

MOUNTAIN BIKING AND HORSE RIDING

The Park offers facilities for these more active pursuits. For horse riding a Daily or Annual Permit must be obtained from the Head Forester.

The horse riding trail takes in a circular route of about 4.5mls (7km) in the Glengowna area of the forest. The trail is waymarked along a metalled track allowing the rider to enjoy the area without straying into the main recreational block.

There are three mountain bike trails situated in the northern section of the forest above the Glenpark Road. The Trails are graded from Basic to Moderate to the Off-Road which is suitable for experienced cyclist only.

Please ensure you are aware of the personal safety requirements posted at the commencement of these trails.



Photograph supplied by W.J. Lavery

GENERAL INFORMATION

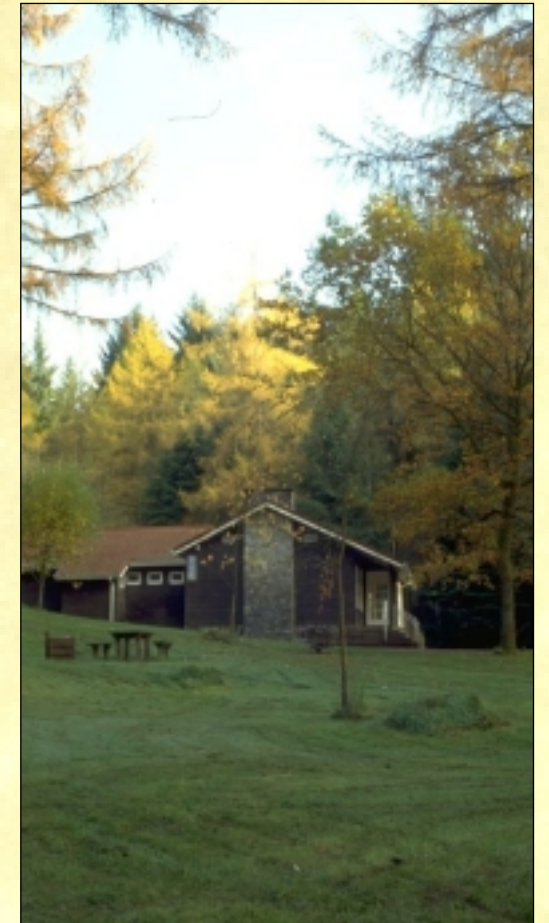
Opening Hours: The Forest Park is open every day of the year from 10.00am until sunset.

Admission: Charges are displayed at the entrance to the Park.

Services: Camping Site.
Picnic and Barbecue areas.
Tea Room.
Way-marked Trails.
Mountain Bike Trails.
Horse-riding Trail (by permit).
Guided Tours (bookable by organised groups).
Orienteering and Educational Trails.
Disabled facilities.
Special events (arranged by permit).
Wedding Photographs (arranged by permit).

For further information and bookings contact:

The Head Forester, Gortin Glen Forest Park,
163 Glenpark Road, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, BT79 7AU
Telephone: 028 8164 8217



GORTIN GLEN FOREST PARK

Gortin Glen Forest Park is situated 6 miles outside Omagh at the western gateway to the Sperrin Mountains. The Park was first opened in 1967 and embraces some 1534 hectares of ground. It has the distinction of being the first to be established in a purely coniferous woodland which was originally planted for the sole purpose of timber production.

The Forest Drive

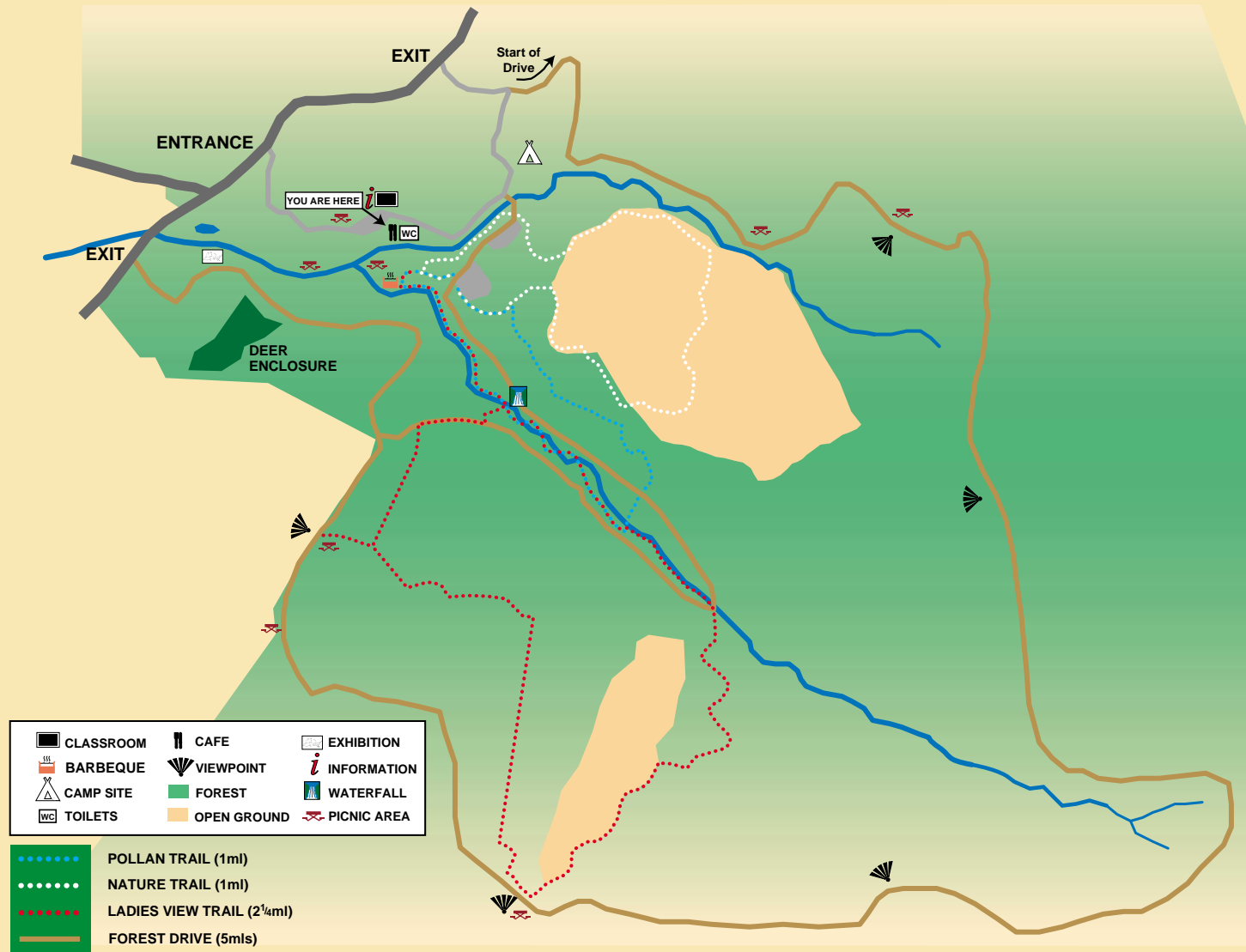
A major recreational feature of the forest is the five mile long drive which offers some breathtaking views. A number of vista parks have been created where the motorist can pull in and without getting out of the car enjoy the magnificent scenery.

Education and Orienteering Trails

Throughout the Park are specially selected marked trails, which are designed for use by schools and youth organisations. They can be tailored to suit virtually any age or ability. The assistance of a Forest Guide is freely available to pre-booked organised groups. For more details contact the Head Forester.



FOREST TRAILS



WAY-MARKED TRAILS

A range of trails start from the finger post in the main car park. They give the visitor the chance to enjoy the Park's natural flora and fauna at its best. All the trails are colour coded and return to the car park.

1 NATURE TRAIL (2 Km/1.25 mls)

This educational trail provides interest for the whole family by taking in a range and variety of habitats. Information points along the way give a broad insight into the nature of Gortin Glen and the surrounding countryside.

2 POLLAN TRAIL (2 Km/1.25 mls)

This pleasant and rewarding trail follows up the course of the Pollan Burn as it tumbles down the mountainside. Stop, for a few minutes at the waterfall and enjoy the beauty that centuries of water have carved in the solid rock. Continue on through forests of Lodgepole pine and Sitka spruce before returning to the car park through Japanese larch planted in 1940.

3 LADIES VIEW TRAIL (3.5 Km/2.25 mls)

This strenuous but rewarding trail provides an excellent walk for those who enjoy exercise. The route rises to its highest point at 350 metres to give a superb view of the surrounding countryside. A brass plate pointing out prominent landscape features has been provided. The path then leads back to the car park through diverse conifer woodlands.

Shorter informal walks are possible around the the Forest Park.