Explore the Forests of Dumfries and the Solway

Discover the Forests your way...

**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.

The routes described in this guide are mainly for walking. For our ‘7stanes’ mountain bike routes in Mabie and Dalbeattie Forests, visit: forestryandland.gov.scot/7stanes

For forest walks around Ae, Moffat, Lockerbie and Thornhill, download the ‘Forests of the Southern Uplands’ leaflet from: forestryandland.gov.scot

Galloway Forest Park is also fairly close by, with some spectacular views and golf in the Solway Forests, just an hour’s drive or a short ferry ride away.

For more information:

Tel: 0300 067 6900
Email: enquiries.south@forestryandland.gov.scot

Find out more: forestryandland.gov.scot

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

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**Dalbeattie Forest**

It’s the granite that makes it great! The granite rock foundation of Dalbeattie forest is grippy stuff. It’s being used across the globe, from the cobbled streets of London to a lighthouse in Sri Lanka. A great place to walk and there’s an adventure play area at the Town Wood entrance. The mountain bike trails start from the 7stanes car park along the road.

**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.

1 mile / 1.6 km
Allow ½ 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.

1¾ miles / 2.9 km
Allow 1 hour

**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. Steep slope to quarries.

2½ miles / 3.7 km
Allow 1½ hours
1. **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.

- **Orchard Trail**
  - A beautiful stroll beneath the redwoods and giant sequoia along the burn to reach the tranquil sensory garden and wildlife sculptures in Garden Wood.
  - Wide, firm surface throughout. Includes a number of short moderate slopes.
  - 1 ½ miles / 2.1 km
  - Allow 1 ½ hours

- **Chinney Field**
  - A picturesque circuit of Chinney Field, which is filled with wild flowers in the summer and has good views across the Nith Estuary.
  - Wide, firm gravel surface throughout with some loose stones. Long moderate slopes with short steeper sections. One bridge.
  - 1 mile / 1.6 km
  - Allow ¾ hour

- **Lochabber Trail**
  - A wonderfully varied exploration of Dalshinnie Loch nature reserve and the two hills above. There are extensive views of Criffel and the Solway Firth from both Marthrown and Craigbill Hills.
  - Mostly wide, firm gravel surface with some uneven sections and exposed tree roots. Includes some steep slopes and a number of short flights of steps.
  - 5 miles / 8.1 km
  - Allow 3½ hours

- **Lochabber Glen**
  - Take a wander through the Stately Douglas Firs to find the relaxing tranquil Dalshinnie Loch.
  - Wide, firm gravel surface with some uneven sections and exposed tree roots. Moderate slopes with some steep sections.
  - 2½ miles / 4.0 km
  - Allow 1¼ hours

- **Nith View**
  - Explore this quiet larch and beech dominated part of the forest for ever-changing views over the Nith Estuary and the rolling Galloway hills.
  - Mostly wide, firm gravel surface with some uneven sections and exposed tree roots. One short rough rocky section.
  - Includes some steep slopes and a number of short flights of steps.
  - 4½ miles / 7.2 km
  - Allow 3½ hours

- **Chinney Field**
  - Wide, firm gravel surface throughout with some loose stones. Long moderate slopes with short steeper sections. One bridge.
  - 1½ miles / 2.1 km
  - Allow ¾ hour

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 younger trees.

- **Flycatcher Walk**
  - Explore this lovely ash and oak woodland, home to the long-eared owl and the pied flycatcher. Follow the line of the former railway near the striking Goldielea Viaduct.
  - Loose gravel track with some uneven sections. One steep slope.
  - 1 mile / 1.6 km
  - Allow ¾ hour

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.
  - 1½ miles / 2.7 km
  - Allow 1½ hours

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**Key to Maps**

- Forestry and Land Scotland
- Woodland
- Other Woodland
- Main road
- Secondary road
- Minor road
- Footpath
- Forest trail (colour waymarked)
- Start of forest trails (detailed on trail maps)
- Other points of interest

- Parking
- Parking (charge)
- Parking (easy access)
- Easy access facilities
- Toilets
- Information
- Picnic area
- Playground
- Viewpoint
- Mountainbiking
- Cafe (not FLS)

**Enjoy Scotland’s outdoors responsibly**

- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Respect the interests of other people
- Care for the environment

**Know the code before you go**

[Visit the Forestry and Land Scotland website](https://www.forestryandland.gov.scot)

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**Sadly we are having to fell a lot of larch trees in Mabie because they’re infected by the tree disease Phytophthora ramorum and are dying. This may look harsh but new trees will soon be growing in their place. Do ask us if you’d like to know more.**