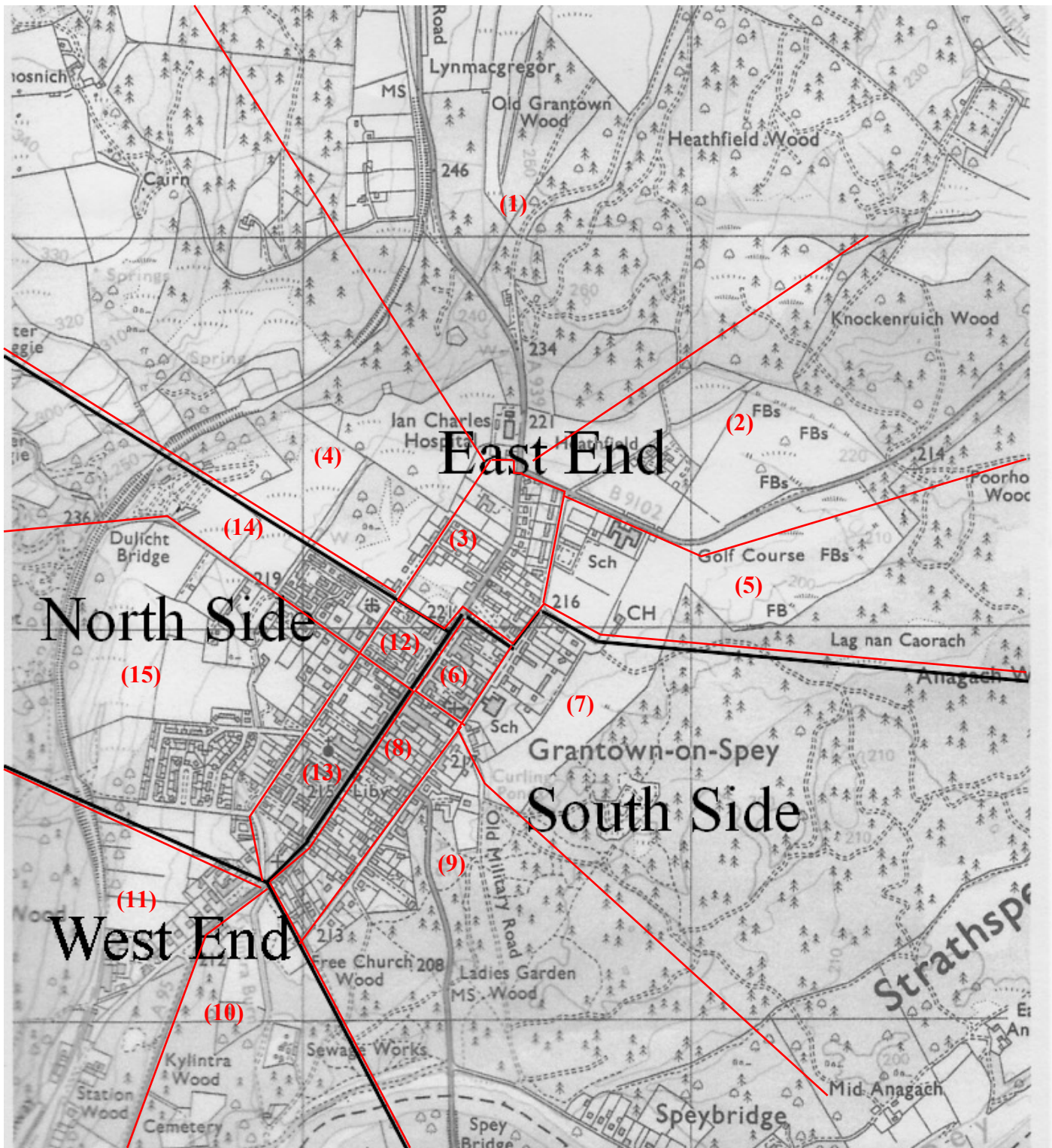


The Grantown Compass

Draft January 2018





East End

(1) Entrance from Nairn and Forres

Location.

This is the famous A939 leading to and from Castle Grant and the Braes of Castle Grant; Dava Moor and Lochindorb, Logie Steading, Forres, Nairn and the Moray Coast, Cawdor, Culloden and Clava, Inverness and the North.

Features

Just outside the town boundary is the Health Centre and the Ian Charles. Beyond are the former railway Castle Halt and the lodges at the entrances to Castle Grant and the site of Old Grantown.

Improvements and developments

Make a roadside footpath from the hospital to the Achosnich road end with a wooden railing on the side away from the road.

Create a footpath on the East side, beside the stone wall of the main road and develop waymarked paths to Old Grantown and through the Heathfield Woods to Heathfield and the end of the golf course linking to the Poorhouse woods.

Maintain the stone walls, hedges and the verges to a high standard along the main road and Cromdale Road

Create extra or replacement and redesigned “Welcome to Grantown” signs and Increase floral displays.

Develop Ian Charles into a (Private) Community Therapy Centre or Supported living units in association with the Health Centre (if Health Centre cannot be relocated to town centre).

Build an entrance roundabout where the A939 meets Cromdale Road and with access to potential developments behind the Ian Charles and potential access to Care home, Beachan development and Caravan site.

Extend 30 mph limit to the top of the brae beyond the hospital.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

There are numerous motor and cycle tours on this road across Dava Moor. Many are circular returning on the B9102, the A95 via Cromdale or Dulnain, for example via the Braes of Castle Grant. From here there are circular walks close to Castle Grant and through Heathfield and Knockenruich Woods and also up to View Point and Dreggie returning via Seafield Avenue as but one option. For longer walks or cycle runs the Dava Way leads to Forres and is part of the 95 mile Moray Way. Return is also possible over the Ourack or through the hills from Lochindorb. The Braes, Dava Moor and Lochindorb are the location for and source of many places of interest and legends - of Castles, Lochs, Kelpies, Fairies, Battles, Smuggling, Ghosts, Snowstorms, Crimes and Punishments. Further afield, past the “Jesus Saves” stone and the Floating Island, it is an easy journey to Lochindorb, Logie Steading, Cawdor Castle, Clava Cairns, Culloden Battlefield, Forres, Nairn, the Moray Coast, Inverness and the North (linking with the NC500), Dalcross Airport.

(2) Entrance from Advie and Tulchan

Location. This is the B9102. It is Cromdale Road: the “back road to Cromdale” and to Advie and Tulchan, Archiestown and Knockando, following the River Spey to Craigellachie

Features

Just within the town boundary are the Grammar School and Sport's Centre. The area includes part of the Golf Course, the Poorhouse and Knockenruich Woods and the Heathfield Showfield. Beyond is the Spey, the bridge, church and Cromdale.

Improvements and developments

Create a roundabout at A939 junction [as in (1)] maintaining stone walls and original black and white direction signpost (relocate if necessary).

Create an additional Welcome to Grantown sign.

Build a footpath continuing the school pavement beyond sports centre along the edge of the golf course to link with paths through Poorhouse and Knockenruich Woods. Also join the school pavement with that along Heathfield Road. Place walks and information maps at parking bay at the entrance to the Poorhouse Wood.

Maintain open border to town of the Showfield and its neighbouring field apart perhaps from extra sports pitches and a pavilion.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

The B9102 leads to Cromdale and Balmenach (now home to Balmenach whisky and Caorunn Gin), to Advie and the Braes of Castle Grant, all of which provide short motor and cycling loops. Further, following the Spey there is Knockando with its historic working woolmill and Craigellachie with the famous Telford Bridge. There is easy access to numerous distilleries and further circular tours. Walks through the Knockenruich Wood (where the famous Pictish "stag stone" was found) link with those in Heathfield Wood and those on the south side of the road lead into Poorhouse Wood (the site of Grantown's "infamous" poorhouse). As with all areas there is abundant wildlife to view and enjoy.

(3) Castle Road and Castle Road East

Location.

This is Grantown's traditional land of the "East Enders". The streets follow the A939 from the B9102 junction to the end of the Square. The area is bounded by Heathfield Road and part of Mossie Road.

Features

Several buildings in Castle Road are listed and parts are included in the Grantown Conservation Area. Buildings at the far end of each tenement illustrate the development of housing with both modern bungalows and fine Edwardian Villas. Importantly the area is largely surrounded by open space. Beyond there are open vistas of the surrounding woods and hills. Grant House and the adjacent cattle field are included. There is also a playpark. Within this area is Burnfield (the original watercourse and bleaching green) with its parking, toilets, recycling bins, water fountain. Here is Grantown's museum and visitor centre.

Improvements and developments.

Develop and landscape the playpark linking it with Grant House and including features to make it fit for all generations and visitors, making use of shelter trees, newly created mounds and hollows with willow features and picnic places.

Consider demolishing the former police station and creating a car park.

Redesign Conservation Area boundary.

Encourage full maintenance of buildings and street furniture (especially walls and green spaces) and in particular the development of Gladstone House and the land behind.

Add 20mph speed limit from Burnfield into the Square and High Street

Develop Burnfield car park site to be more informative and welcoming for visitors - relocate recycling bins, reinstate grass bank up to the road, refurbish drinking fountain, add information boards and direction signs. Clean up area around the Court House.

Redesign the bed of the former burn with a small bandstand, picnic seating, redesign of shrub beds and paths and give serious consideration to possibly removing the non-working fountain. Provide visitor information along back wall. (Not suitable for a petanque court which might be sited next to the (resited) draughts board.)

Maintain open border around built area by keeping field adjacent to Grant house undeveloped apart from necessary infrastructure.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

The Burnfield carpark is, and could be more so, the starting points for many walks and tours because of the parking available. The museum is an important feature, The layout of the original feus is worth looking at as is the architecture from the steel house in Castle Road East and the villas to the toilet and the water fountain. The Garth Hotel as well as many buildings carry stories of Grantown's development and its interesting characters. The area also illustrates Grantown's foundation through the site of its water supply and industry.

(4) The North-West

Location.

Mossie Road and beyond.

Features

Lynemacgregor Wood, Flushing Pond, Wells and fields behind Ian Charles, part of trackbed of former Highland railway (now part of Dava Way)

Improvements and developments

Plan for and encourage small housing and/or hotel development adjacent and behind the Ian Charles up to the targets (top corner) but leaving open border around previously developed areas.

Build access road to new development and to Care home, caravan site and Beachan development.

Highlight walks and features such as the mineral well, the redirected burn, the targets and link up walks.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

Open spaces and the Mossie, (wild life area) mineral well access to woods and Dreggie Hill and railway line, Auchosnich and view point and beyond.

(5) The East and North-East

Location

Golf Course and Poor House Woods

Features

Grammar School and Sports Centre, Golf Club House, part of Golf Course, Tennis Courts, Bowling Green, Black Park including Football field and pavilion, Scot Hut, N-E part of Anagach Wood, Poorhouse Wood, Part of Golf Course Road, Heathfield Road.

Improvements and developments

Enhance and signpost woodland walks and sporting facilities.

Develop cycle route to Grammar School and link to Primary School and Town Centre

Review Conservation area boundaries.

Extend parking.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

Grammar School and sports grounds (tennis, football bowls, golf etc) and sports centre plus woods beyond. The Black Park home of the former Agricultural Society and Mart buildings.

South Side

(6) The Square (South Side)

Location

The south side of the A939 running through Grantown from the Courthouse to, and including, Forest Road.

Features

Buildings from the Courthouse to Forest Road. Trees and flowers. The steps to the Courthouse and the lane to the Burnfield Car park, the regality Cross and flag poles, the grass plots, the Grant Arms lane and the orphanage, the lane beside the Legion buildings and the land to rear..

Improvements and developments

In N-E corner - rebuild steps to Courthouse and consider direct steps towards Museum, ensure appropriate lighting and mend road surface.

Rationalise signage and provide further information boards.

Declutter grass plots and review placement of flowers, ensure posts and chains are maintained, renew litter bins and provide quality grass cutting and maintenance. Upgrade seats.

Set out and implement a plan for trees.

Remove surplus bus stop. Improve bus shelter.

Review parking. Negotiate parking space from Telecom building and yard (multistorey car park?).

Facilitate building repairs and improvements - windows, vegetation, paintwork and general appearance.

Develop pathways between South Street and the Square. Reallocate builder's yard to industrial estate if possible.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

Nearly every building has a story and a walk around the Square is of interest. It is possible to see the features of the original tenements and their subsequent development.

(7) South Street and beyond

Location

South Street on the South side of Grantown, formerly "Back Street" or "the road leading from the cattle market stance to Inverallan" and the land to the south and East, running from the junction with Forest Road to Market Road and Golf Course Road.

Features

On the Square side, the rear end of the original tenements, often with remnants of the original walls and now split with further housing. The telephone exchange and surroundings, builders yard, School canteen

and nursery, Grant Arms Lane and modern housing. Part of Golf Course. Curling Pond. Anagach Woods, paths and moss. Former Council dump. RAF Centre. Parts of Speyside Way

Improvements and developments

Develop old fire station and council yard for storage and parking and also potentially the telephone exchange and builders yard.

Maintain walls and paths, chains and grass plots and old stone walls,

Develop cycleway and signpost cycle tracks.

Encourage setting up “Grantown welcomes walkers” and “Grantown welcomes cyclists”

Continue to develop woodland paths and link to town centre and Grantown East. Develop woodland trails - fitness, fairies, heritage. Provide further information about the wood and their story.

Review conservation area boundaries,

Signpost school playground and carpark for summer parking.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

South Street or Back Street, the road from the Cattle Market Stance to Inverallan, is partially within the current conservation area and is the home of tales of the “Big Close” and also the former Grammar School now the Primary School. Walks lead to the woods and such features as the curling pond, part of the Golf Course, the site where Sir James’ Fencibles were trained and beyond down to the Spey and Anagach.

(8) High Street (South Side)

Location

High Street tenements from High Street to Woodside Avenue. The Square to Woodlands Crescent (from the end of the High Street to the Kylintra Burn.

Features

Strathspey Hotel and Car park. Public car park. Filling station, Community Centre, Car repair workshop and ground. Shops, cafes and villas. Mixed infill and tenement end houses many Georgian (original walls) and Victorian features (villas and postbox),

Improvements and developments

Develop the former Strathpey Hotel and grounds, Community Centre. Relocate, if possible, and develop repair workshop.

Improve car park repaint and add signage for visitors.

Explore possibilities of enhancing backlands including possible increased parking with lanes improved for pedestrians and cycles.

Maintain old stone walls and improve area around filling station and rebuild wall in stone.

Redraw conservation area boundary.

Investigate ways to make the High street more pedestrian friendly. Enforce parking restrictions and find parking for residents and shop keepers. Facilitate improvement of street facing buildings, - upper floors, windows roofs gutters etc. enforce planning controls but sympathetically.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

This is conservation area and the Georgian Rectangle and Victorian developments. Most buildings have interesting stories and legendary characters.

(9) Woodside and approaches to Grantown.

Location

Part of Woodside Avenue from and including Forest Road to and including Dunstaffnage Brae

Features

Mixed housing mostly Victorian Villas. South Church. military road. Ladies Garden and Free Church Woods. Approach Road from the Spey Bridge and pavement. Cycle tracks and walks. Ladies Walk/ Riverside Walk. Old and new Spey bridges. Grantown East Station (Culture and Heritage Centre)

Improvements and developments

Rebuild fencing along approach road. Provide road sign pointing to Grantown, Add sign welcoming to Grantown. Enhance roundabout and surrounds.

Improve and build and signpost paths and cycleways.

Add trails within woods eg sculptures, fairies, fitness, archaeology and history. Link paths and trails to Town Centre.

Redraw Conservation Area boundaries.

Encourage housing improvements.

Improve parking and picnic spots beside river and Old Spey Bridge.

Encourage and help develop links with the Grantown East Development.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

The Old Military Road (erroneously named Wades Road) leads to Ladies Garden Wood past war time defences, Beltane Bannock Brae and down to the Spey, the bridges and the former railway station (now being developed). It links with the Speyside Way. The A939 leads to Tomintoul and Royal Deeside with a great many features of interest along the way, It is designated as the Snow Road. It joins the road to Cromdale and on to Speyside and the Road to Nethybridge and Loch Garten. By these routes Grantown is linked to many places of interest and is the starting point for many circular tours, both by foot, cycle or motor. It is also equidistant from to ski centres and gives easy access to Glenlivet cycle trails.

West End

(10) Kylintra Wood, South and East

Location.

Lands between the B9102 and Ladies Garden Wood

Features

Kylintra Burn, Skating Pond, Sewage works, Grant Park, Paths through woods and to River, Kylintra Meadow, Riverside Road, Bathing Pool, Figgat's Well Cemeteries.

Improvements and developments

Rebuild fencing along Burn side, add signposts, clean burn, develop and signpost walks, upgrade information boards, provide parking and picnic places, upgrade park and meadow. Clean Skating pond and set up boating station.

Improve cemetery access and surroundings.

Reinstate Figgat's Well and improve riverside walks. Establish picnic places and parking. Initiate archaeological survey of ancient sites

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

The path which follows the burn leads past the skating pond, the former sawmill site and to the river and so to the old cemetery past Figgat's well and the bathing pool. There are other walks through the woods and both Grant Park and Kylintra Meadow on the other side of the burn. There can be several themed walks.

(11) Entrance from Dulnain and the A9

Location.

Approaches from the S.W. Woodlands Terrace, Station Wood and lands to the West,

Features

Old Railway line and former station site, industrial estate, entrance to Grantown, old quarry, Villas of Woodlands Terrace, modern houses on Kylintra lotted lands, Strathspey Drive, Beachan Wood, former REME camp

Improvements and developments

Enhance roundabout and entrance to the town.

Develop old quarry site and former petrol station as gateway, walks access and cyclists' stop with information about the town and its facilities including parking and toilets..

Complete Rails to Grantown programme.

Redraw conservation area boundaries.

Safeguarded features of Victorian Villas.

Signpost walks

Add 20mph speed limit

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

This is the A95 leading to Dulnain Bridge, Carrbridge and Inverness and also to Boat of Garten, Aviemore and the A9 South. All of these have many interesting features and on the way stone circles, cairns and roches moutonnes. The road leads past an old quarry in Station Wood just outside Grantown which has enormous potential. Opposite is the entrance to the new cemetery and the entrance to Kylintra Wood and several walks. The former and one day revived railway line runs North - South here and is at present partly walkable back into Grantown. There is also the road to Glenbeg and circular walk or cycle route and also

North Side

(12) The Square (North Side)

Location.

The north side of the A 939 running through from the NW corner of the Square to the corner of Seafield Avenue

Features

Buildings bordering the Square, the draughts board, Estate Office buildings and CNPA extension, Church Avenue and trees, Car repair workshop, Church Hall, waste ground, Horse field, modern bungalows on Grant Road, the Clachan, buildings along the NE side of Seafield Avenue.

Improvements and developments

Review boundaries of conservation Area

Replant trees and remove dead trees and branches

Upgrade level of maintenance of grass areas and chains

Review parking and increase if possible.

Consider low stone wall on buildings side of the grass plots incorporating signage, seats planters and declutter Square and remove unnecessary signs.

Consider area beside Church hall for parking and review use of church hall when Inverallan is refurbished.

Facilitate building repairs and maintenance and enforce planning guidelines.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

The buildings along the square all carry fascinating stories.

(13) The High Street

Location.

High Street and Woodside Crescent buildings and tenements up to Grant Road from the bank to the West end.

Features

Bank buildings, shops, backlands and bungalows on South side of Grant Road, Churches, Ben Mhor Hotel, South West High Street development, Shankland Court, Victorian houses on lower High Street, West End Stroupie

Improvements and developments

Review Conservation area boundaries and create and enforce appropriate management plan.

Review use of backlands and possible parking options for residents and shop staff/owners.

Facilitate improvement of buildings.

Consider ways of making High Street more pedestrian friendly. And of slowing down traffic. Create cycle way.

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

The buildings of the High Street are full of interest both in their layout and the stories they tell whether it be of the temperance hotel or the wartime cafe frequented by the Kompani ligné. The English Church and the West End fountain too have their stories to tell.

(14) Seafield Avenue (north side) and beyond

Location.

Parts of Grant Road, Inverallan Church, Seafield Avenue the land and buildings to the north of Seafield Avenue, Dreggie

Features

Inverallan Church and surrounding area, former well, burn parts of Mossie, Care home, caravan park part, Dreggie and parts of former railway line, modern housing on parts of Grant Road and Seafield Avenue. Start of the Dava Way, Dreggie Falls. playpark

Improvements and developments

Improve walks and cycle tracks and signage.

Propose new road linking Seafield Avenue with Cromdale Road and potential new development behind the health centre.

Maintain Dulaig Bridge and walls etc beside burn.

Upgrade playpark

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

The tree lined Church Avenue leads to Inverallan Church with its unusual architecture and fine carvings inside. The path alongside the burn leads to and beyond the mineral well. Seafield Avenue leads to the caravan park, to walks along the railway line and the road up to Dreggie and round by Glen Beg if desired, This is also the access to the path to Viewpoint, another circular walk.

(15) Grant Road and beyond

Location

Lands bounded by north side of Grant Road and West side of Seafield Avenue

Features

Villas and modern bungalows on Grant Road and Seafield Avenue, housing behind and new development, old railway line, and Dulaig woods, walks and trails

Improvements and developments

Enhance and develop walks and trails.

Realign conservation area and enforce new management plan.

Continue to develop rails to Grantown and transfers to town centre

Tours, Walks, Legends and places of interest.

There are walks from the edges of the town to the woods, the railway line and the series of waymarked walks beyond Dulaig, though these are usually access from the railway line via Seafield Avenue.