Explore the Forests of Dumfries and the Solway

1 mile / 1.6 km
Allow ½ hour
Birch Trail

A gentle wander through mossy pines, with plenty of places to stop and sit. Look for the granite sculptures.

Wide, firm gravel surface throughout. Some loose stones. Long gentle slopes with some short moderate sections.

1¾ miles / 2.9 km
Allow 1 hour
Plantain Loch Trail

A lovely walk along the tranquil shores of Plantain Loch. Look out for wildlife: red squirrels, grey herons or dragonflies in summer.

Mostly firm gravel surface. Short rough rocky section with exposed tree roots. Several short steep slopes.

1¼ miles / 2.9 km
Allow 1½ hours
Quarry Trail

Discover Dalbeattie’s quarrying heritage at the top of the forest, where oak and beech mingle with the pine trees.

Mostly firm gravel tracks. Rough section with narrow rocky path through trees and some muddy patches. Deep slope to quarries.

If you have enjoyed these walks - why not try more in our Southern Uplands leaflet?

Wildlife

These forests are great for spotting wildlife; home to red squirrels, roe deer, badgers and buzzards. Just sit or stand quietly and you’ll soon see or hear something of the life amongst the trees, from insects to birds and mammals.

As the forests mature and become more diverse, more niches for wildlife open up. We’re also working to help more vulnerable species such as the pearl-bordered fritillary and nightjar.

Forestry and Land Scotland

For more information
Tel: 0300 067 6900
Email: enquiries.south@forestryandland.gov.scot
Use #FoundMyForest on your pictures and videos, and we’ll share them on social media.

Dumfries and Galloway Forest Park is also fairly close by, with some spectacular scenery and lots to do. for forestryandland.gov.scot/gallowayfp

For information on public transport services contact: Traveline Scotland, 0871 2002233 or www.travelinescotland.com
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Mabie Forest

Mabie is buzzing with nature, tree-mendous trails and brilliant 7stanes biking! There is open space to play and picnic with lots of trails and spectacular views. Mabie is one of the richest sites in Scotland for butterflies, some of which are very rare. Refreshments are available at Mabie House Hotel.

1 Mabie Forest

2 The Hills

This quiet woodland on the edge of Mabie Forest is being managed to encourage the trees to regenerate naturally. We’re helping native plants to re-establish and encouraging birds like pied flycatchers and owls to nest amongst the young trees.

3 Doach Wood

Big trees, big view! The old Douglas firs here are a great sight: they are some of the tallest trees in south-west Scotland.

- Douglas Trail
  - Walk beneath towering Douglas firs before climbing to a breathtaking viewpoint on Gaigrie Hill. The view of the Solway Coast is your reward.
  - Sections of uneven gravel and earth path with exposed tree roots. Some long steep slopes.
  - 4½ miles / 7.2 km
  - Allow 3½ hours
  - 2½ miles / 4.0 km
  - Allow 1¼ hours