

As you travel around Moray you'll encounter places with 'knock' and 'bin' in their names. These come from the Gaelic *cnoc* 'hill' and *beinn* 'mountain', and remind us of the influence of the Gaels on this part of Scotland. Examples are Bin of Cullen, The Bin (Huntly), Knockando 'market hill' and Portknockie 'harbour at the hilly place'.

### Don't knock the bins!

The woods are great for families, with beach and play equipment at **Roseisle**, tower viewpoint at **Culbin**, and easy walking at **Torreston**. But if it's peace and quiet you're after, it's easy to find a tranquil spot away from it all.

Explore the past at **Quarrelwood**, home of prehistoric replicas and an ancient henge, or for some period drama, walk in the footsteps of a Duke and Duchess at **Winding Walks**. Miles of waymarked trails, popular with dog walkers, meander through Moray's forests – or head off for your own forest adventure on one of the smaller paths. The level tracks are also perfect for leisure cycling or riding. Mountain bikers get your kicks on the 30km of fabulous **Monster Trails**.

## Moray's forests offer a pretty special mixture...



# Welcome to the forests of Moray



Beaches shift, trees grow, and the sun dips in and out for ever-changing views. Whether you're here for the first time or a forest regular, no two visits are ever the same.

- 1 Culbin**  
Forest trails full of interest, tower viewpoint and coastal walks
- 2 Roseisle**  
Barbecues, beaches, and historic barricades
- 3 Quarrelwood**  
Site of ancient ceremonies and reptile fossils
- 4 Torreston**  
Peaceful trails for all the family
- 5 Winding Walks**  
Dramatic gully, great viewpoints and tempting pathways
- \* Moray Monster Mountain Bike Trails**  
Over 30km of mountain bike routes for all levels. The fun starts either side of Fochabers at Winding Walks or Ordiequish. Download the Monster Trail leaflet for trail grades and maps: [www.forestry.gov.uk/moraymonstertrails](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/moraymonstertrails)
- \* Lossie Forest**  
Coastal forest ideal for cycling, walking and horse riding. Well-preserved Second World War defences hidden amongst the trees. Visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/lossie](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/lossie) to find out more about them.

- \* Earth Pillars**  
A short circular walk with magnificent views over the river Spey. Below the path look for the remains of red earth pillars laid down by retreating glaciers thousands of years ago.
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Foresty Commission Scotland / Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

North East

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Enjoyed Moray? Look out for these other Foresty Scotland leaflets and explore further...

1 **Aberdeenshire guidemap**  
From Bennachie to The Bin, discover Aberdeenshire with our comprehensive guide

2 **Inverness guidemap**  
Explore these 6 fabulous forests within 15 miles of the city. Available from various Tourist Information Points throughout the area

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Traveline Scotland, 0871 2002233 or  
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## 5 Winding Walks

Ways to unwind

Longhowe Loch

Wander freely through this lovely woodland on waymarked and informal routes.

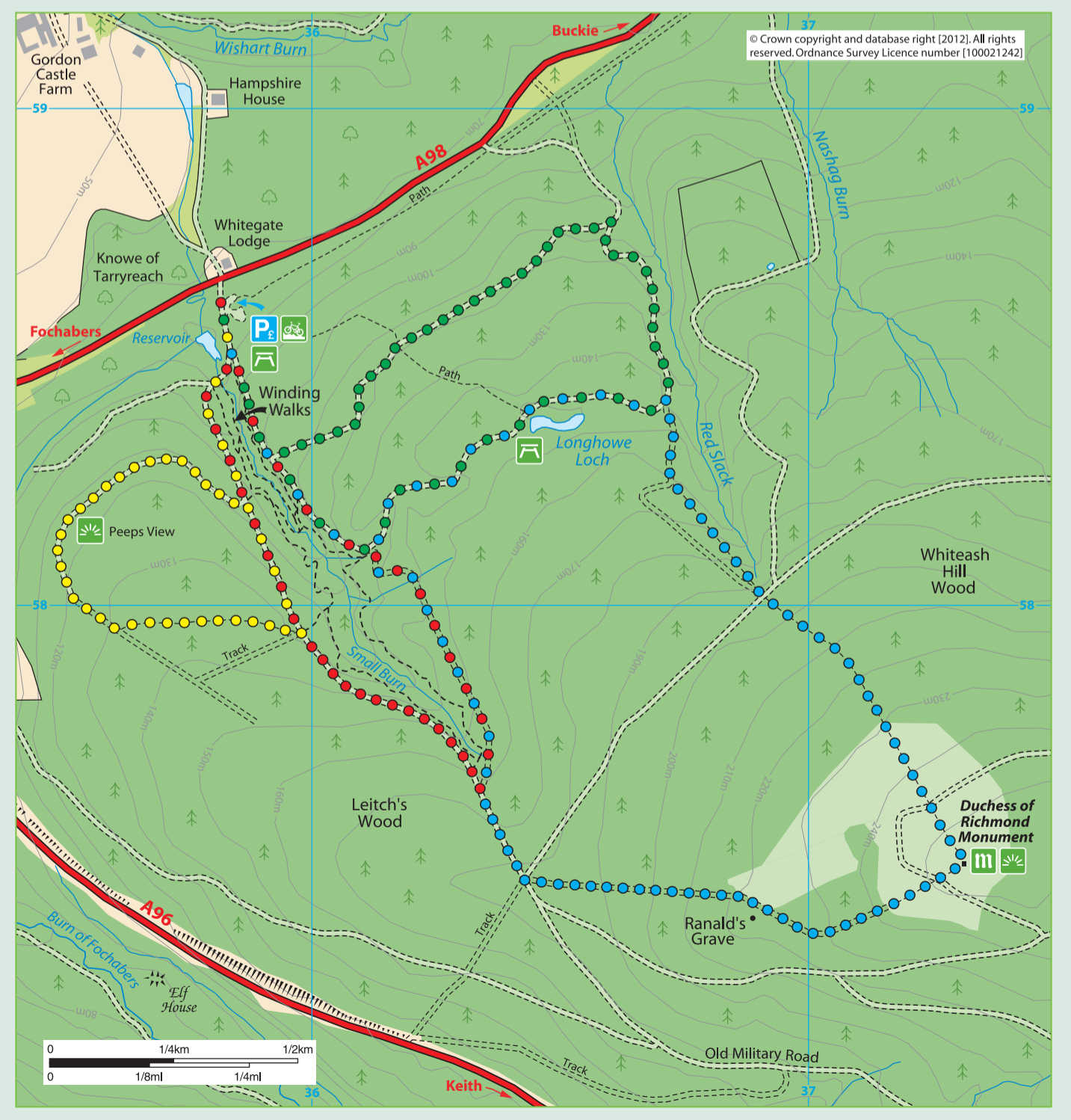
At the heart of these woods lies a dramatic, steep-sided gully, carved over the years by a surprisingly small burn. For an adventurous variation, explore the gully up close on one of the rugged paths which criss-cross the burn before rejoining the waymarked red route.

The paths were originally laid out in the 19th century by the Duke and Duchess of Gordon. This woodland was part of their garden and they planted many specimen trees. At the top of Whiteash Hill is a monument in memory of the Duchess – and a great view too.

**Trail info**

- 2.4 km / 1.5 miles Allow 1 hour
- 2.4 km / 1.5 miles Allow 1 hour
- 3 km / 1.8 miles Allow 1 hour 20 minutes
- 4.8 km / 3 miles Allow 2 hours

**Mountain bikers – the Monster Trails start here!** Gear up for two of the Monster Trails which start at the car park. For an easier trail, try the blue grade route not far from here at **Ordiequish**.



Why not try... looking for different coloured natural things to make your own rainbow?

### Key to all maps

	Forestry Commission land		Parking (charge)
	Forestry Commission woodland		Easy-access facilities
	Other woodland		Toilets
	Main road		Information
	Secondary road		Viewpoint
	Minor road		Bird hide
	Forest road		Picnic area
	Track		Play area
	Footpath		Barbecue
	Forest trails (colour waymarked)		Viewing tower
	Forest trails (not colour waymarked)		Ancient/Scheduled monument
	Start of forest trails (detailed on trail maps)		Mountain biking
	National cycle route		Cycling
	Speyside Way		Orienteering/wayfaring
	Railway line		Non FC parking
	Other points of interest		Non FC caravan site

### Trail Grading

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

	Easy: Sensible footwear		Moderate: Waterproof footwear		Strenuous: Hillwalking boots
	Easy: Muscle Loosener		Moderate: Muscle Stretcher		Strenuous: Muscle builder

**KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO**  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

**Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly**

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

Forestry Commission Scotland / Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

North East

Explore Enjoy and Discover

# The forests of Moray

# 1 Culbin

No ordinary forest



Hill 99 Viewpoint Tower

Culbin offers visitors an unforgettable experience. Cycle, walk or ride the extensive woodland trails, watch wading birds at the Gut mudflats and enjoy the fabulous beach by Buckie Loch.

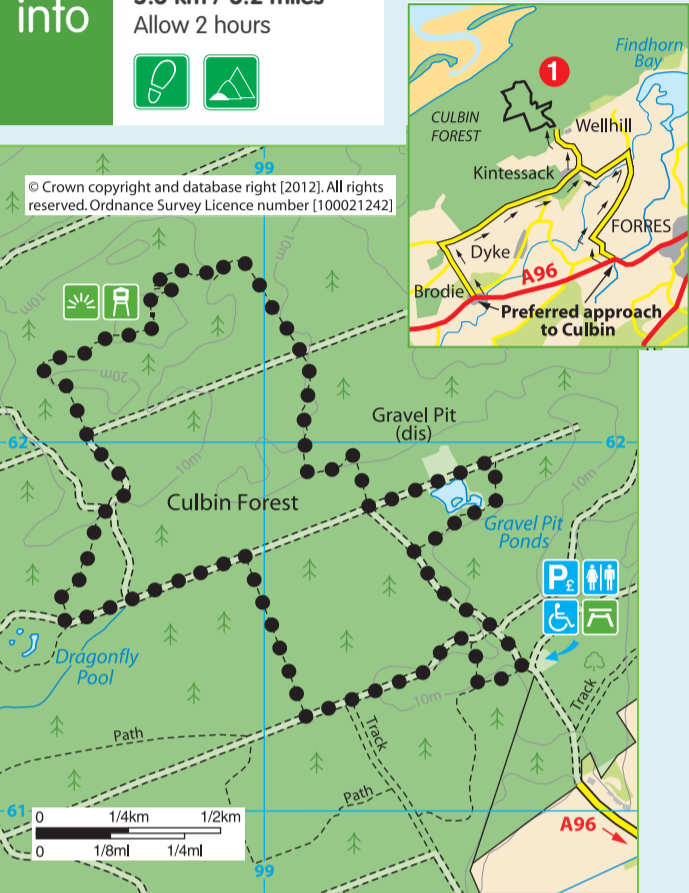
The Hill 99 Viewpoint Trail is ideal for first time visitors. Stroll through the forest and mossy glades to reach the Viewpoint Tower and its breathtaking 'squirrel's-eye' views over waving treetops.

A dynamic landscape, the coast is always shifting and reforming. Who knows what you'll see next time you visit? Pick up our Culbin leaflet for full details, or visit [www.culbin.org.uk](http://www.culbin.org.uk)



**Trail info**

- Hill 99 trail
- 5.3 km / 3.2 miles
- Allow 2 hours



**Why not try...** ...lying on your back and gazing up at the sky through the trees?

# 2 Roseisle

Delight them on the beaches



This coastal pinewood has everything for a perfect family day out: a long sandy beach, sheltered woodland trails, play and barbecue equipment, toilets, and a wildlife hide.

In wild weather, the sweet-smelling pinewoods are a great place for a sheltered walk or cycle. Planted in the 1930s, these woods are now teeming with life. Don't miss the wildlife hide, where you can watch a range of woodland birds feeding up close.

Stretch your legs along the beach, and keep an eye open for seals bobbing in the bay. You'll come across concrete blocks along the shoreline: part of Britain's defences in the Second World War. Today, many of the blocks have moved from their original position, thanks to the shifting sands, but they're still excellent defence against the wind!



Play equipment near the car park

**Trail info**

- 1.9 km / 1.3 miles
- Allow 30 minutes
- 3.8 km / 2.6 miles
- Allow 1 hour
- 2.5 km / 1.6 miles
- Allow 40 minutes

You can continue on from the green trail to link through to Burghead and College of Roseisle. These trails are managed by Burghead Footpaths Group. Distances below are for one way.

- Burghead: 2.9 km / 1.8 miles
- College of Roseisle: 2.5 km / 1.5 miles

**Why not try...** ...making a mosaic picture on the beach, using the beautiful round beach pebbles?



# 3 Quarrelwood

Sands of time



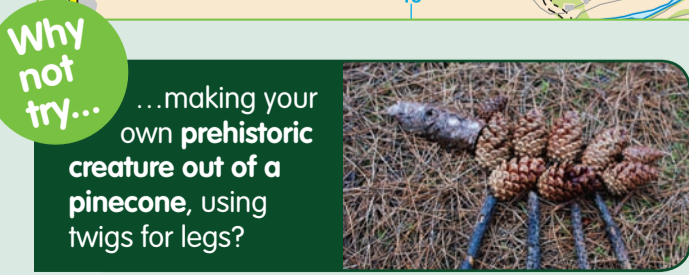
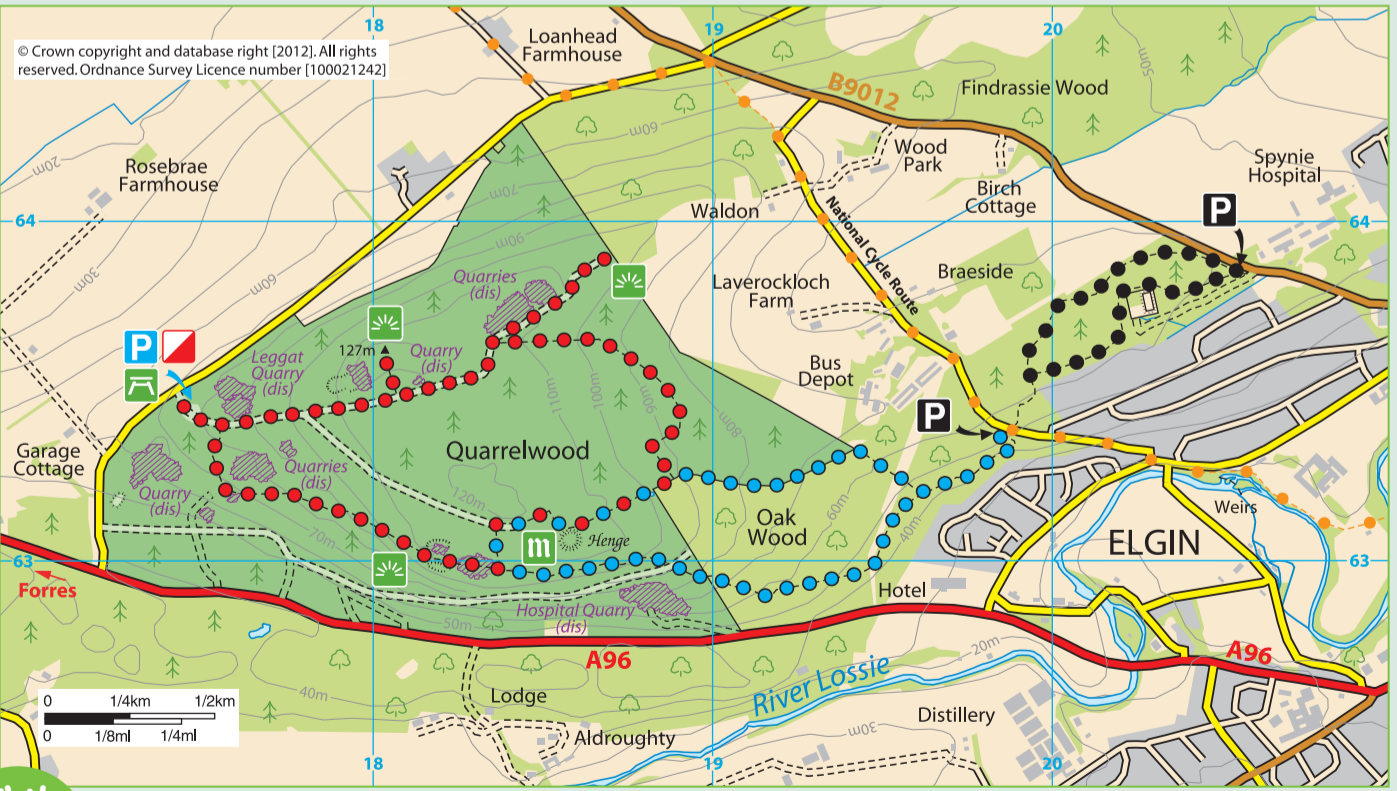
Uncover the secrets of Quarrelwood: an ancient henge, prehistoric reptiles and great views. Explore these and more on trails and informal paths through pines and native oakwood.

As you wander through pine and larch, you'll come across disused sandstone quarries. Remarkable fossils have been found here of reptiles who lived in the desert sands of 250 million years ago, well before the dinosaurs. One creature, Elginia, was about the size of a labrador, with around 40 knobly horns.

The ancient oakwood on the south side of the hill is an easy stroll from Elgin. If you're quiet, you might spot roe deer as well as woodland birds. From here it's not far to the banks and ditches of a 4,000-year-old henge, perhaps used for ceremonies by our ancestors.

**Trail info**

- Elginia trail
- 4 km / 2.5 miles
- Allow 1 hour 30 minutes
- Ancestors trail
- 4 km / 2.5 miles
- Allow 1 hour 30 minutes
- Spynie trail
- 1.6 km / 1 mile
- Allow 30 minutes



**Why not try...** ...making your own prehistoric creature out of a pinecone, using twigs for legs?

Visit Elgin museum [www.elginmuseum.org.uk](http://www.elginmuseum.org.uk) to see the fossils and an axe mould found at the henge.

Model of Elginia



Artist's impression of what the henge would once have looked like

# 4 Torrieston

It's trailtastic!



**Why not try...** ...playing a game of 'Poohsticks' on the bridge?

From Torrieston car park, great trails invite you to explore this peaceful mixed woodland.

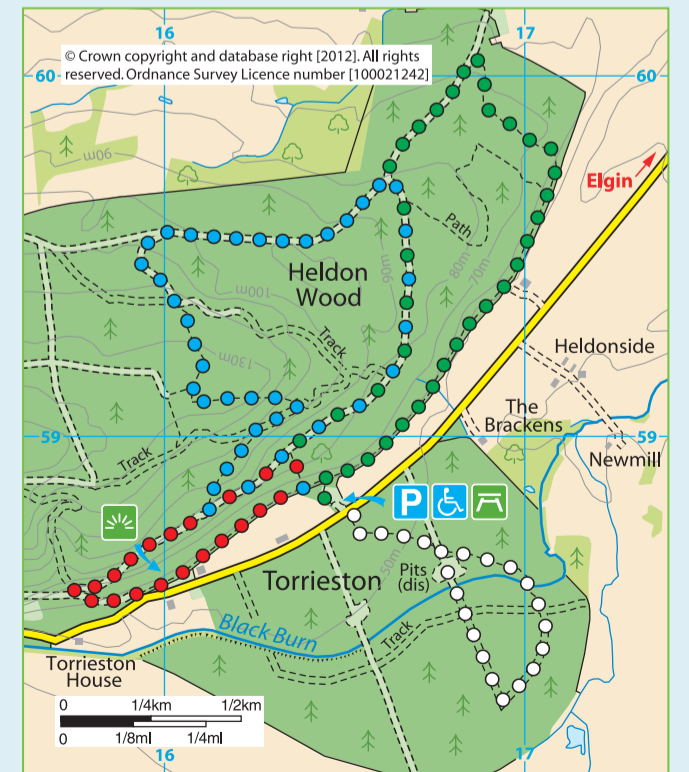
The giant Douglas firs here were among the first trees to be planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1920s and today are more than 40 metres tall. Keep an eye out for daredevil red squirrels darting down these tree trunks head-first!

Over the road, the gentle all-abilities trail is a lovely loop for the whole family, through open pinewoods with picnic tables and benches. Linger by the Black Burn where salmon and otters have been seen in the treacle-black waters.

If there's a whiff of the tropics in the air, then you'll soon see the coconut-scented yellow flowers of gorse, also known as whin. The old saying goes: 'Kissing's in season when gorse is in bloom'. As gorse flowers all year round, it's time to get lucky!

**Trail info**

- 1.6 km / 1 mile
- Allow 40 minutes
- 3 km / 1.9 miles
- Allow 1 hour 30 minutes
- 3 km / 1.9 miles
- Allow 1 hour 30 minutes



○○○ 1.6 km / 1 mile

Allow 30 minutes