

Main Map 2 Dalbeattie Forest

- Easy Access Trail 1 mile 45mins
- Plantain Loch Trail 1¾ miles 1 hr 15mins
- Richorn Trail ¾ mile 30mins
- Quarry Trail 2¾ miles 1 hr 45mins



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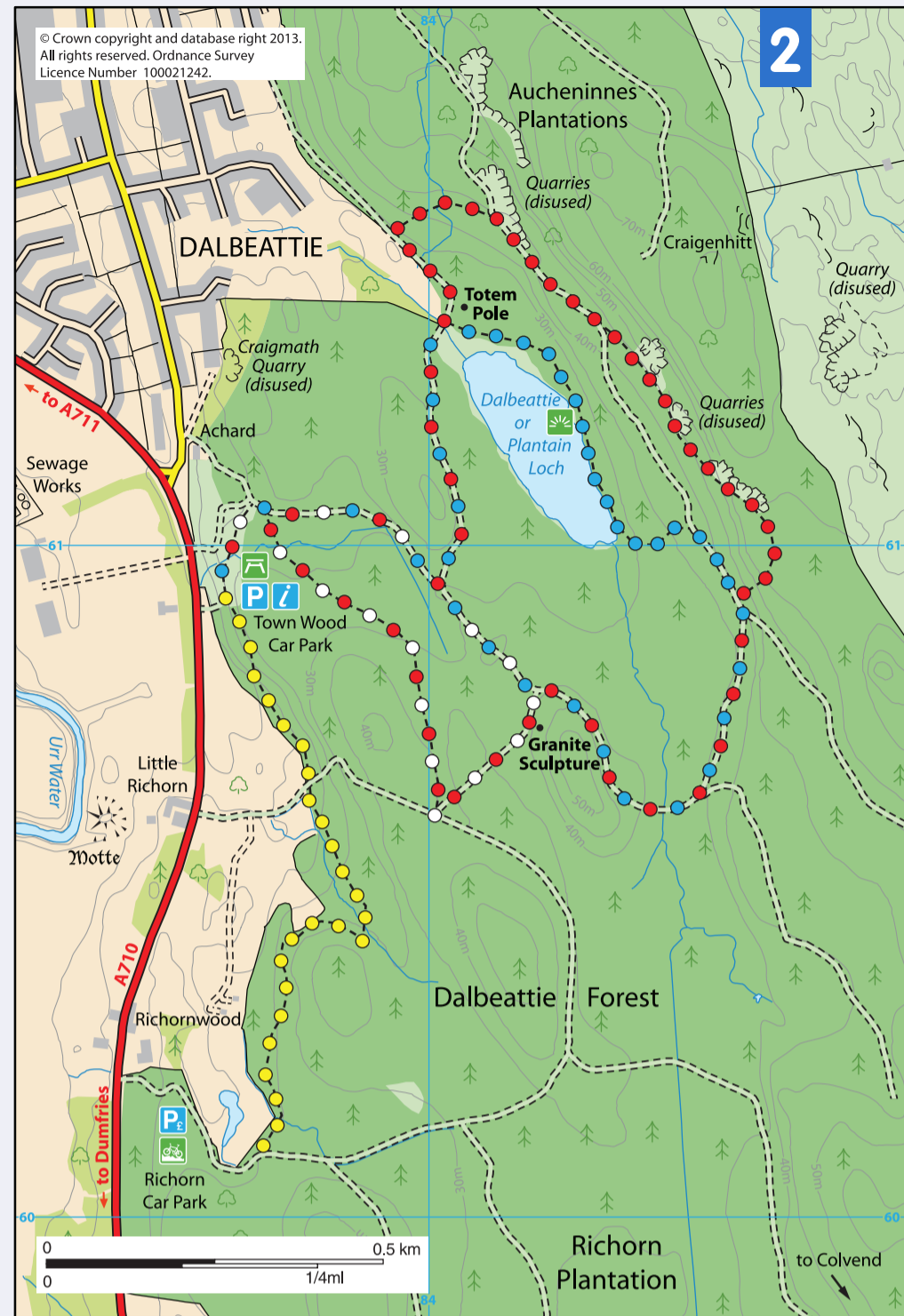
The northern end of Dalbeattie Forest is known as the Town Wood due to its position on the edge of Dalbeattie town and is a popular amenity with the locals and visitors. Originally an area of rough grazing and granite outcrops, the forest was planted from the 1920's, and now extends 6 miles south to the village of Colvend. The walks start from the Town Wood car park (the first Forestry Commission car park as you head south out of Dalbeattie on the A710) and offer a choice of distances and difficulty. From the Easy Access Trail that visits a unique granite sculpture and then you can reach the Plantain Loch along another trail. As you walk round you will see a number of disused quarries that were once worked by local families. Now quarried on a larger scale elsewhere, Dalbeattie granite is reputed to be one of the hardest stones available and has been used in construction around the world most notably in the Eddystone Lighthouse, the Mersey Docks in Liverpool and the Thames Embankment in London.



Dalbeattie Main Street ©www.scottishviewpoint.com



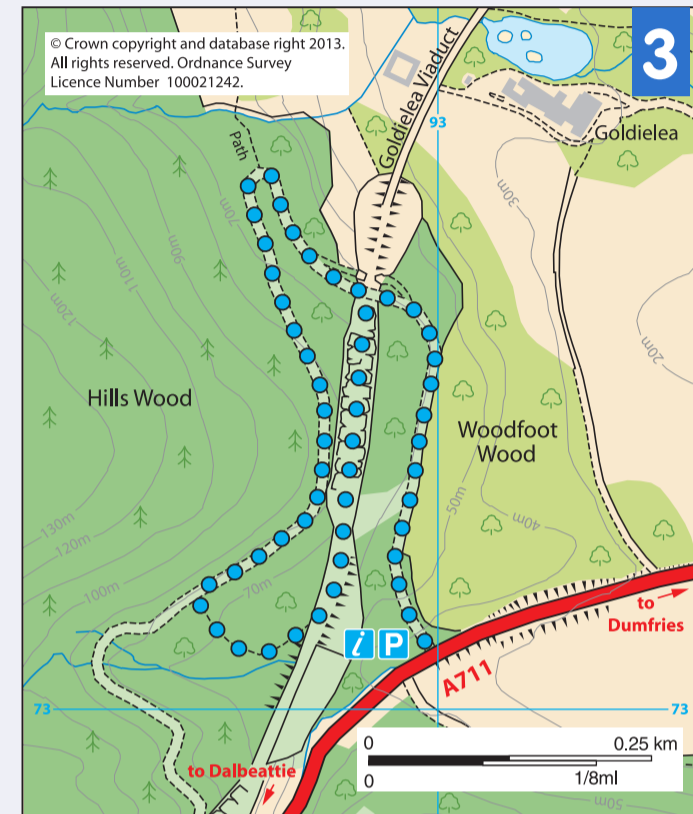
Sculpture in Dalbeattie Forest



Main Map 3 The Hills

- Flycatcher Trail 1.5 miles 1hour

This lowland mixed deciduous wood on the edge of Mabie Forest is being managed by Forestry Commission Scotland to encourage natural regeneration. This approach ensures that the wood develops as naturally as possible, improving the opportunities for native plants and animals such as pied flycatchers and owls. The walk provides an excellent way to explore this beautiful wood. Part of the route follows an old railway line that once linked Dumfries and Stranraer, it now provides a sheltered haven for wildlife including ferns and lizards. The trail starts from the car park, which is signposted off the A711 Dumfries to Dalbeattie road.



Take Care - When out and about

Whilst enjoying the walks, please remember that you are in a working forest. Ongoing management such as tree felling and road maintenance ensures that the forests remain diverse and continue to supply timber for use in our everyday lives. Please look out for signs that will inform you of any safety issues and make responsible decisions based on the information. Diversions will be provided wherever possible.



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
SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE outdooraccess-scotland.com

Main Map 4 Doach Wood

- Douglas Trail 1¾ miles 1hr 25mins

Dominated by some of the tallest trees in southwest Scotland, soaring to 40 metres above the woodland floor, this short walk climbs steeply to a stunning viewpoint. The breathtaking panorama out to the Solway Coast makes the hard work worthwhile! By far the largest trees in the wood are the Douglas firs. This species of tree was discovered by the Scottish colonist Archibald Menzies on the west coast of North America in 1791, but named after another Scot, David Douglas, who sent seed to Britain in 1825. The forest car park is situated off the B736, west of Palnackie.



View from Doach Wood



Main Map 5 Mark Hill

- The Muckle 1¾ miles 1hr 20mins (including the Jubilee path)

Park in Rockcliffe and follow the track past the Baron's Craig Hotel up to the forest and the start of the walk. The trail starts with an easy stroll using the forest roads, before leading into the trees along a footpath which opens out on top of Mark Hill. Take in the views across the bay and the hills beyond from Muckle before descending onto the National Trust for Scotland's Jubilee Path, which returns to Rockcliffe.



Plantain Loch



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

Easy Sensible footwear	Moderate Waterproof footwear	Strenuous Hillwalking boots
Easy-going (Muscle-loosener)	Moderate-going (Muscle-stretcher)	Demanding (Muscle-builder)

Key to Maps

Forestry Commission land	Parking
Forestry Commission woodland	Charged parking
Other woodland	Less-abled parking
Main road	Less-abled facilities
Secondary road	Toilets
Minor road	Information
Road/track	Picnic area
Footpath	Playground
Forest trails (colour waymarked)	Viewpoint
Start of Forest Trails (detailed on trail maps)	Mountainbiking
Other walk areas	Cafe (not FC)

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.

The Forests of the Solway Coast

The forests of the Solway Coast cloak the coastal plains and rolling hills stretching out from the bustling market town of Dumfries. Providing a backdrop to quiet villages and secluded bays, the forests await visitors both new and old, in search of inspiring walks and spectacular views.

Forestry Commission Scotland welcomes walkers, cyclists and horse riders onto its land and provides many waymarked routes for these activities. Walking routes in the forests around the Solway Coast are described in this leaflet. Information on the '7stanes' cycle routes at Mabie Forest and Dalbeattie Forest is available from www.7stanesmountainbiking.com



What to See and Do

Dumfries and Galloway is a haven for wildlife. Migratory barnacle geese arrive in their thousands from arctic Norway and spend the winter grazing the coastal saltmarshes, whilst golden eagles soar above the craggy hills. The sprawling woods and forests are home for many of the area's plants and animals, including red squirrels, roe deer, badgers and buzzards. Forestry Commission Scotland always considers the needs of wildlife during forest management and is actively committed to conservation work for vulnerable species such as the pearl-bordered fritillary and nightjar.

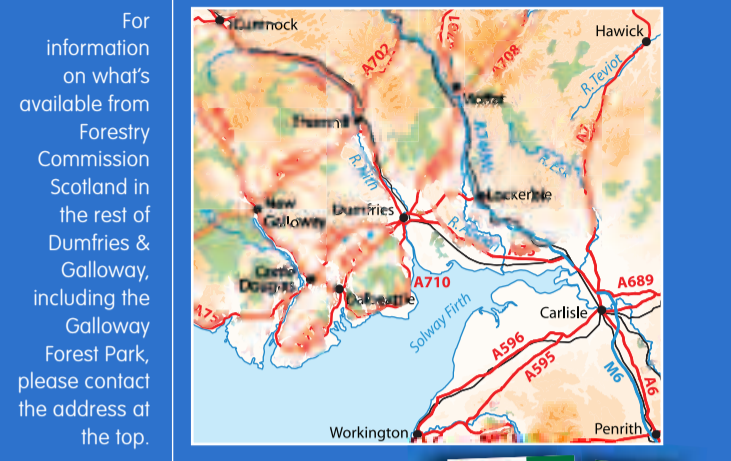


Looking for something extra to do during your visit to the forest? Then why not pick up our Events leaflet at any local Tourist Information Centre or from the Forestry Offices at Ae and Mabie (see back page). Smaller, local events will be advertised on the notice boards in the forest during peak periods.

A supporting leaflet, 'The Forests of the Southern Uplands' is also available, with information on forest walks around Ae, Moffat, Lockerbie and Thornhill, available from the Ae Forest Offices (address - see back page).



Contact 1 Forestry Commission Scotland
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E-mail: dumfries&borders@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Web: www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland



For information on what's available from Forestry Commission Scotland in the rest of Dumfries & Galloway, including the Galloway Forest Park, please contact the address at the top.

For more trails in the area - look out for: The Forests of the Southern Uplands and also the Tweed Valley Forest Park leaflets

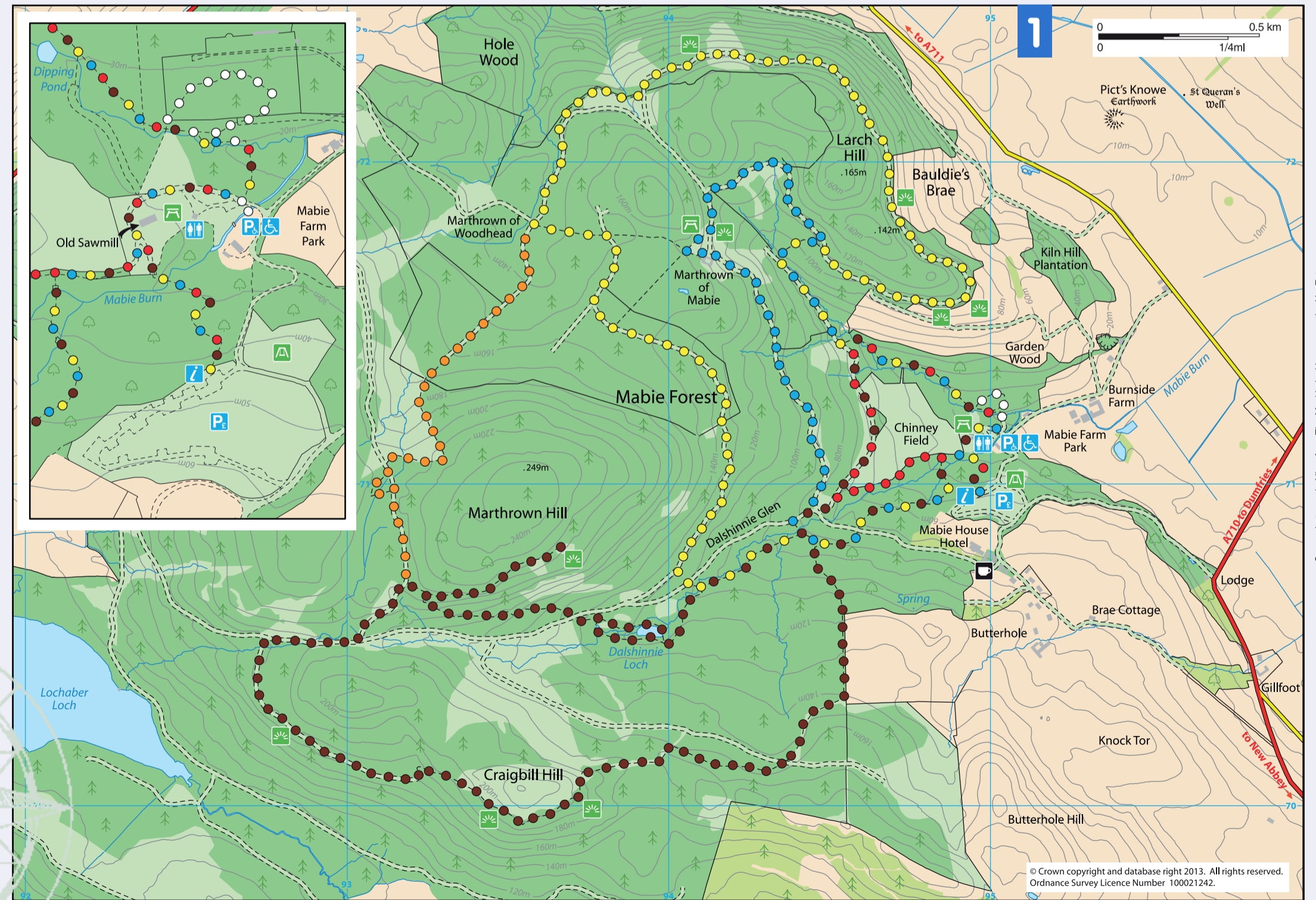
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Main Map 1 Mabie Forest

- All Abilities Trail 1/3 mile 20mins
- Chinney Field Trail 1 1/2 miles 1hr 10mins
- Dalshinnie Glen Trail 3 miles 2hours
- Lochaber Trail 5 1/4 miles 3hrs 15mins
- Nith View Trail 4 1/2 miles 3hours
- Marthrown Hill Trail 1 miles 45mins

The Forestry Commission bought Mabie Forest in 1943, though forestry has been an important part of life here since 1800. Today, it is one of the most popular destinations in the area for outdoor recreation and offers something for everyone from world-class mountain bike trails to quiet picnic areas and stunning viewpoints. All of the walks start from the main car park and cross the Mabie Burn towards the Old Sawmill where picnic areas, a woodland pond and toilets can be found. The All Abilities Trail is a short, easy going introduction to the forest, passing through the old policy woods of Mabie House and visiting a community sensory garden. A little further along the Chinney Field Trail a woodland pond can be found with access back to the Old Sawmill. For the more adventurous, a number of longer walks meander through the forest, such as the Lochaber Trail which takes in a variety of natural habitats that are actively managed for wildlife such as nightjars, butterflies and dragonflies. For young families a play area nestles amongst the trees next to the car park and offers safe fun for the children. Refreshments are available from The Shed café, opening times vary throughout the year. Mabie Forest sits 4 miles south of Dumfries off the A710.



Cover photograph: View from The Muckle looking across the Urr Estuary

