

Just at the edge of Dinnet village there's a place where you can walk through some of Deeside's prettiest woodland or picnic beside a loch covered in water lilies. And if you fancy scrambling into a granite cauldron, following in the footsteps of Queen Victoria, you can do that too!



Burn o' Vat

The lochs are both leftovers from the last Ice Age. As the glaciers melted, two huge lumps of ice got stranded here: the lochs formed in the dents they left behind.

Plenty of light reaches the bottom of the shallow water, so the lochs are rich in plant life. Over 50 species of plant grow around the water's edge. The reeds, rushes and willow trees make great shelter for nesting birds.



Loch Kinord

People have lived at Dinnet for thousands of years, leaving fascinating traces of their lives. One of Scotland's most beautiful Pictish crosses, carved over 1,000 years ago, overlooks Loch Kinord.

Long before the cross was made, Iron Age people lived in a thriving village near New Kinord. See how many traces of their great huts you can find.

On Loch Kinord, one of the islands is actually a crannog: the remains of a hut built on a platform over the water. The other island once boasted a castle, visited by several Scottish kings.



Pictish cross

The Reserve's most spectacular feature is the Vat. It's a vast bowl of pink granite, scooped out by a river flowing underneath the glaciers that covered the land about 20,000 years ago. Clambering inside is a real adventure. See if you can do it without getting your feet wet!

Beautiful woods have grown on the land shaped by the glaciers. Listen for birds like willow warblers in the spring, or watch for foraging flocks of tits in the winter. Around the edges of the Reserve there are swathes of rare bearberry heath, while its bogs are home to colourful dragonflies and insect-eating plants like sundew.



Goldeneye

The lochs are great places for birdwatching in winter. Teal, tufted duck and greylag geese all visit the Reserve, and it's one of the best places in Britain to see goldeneye. These dramatic-looking birds used to be just winter visitors: now many pairs breed in Scotland. Dinnet's lochs are perfect for them, with plenty of food and shelter. In early spring you might be lucky enough to see the males displaying, showing off their snowy white breasts and making a low, growling call as they try to impress the females.

www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

Muir of Dinnet is one of the nine National Nature Reserves (NNRs) in and around the Cairngorms National Park – places where you can enjoy the best of the Park's wildlife and landscape. Four trails, all clearly marked, will help you explore. You choose whether you want a half-hour stroll, or a half-day's walk round one of the lochs.



Loch Kinord

Getting here

Muir of Dinnet is 9.5km (6ml) east of Ballater on the A93. Turn north onto the B9119, signposted Tarland and Strathdon, and the Burn o' Vat Visitor Centre is 2.5km (1.5ml) from the junction. Or set your sat nav for AB34 5NB.

Need to know

Many birds breed and raise their young on the lochs. If you bring a dog between April and July, please keep it on a short lead or under close control.

For more information please contact:

Scottish Natural Heritage, Burn o' Vat Visitor Centre, Dinnet, Aboyne AB34 5NB.

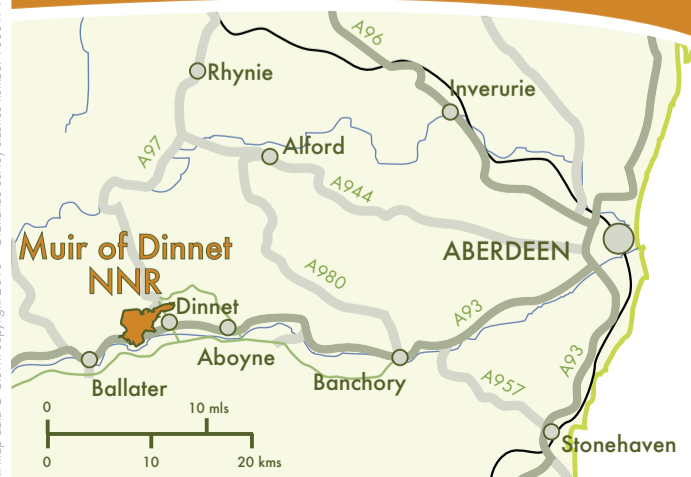
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Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve



VISIT




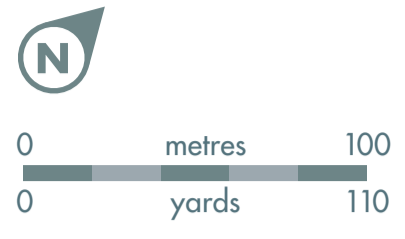
Scotland's
National Nature
Reserves
Magical places, amazing wildlife.

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Key

-  You are here
-  Toilets
-  Viewpoint
-  Refreshments
-  Parking
-  Information centre
-  Paths
-  Accommodation
-  Bus
-  Picnic area



Way to go

The Vat Trail 1.3km / 0.8ml ●●●

A short circuit that will take you to the Vat and a viewpoint across Loch Kinord. If you don't feel like scrambling inside the Vat, you don't have to! Although Queen Victoria managed it...

Wide, well surfaced paths, level to the Vat. One steep climb up to the viewpoint.

Parkin's Moss Trail 3km / 1.9ml ●●●

Raised bogs are mysterious places where the ground is more water than solid earth. Find out just what makes them so special – there's a boardwalk so you can keep your feet dry.

Gravel and grass paths through woodland with gentle slopes. Boardwalk across the bog.

Little Ord Trail 4km / 2.5ml ●●●

People have lived on the Reserve for thousands of years – on this trail you can explore some of the traces they've left behind.

Gravel and grass paths. Level or with gentle slopes.

Loch Kinord Trail 6km / 3.7ml ●●●

A circular route around the loch that takes you through Muir of Dinnet's woodland, with beautiful views across the water. There's a good link path from Dinnet village.

Gravel and grass paths with some uneven sections and tree roots. Level or with gentle slopes.

- Vat Trail
- Parkin's Moss Trail
- Little Ord Trail
- Loch Kinord Trail
- Other routes
- National Nature Reserve