing on reviving the Flower Garden and the Private Gardens by the Bombo Burn. We have planted many species trees and shrubs both in the Private Gardens and in the Park. Features to look for include the remnants of a fossilised tree reputed to be over 25million years old, the graves of Colonel Frederick George Blair and his wife with its charming poem, the recently carved mermaids on a Portugese Laurel tree stump by local artist Sandy Campbell, and the superb wrought iron work gates collected in the 19th century.

The Private Gardens are available to Guests for the duration of their stay.

We do offer private tours of the Gardens for special interest groups and we have an Open Day for Scotland's Garden Scheme once a year.

For extensive further information on the gardens and Policies you will find them listed in the register of Designed landscapes in Scotland.

[www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/gardens/gardenssearch.htm](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/gardens/gardenssearch.htm)