Welcome to Bennachie

This is a good place to start if you’re exploring Bennachie for the first time. You’ll find the easiest forest trails here as well as the shortest (and steepest) route to Mither Tap, top of the hill. For long walks you can stay here and start your walk towards Scare Hill or circle back towards the visitor centre by Donview.

On a sunny day you might hear birds tapping in the tall pines and spot dragonflies beside the Clachie Burn. If you just want to relax, there are plenty of benches and a picnic area.

Bennachie’s rich heritage is explained in the Visitor Centre, but you can see some of it for yourself in the railed homesteads on the Colby Trail.

Bennachie Visitor Centre
The Visitor Centre is the focus for events and activities. It’s a great place to learn about Bennachie, with useful information on the hill and its trails. It’s also the base for the Bennachie Centre’s Ranger who delivers environmental education and public events at the site.

The main indoor exhibition tells the stories of the people who lived and worked here and how the landscape has changed through the season, so there’s always something new to discover.

There is a Community Room which can be hired for up to 30 people, with capacity for a further 20 and a small kitchen area.

There is a barbeque area.

The heart of the hill

For more information
Tel: 01224 576 4380
Email: enquiries@forestryandland.gov.scot

For information on public transport services contact: Transport Scotland 0810 200 223 or travelinescotland.com

Getting to Bennachie
The Bennachie Visitor Centre is the best place to park if you’re visiting for the first time.

Use #MyFootprints on your social media and we’ll share them on our pages.

Find out more: forestryandland.gov.scot

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Enjoy Scotland’s outdoors responsibly
• take responsibility for your own actions
• respect the interests of other people
• care for the environment.

Bennachie Centre
A gentle wander through the forest. Wildlife rubbing posts are dotted along the trail; collect paper and crease them from the centre.
A smooth firm trail, with short gentle slopes and no obstacles.

Rowantree
A walk to legends to the impressive Pictish hill fort. The Maiden Causeway Trail is named after a local girl who bet the devil that she could bake a batch of oatcakes before he could build a road up Bennachie.
Steep, rough and uneven rocky trail with steep rock steps. Some parts are narrow and can be wet and muddy after rain.

Millstone Hill Trail
Up through beautiful woods to heather hills and superb views from the top of Millstone Hill.
A very steep, rough and rocky trail, with long climbs, large steps and roots. Generally narrow, and has a narrow timber walkway. Can be wet and muddy.

Donview
Includes steps, roots and rocky areas.

Back o’ Bennachie
From a fresh green burst in spring to an autumn blaze of gold, the larick (larch) here provides a different colour for all the seasons.
A moderate to fairly steep trail, with varied surfaces: firm forest roads, rocky and some areas on the summits which may be muddy.

Gordon Way
The Gordon Way starts at the Bennachie Centre and runs for 11.5 miles (18.5km) along the southern side of Bennachie and on to the Suie car park, 3 miles south east of Rhynie. You walk through forests, farmland and open moorland, stout boots are recommended as some sections are muddy.

Trail information
Trail name: The Larick Trail
Description: A grand, adventurous route crosses Bennachie colonists. An easy-going trail winding through attractive open woodland and the ruined houses and fields of the Bennachie colonists.
Suitability: Generally moderate
Surface: Smooth, with some uneven areas.

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