



Far North

Explore the Forests of the Far North
Discover and Enjoy



...to the forests of the far north. From heart pumping hikes to easy access routes, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

As well as a great selection of woodland trails, you can go wild on the natural play features at Camore, lose yourself on our orienteering courses or stride out on the Scotsburn to Strathroy drove road.

Our forests aren't only about trees, so get near to nature with some of Scotland's finest wildlife, or step back in time and discover brochs, battle sites, burial cairns and more.



Waymarked Trails

Grade

- Short forest loop: Allow ¼ hour
- Pond trail: Allow ¼ hour
- Riverside trail: Allow ¼ hour
- Longer forest loop: Allow ¼ hour
- Shin Falls Salmon Leap: Allow ¼ hour

White dots show link to forest road network

Please note: This trail is not on Forestry Commission Scotland land

8 Achany - Falls of Shin

The Falls themselves are beautiful at any time of year, but look out for forest flowers in the spring and leaping salmon during summer and autumn. You may even spot an otter if you are lucky.

The blue trail takes you through the native riverside woodlands. These areas are great for wildlife. You'll pass our green woodwork area, where we hold events and demonstrations. Look out for the shimmering of the aspen trees, home to the rare aspen hoverfly.

From here, a short easy access route opens the forest to all, and is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Follow the longer green trail through the towering spruce trees if you want to work up more of an appetite!

Achany: Start your visit to Achany forest from the Falls of Shin visitor centre, which has a well stocked shop, cafe and toilet facilities.

7 Ferry Wood & Ord Hill

Ferry Wood: Follow the broch trail to visit the 2000 year old broch site and get some great views of the Shin dam. The dam holds back 23 mile long Loch Shin to power the nearby hydro electric station. The Little Loch Shin trail passes a dragonfly pond and sculpture and wanders along the west bank of Little Loch Shin. Both trails are suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Ord Hill: Starting from the Ferrycroft Centre the path goes right past the main feature - a huge stone cairn. You also pass the remains of hut circles, ancient banks, burnt mounds, burial cairns and field clearance heaps. Take in the views north to Ben Kilbreck from the top of the hill.

Named after a local forester Mr Gunn in 1846 this sheltered trail through mixed woodland is a great little loop to walk the dog.

Also near Larg is Gunn's Wood.

Location map

Waymarked Trails

Grade

- Broch trail: Allow 1 hour
- Little Loch Shin trail: Allow ½ hour
- Ord Hill trail: Allow 1 hour

3 Borgie Glen

Borgie Glen: Climb the steep Lonesome Pine Trail to meet 'The Unknown' sculpture and look out over Borgie Forest with good views of Ben Loyal and Ben Hope to the west. Look out for the totem pole and the unusual picnic tables as well!

Waymarked Trail

Grade

- Lonesome Pine trail: Allow ¼ hour

Borgie - Waymarked Trails

Grade

- Red trail: Allow ¼ hour
- Blue trail: Allow ½ hour

1 Rosal

Rosal: Step back in time at Rosal, a deserted township in Strathnaver. Over seventy ruined buildings sit quietly on the hillside overlooking Ben Loyal and the empty, open lands of central Sutherland. Rosal was one of many highland communities torn apart by the Sutherland Clearances some 200 years ago. This atmospheric place stands as a memorial to the folk who lived here before the arrival of large scale sheep farming changed the local way of life for ever.

Waymarked Trail

Grade

- Clearance Village trail: Allow ½ hour

Location map

2 Borgie

Borgie: Planted in the 1920s this was one of the first forests in Scotland planted by the Forestry Commission, some of the original trees are still standing and can be viewed from the trail. The red trail runs along the River Borgie, one of Scotland's most famous salmon rivers. There are lovely views towards the centre of the forest. At the first car park lies a'chraobh. This spiral feature and viewpoint was designed and created by the local community. We are working with the North Sutherland Community Forestry Trust to develop recreational facilities in the forest.

Waymarked Trail

Grade

- Lonesome Pine trail: Allow ¼ hour

Location map

4 Rumster

Rumster: Originally crofting ground, which was planted as a commercial timber crop in the 1940s, this forest is gradually changing. There are fine views over the North Sea coast. As the forest has been opened up we have exposed many of the archaeological remains, look out for long houses and brochs. Keep your eyes open for the local buzzards and roe deer.

Waymarked Trails

Grade

- Golsary & The Mast loop: Allow 1 hour

3 Borgie Forest

Borgie Forest: Planted in the 1920s this was one of the first forests in Scotland planted by the Forestry Commission, some of the original trees are still standing and can be viewed from the trail. The red trail runs along the River Borgie, one of Scotland's most famous salmon rivers. There are lovely views towards the centre of the forest. At the first car park lies a'chraobh. This spiral feature and viewpoint was designed and created by the local community. We are working with the North Sutherland Community Forestry Trust to develop recreational facilities in the forest.

Waymarked Trail

Grade

- Lonesome Pine trail: Allow ¼ hour

Location map

5 Sibster

Sibster: A new broadleaf woodland on the site of an old Caithness farm. We planted 350,000 trees here in 2010 and the alder, beech, birch, oak and rowan are slowly growing into a sheltered haven for wildlife and for visitors. Watch out for brightly-coloured wildflowers, insects and birds amongst the young trees.

There are two gentle trails through the young woodland and meadows, with wide open views across the Caithness landscape. You can even get to Sibster by train - there's a direct path into the forest from the station at Georgemas Junction.

Newtonhill: A small and welcoming new community woodland very close to Wick. It's a safe outdoor place to burn off energy whatever your age - try fishing for wee beasties in the dipping pond, wander around the gentle paths, or just enjoy the panoramic views across Caithness.

You could join the Friends of Newton Hill Community Woodland group for an activity day or come along to one of the events run by the Highland Council Countryside Rangers.

Contact 1

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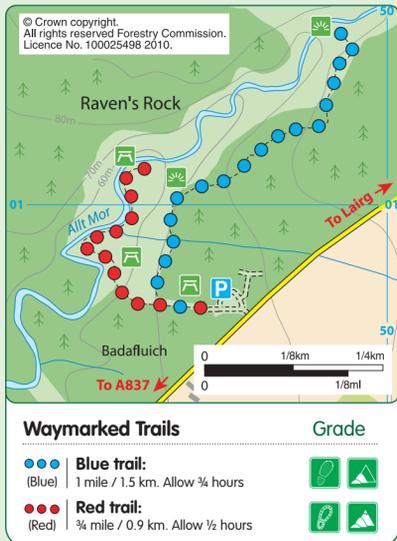
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Information on what's available from Forestry Commission Scotland and the rest of the Highlands and surrounding areas please contact:
1 2 3

9 Raven's Rock Gorge



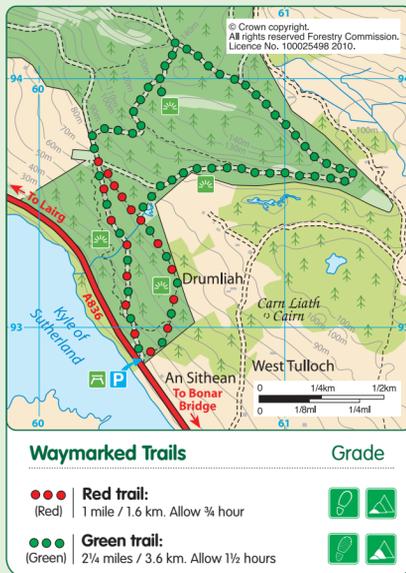
Raven's Rock Gorge: A magical almost secret place, the trail descends down by the Allt Mor burn. The forest in the depths of the gorge has an almost primeval feel from the carpets of moss and lichen. You never know what you might see in our riverside picnic site.



10 Balblair



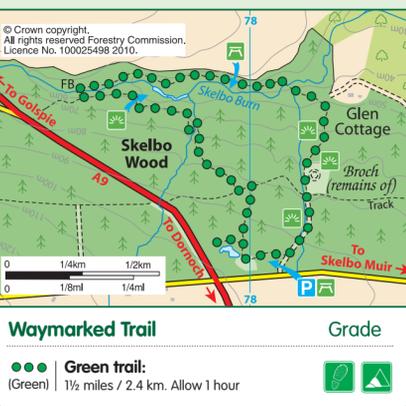
Balblair: Two trails within walking distance of Bonar Bridge, the longer green trail has spectacular views over the Kyle of Sutherland and to the west, Carbisdale Castle. Can you spot the newts in the wildlife pond? This is also home to the exhilarating Balblair Mountain Bike trails.



11 Skelbo



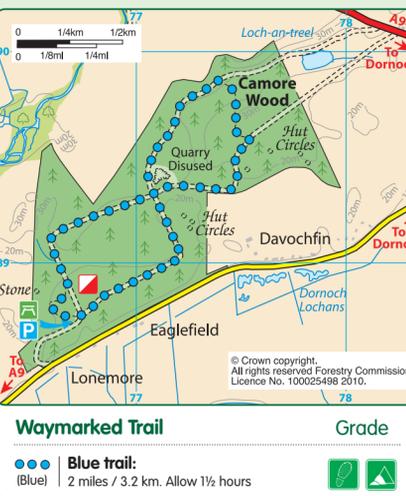
Skelbo: Directly off the A9, this trail starts at the wildlife pond before winding its way through pleasant mixed woodland down to the Skelbo burn where you will find remains of a 1940s pump house. This once supplied the surrounding farms with water. On the return to the car park you will pass the site of a 2000 year old broch, which forms a link in the chain of strongholds along the coast. Look out for woodland creatures carved to the designs of local school children.



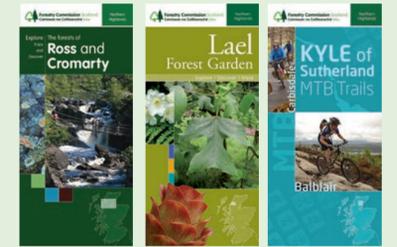
12 Camore



Camore: Step back in time at Camore - the forest here holds the remains of 25 hut circles dating back about 2000 years. A distinctive glacial ridge called an esker dominates much of the woodland. Today, this forest is being managed under continuous cover where the trees are thinned or small pockets are removed to allow for natural regeneration of native species.



More places to explore...



Look out for these other Forestry Commission Scotland publications at information points throughout the highlands or by contacting our forest district office (contact details on back of this leaflet):

- Our **Ross and Cromarty Guide** covers some of the forests you can explore between the Dornoch Firth and the Moray Firth.
- **Lael Forest Garden** has a varied collection of tree species from all around the world. Its well worth a visit on the road to Ullapool.
- **Kyle of Sutherland Mountain Bike Trails:** Fancy getting out on your bike? There are various grades of trails here at Balblair.

Trail grades

Forestry Commission Scotland trails are graded according to the degree of difficulty, gradients and type of conditions visitors can expect.



Key Please note: Any symbols that appear black indicate they are not Forestry Commission Scotland facilities

	Forestry Commission land		Parking
	Forestry Commission woodland		Disabled parking
	Other woodland		Disabled access
	Main road		Visitor centre
	Secondary road		Toilets
	Minor road		Information
	Forest road		Viewpoint
	Road/track		Picnic place
	Footpath		Cycling
	Railway/station		Play area
	Forest trails (colour coded)		Mountain biking
	Link routes (white dots)		Forest archaeology
	Rights of way		Battlefield
	Trail locator numbers		Permanent orienteering course
	Scottish Youth Hostel		
	Other points of interest		

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO
SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE outdooraccess-scotland.com