

## **Falkland Circuit 26th Feb 2024.**

11 members met at Broxden P & R for an 08:30 departure to the Pillars of Hercules car park. The route was a clockwise circular walk taking one on the many tracks through the wooded area up towards Mapsie Den with a fine view of Falkland House, now a school. Climbing up through the den, we passed under a scenic overhanging waterfall. We continued to climb and eventually came out of the wooded area up to the top of Maiden Castle, an iron-age fort for a coffee stop which afforded fine views in a cloudless sky. Descending from the fort's grassy slopes back towards the woods, we reached our second point of interest, The Temple of Decision. Originally planned as a garden summerhouse for the 3rd Marquess of Bute, Onesiphorous Tyndall Bruce in 1849. Now mostly a ruin, we were able to find and ponder a carved inscription "Perspective is the Temple of Decision" on one of the large stone blocks. Not far along the wooded track we arrived at the Monument, erected after his death in 1855 by the people of Falkland in his honour. This proved a suitable break for lunch. Our return to the car park was through mostly wooded tracks initially west and then finally bending back eastward to rejoin the tarmac road and eventually reach the starting point. Well earned refreshments were taken outside in the sunshine at the Pillars of Hercules café  
9 miles, 1398ft ascent



Ascending Mapsie Den



Beneath the Waterfall.



Summit of Maiden Castle



Descending in the sunshine



Temple of Decision



Tyndall Bruce Monument ahead



Lunch Stop and descent via firebreak

