



Pitfichie

Mountain bike trails

Facilities



Parking



Trails



Mountain biking



Viewpoint



Ancient monument

There are public toilets in Alford, and places to eat in either Monymusk or Alford.

Location

Nearest postcode: AB51 7SS

How to get here:

The entrance to Pitfichie forest is on the north side of the B993 between Monymusk and Tillyfourie. Look for the turn-off signed for 'Pitfichie Forest cycle trails'.

Off-road cycling is a hazardous activity carrying some inherent risks. Please consider your skills, abilities and fitness carefully, and always make sure your bike and helmet are safe to use.



Cycle route grading - Is this for you? Find the right grade for your abilities

Green: Easy ●

Expect: Relatively flat, wide and smooth trails. Gentle climbs, descents, rollers and berms, with easy to avoid features such as rocks and potholes. Surface might be loose, uneven or muddy at times.

Blue: Moderate ■

Expect: A mixture of climbs and descents with moderate gradients, technical features like tree roots and rock steps; jumps and berms. Rollable features at controlled speed. Variable surfaces.

Red: Difficult ▲

Expect: A mixture of steep climbs, descents and/or avoidable features. Larger jumps, berms and rollable features at controlled speed. Technical features such as tree roots, drop-offs and large rocks. Very variable surfaces.

Black: Severe ◆

Expect: Long and steep climbs, descents and jumps. Numerous hazards including drop-offs and severe features. Rapid rate of surface change. Commitment required.

Double-black: Extreme ◆◆

Expect: Very fast and steep descents. Large drop-offs, jumps and unavoidable obstacles that require high levels of skill and commitment. Extreme level of exposure or risk. Rapid rate of surface change.

Forest road & tracks

Expect: Gradients can be steep or variable. Surfaces may be uneven, loose or potholed. Navigation skills are useful (routes not always waymarked). Look out for other users, vehicles and forestry work.



Granite Top Trail

 **Red: Difficult | 4 miles | 6.4km**

Fast singletrack with some great natural rock features, suitable for good mountain bikers. Branching off the Cairn William Trail, you're soon tackling a challenging climb with some rocky obstacles. From the top of the hill there's a superb panorama over the surrounding countryside: a perfect place for a breather on a summer's evening.

After that you'll need to tread carefully on The Devil's Staircase – a lively technical descent with some tight switchbacks and a few small drops. Then you can drop back down to the Cairn William Trail, or head up and over Pitfichie Hill to find the Downhill Trail. Remember to ride only in the direction of the arrows, from west to east. The trail branches off the Cairn William Trail near the King's Stane. Watch for marker post number 16.

Pitfichie Downhill Trail

 **Black: Severe | 1 mile | 1.6km**

Championship-grade downhill action. The Scottish Downhill Association have often run their Championship Series here – and it's easy to see why. First up, there's a fast section over granite slabs and jumps, then an awesome drop and a plunge through the forest on a rough trail of roots and rocks. The lower section's a bit smoother, with more drops and a big step near the finish. Two hundred metres of descent, adrenaline pumping all the way! It's a long climb to get back to the start, but well worth it.

The trail is recommended for expert downhill mountain bikers only, with a high quality downhill machine. It would be dangerous for walkers or horse riders to use it. The Downhill Trail starts from the summit of Pitfichie Hill. Follow the Cairn William and Granite Top Trails to get there.

Multiuser trail from car park



Cairn William Trail ○○○

A long circuit around the foot of Cairn William, passing Whitehills Stone Circle and providing great views of Bennachie and the Vale of Alford. Suitable on foot, bike or horseback.

Long steep slopes. Mostly wide and firm gravel surface, with some grassy sections. Includes exposed tree roots and muddy sections.



11½ miles / 18.6 km
Allow
7½ hours

Find the
map for these
trails on the
next page



Map of Pitfichie forest

