

Getting there

Portmoak Moss is located close to Scotlandwell in Perth and Kinross. The main entrance is reached from an access track off the B920 just south of the village. There is a parking area halfway along the access track



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Community Group

Portmoak Moss is managed in partnership between the Woodland Trust Scotland and the Portmoak Community Woodland Group.



Early purple orchid:W/TPL/Steven Kind



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Want to know more?

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. If you enjoyed your visit and would like to support us or find out more about our work, please contact us at:

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Portmoak Moss



A guide to a
community woodland



A Guide to a Community Wood

Portmoak Moss

Portmoak Moss Community Woodland, locally referred to as 'The Moss', combines one of the few surviving raised bogs in central Scotland with popular woodland walks.

Raised bogs are areas of deep, wet peat raised above the surrounding land. Originally this one is thought to have been part of Loch Leven and was formed by the build up of the remains of sphagnum moss over thousands of years.

Historically residents had access to the bog to cut peat for domestic fuel.

Woods & bogs – a natural mosaic

The wood provides refuge to many species of bird and mammals including the red squirrel.

In 2004 the Trust began the process of restoring part of the raised bog. This involved removing trees and damming ditches to create the open damp conditions that bog plants thrive on.

Photos from top clockwise: Colin Varndell x 3, Niall Benvie and Colin Varndell.



Red squirrel



Roe deer fawn



Cotton grass



Sphagnum moss



Goldcrest

Trail tips

- The walk round Portmoak Moss is approximately 1¼ miles (2km). For those wishing to go off the beaten track for a better chance of seeing wildlife, plenty of small paths are available.
- The Moss is often walked in combination with The Tetley Trail, a circular walk of 3 miles (5km) connecting the villages of Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell. It runs through Kilmagad, another wood owned by the Trust.

Photograph above: WTPL/Roy Barlow
Front cover: Sphagnum moss/Niall Benvie

Things to look for at Portmoak Moss...



Life in the dead wood

Dead trees have been left to provide homes for insects and fungi and perches for birds of prey.

Jim Christie

A carpet of colour

There are eight species of sphagnum moss here in all shades of red and green. These are some of the key bog plants we want to encourage.



Jim Christie



Sphagnum Moss: Niall Benvie

Why all the tree stumps?

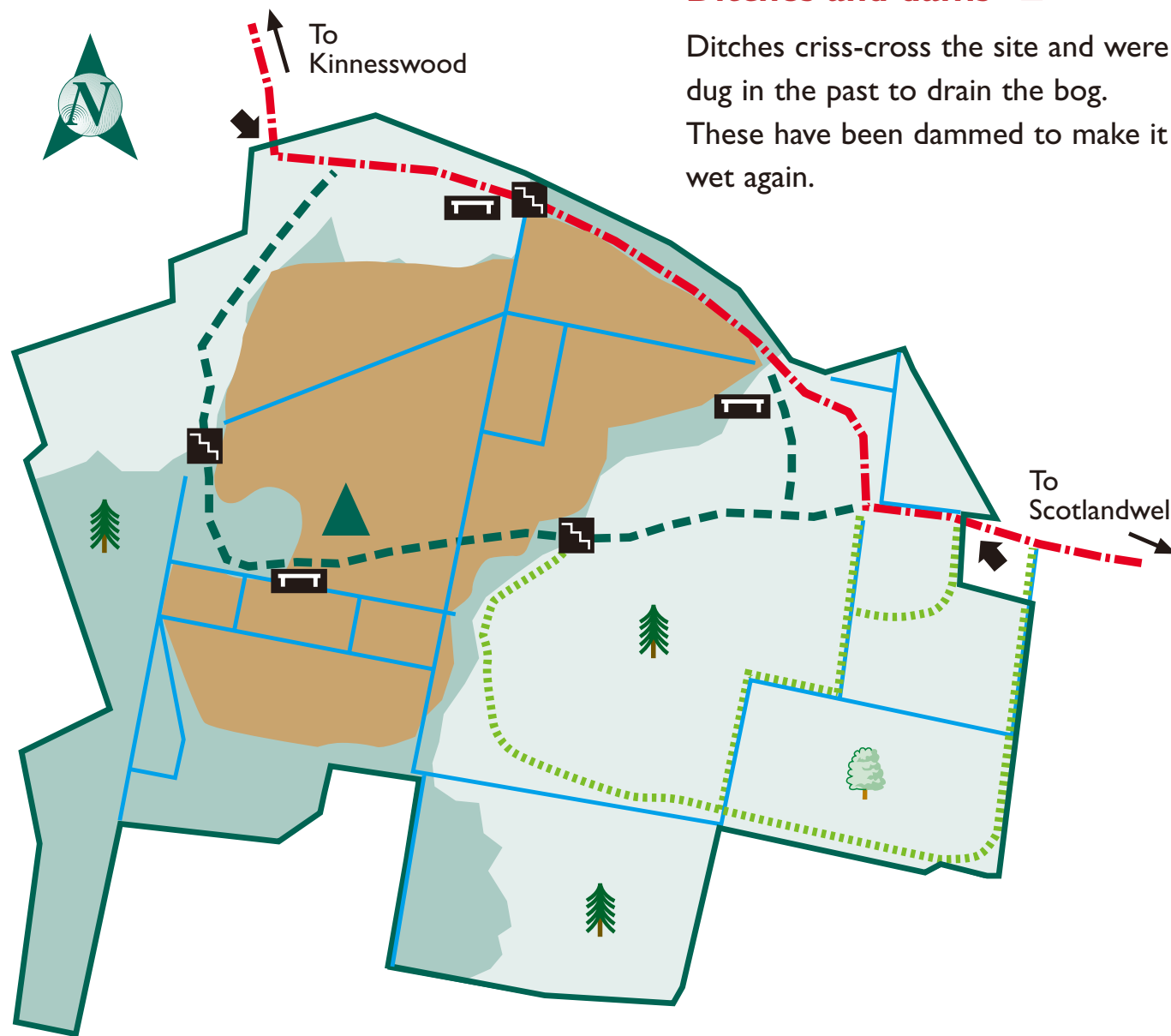
Non-native conifers were removed to allow light to the bog surface.



WTPL/Roy Barlow

Ditches and dams

Ditches criss-cross the site and were dug in the past to drain the bog. These have been dammed to make it wet again.



Conifer woodland

Spruce and pine were planted in the 1960s – you might see a red squirrel if you're lucky.



WTPL/Roy Barlow

Top of the bog!

The peat naturally forms a dome and this is the highest point. The peat is six metres deep beneath your feet.



Jim Christie

The peat bank

A solid wall of peat, created by local people cutting peat for fuel over many centuries.



Jim Christie

A woodland reborn

A natural wet birch woodland is growing where a conifer plantation had blown over.



WTPL/Roy Barlow

	Woodland Trust boundary
	Raised peat area
	Bog restoration area
	Surfaced footpath
	Tetley Trail (surfaced)
	Informal path
	Ditch
	Entrance
	Seat
	Steps at peat bank