

## People and trees

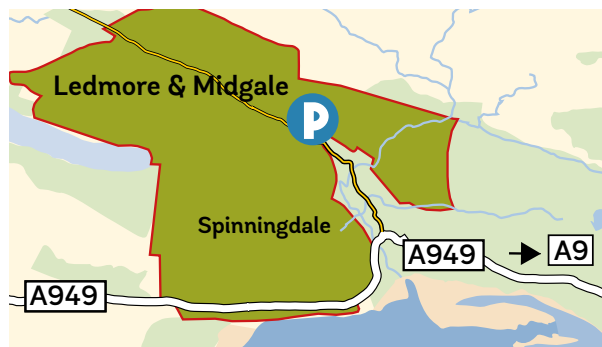
Humans have shaped this landscape for over 4,000 years. Neolithic cairns, farms and field systems can be seen near the paths shown in this leaflet. Two hundred and fifty years ago, these woods, and the area, began to be dramatically altered by 'Honest George' Dempster, a forward thinking MP. He planted many of the older trees

in the woods and purchased the surrounding Skibo Estate, as well as building the now ruined cotton mill near the shore. Later, the estate was bought by the famous industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Woodland Trust Scotland became the custodians of this wood in 1993.

Woodland Trust Scotland continuing tree planting with the community. John MacPherson/WTML

## Getting here

The wood is about one hour's drive north of Inverness. From the A9, turn west at Clashmore and follow the A949 for five miles to Spinningdale. At Spinningdale, turn right onto the minor road signposted for Migdale. After about half a mile, you will find the Torroy car park on your right.



## Stay in touch

Visit [woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk) to learn more about the work of the Woodland Trust Scotland and how you can help us protect trees and woodland.



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# Ledmore and Migdale

Teeming with wildlife and steeped in history

FRONT: Richard Elliott Aerial Filming/WTM



WOODLAND  
TRUST SCOTLAND



## Seasonal highlights

### Spring and summer

Get up with sunrise for a wander in the woods and immerse yourself in bird song. A warm spring day will tease pine cones open with a crack. As the season progresses, orchids together with tasty blaeberrries emerge. Take a deep breath, the aromas of the woods shift subtly as the days pass. There is something special about a pinewood in spring.

### Autumn and winter

As summer retreats enjoy the red and gold leaves of the aspen and oak. As the leaf litter grows look for fungi pushing through before icy winds from the north bring snow.

## Our top three things to try

### Loch Migdale

The loch view is a must-see for every visitor - from the shore, or from the bench higher up the hill.

### Spinningdale view

One of the most northerly oakwoods in the UK, this slightly longer walk takes you on an adventure through the trees to a wonderful view over the old Spinningdale mill and beyond to the Dornoch Firth.

### Natural wonders

From the chatter of birds and the rustling of leaves, to the colours of lichen and the chance sighting of a butterfly, there is always something to encounter in this wood.



Eleanor Gorty/WTPL



Ledmore and Migdale is one of Woodland Trust Scotland's largest and most spectacular properties. Set amongst beautiful highland scenery it is teaming with wildlife and steeped in history. These woods today are the result of the deep relationship between people and the environment over millennia. Explore the trails through pine and oak woods. Wonder at the incredible view over Loch Migdale and Migdale Rock, the sleeping giant hidden deep within this wood.

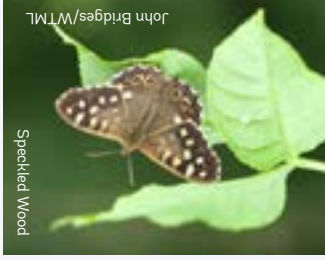
John MacPherson/WTML

## Wildlife

Although tricky to spot, there is an abundance of wildlife living here. Their 'chip chip' call from the pinewoods alerts you to a flock of crossbills. Redstarts and tree pipits arrive in spring. Dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies patrol the air in the warm sunny days of spring and summer.

elaborate fungi emerge later in the year.

After a long absence, red squirrels were reintroduced to the woodland in autumn 2019.



Speckled Wood

John Bridges/WTML



Peregrine

John MacPherson/WTML



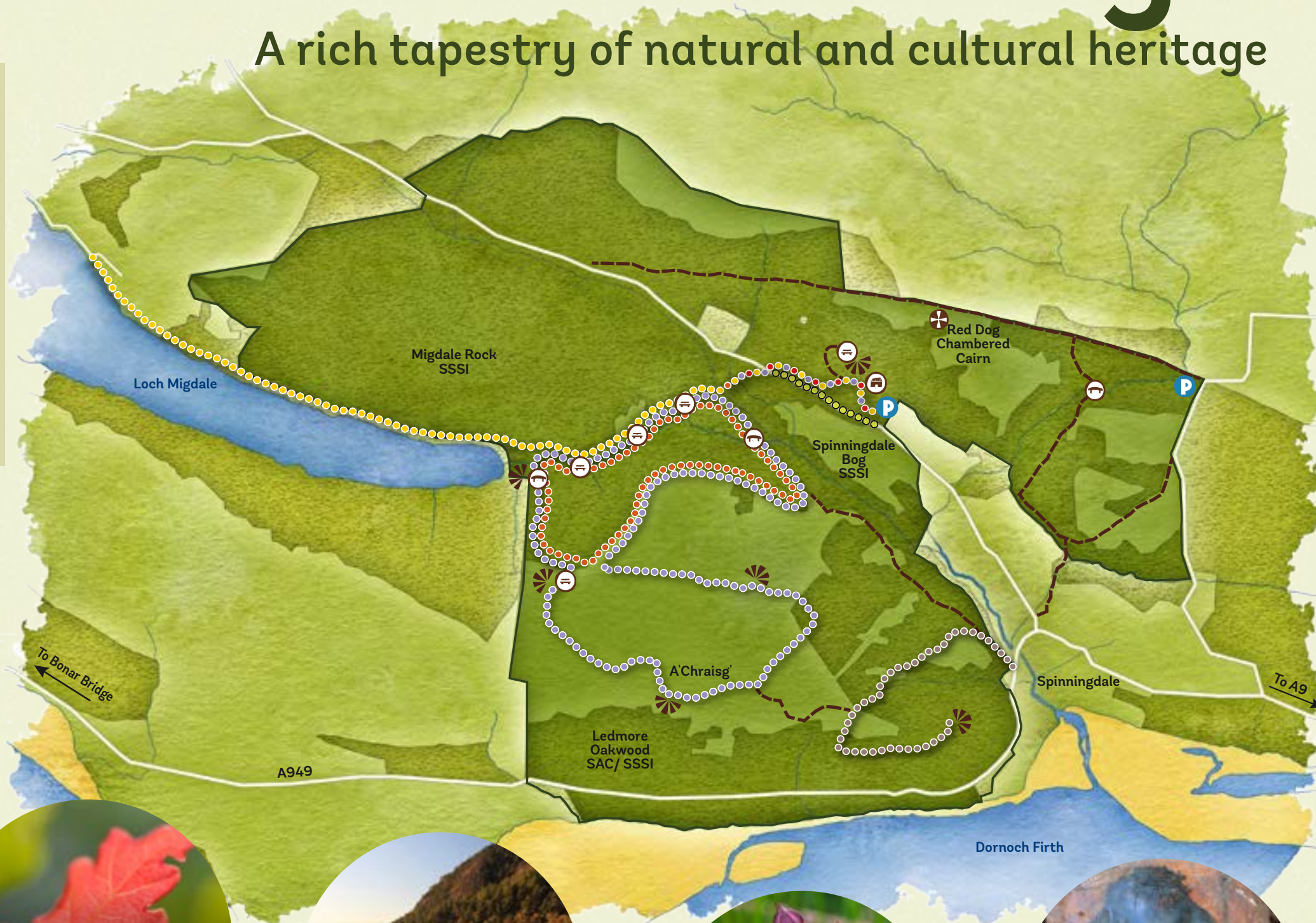
Red Squirrel

John Bridges/WTML



# Ledmore and Migdale

A rich tapestry of natural and cultural heritage



## Loch Migdale

A there and back walk to the loch shore, through pine wood where Canadian Foresters lived and worked during the Second World War.

Firm, wide, grassy path with gravelly and rough sections. One set of steps and one narrow kissing gate. Both can be avoided by taking the tarred road to the junction, which goes through one gate or crosses a cattle grid. Short moderate slopes, slippery during wet weather.



3.5km/  
2 miles  
one way  
Allow up  
to 1hr

## A'Chraigs

A loop through the woods and onto open moorland for a spectacular panorama across Scotland.

Firm, wide paths with occasional rough and boggy sections. Grassy and gravel surfaces often moderately sloped with one steep slope above Loch Migdale to the top of the hill of 1km/ 0.5m with a bench part-way-up.



7km/  
4.5 miles  
Allow up  
to 2.5hrs

## Honest George's circuit

Follow in the footsteps of George Dempster MP (1732 - 1818) a reforming landlord and tree enthusiast.

Firm, wide path with occasional rough and boggy sections. Grassy and gravelly surfaces often moderately sloped and with one long steep slope above Loch Migdale with a bench at the top.



4km/  
2.5 miles  
Allow up  
to 1.5hrs

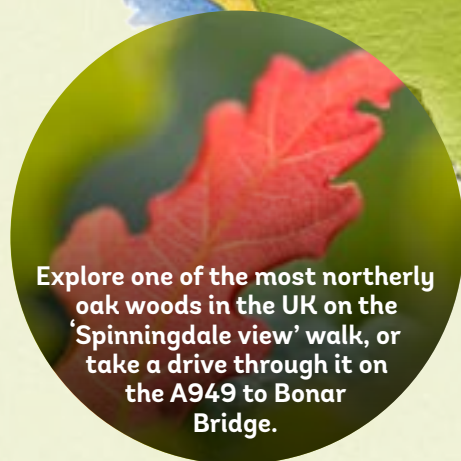
## Spinningdale View

Explore the ancient oakwood and make your way out to a breath-taking view of Spinningdale and the Dornoch Firth beyond.

Firm, wide steep gravel path leading to narrow uneven grassy path with moderate slopes. Grassy path can be slippery in wet weather.



1.5km/  
1 mile  
one way  
Allow up  
to 1hr



Explore one of the most northerly oak woods in the UK on the 'Spinningdale view' walk, or take a drive through it on the A949 to Bonar Bridge.



Take the 'Loch Migdale' path to take in this fantastic view that changes by the hour. These rocks are home to rare flowers found in few other locations in the country.



Spinningdale Bog is the only valley mire in East Sutherland, a rare and valuable habitat. It is home to rare plants, sedges, sphagnum mosses and dragonflies.



The two benches on A'Chraigs have been handcrafted by Ardgay Craftsman Bill Ross, who captures something from the landscape or the wildlife of the wood to inspire the design. Take the time to admire these works of art.