4: Quarry Wood

Explore Quarry Wood on the network of paths through pines, larch and native oakwood.

As you wander through the woods, you’ll come across disused sandstone quarries. Remarkable fossils have been found here of reptiles which lived in the desert sands 230 million years ago, well before the dinosaurs. One creature, named Elginia mirabilis, was about the size of a Labrador but armed with protective spines. You can see some of the fossils in Elgin museum, where you can also discover the rich human history of the area.

The ancient oakwood on the east side of the hill is an easy stroll from Elgin. If you’re quiet, you might spot one deer as well as a variety of woodland birds. In springtime, listen out for the distinctive ‘drumming’ of great spotted woodpeckers as they declare their territory.

There is also an orienteering course in Quarry Wood. Maps are available to download from our website.

Elginia Trail

Follow in the footsteps of a remarkable reptile, whose ancient fossils have been found in the sandstone quarries here.

Firm but uneven earthy and grassy surface. Many exposed tree roots and some slightly muddy sections. Fairly steep slopes. Includes a narrow opening.

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

5: Torrieston

From Torrieston car park, head out on the trails to explore the peaceful woodland on either side of the road.

Just across 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 eels have been seen in the trickle black waters. If there’s a whirl of the trops in the air, then you’ll soon see the coconut-scented yellow flowers of gorse, also known as whin.

The giant Douglas firs in the woods here were among the first trees to be planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1920s. Today they tower at over 40 metres high. Keep an eye out for darened red squirrels darting down the tree trunks head first!

Black Burn Trail

A gentle wander through open pinewoods to the Black Burn. Plenty of places to rest and picnic.

Wide, firm and smooth gravel surface throughout. Generally flat with some short moderate slopes. Some parts may be slightly muddy. Includes a quiet road crossing and bridge 1.2m wide.

Douglas Fir Avenue Trail

A perfect combination of beech wood, pine forest and elegant Douglas firs, with some great views across the Moray countryside.

Uneven gravel and earth surface with exposed tree roots. Some fairly steep slopes and steps. Parts may occasionally be muddy.

Gentle trails for all the family

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.

Discover & enjoy... the forests of Moray

Explore the miles of waymarked trails or head off for your own adventure. The wider forest tracks are perfect for gentle cycling or horse riding, Mountain bikers, get your kicks on the fabulous Monster Trails.

The woods are great for families too, beach and play equipment at Roseisle, the awesome tower viewpoint at Culbin, and gentle walking at Torrieston. If it’s peaceful and quiet you’re after, it’s easy to find a tranquil spot away from it all.

Don’t knock the bins!

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

For more ideas of great days out in the forest, visit our website: www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Visit www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland/lossie to find out more about them.

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1. **Culbin**

**No ordinary forest**

Stretching from Nairn to Findhorn Bay, Culbin is a big forest. It's a fantastic place to explore, using the extensive network of gravel tracks.

The Hill 99 Trail at Wellhill car park is ideal for first time visitors. Stroll through the forest and gatsby glades to reach the viewpoint tower with its breath-taking views over waving trees tops to the coast. The shorter and gentler Gravel Pit Pond Trail offers an even easier introduction to Culbin.

Culbin has fascinating wildlife and an even more fascinating history to discover. Pick up our Culbin leaflet or visit [www.culbin.org.uk](http://www.culbin.org.uk) for the full story.

**Gravel Pit Ponds Trail**

A gentle wander through pretty pine and birch woodland, and around the Gravel Pit Ponds.

- **1 mile / 1.6 km**
- **Allow 1 hr**

**Hill 99 Trail**

Wind through the pine-covered sand dunes to the viewing tower on Hill 99 for a 'squint's eye' view over the forest and across the Moray Firth.

- **3 ½ miles / 5.7 km**
- **Allow 2 hrs**

**Winding Walks**

Wander the Winding Walks, a forest trail or test yourself on the Moray Monster mountain bike routes.

The Sweet-smelling pinewoods here are a great place for a sheltered walk or cycle. Planted in the 1930s, these woods are now learning with life. Look out for red squirrels and distinctive crested tits.

**Secret Loch Way**

Wander through the pinewoods to find secluded Longhowe Loch, a former curding pond that is a great place to picnic.

- **1 ¾ miles / 3 km**
- **Allow 1 hr**

**Monument Trail**

Climb through the forest to the noble cairn erected on the shore to a grassy knoll beside the Bessie Burn with spectacular views to sea. See if you can spot the old ice house along the trail.

**Ice House Trail**

This short path leads you through the forest just in from the shore to a grassy knoll beside the Bessie Burn with spectacular views to sea. See if you can spot the old ice house along the trail.

- **1 ½ miles / 2 km**
- **Allow ¾ hr**

**Millie Bothy Trail**

A stroll through this lovely coastal pine forest, taking in an old fisherman’s bothy and the sparkling Finkle Burn.

- **1 ½ miles / 2.5 km**
- **Allow 1 ½ hrs**

**Wildlife Trail**

A great circuit that takes in forest and foreshore, with a chance to spot seals, red squirrels and woodland birds.

- **2 ¾ miles / 4.2 km**
- ** Allow 1 ½ hrs**

**Peeps View Trail**

A short loop through the forest to the gazabo tucked among the pines at Peeps Viewpoint. Enjoy impressive views over Findhorn Bay and Strath Spey.

- **1 ½ miles / 2.3 kms**
- **Allow 1 hr**

**Small Burn Loop**

Skirt around the towering firs, pines and cypress of the 19th century woodland garden along Small Burn.

- **1 ½ mile / 2.4 kms**
- **Allow 1 hr**

**Sgraffito Trail**

A gentle walk through the garden planted in the 19th century by the Duke and Duchess of Gordon. This woodland was once part of their estate, connecting to Gordon Castle. At the top of Whiteash Hill there is a monument in memory of the Duchess – and a great view too. A little way down the hill, Ronald’s Grave marks the spot where a rather less fortunate local lived and died.

- **½ mile / 0.8 km**
- **Allow ¼ hr**

**Getting there**

Time to travel: 45 mins

**Local bus services**

- [Route 72](http://www.traveline.scot/)

**Ways to unwind**

- Restrooms
- Coffee shop
- Information centre
- Play equipment
- Simple barbecue facilities
- Accessible toilets.

*the toilets are open from the start of April to the end of October

**What to see and do**

- Whiteash Hill in memory of the Duchess of Richmond.
- Wind through the pine-covered sand dunes to the viewing tower on Hill 99 for a ‘squint’s eye’ view over the forest and across the Moray Firth.
- Duke and Duchess of Gordon Original Winding Walks, laid out in the 19th century by the Gordon Castle Estate.
- There are wonderful views across the Moray Firth from the forest and across the Moray Firth.
- There are wonderful views across the Moray Firth.
- Spot where a rather less fortunate local lived and died.
- Monument Trail:
  - Climbing through the forest to the noble cairn erected on the shore to a grassy knoll beside the Bessie Burn with spectacular views to sea.
  - See if you can spot the old ice house along the trail.

**Ice House Trail**

- This short path leads you through the forest just in from the shore to a grassy knoll beside the Bessie Burn with spectacular views to sea. See if you can spot the old ice house along the trail.
- Dune through the forest to the noble cairn erected on the shore to a grassy knoll beside the Bessie Burn with spectacular views to sea.

**Millie Bothy Trail**

- A stroll through this lovely coastal pine forest, taking in an old fisherman’s bothy and the sparkling Finkle Burn.

**Wildlife Trail**

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