



the National Trust  
for Scotland  
a place for nature

**Woodland Trail**

**Hill Trail**

Castle Wood



View of Bennachie

5

6

7

Forest Ride

Hill Trail

Circular stone enclosure

4

Kitchen garden

2

1

Orchard

Little or  
Crow Wood  
(upper)

1

2

P

North Drive

3



View of Lochnagar

3

Castle

Little or  
Crow Wood  
(lower)

4



Woodland Trail

5

South Drive

# Craigievar Castle Estate





# 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

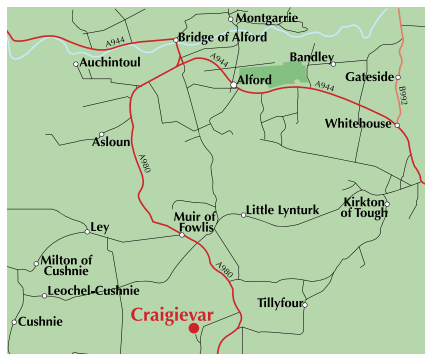
Parking at castle

Toilets

Shop

Picnic facilities

Dogs welcome but must be kept under control at all times



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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.