

# WELCOME TO DARROCH WIDS



Scottish Forest Alliance  
WOODLAND FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE



Darroch Wids is a unique landscape scale native woodland created by today's generation to be enjoyed by generations to come.

It is providing habitat for many of Scotland's native flora and fauna as well as contributing to reducing the impacts of climate change. The Wids are made up of three sites **BLACKMIDDENS**, **MERDRUM** and **COYNACHIE** which are connected through the **Clashindarroch forest** providing a wide range of routes for walkers, cyclists and X-country skiers.

Local schools and communities have planted many of the native trees such as scots pine, oak, birch, ash, alder and aspen as well as successfully breaking the **Guinness World Record** to plant the most trees in 1 hour - 18,124!

The name **COYNACHIE** derives from a combination of Gallic words "Coyn" (meeting) and "achie" (place) and describes the point where the Lag burn which crosses the valley bottom meets with the Priests water to the north of the valley. The walking routes provide a great opportunity to see a new native woodland with trees such as scots pine and silver birch on the higher slopes and drifts of other broadleaves including oak, ash, rowan and alder planted on the lower fields. The Floors o'the Wids walk is home to a wildflower meadow which provides a carpet of colour in Spring as well as wildflowers such as foxglove, wood anemone and red campion planted by pupils from the Gordon schools. This woodland is managed by the Forestry Commission with the help of local volunteer group "Wardens o' the Wids". If you are interested in doing conservation work, please contact the District office.

### Coynachie - Walk routes

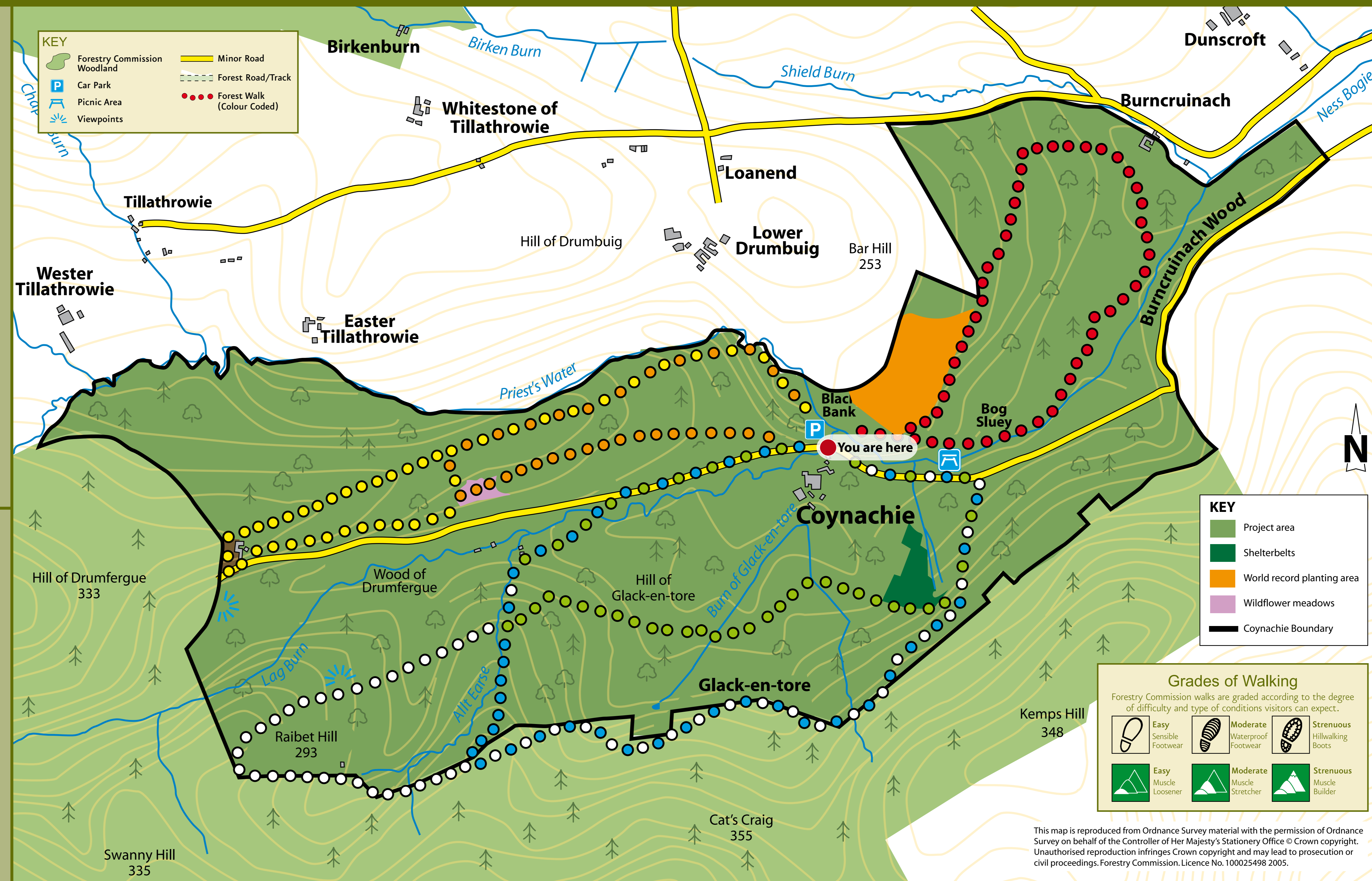
Burncruinach walk	1.8miles		Easy
Drumfergus walk	2.5miles		Easy
Floors o'the Wids walk	1.5miles		Easy
Glackentore walk	2.6miles		Easy
Rashies walk	2miles		Easy
Raibet Hill walk	3miles		Moderate



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Through SFA funding the project aims to recreate almost 500 hectares of new native woodlands and habitats, which will attract native birds, animals, insects, fungi and wildflowers. Specifically the project aims to:

- Convert agricultural land to native woodland with species such as birch, oak, ash, hazel and scots pine
- Protect and enhance biodiversity by encouraging the return of the flora and fauna associated with native woodlands
- Involve local communities through consultation, education and events and contribute to the local economy through tourism and employment
- Map the process of change and act as a demonstration to researchers and practitioners



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