

Glen Doll – a place to walk, climb and relax

Why not take a walk along one of the six marked trails that lead from the car park. On the Corrie Fee Trail you'll find signal posts that tell you what to look out for.



There's something for everyone to enjoy at Glen Doll.

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The glen's great for bird watching, while climbers relish the challenge of tackling the craggy valley sides.

Mountain bikers, horse riders and cross-country skiers are all welcome on the forest trails.

The Ranger Base is manned most days to help you get the best out of your visit. The rangers also run a regular series of special events, which you can book in advance.

For details visit:
www.angus.gov.uk/leisure/rangerservice.htm

Wild camping is allowed in some parts of Glen Doll – please speak to a Ranger about the most suitable sites. Lighting fires is prohibited.



Please remember that the weather can change quickly in the glen and it's important to wear suitable clothing and footwear if attempting a longer walk. The Rangers also operate a route card system for your safety.

Getting to Glen Doll

Take the B955 north from Kirriemuir to the head of Glen Clova, then follow the minor road to Glen Doll car park.

The Rangers Base at Glen Doll can be contacted on 01575 550 233

For public transport information, please visit www.travelinescotland.com



Glen Doll sits on the south-eastern corner of the Cairngorms National Park. It includes Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve, one of nine NNRs within the Cairngorms. It is an area rich in forests managed by Forestry Commission Scotland.

Cover cycling image © Forestry Commission Picture Library



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

CAIRNGORMS
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Explore Glen Doll

Relax, unwind and enjoy nature at its very best



Welcome to Glen Doll

A beautiful part of the Angus Glens within the Cairngorms National Park, which has been shaped by ice and water over millions of years.

Great glaciers helped to create a tapestry of different habitats here, from craggy mountainsides to pristine rivers and burns.

People have shaped the landscape by introducing sheep and planting the forests. As part of the National Park it is a great place for visitors and an important wildlife habitat.

A beautiful & dramatic landscape



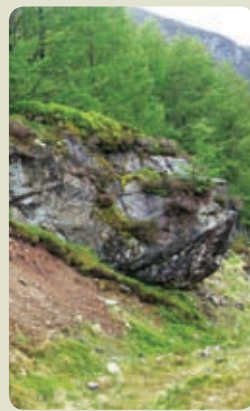
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The pine marten is just one of the forest inhabitants.

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Look out for huge boulders called erratics.

A landscape carved by water and ice

Around 12,000 years ago Scotland was almost entirely frozen. A great cap of ice sat on top of the Cairngorm plateau.

Compressed ice and snow slid off the dome in glaciers which inched forward, like bulldozers gouging out rock and shunting gravel, sand and soil along with them.

Glen Doll is a classic U-shaped valley which has been ground out by a glacier. It has steep sides and a flat valley floor scattered with debris that the glacier left behind.

During your visit, if you come across a huge boulder that looks completely out of place, it is probably an erratic. These giant rocks fell from the valley side on top of the glacier as it inched its way along. Then, once the glacier melted, they were left high and dry.

Another feature from the Ice Age are moraines, banks of rocky debris which were pushed to one side as the glacier moved. You'll find them all over the glen, especially along the Corrie Fee Trail.

A botanist's paradise

There's a real mixture of different soils at Glen Doll.

Despite the glacier taking the rich soil with it as it moved down the valley, there remains fertile rock which allows the arctic plants to grow. A band of 'hornblende schist' is the most important of these outcrops for plants. It holds plenty of plant-boosters such as calcium, iron and phosphate, and can crumble to fine sand with some clay to hold moisture.

There are also rare arctic-alpines at Glen Doll which are often very small, with hairy leaves and stems that help protect them from the harsh conditions.

It is essential to manage the red deer in Corrie Fee. This is to protect rare alpine plants from being grazed and trampled.

Look out for:



Yellow saxifrage



Butterwort



Purple saxifrage



Round-leaved sundew

Scots pine

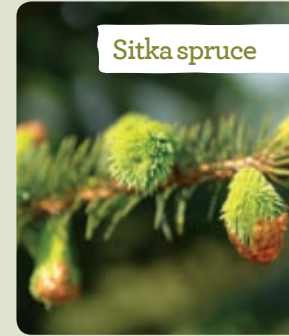


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Larch



Sitka spruce



Managing the forest

Much of the forest at Glen Doll has been planted in the last fifty years and is managed by Forestry Commission Scotland.

Around 4000 tonnes of timber are harvested every year, with more native species such as Scots pine being planted in areas where trees have been felled.

Trees to look out for include:

Scots pine – the longest-lived tree in the forest, with a beautiful reddy orange trunk.

Sitka spruce – the forest's main timber tree.

Larch – the only conifer in the forest that sheds its needles.

Silver birch – unmistakable forest favourite, often found by rivers.

Red squirrel corridors have been maintained to link together forest areas where trees have been cut down. These corridors mean squirrels do not have to risk crossing open ground, where they could become prey for other forest predators.

A wide array of habitats

Glen Doll is a great place to see some fantastic Scottish wildlife.

You shouldn't have to walk far before hearing forest birds like the acrobatic crossbill. Its strange crossed beak is the perfect tool for breaking into pine cones. Listen out for flocks of yellow siskins in the canopy, and the drumming of great spotted woodpecker as they search for grubs in dead trees.

You may also see piles of perfectly gnawed pine cones left at the foot of trees by red squirrels. Roe deer live in the forest too, as does the shy pine marten, an animal about the size of a cat with a rich, reddy brown coat.

Along the rivers and burns that criss-cross Glen Doll, watch out for dippers bobbing on the water's edge. Otters also live here, and you may see their tracks in muddy pools or on sandy ridges by the river.

The craggy hills are home to animals such as red deer and mountain hare, and also act as hunting grounds for golden eagles, buzzards and peregrine falcons.

Corrie Fee



Yellow milk-vetch



Montane scrub



Purple coltsfoot

Many of Glen Doll's rarest plants are found at the Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve. These include the yellow milk-vetch, which has leaves covered with tiny white hairs that help reflect the harsh sunlight.

Britain's only population of purple coltsfoot clings to the craggy face of Corrie Fee. The higher reaches of the Corrie are home to the much taller alpine blue sow-thistle, with its star-like flowers.

Corrie Sharroch is home to the UK's most extensive area of montane scrub, a weird collection of gnarled and twisted 'wee trees', made up of rare woolly and downy willow.



Walk this way

See some of the massive boulders that the glacier carried for miles, and the mounds of soil and rubble it deposited as it melted.

Our trails are all colour-coded and graded, and run along typical forest tracks. The one exception is the Viewpoint Trail, which follows a winding path up the side of Red Craig. The times and distances stated are for a return journey, Corrie Fee times and distances are for the outward journey only.

Watch the river which has been slowly eating away at the rocks and the soils around it for thousands of years. Explore the woods and leave the green glen for the thin soils and bare rocks of the valley sides.

And for one of the best 'WOW' moments in Scotland's amazing landscape, come out of the forest into the great bowl of Corrie Fee, a vast amphitheatre of rock carved out of the hillside by ice.



The Dounalt Trail

White Water Trail

Doll Trail

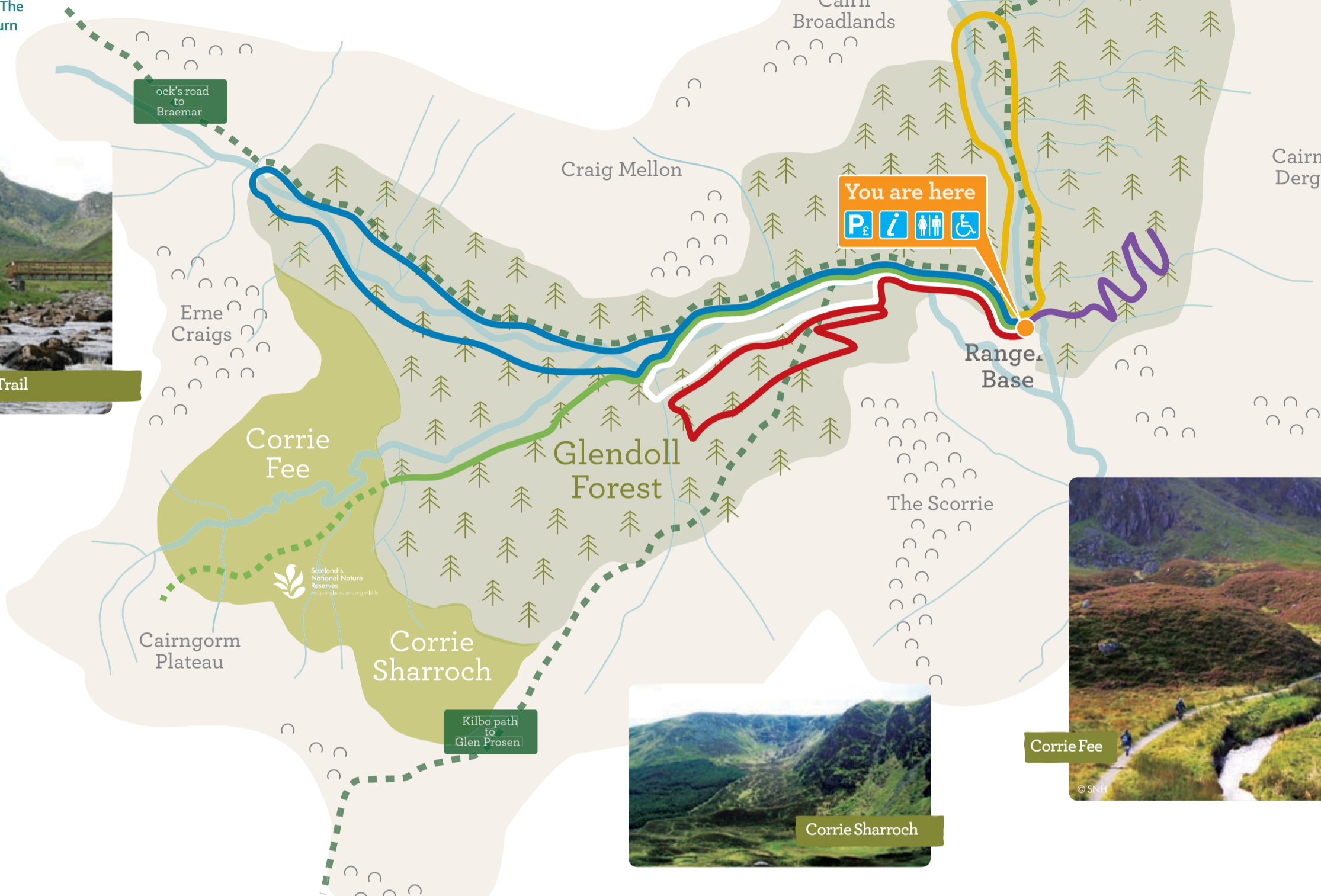
Corrie Fee Trail

South Esk Trail

Dounalt Trail

Viewpoint Trail

Unwaymarked route



A frosty morning in the Glen



Corrie Fee



Corrie Sharroch

Trail Grades

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

Easy
Sensible Footwear

Easy
Muscle Loosener

Moderate
Waterproof Footwear

Moderate
Muscle Stretcher

Strenuous
Hillwalking Boots

Strenuous
Muscle Builder

White Water Trail

Distance: 4 km / 2.5 miles
Allow: 1.5 hours

Can you spot three classic forest birds – the coal tit, jay and siskin?

The trail follows the glistening White Water, skirting along the river bank before taking you up into the forest itself. At certain times of the year the river can froth with foam as melt water pours down from the Cairngorms.



Doll Trail

Distance: 5 km / 3 miles
Allow: 1.5 hours

Look out for pine marten droppings (scats) on the grassy track that leads down to the river.

This trail leads you deeper into the forest, with a gentle climb up the valley side. Look out for jays and sparrowhawks among the larch and scots pine, which are also home to the shy pine marten.



Corrie Fee Trail

Distance: 3.5 km / 2 miles to Corrie entrance (5 km / 3 miles through the National Nature Reserve to Cairngorm plateau)
Allow: 1 hour to Corrie entrance (2 hours to Cairngorm plateau)

Head into the heart of nature's amphitheatre and be surrounded by alpine flowers and alpine landscape.

There is a real wow factor at the end of this forest trail, which takes you up through the woods to the National Nature Reserve at Corrie Fee and back. Signal posts along the route tell you what to look out for.



South Esk Trail

Distance: 3.5 km / 2 miles
Allow: 1 hour

Look out for dippers by the river and where the trail opens out, soaring golden eagles.

Another level riverside trail, this time leading to fantastic views into neighbouring Glen Clova. As well as dippers and grey wagtails darting around the stream, in spring and summer flowers such as bird's foot trefoil add a splash of colour.



Dounalt Trail

Distance: 8 km / 5 miles
Allow: 2.5 hours

A forest trail leading to wide open vistas and the chance to see red deer.

The longest trail follows the course of the White Water through the forest, and leads to some breath-taking views up Glen Doll. In early autumn watch the red deer rut as it plays out on the craggy slopes above you.



Viewpoint Trail

Distance: 5 km / 3 miles
Allow: 1.5 hours

A moderate climb is rewarded by stunning views up the glen towards Corrie Fee.

This trail meanders up the side of the glen overlooking the car park. On your way up look out for birds like acrobatic crossbills and flocks of siskins flitting among the trees. The views at the end of the trail make all the effort worthwhile.

