



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for nature

Woodland Trail

Hill Trail

Castle Wood



View of Bennachie

5

6

Forest Ride

7

Circular stone enclosure

4

Hill Trail

1

Orchard

Kitchen garden

2

Little or
Crow Wood
(upper)

1

P

2



View of Lochnagar

3

Castle

North Drive

3

Little or
Crow Wood
(lower)

4

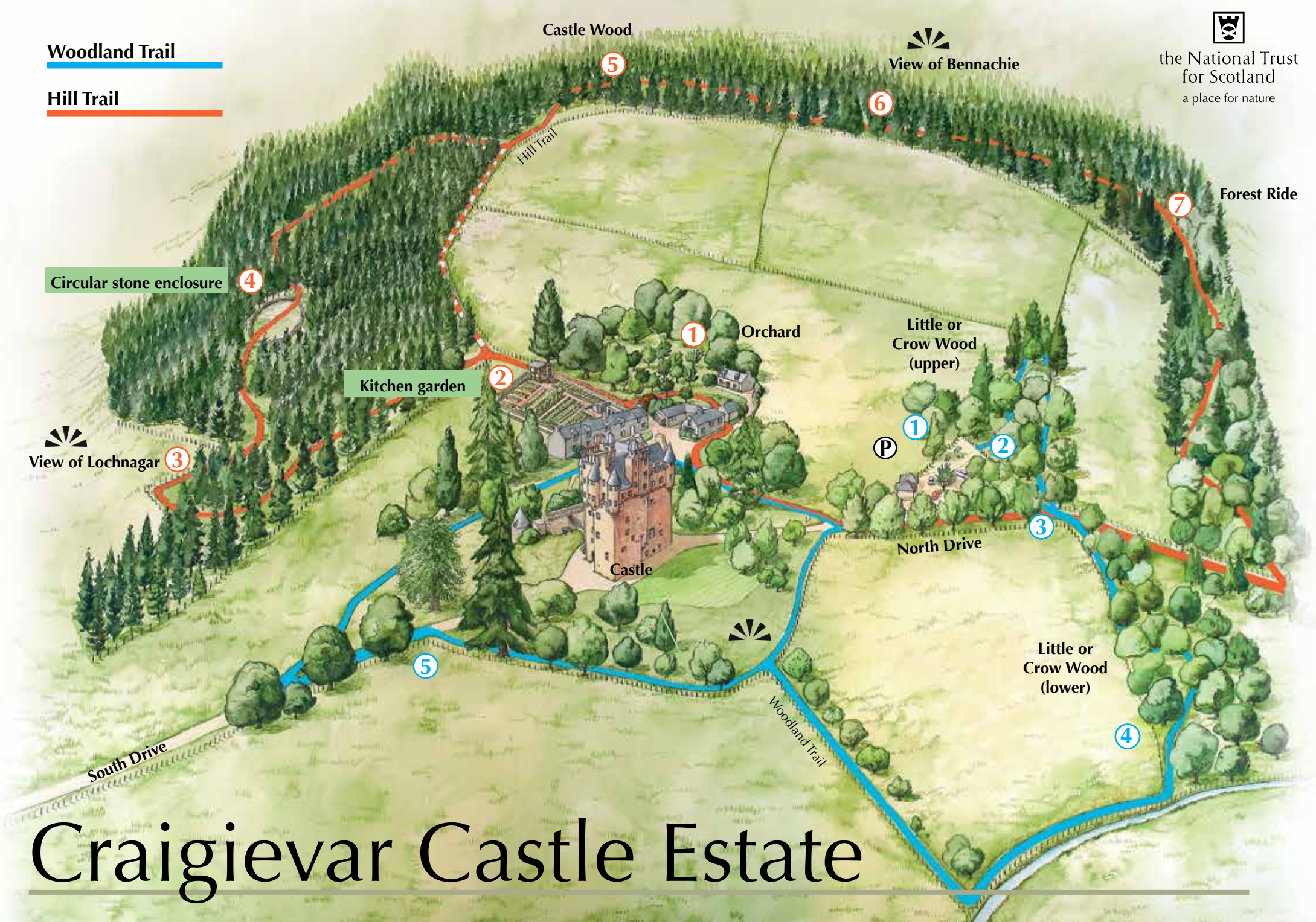


Woodland Trail

5

South Drive

Craigievar Castle Estate



Hill Trail

Description

Craigievar is one of Scotland's best preserved castles and sits in a picturesque hillside setting. This trail explores tree-lined avenues and mature woodland, while enjoying views over the surrounding farmland to Bennachie and beyond.

Grade

Easy / Moderate, but with some hills

Terrain

Unsurfaced and includes steep sections.

Distance

Hill trail 2 miles / 3.2 km

Time

Hill Trail 1-1½ hours

OS Map

Landranger Sheet 37

Facilities

Parking at castle
Toilets
Shop
Picnic facilities
Dogs welcome but must be kept under control at all times



The Trust is supported by



① ORCHARD

The orchard has recently been replanted with a wide variety of apple trees.

② KITCHEN GARDEN

A garden like this once provided much of the food for Craigievar Castle's inhabitants.

③ VIEW OF LOCHNAGAR

At just over 1,000m (3,281ft), Lochnagar is one of the best known and most walked hills in the Cairngorms.

④ CIRCULAR STONE ENCLOSURE

This hilltop enclosure may have been created by one of Craigievar's owners to represent an ancient sacred grove. A map of 1776 shows a single tree at its centre surrounded by others in concentric circles.

⑤ CASTLE WOOD

By the mid-19th century there were 364 hectares of birch, Scots pine and larch growing at Castle Wood. These trees were mostly felled in 1946 but have been gradually replanted since.

⑥ VIEW OF BENNACHIE

The distinctive 'Mither Tap o' Bennachie' can be seen across much of north-east Scotland. At its summit are the ruins of a hill fort, probably a Pictish stronghold of the early centuries AD.

⑦ FOREST RIDE

Each winter, pupils from Craigievar Primary School cut back the gorse and broom lining this pathway. At dusk in the summer months it's the perfect place to see pipistrelle bats.

Woodland Trail

Description

Craigievar is one of Scotland's best preserved castles and sits in a picturesque hillside setting. This trail explores tree-lined avenues and mature woodland and provides a great view of the castle.

Grade

Easy / Moderate, but with some hills

Terrain

Unsurfaced

Distance

Woodland Trail ¾ mile / 1.2km

Time

Woodland Trail 30-45 minutes

OS Map

Landranger Sheet 37

Estate facilities

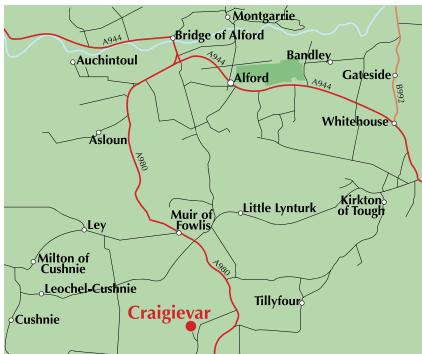
Parking at castle

Toilets

Shop

Picnic facilities

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① CAR PARK

Look out for badger latrines (dung heaps) at the edges of the car park. Badgers use these as territorial markers. Their dung also gives clues as to what they've been eating – this includes earthworms, beetles, cherry pips and ears of corn.

② FLORAL CARPET

In the spring, when the ferns are starting to unfurl, this area is carpeted with bluebells and yellow lesser celandine. These woodland flowers bloom early before tree leaves can block out their light.

③ NORTH DRIVE

The North Drive, built c1840, has always been lined with beech trees.

④ SOUNDS OF SUMMER

In summer this area is full of fluffy white meadowsweet. At the edge of the woodland listen for the melodic songs of willow warblers and chaffinches.

VIEW OF THE CASTLE

The castle was built by the Mortimers of Craigievar in the mid-1500s. Its flurry of towers and turrets was added about 50 years later by another owner, the wealthy merchant William Forbes of Menie. A tour gives a glimpse of 400 years of life in this tower house.

⑤ SPECIMEN TREES

The South Drive is lined with some spectacular specimen trees. The Douglas fir, Wellingtonias, and monkey puzzle trees were planted in the 1850s.