Trail Grades

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

- Easy-going (muscle-loosener)
- Moderate-going (muscle-stretcher)
- Demanding (muscle-builder)

Sensible footwear

Spreading up the valley side from Moffat Water. The walk climbs up to a viewpoint where vistas unfold towards the town of Moffat, famous for its wool and toffee. A small car park and picnic area can be found at the start of the walks, on the A708 Moffat to Selkirk road, approximately 3 miles from Moffat.

The name Ae can be found in the Guinness Book of Records as the smallest place name in Britain. The forest, however, is one of the largest in Britain, at over 10,000 hectares! Large quantities of timber are harvested every year for use in our everyday lives, from paper to house building. As a sustainable grower, Forestry Commission Scotland also plants new trees to supply future generations.

Main Map

1. Bessie's Hill
2. Craigieburn Forest
3. Forest of Ae
4. Craigieburn Forest
5. Craik Forest

Enjoying an Autumn walk

Riverside walk in the Forest of Ae

“I'm sure it's this way Mum!”

Taking care when out and about

Please remember that the weather on the hills and mountains can change very quickly. Even in summer, conditions on the tops of mountains are often much colder and windier than at the low levels, despite clear skies.

After leaving the A701, travel for 2 miles until you arrive in Ae village, built by the Forestry Commission in 1947 to house forest workers. A right turn at the crossroads will take you to the start of the '7stanes' cycle trails, walkers should carry on for another 1/2 mile out of the village and take the right turn for the Valley. Follow this track for another mile to reach a car park and the start of the walks. The Riverside walk offers a gentle, level circuit that passes under towering Norway spruce trees and follows the Water of Ae, where dippers and herons are a common sight. If you venture onto the longer Green Hill walk, you'll be rewarded with one of the best views in the area, looking out over farm land, past Dumfries, and on to the Solway Estuary in the distance.

Please note that there are no way markers over the hill fort itself due to its importance.
Clinging to the slopes of heather clad hills, and flanking the sides of tumbling streams, the forests of the Southern Uplands recreate the natural barrier between England and Scotland. Remains of hill forts and cairns are a reminder of turbulent times in the area, but today, these once peaceful lands offer exhilarating walks for the more adventurous.

Forestry Commission Scotland always considers the needs of wildlife during forest management and is actively committed to conservation work for vulnerable species. The Forest of Ae, and the forests around Eskdalemuir are regarded nationally as priority woodlands for red squirrel conservation.

Forestry Commission Scotland welcomes walkers, cyclists and horse riders onto its land and provides many waymarked routes for these activities. Waymarked routes in the forests of the Southern Uplands are described in this leaflet. A supporting Forest Park, ‘The Forests of the Solway Coast’ is also available, which information on forest walks around Dumfries, Dalbeattie and Castle Douglas. This is available from the Forestry Commission offices and from the Tourist Information Centres.

Looking for something extra to do during your visit to the forest? Then why not pick up our Events leaflet at any local Tourist Information Centre or from the Forestry Commission offices at Ae and Mabie (see back page), as well as local cycle shops. Alternatively, check out www.7stanes.gov.uk.

**What to See and Do**

As you climb the path, it may come as a surprise to know that you are actually walking on the bottom of an ocean! The rocks that form the hills beneath your feet were once at the edges of these forests are prime habitat for the black grouse.

Remains of hill forts and cairns are a reminder of turbulent times in the area, but today, these once peaceful lands offer exhilarating walks for the more adventurous.

The Forest of Ae, and the forests around Eskdalemuir are regarded nationally as priority woodlands for red squirrel conservation.

Looking for something extra to do during your visit to the forest? Then why not pick up our Events leaflet at any local Tourist Information Centre or from the Forestry Commission offices at Ae and Mabie (see back page), as well as local cycle shops. Alternatively, check out www.7stanes.gov.uk.

**What to See and Do**

As you climb the path, it may come as a surprise to know that you are actually walking on the bottom of an ocean! The rocks that form the hills beneath your feet were once.

Looking for something extra to do during your visit to the forest? Then why not pick up our Events leaflet at any local Tourist Information Centre or from the Forestry Commission offices at Ae and Mabie (see back page), as well as local cycle shops. Alternatively, check out www.7stanes.gov.uk.

**What to See and Do**

As you climb the path, it may come as a surprise to know that you are actually walking on the bottom of an ocean! The rocks that form the hills beneath your feet were once.