

KIRROUGHTREE FOREST TRAILS

- Circular forest walk**
- 4km/2½ miles**
- Allow 1½ hours**
- Hard surface paths and tracks**
- Moderate**
- Stout shoes or boots recommended**

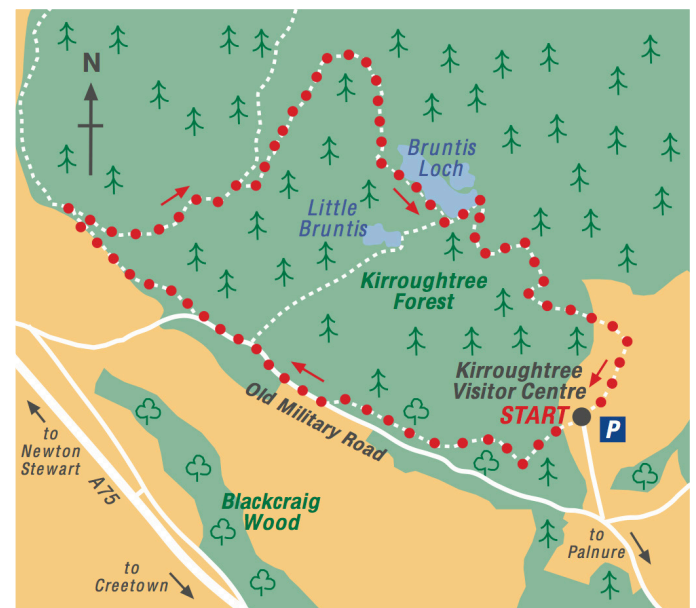
PARKING is available at the Forest Enterprise Kirroughtree Visitor Centre. Follow the signs from Palnure on the A75, 3 miles east of Newton Stewart.

START There are four waymarked trails starting from the car park. The walk described here, called the Viewpoint Trail is waymarked throughout as red.

Follow the path through open, mixed woodland before reaching a track, part of an Old Military Road. This takes you alongside farmland with the forest on your right. Here, on the forest edge, you will find a mix of wildlife, from roe deer to flocks of finches. The path soon takes you deeper into the forest where the trees are mainly Sitka and Norway spruce and birds such as coal tits are more common.

As you climb higher, you are rewarded with views over the Cree estuary and, on a good day, to the Isle of Man. After a while, you arrive at the picturesque Bruntis Loch, created in the nineteenth century to provide power for the lead mines nearby. Mining began here in 1764 and reached a peak in the 1770s and '80s, providing a great number of jobs for local people. Nowadays, the loch is very peaceful and is a good place to stop for a rest or a picnic.

Soon you come to a spectacular waterfall tumbling through the gorge it has created. This waterfall passes through a patch of woodland containing remnant plant communities from old woodlands. From here, follow the path back to the car park. On the way you pass the visitor centre and other facilities which are well worth a visit. Also, look out for red squirrels which can often be seen around the visitor centre.



Map © Crown Copyright and Database right 2013. All rights reserved.
Ordnance Survey licence 100016994

Leave gates as you find them - Keep dogs under close control at all times - Keep to paths across farmland - Take care on country roads
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls - Respect farm livestock, crops and machinery - Take your litter home with you
Protect wildlife, plants and trees - Guard against risk of fire - Make no unnecessary noise.