

## Places of Interest

The text on this leaflet is available in alternative formats including large print or digital (.pdf) on CD rom if required. Please contact the estate office. Tel: 01807 580283. The details are also included on our website, www.glenlivetestate.co.uk

### TOURIST/VISITOR INFORMATION

Glenlivet Estate Office and Information Centre (Tomintoul)
Situatd at the south end of Tomintoul Main St., the Estate office and Information Centre houses displays about the countryside of Glenlivet and how it is managed. Ranger staff are generally available to help with enquiries and information leaflets about the area's wildlife, walks, cycle trails and accommodation are available. Leaflets can be obtained from outside the building when the centre is closed (for further details see back panel).
Tel: 01807 580283 Fax: 01807 580319

Tomintoul Museum and Tourist Information Centre

It was the 4th Duke of Gordon who planned and laid out the village of Tomintoul in 1776. The Duke's plan can still be seen today in the wide main street and central square but the flax and linen industry which was intended to support the inhabitants never succeeded; perhaps that is not surprising as Tomintoul lies at a height of 1165 ft (350m). Housed next to the Tourist Information Centre in the Square, the Museum was founded following the Tomintoul bicentenary exhibition in 1976. It includes reconstructions of a farmhouse kitchen and of the old village smithy. There is also a display on peat cutting and the main exhibition area includes some fascinating material on local history and wildlife. A range of publications is on sale. Open Easter to October. Tel: 01807 580285

### DISTILLERY VISITOR CENTRES

Glenlivet Distillery

An industry that did succeed in Glenlivet was the distilling of whisky. Before regulation, the secluded hills provided many secure sites for producing illicit spirit, while the hill tracks provided quiet routes out of the Glen for a product whose quality drew a steady, if illegal demand. When distilling was legalised in 1823, George Smith a local farmer, set up a distillery on his farm near Minmore. Today the successor of his original distillery has the sole right to call its product "The Glenlivet" and the reputation of whisky produced in the glen extends world wide.

The distillery is open to visitors during the summer and the visitor centre building, formerly the grain store and malting, houses a multi-media exhibition, together with shop and a cafe. Visitors can also see the whisky making process and sample the product. For further information and group bookings Tel: 01340 821720.

### ANCIENT MONUMENTS/HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Drumin Castle and Museum of Scottish Country Life (Glenlivet)

Only two walls remain of this former stronghold of Alexander Stewart, better known as the Wolf of Badenoch (1342 - 1406). It was probably built in the 14th century and was one of three strategically important castles occupied by The Wolf, the others being at Loch an Eilean in Speyside and at Lochindorb on the moors above Grantown. Access to the castle (open free all year) is via the car park and footpath by the river Livet on the unclassified link road between the B9008 and the B9136 ( see map). Alternatively the castle can be viewed from Drumin farmhouse, which houses a museum collection of curios and items of household equipment, clothes, pictures, souvenirs, farm implements, old journals and records – giving a fascinating glimpse of bygone Scottish country life. Open throughout the summer. Entrance fee to museum. Tel: 01807 590210

Blairfindy Castle (Glenlivet)

This small castle was built by the Earl of Huntly in 1586. It is an impressive stronghold which is thought to have been built as a hunting lodge, but possibly with the purpose of controlling the main access to Gordon country from across the Ladder Hills. Unfortunately it is now in a dangerous condition and no access within the surrounding fence is possible.

Scalan (Braes of Glenlivet)

The Catholic faith has remained strong here especially in the secluded Braes of Glenlivet. Indeed for most of the 18th century the Seminary of Scalan in the Braes was the only place in Scotland where young men were trained for the Catholic priest hood. From 1717 to 1799 over 100 priests were trained at this secluded site, despite repeated attacks by Hanovarian soldiers, and the College played a vital role in keeping the traditional Catholic faith alive in northern Scotland. It was named after the turf sheilings (Gaelic: sgalan) found in the Braes. After being completely destroyed in 1746 after the battle of Culloden, the College was

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relocated across the Crombie water on its present site. The foundations of the original building can still be seen near the bridge and just below, the Bishop's Well is tucked into the bank beside the burn - a welcome source of clear spring water on a hot day. The house is in the care of the Scalan Association who have recently renovated the building, and is open to visitors throughout the year.

Knock Earth House (Strathavon - Walk 11)
This stone lined underground chamber is thought to have been used as an illicit whisky still, disguised as a corn drying kiln. It is also possible that it was originally built as a souterrain - an underground food store or larder dating from the late Bronze Age (c 1200 BC). The site can be reached via Walk 11, which is an extremely attractive riverside walk.

Packhorse Bridge (Glenlivet)

This picturesque structure spans the Livet at Bridgend where the river tumbles through a narrow rocky gorge. The exact age of the bridge is unknown but it is thought to have been built in connection with the nearby Blairfindy castle. Two arches of the bridge now survive, the third having been ripped away by flood waters during the great Muckle Spate of 1829. There is an attractive picnic site and car park next to the bridge.

Lecht Mine

Between 1730 and 1737, iron was mined in the hills near the Well of Lecht. The ore was taken by pack horse over the hills to Nethy Bridge for smelting. Later, in 1841, the mine was reopened to produce manganese ore. A crushing plant driven by a water wheel was installed – housed in the building that can be seen from the present picnic site. It is now empty of any machinery but there is an attractive walk alongside the burn from the car park to the mine. A leaflet on the mine is available from Tomintoul Museum and there is a small interpretive display inside the mine building.

### VIEWPOINTS

Gaffney Viewpoint (Tomintoul)

A short distance up the Campdalmore Farm road at the north end of Tomintoul village, there is a very fine view of the River Avon as it meanders its way past the village, with the high tops of Ben Avon dominating the horizon. The viewpoint is marked by a cairn in memory of Dr. Victor Gaffney, a local historian.

Craig Haulkie Quarry

Situated next to the A939 on the northern approach to Tomintoul, this once active limestone quarry overlooks the River Avon, Tomintoul and the surrounding hills. A car park, picnic table and a short walk to a viewpoint, allows you to explore further.
**Please keep away from the quarry face.**

The Bridge of Avon

Built during construction of the military road through Avonside in 1754, this attractive bridge provided the main route across the crystal clear waters of the Avon for several centuries, until the demands of modern traffic and the rigours of the weather took its toll on the structure and it was replaced by a new bridge, just upstream, in 1991. The old bridge has now been renovated, providing an attractive picnic site and excellent vantage point for viewing this lovely river.

Highland Cattle

Small herds of Highland cattle, a hardy breed, traditionally kept by crofters and farmers, can be seen in the village of Auchnarrow and at the Glenlivet distillery. Roadside lay-byes provide viewing areas at both locations.

**Please do not enter the fields.**

Other hill-top viewpoints can be found on Walk 1 (Glenmulliach Forest), Walk 2 (Scalan and Tom Trumper) and Walks 5&6 (Carn Daimh summit). All provide excellent vantage points for viewing the surrounding countryside and the high tops of the Cairngorms.

### HISTORICAL EVENTS

Battle of Glenlivet (Walk 4)

In 1594 a force of about 2000 local men in support of the Catholic Earls of Errol and Huntly routed 10,000 highlanders under the Protestant Earl of Argyll at the Battle of Glenlivet. A dramatic event with deep and complex roots, the battle represented a victory of artillery and horse over irregular infantry and has passed into local legend. The site of the battle can be reached via Walk 4 from Allanreid, or from the Forestry Commission car park at Morinsh on the B9009. The walk through the forest is well sheltered and enjoyable providing some attractive views. To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the conflict, Sir Edward Peck (a local historian) produced a detailed history of the battle in a small booklet. Available at the Tomintoul TIC and local shops.



## Paths and Trails in Glenlivet

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### INFORMATION ABOUT ACCESS

### BEFORE USING THE ESTATE TRAILS, PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION

The map overleaf shows the waymarked trails on the Estate. The Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:50,000 Sheet No. 36 (and parts of sheet No.37) will also be helpful and shows most of the paths and tracks used.A small booklet with full details of the waymarked routes and further information about places of interest on the walks is also available from the Estate Information Centre, the Tomintoul Tourist Information Centre and local shops. Details are also available on the estate website.

The walking trails are waymarked with small square plastic markers including a silver 'G' on a blue background, together with direction arrows where required. Stiles are provided where fences have to be crossed. Please use these even if there is a gate close by.Where gates have to be opened, please ensure they are left shut and securely fastened.

A car park and trailhead sign (with route descriptions) are provided at the start of every waymarked walk.

### Deer Control

It is essential to reduce deer numbers by shooting to prevent damage to woodlands and farmland and keep numbers in balance with their habitat. Roe deer stalking mainly takes place in woodland areas in the evening and early morning during May, June and July. Users of the trails at this time are asked to take particular care to be aware that deer stalking may be taking place and to avoid causing disruption to shooting activities. Limited red deer stalking also takes place during October and November on certain hill areas, particularly in the Ladder Hills. Please contact ranger staff for further information.

### Grouse Shooting

This takes place on the moorland areas of the estate from 12th August — mid October (except Sundays). Walkers using hill areas at this time of the year are asked to avoid crossing land where a shoot is taking place until it is safe to do so. Some waymarked walks (Walks 2 and 3) pass through grouse shooting areas and walkers are requested not to use certain sections of these routes while grouse shooting is in progress. Grouse shooting does not take place on Sundays and access to all hill and moorland areas is unaffected when

shooting is not in progress. All moorland birds

are also particularly vulnerable to disturbance from walkers with dogs during the breeding season (April, May and June) and we ask that care is also taken to ensure dogs are kept on a lead at all times when on open hill ground at this time of year.

### Farm Livestock

Several of the waymarked walks and other tracks pass through fields containing farm livestock. Please take great care not to disturb sheep and cattle when using these trails, particularly before and during the lambing and calving seasons, (March, April, May, September and October). Walkers may occasionally encounter young cattle and bulls on some of the waymarked walks, which at times can be curious and may approach you.This is more likely if you are accompanied by dogs.While it is unusual for these animals to present any threat, they may be a cause for concern. Please take care not to provoke or annoy cattle and ensure dogs are kept on leads at all times when passing through livestock. Further information about walks which cross farmland can be obtained from ranger staff.

## Full details of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code are available at www.outdooraccess-scotland.co.uk

**Thank you for reading this information and for your co-operation.**

**We hope you enjoy exploring the estate. If you would like any further details, please contact ranger staff. Tel: 01807 580283**

## LOCAL PUBLICATIONS/FURTHER READING

Guides/Booklets:

Available from the Estate Information Centre, the Tomintoul TIC, local shops or Tomintoul Library:

#### An Audio Guide to the Glenlivet Estate

Enjoy a driving guided tour of the Glenlivet Estate and explore the area from the comfort of your car using this lively cassette tape. Alternatively, use it to plan your visit or as a reminder of your time here. This 85 minute tape provides an excellent way to discover the local area. Narrated by Colin Campbell and local people. Music by the Speyside Fiddlers.

**“Water of Life and a Breath of Fresh Air”**
A guide to the Braes Heritage Trail. Explore the Braes of Glenlivet following this lovely walk which takes you to the secluded sanctuary of the former Scalan Seminary and to the top of a memorable viewpoint overlooking the surrounding countryside. Whisky, water and wildlife all feature, together with fascinating stories of local people.

**“A guide to the Walks on Glenlivet Estate” by Andrew Wells**
A detailed guide to the walks on the Glenlivet Estate (see information in this leaflet).

**“Avonside Explored” by Sir Edward Peck**
This more detailed guide to the country of Tomintoul and Glenlivet, published by the Avonside Conservation Group.

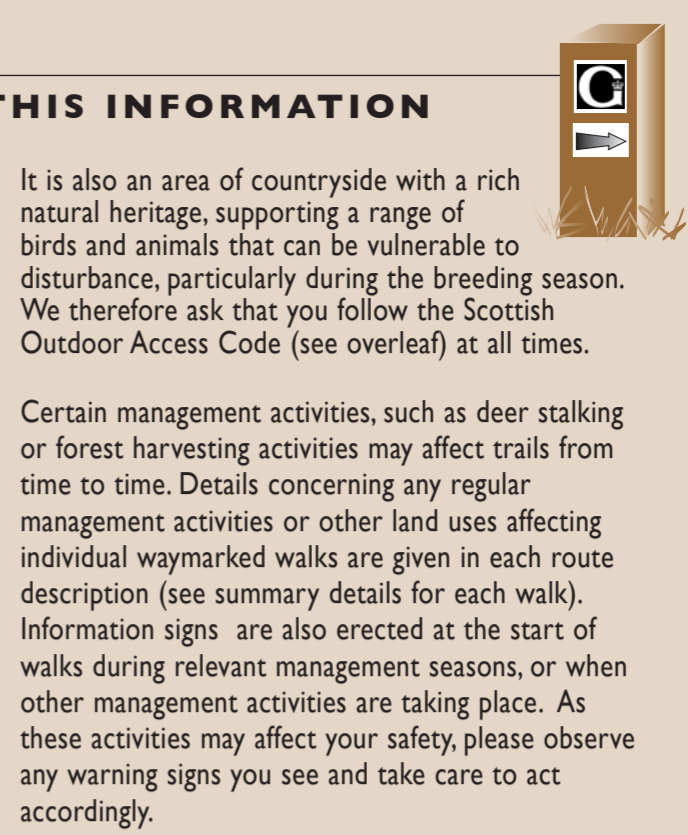
**“Tomintoul, its Glens and its People” by Dr. Victor Gaffney**
A historical account of the settlement of Tomintoul and the area round about.

**The “Battle of Glenlivet” by Edward Peck**
A more detailed history of the battle (see above).

**Other free information leaflets available from the estate ranger service:**

- Tomintoul and Glenlivet Highland Holidays – A Guide to Accommodation, Activities, Crafts and Local Services
- A Guide to the Cycling Trails on Glenlivet Estate
- Birds on Glenlivet Estate
- Glenmulliach Forest Nature Trail
- Welcome to Tomintoul – A guide to local services and facilities
- A guide to the fishing beats on the Rivers Avon and Livet
- Wild Camping on Glenlivet Estate – A guide to good camping practice
- Glenlivet Estate – Natural History and Sites of Wildlife Interest
- What is the Crown Estate ?
- Glenlivet Estate Factsheet

## Paths and Trails in Glenlivet



### WALK 6: GLENCONGLASS TO CARN DAIMH

**Distance:** 7.3 miles (12 km) circuit.
**Start:** GR. 172 223. Glenconglass car park
**Route:** A more sheltered alternative to route 5, climbing steadily along forest roads to the summit of Carn Daimh (570m). Return route crosses more exposed moorland and may be wet underfoot.
**Access information:** During May, June and July this walk may be affected by deer stalking activities, in the evenings and early mornings. Livestock may be present on some sections.

#### Litter

Litter bins are not generally provided outside village areas and we ask your cooperation in taking your litter to a place where it can be properly disposed of.

#### Disabled Access /Motorised Access

Vehicular access to viewpoints/trails for elderly or disabled visitors can be arranged to certain areas. Please contact ranger staff for further information about these routes and for information about trails and forest roads suitable for wheelchairs/disabled access. Unauthorised motor vehicles of any type are not permitted on the trails.

## WAYMARKED WALKS

**Walk 1: Glenmulliach Forest**

**Distance:** 3 miles (5km) to viewpoint and back.
**Start:** GR. 193 168. Glenmulliach car park and picnic site, A939 Lecht road.
**Route:** Forest road leading to a prominent viewpoint overlooking Tomintoul.
A Nature Trail leading to a forest hide and a wayfaring course can also be followed.
**Access information:** During May, June and July this walk may be affected by deer stalking activities in the evenings and early mornings.

**Walk 2: Scalan Walk - Braes Heritage Trail**

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.6km) to summit and back.
**Start:** GR. 245 204. Eskemulloch car park, Braes of Glenlivet.
**Route:** Level track to Scalan. Rougher beyond and may be muddy. Steady climb to the top of Tom Trumper which affords excellent views of the Braes of Glenlivet and the Cairngorms.
**Access information:** A guide to the Heritage Trail is available from the Estate Information Centre. Please avoid using the Tom Trumper Spur of this route when grouse shooting is in progress. The circular route is not affected by grouse shooting activities. Livestock may be present for most of the route.

**Walk 3: The Livet Path**

**Distance:** 6.5 miles (10.5km) circuit.
**Start:** GR. 235 249. Allanreid car park, Tombae road.
**Route:** Attractive low level walk along the banks of the river Livet. Returning across moorland and farmland, through the Braes. Exposed in bad weather and can be muddy and wet in places.
**Access information:** Please avoid using the moorland section between the River Livet and the Blye Water while grouse shooting is in progress. An alternative longer route, following the hill track from the river Livet to East Auchavaich via Ladderfoot (see map overleaf) adds a further 3.5 miles (6 km) to the walk. This can be used to complete the circuit if shooting is taking place or at other times if required. Livestock may be present on some sections.

**Walk 4. Allanreid to Morinsh**
**Distance:** 5.4 miles (9km) one way
**Start:** GR. 235 249. Allanreid car park, Tombae road.
**Route:** Forest road. A steady ascent through sheltered plantations, providing access to the site of the Battle of Glenlivet. Joins Forestry Commission ‘Red Squirrel’ walk to finish at Morinsh.
**Access information:** During May, June and July this walk may be affected by deer stalking activities in the evenings and early mornings.

**Walk 5: Tomnavoulin to Carn Daimh**
**Distance:** 5 miles (8.3 km) circuit
**Start:** GR. 208 265. Clash Wood car park, Tomnavoulin
**Route:** A steady ascent along farm, forest and hill tracks to an outstanding viewpoint (570m). Return across moorland. Exposed most of the way.
**Access information:** Livestock may be present on some sections.

## Paths and Trails

### COMMUNITY PATHS

**Tomintoul Circular Walk**

This attractive 2.5 mile (4 km) circular walk starts and finishes in Tomintoul Square and follows a route through the countryside around the village providing some outstanding views onto the surrounding hills. It also links with the Speyside Way Spur (see below) and other longer distance routes to the Bridge of Avon and Walk 8. The walk can be joined at the Campdalmore car park to the north of the village (GR 164 195) and the Estate Information Point car park at the junction of the A939/B9008 (GR 173 189).

**All Abilities Trail**

A 500m network of trails (suitable for wheelchairs) provides access to the woodland area next to the Estate Information Centre in Tomintoul. A variety of native trees, flowers and birds with several wooden sculptures can be seen on the trails.

**Tomintoul Country Walk**

This is a pleasant walk of about 3 miles on easy roads starting on the outskirts of the village. Start at the car park on the Delavorar Road at the south end of Tomintoul (GR. 165 176). The walk passes Queen Victoria's Viewpoint overlooking Glenavon.

**Drumin Circular Walk**

A very enjoyable 2 mile (3 km) walk close to Drumin, alongside this highly attractive section of the River Livet. The walk can be started at the car park next to the junction of the B9008/B9136 near Bridgend Cemetery (GR 195 299) or from a car park next to the bridge on the short link road close to Drumin Castle (GR 185 304).

**Tomnavoulin Circular Walk**

A short 0.5 mile (1 km) walk through woodland around the village of Tomnavoulin. The path also links with Walk 5 (via Eastertown/Westertown farm road) and Walk 10 (via a path through the distillery to the Tombae road).

Start and finish at the village green.

**Chapelton, Braes of Glenlivet**

Several farm tracks and other paths (see map overleaf) provide short walks close to Chapelton and links to other waymarked trails, including Walk 3, Walk 2, and the Ladder Pass (see below).

## LONG DISTANCE ROUTES

**The Speyside Way: Tomintoul Spur**

This extension to one of Scotland's most attractive Long Distance Footpaths runs from Ballindalloch Station to Tomintoul. Access and links to and from the Spur can be gained from Walks 5 & 6, the Blairfindy car park (near Glenlivet Distillery), Deskie Farm road and its terminus (Campdalmore car park - GR 164 195) at the north end of Tomintoul. Walkers reaching Tomintoul, who want to rejoin the main route further west, can follow the right of way / hill track from Tomintoul to Dorback Lodge (via the Bridge of Avon and Glen Brown), then via quiet public roads to Nethybridge (see map overleaf and OS sheet 36). Please note that this link route is not waymarked (see section on Hill Tracks/Rights of Way below). Further information can be obtained from the Estate Ranger, the Tomintoul Tourist Information Centre or from the Moray Council Countryside Ranger at the Speyside Way Visitor Centre, Craigellachie. Tel. 01340 881266. Livestock may be present on some sections of the Spur and the link route to Dorback (see notes above).

**Other Long Established Hill Tracks**

Several old routes radiate out across the hills from Glenlivet (see map overleaf). These include: the route up the River Avon by Inchroy and Glengairn to Deeside, (starting as the Tomintoul Country Walk); the Ladder Path from the Braes of Glenlivet to Donside; the track from Scalan to the Lecht mine; the ‘Steplar Road’ from upper Glenlivet to Cabrach; the old ‘Peat Track’ over the Cromdales and the route from Tomintoul to Dorback Lodge (see Speyside Way above). Whisky smugglers and ‘reivers’ (cattle thieves) formally used many of these routes during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. All these routes are marked by fingerpost signs at the principal access points/car parks but they are not waymarked along their length. Some pass through high and very exposed hill areas, where the route may be indistinct in places. Walkers are advised to ensure they are properly equipped and are able to use a map and compass when following these paths. Additional details of these routes can be obtained from the Estate Office or in the Scottish Rights of Way Society guide to Hill Tracks (available in most bookshops).

