

1 Ferry Wood & Ord Hill, Lairg

Little Loch Shin (All-ability path) (red marker)	0.75 miles	Easy
Broch Walk (All-ability path) (green marker)	1.5 miles	Easy
Ord Hill (blue marker)	1.3 miles	Moderate



Follow the shoreline of Little Loch Shin through a pinewood with a few sculptural surprises along the way. Little Loch Shin was

formed in the 1950s after the Lairg Dam was built to raise the water levels of Loch Shin. The Broch and Ord Hill walks pass by the remains of much earlier construction work with hut circles, burial cairns, field clearance heaps and ancient banks over 2000 years old! The ascent to the top of the Ord is also worth it for the spectacular views over central Sutherland.

Both walks start out at the Ferrycroft Countryside Centre, open April - October with its fascinating audio-visual displays, cafe and tourist information.

Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland.



2 Big Burn & Ben Bhraggie

Big Burn	1.5 miles	Moderate
Ben Bhraggie	3.75 miles	Strenuous

Built in the 1830s, a 100ft statue of the first Duke of Sutherland looks over Golspie from the top of Ben Bhraggie (1300ft). Enjoy the stunning views and appreciate the efforts of those bringing the statue up piece by piece - Lawson's Well was built just for them! On Fountain Road another 19th century water feature, designed by Sir Charles Barry (architect of the Houses of Parliament), is dedicated to the Duchess of Sutherland.



Golspie's Big Burn is a very popular route through a hidden gorge complete with waterfall. Start at the north end of the village beside Sutherland Stoneworks, or park at Backies and join the route mid-way for a shorter walk which is still steep in places. Spring flowers

are in abundance in May and June but this route is a treat year-round.

Managed by Golspie Community Council. More information on walks in the Golspie area can be found in the locally available Golspie Walks booklet.



3 Balblair Woods, Loch Fleet

Balblair Trail	3.5 miles	Easy
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Much of this planted Scots pinewood is within the Loch Fleet National Nature Reserve where scarce plants thrive adjacent to the woodland trails. This estuary provides rich feeding areas for hundreds of waterfowl, such as wigeon, greylag geese, oystercatcher and curlew, harbour



seals, osprey and the elusive otter too! It wasn't always so tranquil though - in 1746 Scottish forces loyal to the British government defeated a Jacobite force on this site just before the decisive Battle of Culloden which ended Bonnie Prince Charlie's aspiration to become King. In the 19th Century several shipwrecks occurred and a tragic ferry accident in the narrow crossing between Coul Links and Littleferry ultimately led to building of the Mound Causeway, a road across the estuary designed by the Scottish engineer, Thomas Telford, in 1816. The walk follows forest tracks and paths and may be uneven in places.

Managed by Scottish Natural Heritage, Sutherland Estates and Scottish Wildlife Trust.

4 Camore

Blue Loop	2 miles	Moderate
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The Scots pinewood with its rich understory of heather and blueberry may provide a haven for birdlife now, but 2000 years ago it must have been buzzing with human activity. The remains of 25 hut circles have been uncovered here and suggest a once-thriving community. Natural regeneration is encouraged within these woods which are managed under continuous cover to ensure that trees are thinned or removed in small pockets to allow native species to re-seed.



If you're up for the challenge, why not have a go at the Natural Play Features?

Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland.



5 Ledmore & Migdale, Spinningdale

4 miles	Moderate
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Some 1700 acres of native woodland shroud ancient burial chambers, ruined farmsteads and traces of vanished industries. The oakwoods above the Dornoch Firth once provided fuel for smelting iron and bark for tanning leather; now their steep shores hide otters and the elusive wildcat. Around Loch Migdale, majestic Scots pines are the legacy of 18th century estate forestry, designed to provide employment for tenants during the notorious Clearances. Swathes of young birch and pine mark logging activities by the Canadian Forestry Corp during World War II, while open hilltops and valley wetlands add diversity to this rich woodland mosaic.

This route passes through varied woodlands to Loch Migdale, then up the old coffin path to A' Chraisg Park in the lay-by 0.8 miles along the Spinningdale - Migdale road. The marked entrance is 250m further up on the left.

Managed by Woodland Trust Scotland.



East Sutherland Woodlands

This leaflet offers only a selection of the routes available in this area. Explore further and look out for individual site leaflets, ask locally or contact VisitScotland.



Before you go

Sensible and appropriate footwear is recommended for all paths. During periods of rainfall and adverse weather, paths may become muddy or slippery so please take care.

All-ability paths offer prepared smooth and even surfaces with no steps or steep inclines and are suitable for wheeled buggies and mobility aid users. All other routes follow traffic-free forest roads, tracks and paths which may not be suitable for all users. If in doubt please check with the relevant woodland manager.

From time to time, it may be necessary to close sections of these walks so please take note of any closures or warning notices.

This leaflet was prepared by Highland Birchwoods on behalf of East Sutherland Woodlands



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Photography by Matt Dent, Nathan McLaughlan, Graeme Findlay, WTPL/Eleanor Garty, Highland Birchwoods and Iain Sarjeant.

6 Gearrhoille Community Wood, Ardgay

Yellow Walk	0.5 miles	Easy
Red Walk (All-ability path)	0.2 miles	Easy

Part of the ancient Gearrhoille woodlands are now owned and managed by the local community but they have played an important part in Ardgay's social and economic history for generations - you can still see parts of the old drove road recorded by General Wade in 1730. There is also evidence of past coppicing and woodland pasture too. On foot from Oakwood Place at the south end of Ardgay, follow the fingerposts through the kissing gate and into the woods where yellow way-markers guide you around the circular walk. The path is uneven and can be muddy in places. Parking is signposted on the A836 0.5 miles south of the Ardgay war memorial. Join the circular walk from here via an all-ability path to the former curling pond.



Pick up a copy of the 'Guide to Trees in the Gearrhoille' to learn more about the species that make up the wood. Details of moth, amphibian and bird ringing surveys are available on the GWCA website.

7 Carbisdale Trails

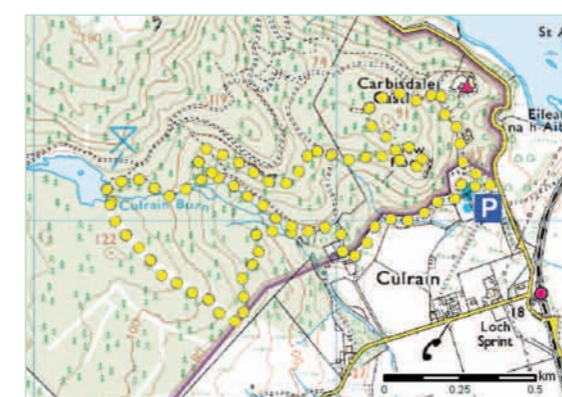
Yellow Trail	2.5 miles	Moderate
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Carbisdale Castle was completed in 1917 by the Duke of Sutherland's widow who was denied permission to build within the Sutherland boundary. Undeterred, she built at Carbisdale which was at that time in Ross-shire and the first place the train passed on leaving Sutherland - the clock tower has faces on only three sides so she didn't have to give Sutherland the time of day!

The yellow trail climbs up through the woods to a viewpoint overlooking the site of the Duke of Montrose's last battle. In defeat, he was harried to the west, captured and eventually executed. The shortcut loop passes through mixed woodland dominated by pine and a variety of mature broadleaves. At View Rock you can look out over the Kyle of Sutherland, the Inner Dornoch Firth and Bonar Bridge.

Carbisdale Castle is also a starting point for the Kyle of Sutherland Mountain Bike Trails.

Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland.



8 Rosehall Trails

Pine Marten Trail (red marker)	2 miles	Easy
Deer Park & Wild Wood Trail (yellow marker)	2.5 miles	Moderate
Cassley Trail (green marker)	2.5 miles	Moderate
Achness Burn (brown marker)	1.5 miles	Moderate

A community built log cabin welcomes you to these trails of which the Deer Park & Wild Wood trail, with its interactive information points, is a favourite. For a shorter walk, follow the Pine Marten trail and watch out for Sika Deer which have spread into the surrounding area from the original 19th century deer park. For fine views follow the Achness Burn uphill from the hotel.

The Cassley Trail passes by Rosehall's Millennium Cairn, built by local people to mark the year 2000 and containing a casket of their wishes. Near the river, the remains of ancient brochs, built over two



thousand years ago, can also be found.

Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland in agreement with Rosehall and District Action Group.

9 Ravens Rock

Red Walk (red marker)	0.75 miles	Moderate
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If you are short on time but fancy an escape, come and explore a mysterious wooded gorge! This walk follows the Allt Mor burn, taking you through fairy-tale woodland furnished with a thick moss carpet and lichen-clad trees and outcrops - but keep an eye out for a former woodland dweller! There are several places to stop and soak up the atmosphere or the



views from the upper part of the walk.

Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland.

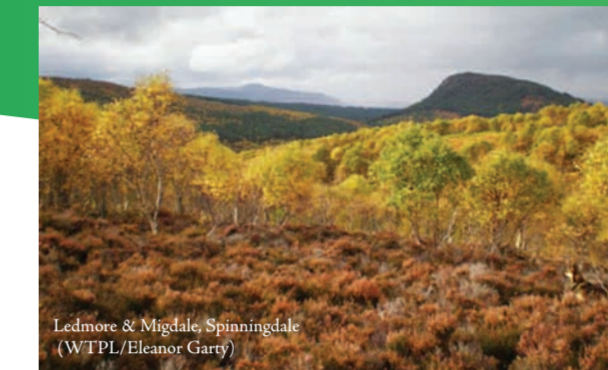
East Sutherland Woodlands

Discover... East Sutherland's Top 10 Woodland Walks



Timeless pinewoods
past settlements
historic battlefields
ancient oaks
Iron Age
ancient brochs
rich wildlife

Woodland Walks in East Sutherland



ESW is working with woodland managers throughout the area to encourage more people to enjoy their woods. Find out more about the routes featured in this leaflet and the organisations that manage them by getting in touch with:

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)
North Highland Forest District - part of the forestry department of the Scottish Government and responsible for the management of the National Forest Estate.
Contact: The Links, Golspie Business Park, Golspie (t: 01408 634063) or visit www.forestry.gov.uk

Gearrchoille Community Wood, Ardgay - a community-owned charitable company established to conserve and enhance the biodiversity, cultural and recreational values of Gearrchoille Wood. For more information, visit www.gearrchoillecommunitywoodardegay.org.uk

Rosehall and District Action Group (RADAG) - a community group working in partnership with FCS to develop and manage the trails around Rosehall. For more information go to www.rosehallhighlands.co.uk

Golspie Community Council - a body of local representatives which maintains a network of paths around Golspie. www.golspie.org.uk

Sutherland Estates - a private estate working in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust and local community groups to manage access.
Contact: Sutherland Estate Office, Duke Street, Golspie (t: 01408 633268) or visit www.sutherlandestates.com

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) - a government body tasked with looking after Scotland's natural heritage, helping people to enjoy and value it, and encouraging people to use it sustainably.
Contact: The Links, Golspie Business Park, Golspie (t: 01408 634063) or visit www.snh.gov.uk

Woodland Trust Scotland - Part of the UK's leading woodland conservation charity.
Contact: Woodland Trust Scotland (t: 01738 635829) or visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

From Sunday strolls to more strenuous stretches, the woodlands around the Kyle of Sutherland and the East Sutherland coast offer something for everyone. These woodlands have been shaped by man over the centuries and have a history all of their own. Within them you can explore Iron Age sites and remnants of Sutherland's past, uncover a world of plants, insects and birds or simply enjoy some of the breathtaking views and landscape.

The East Sutherland Woodlands (ESW) project aims to add biodiversity, recreation, economic and tourism value to local woodlands and encourage those who live, work and visit the area to be more active in them. ESW is being delivered by Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, The Highland Council, Sutherland Partnership and Sutherland Estates.



10 Achany Trails

Riverside Walk (Blue marker)	0.6 miles	Easy
Salmon Leap (Shin Falls) (Black marker)	0.3 miles	Moderate
Red Loop (All - ability path)	0.25 miles	Easy
Green Loop	1 mile	Moderate

The River Shin twists through Achany Glen, banked by riverside woodlands which are amongst the richest in Sutherland and home to many protected species. Between April and October, salmon leap up Shin Falls on the return to their upstream spawning grounds but the woods themselves put on a show all year round. In times gone by, these woodlands were managed to produce useful timber products, Forestry Commission Scotland is now developing a greenwood workshop alongside the trail.

All of the trails start at the Falls of Shin Visitor Centre, a popular local tourist attraction and café, with children's play area and ample parking.

Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland.

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- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.

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