

## Pearl-bordered Fritillary

This is one of our earliest spring butterflies being on the wing from the end of April to the beginning of June. It can easily be confused with the very similar Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

The Pearl-bordered Fritillary needs very warm conditions for its caterpillars during February to April. The loss of sunny, sheltered glades is the main reason for its decline. At Mabie, as in other ungrazed woodlands, active management is required to safeguard its colonies.



## Dingy Skipper

Another spring species, the Dingy Skipper is usually on the wing from mid May and is often mistaken for a moth. Its charms are more subtle however, and the basking males frequently spar with rivals over a sunny patch of grassland. This butterfly needs areas of short turf, bare ground and bird's-foot trefoil - the caterpillar foodplant. In recent years it has undergone a rapid decline, but the reasons are not yet clear.



## Forester Moth

This beautiful day-flying moth shows the mistake people can make in thinking that all moths are drab! Its striking metallic sheen can make it hard to see. They are best seen when they are nectaring on thistle heads. This is another species that has undergone a recent but unexplained decline. Despite its name, it is a grassland species and a small colony lives close to Lochaber Loch.



## Managing the Reserve

Mabie Forest was bought by the Forestry Commission in 1943, and is now actively managed for wildlife, recreation and timber. The Nature Reserve is around 100 hectares in size, made up of diverse habitats supporting some of Scotland's rarest wildlife. Future management of the reserve will be developed through careful planning and monitoring, in partnership with Butterfly Conservation Scotland and others, to ensure a sustainable future for its rich wildlife.

## Contacts

Butterfly Conservation is Europe's largest insect conservation charity and works with a wide range of partners to conserve butterflies, moths and their habitats.

You can find out more, and join Butterfly Conservation at [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)



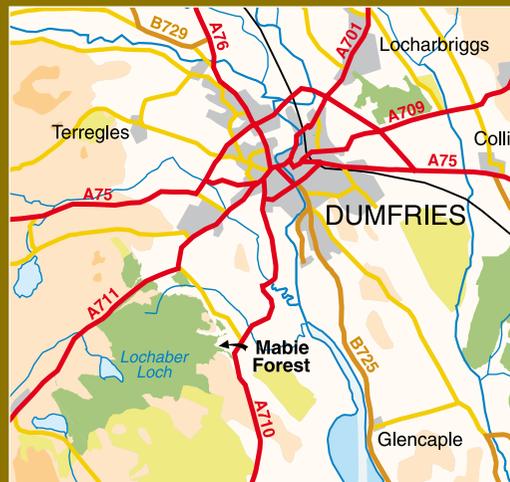
Forestry Commission Scotland aims to protect and expand Scotland's forests and woodlands whilst increasing their value to society and the environment. Find out more at [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)

## Contact

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Public enquiry line 0845 FORESTS (367 3787)

# Mabie Forest Nature Reserve

Explore | Discover | Enjoy



## How to Get There

Mabie Forest is signposted off the A710, 4 miles from Dumfries. The reserve can be reached by public transport. There is a train station in Dumfries, and local buses pass the entrance to Mabie Forest.

The reserve is open at all times, but please take care as the area is a working forest.

From the main car park, follow the brown waymarked walk for 1 mile to reach the reserve. The complete walk is 4 miles long. Sensible footwear is advised, although the route follows well maintained paths.



For information on public transport services contact:  
Traveline Scotland, 0870 6082608 or  
[www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)



Pearl-bordered Fritillary

## Butterflies

Mabie Forest is one of the richest sites for butterflies in Scotland, with over twenty species being recorded. The moths are little studied, but it is very likely the site will also support around 500 different species! Mabie Forest also has important colonies of three species considered the most threatened in the UK, the **Pearl-bordered Fritillary**, **Dingy Skipper** and **Forester moth**.



## Dragonflies & Damselflies

Often confused, both emerge from water in late spring. Damselflies rest with their wings together, Dragonflies with their wings outstretched. Common species around Dalshinnie Loch include the **common blue damselfly** and the **golden ringed dragonfly**. Adults survive for only a month and lay their eggs in or near to water. The eggs hatch into aquatic nymphs that live in the water for up to five years.



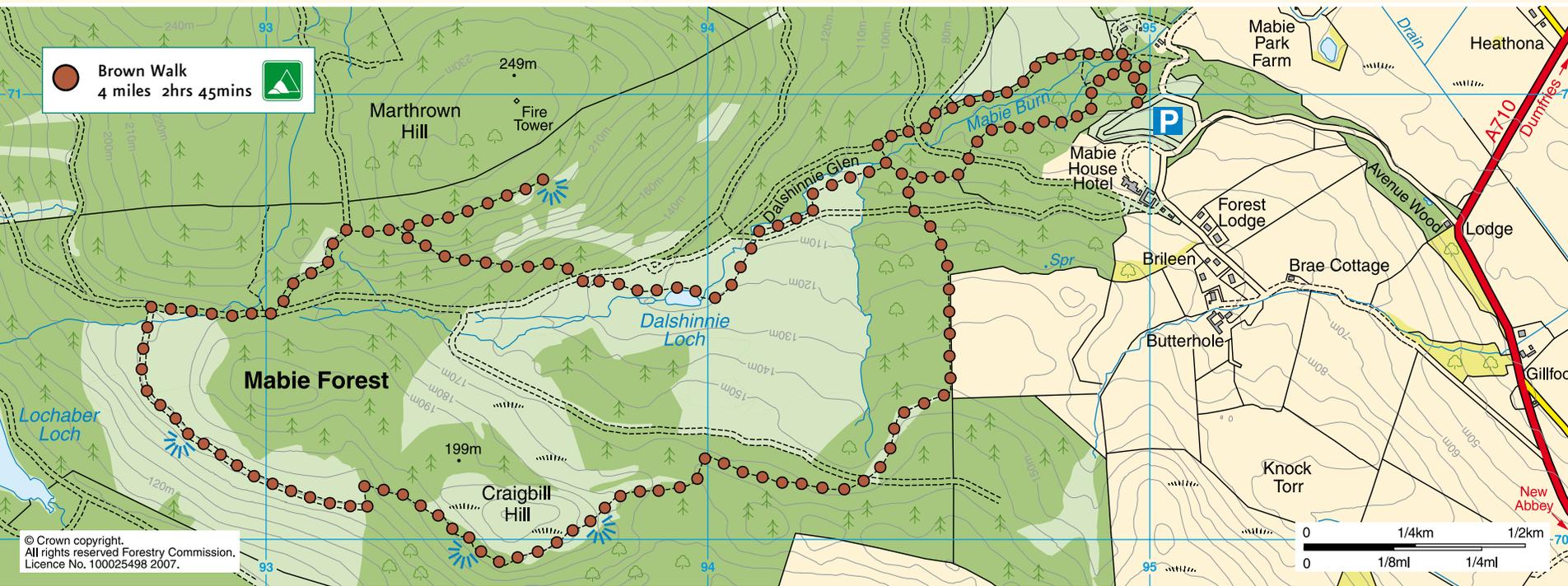
Golden Ringed Dragonfly

## Nightjar

**Nightjars** migrate from Africa to Britain arriving in May. They have amazing camouflage and are rarely seen during the day. **Nightjar** means 'Night Churr' as males sit on a prominent tree 'churring' at dawn and dusk. They feed at night on large **moths** and nest on the ground usually laying two eggs. **Nightjars** only breed in Scotland on Arran and in Dumfries and Galloway.



Nightjar



**WALK GRADING SYMBOLS**

Forestry Commission Scotland walks are graded according to the degree of difficulty and type of conditions visitors can expect.


**Know the Code before you go**

When you are in the outdoors:

- take responsibility for your own actions;
- respect the interests of other people;
- care for the environment.

Find out more by visiting [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

## Grassland

The abundance of flowering herbs, grasses, sedges and meadow flowers of **dandelion**, **vetchlings**, **saxifrage** and **cranesbill** are managed to benefit insects, and attract many species of butterflies and moths. **Roe deer**, **hares**, **hedgehogs** and **stoats** disappear quietly into the vegetation whilst **wagtails**, **thrushes** and **finches** feed on the insects, molluscs and seeds.



Wood Sorrel

## Wetland

From open water through to wetland, the changing habitats support a wealth of wildlife. At Dalshinnie Loch, **toads** mate in the open water, whilst the surrounding wetland shelters plants such as **opposite-leaved golden saxifrage** and **marsh marigold**. Wetland trees like **alder** and **willow** support insects, which are food for **long-tailed tits** and **willow warblers**.



Common Toad

## Woodland and Scrub

**Oak**, **ash**, **birch**, **hazel** and **willow** provide food and shelter for many species of birds, animals and insects. The rich ground flora of **bluebells**, **primrose** and **dog violets** contrast with the ferns, mosses and fungi. **Red squirrels**, **foxes** and **badgers** are present whilst **buzzards**, **owls**, **woodpeckers** and **spotted fly catchers** nest in the mature trees.



Tawny Owl