



Sphagnum moss



Downy birch



Sphagnum moss



Fungi

Things to look for at Portmoak Moss

Conifer woodland

Spruce and pine trees were planted here for timber production in the 1960s. These areas are being gradually restored to native woodland.

Ditches and dams

When the conifers were first planted, deep ditches were cut through the Moss to drain it. Those trees have since been removed and dams installed to block the drains, raising water levels and restoring the bog.

Woodland restoration

Native birch and willow have returned to areas where conifers have been felled.

The raised bog

There are eight species of sphagnum moss in a variety of reds and greens. These are some of the key bog plants we want to encourage. They hold water in their spongy forms long after the surrounding soil has dried, providing essential nutrients to the soil.

The peat bank

This exposed wall of peat was created over centuries by local people cutting into the bog for fuel to burn. Its steep face is being reprofiled to help the bog retain water.

Life in the dead wood

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




Finding Portmoak Moss

Portmoak Moss is just west of Scotlandwell in Kinross-shire. The main entrance is reached from an access track off the B920. There is a small parking area halfway along this track.



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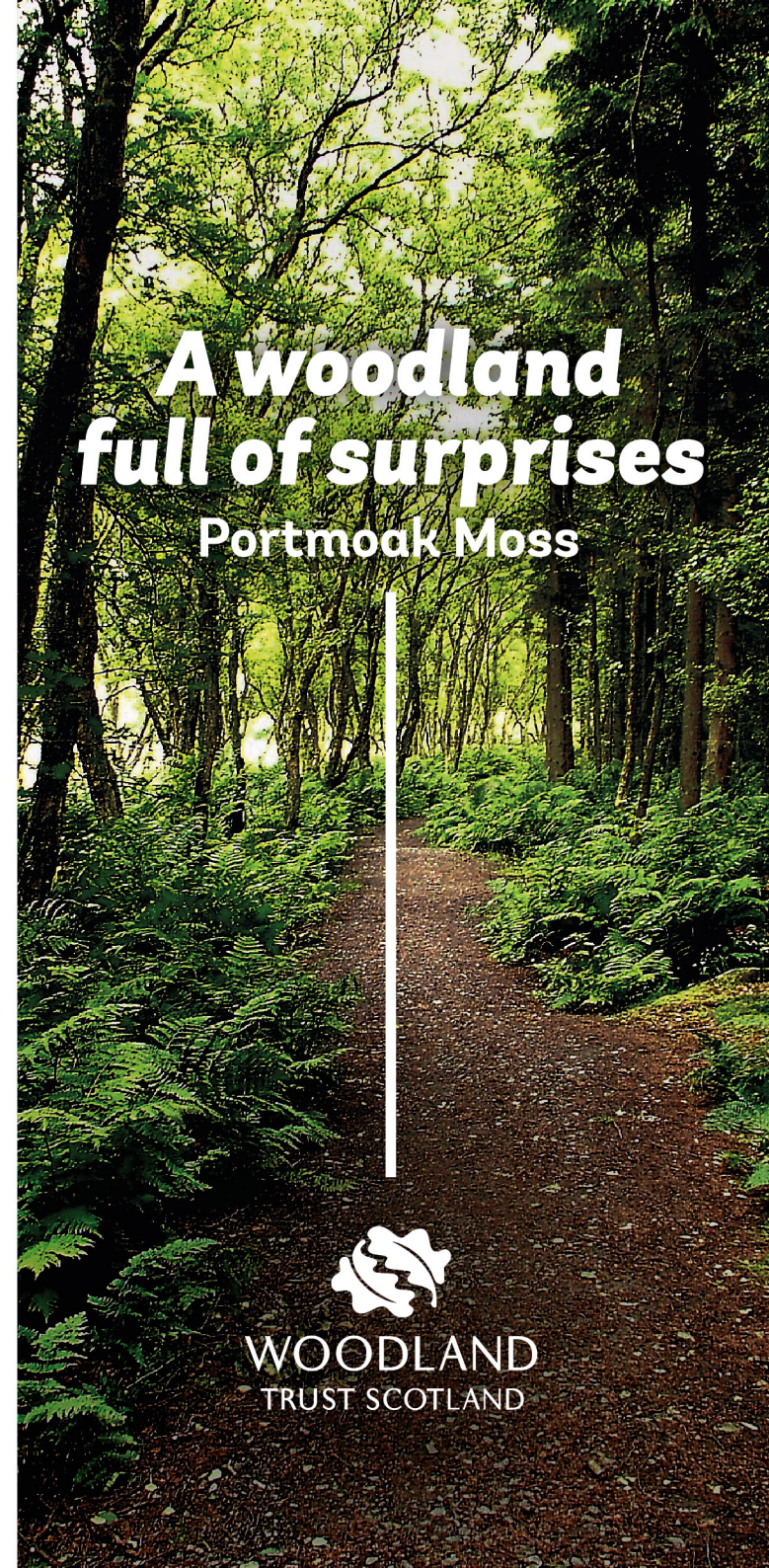
The Portmoak Community Woodland Group helps with aspects of the management of Portmoak Moss and Kilmagad Wood and works in partnership with the Woodland Trust Scotland. Members of the group come from the surrounding villages and they organise a range of events.



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A woodland full of surprises

Portmoak Moss



WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND

Welcome to Portmoak Moss

Portmoak Moss has at its core one of the few surviving, active raised bogs in central Scotland. Raised bogs are areas of deep, wet peat, raised above the surrounding land. They were formed over thousands of years from decaying sphagnum moss, compressed to form peat. At its deepest point, the peat at the core of the raised bog goes down to a depth of six metres. Historically, local people were allowed to cut peat here for fuel to burn.

Woods and bogs – a natural mosaic

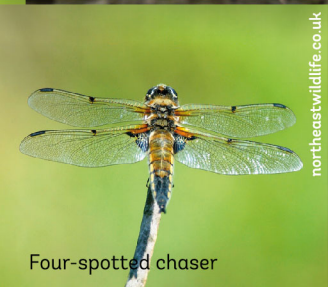
Discover the variety of wildlife that lives at Portmoak Moss, including dragon and damselflies, red squirrels, brown hares, roe deer and great spotted woodpeckers. The site is also a stronghold for green woodpeckers in Fife.

In 2004, Woodland Trust Scotland began restoring the raised bog by removing trees, damming ditches, clearing scrub, mulching and levelling, and reprofiling along part of the bog's perimeter. This has created the open, damp conditions that bog plants such as sphagnum moss and cotton-grass need in order to thrive and spread. The restoration is already proving successful as bog plants have since recolonised areas of the raised bog.



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Small pearl-bordered fritillary



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Four-spotted chaser



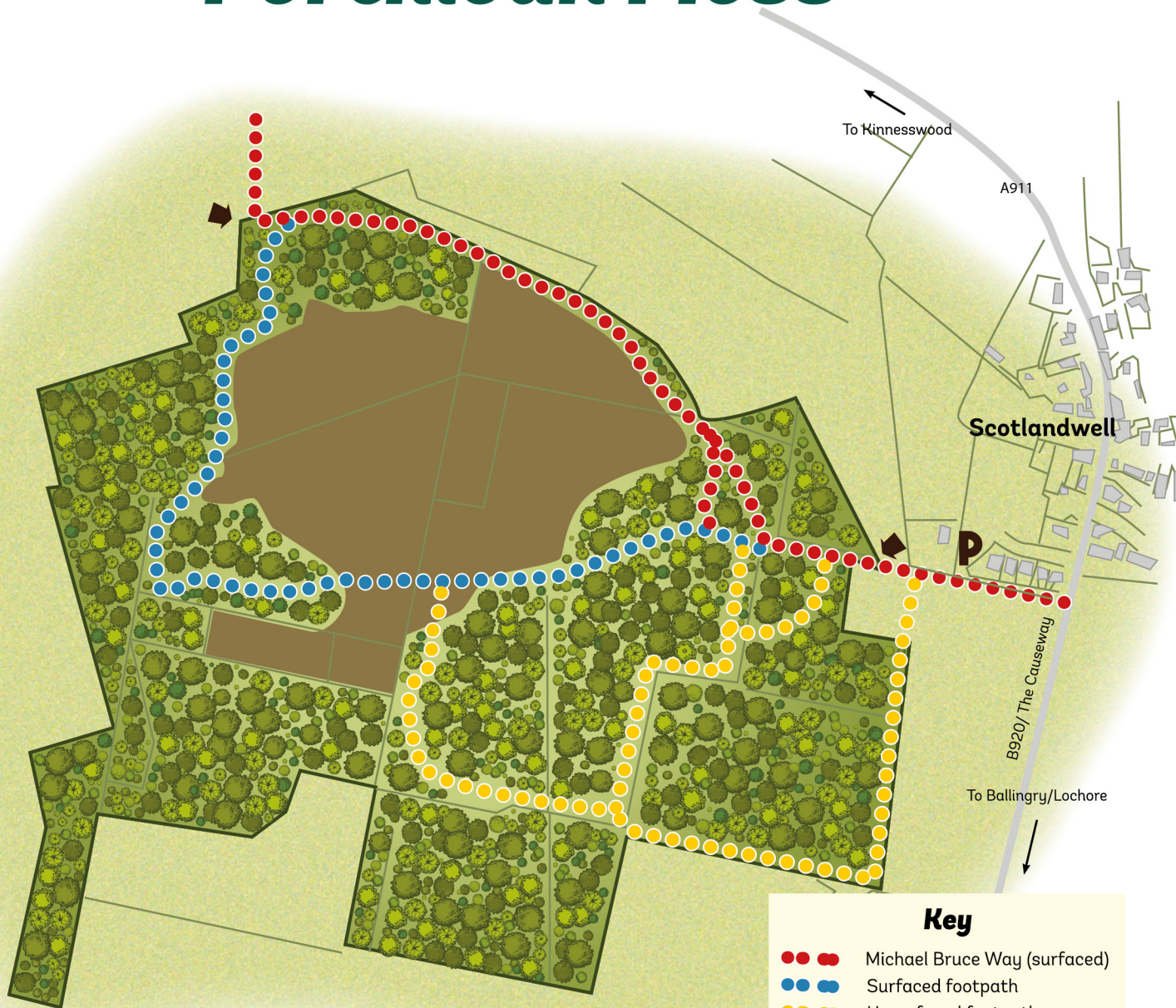
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Red squirrel



View across Portmoak Moss

Explore Portmoak Moss



Key	
	Michael Bruce Way (surfaced)
	Surfaced footpath
	Unsurfaced footpath
	Ditches
	Entrance
	Car parking layby (space for three cars only)
	Woodland
	Core area of raised bog

Explore on foot

Walking is the perfect way to experience Portmoak Moss. The circular trail is around 1.6km (one-mile) long and takes about half an hour. If you want to get off the beaten track to see a wider range of wildlife, there are plenty of unsurfaced paths to explore.

The Moss is often walked in combination with The Michael Bruce Way, a 4.8km (three-mile) circular route that connects the villages of Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell. If you fancy a longer walk you can also join the 21km (13-mile) Loch Leven Heritage Trail. This route runs through Kilmagad Wood, which is also owned by the Woodland Trust Scotland.



Large red damselfly



Moss



Fungi