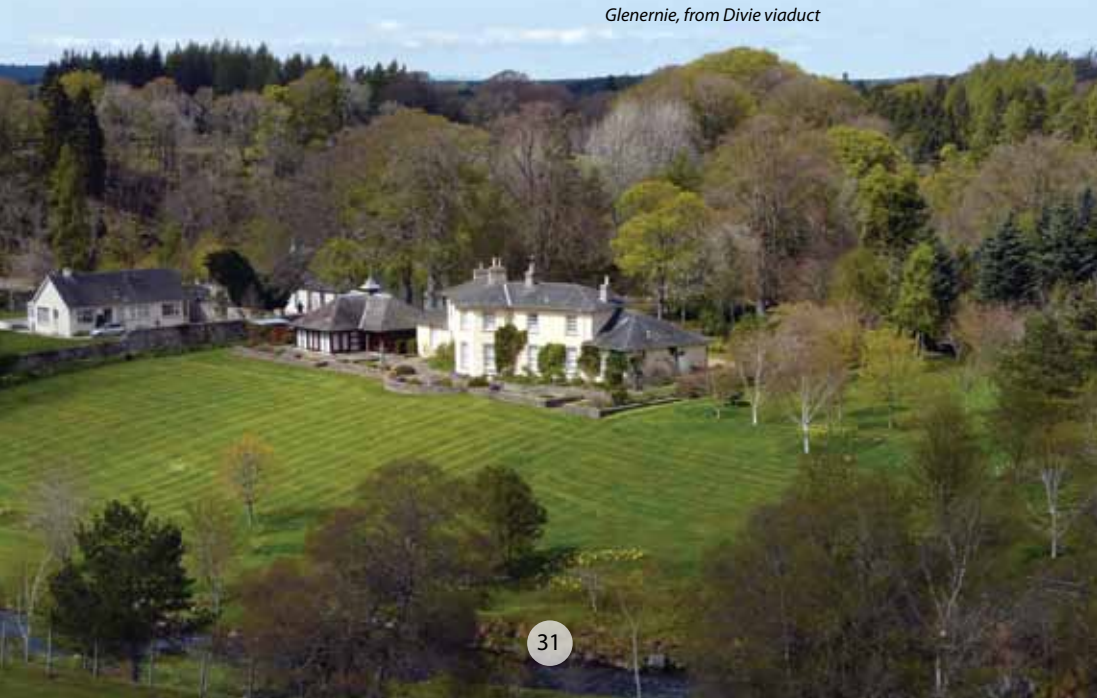


3·2 Dava to Dunphail

- Within 100 m, turn left along a wider track, then right along a signposted path through the trees, where there's a DW information board.
- The path rises to a left turn through a gap in a fence. Cross open ground between a house and forest to rejoin the trackbed in a shallow cutting.
- Next, bear slightly left at a junction; follow the track past a nearby house. Continue through the woodland ahead, along the intermittently muddy track where conifers gradually give way to moorland.
- About 1 km further on, pass a small brick building at Fox Hill, with the sprawling Knock of Braemoray dominating the view ahead.
- Over the next 2 km, features include bends in the otherwise straight track, shallow cuttings, derelict farm buildings near Auchenlochan, gates across the track and timber workmen's shelters. Overall, the walking experience is now of open spaces and wide horizons.



Dava Way near Bogeney



Glenmie, from Divie viaduct



- The track leads through a wooded natural defile near Lochenoun and soon returns to open countryside. About 1 km further on, a track joins the route from the left (Bogeney). You are now about half-way between Grantown and Forres.
- Continue past the broad dome of Carn Eney to the west, and pass through attractive woodland, then open ground. Beyond overhead power lines and another cutting, cross a vehicle track, a possible pick-up point, though with limited parking.
- Now you reach the highlight of the walk, the crossing of Divie viaduct. Plaques in the centre of this outstanding structure mark the cutting of the first turf of the Inverness and Perth Junction Railway, and the laying of the viaduct's foundation stone (October 1861). The line was open for traffic inside two years, by September 1863.
- At the far end, there's a bench beside the track, perhaps a welcome break before the next cutting, which may be muddy in places. Then you pass two houses, with the A940 nearby.
- Less than 100 m beyond a house on the left and a stream crossing, bear right along a path parallel to the trackbed. It has the remains of a platform, now private property.
- Pass the house on the left and return to the track for a short distance to reach the Dunphail Breathing Place and Edinkillie Community Hall near the road: see panel.



Dunphail Breathing Place

Edinkillie Community and Dava Way Associations, with the support of Logie Estate, joined forces to take advantage of the Big Lottery Breathing Places programme. The aim of this scheme is to set create green, wildlife-friendly places that also benefit local communities. On the site of Dunphail's former railway sidings, rowan, birch, and hedgerow species have been planted, woodpile habitats created and a pond established in a naturally wet area. A small car park and a picnic area have also been built, next to Edinkillie Community Hall which is available for hire as overnight bunkhouse accommodation (tel 01309 611 297: no showers, in 2010 price per hire £40).

Divie viaduct

Divie viaduct