

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.
- At mile 9, pass a small brick building at Fox Hill, with the domed Knock of Braemoray dominating the view ahead.
- Over the next 2 km, enjoy some open spaces and wide horizons. At mile 10 is the timber 'Halfway Hut', once typical of workmen's shelters along the line, but renovated by volunteers. with picnic facilities and walker information: see photo below.
- Pass the ruin and lochan at Auchlochan, The track then leads through a wooded defile near Lochenoun and soon returns to open countryside.
- At mile 11·2, reach the ruins of Bogeney, the last of the moorland farm buildings to be abandoned: see photo above. It was inhabited until the late 1940s by a Mrs Macdonald, whose collie Jess is said to have ferried her supplies from the railway in parcels tied with a special knot. A timber carving of Jess celebrates this service.



Ruins at Bogeney, dating from c.1860



South towards the Halfway Hut



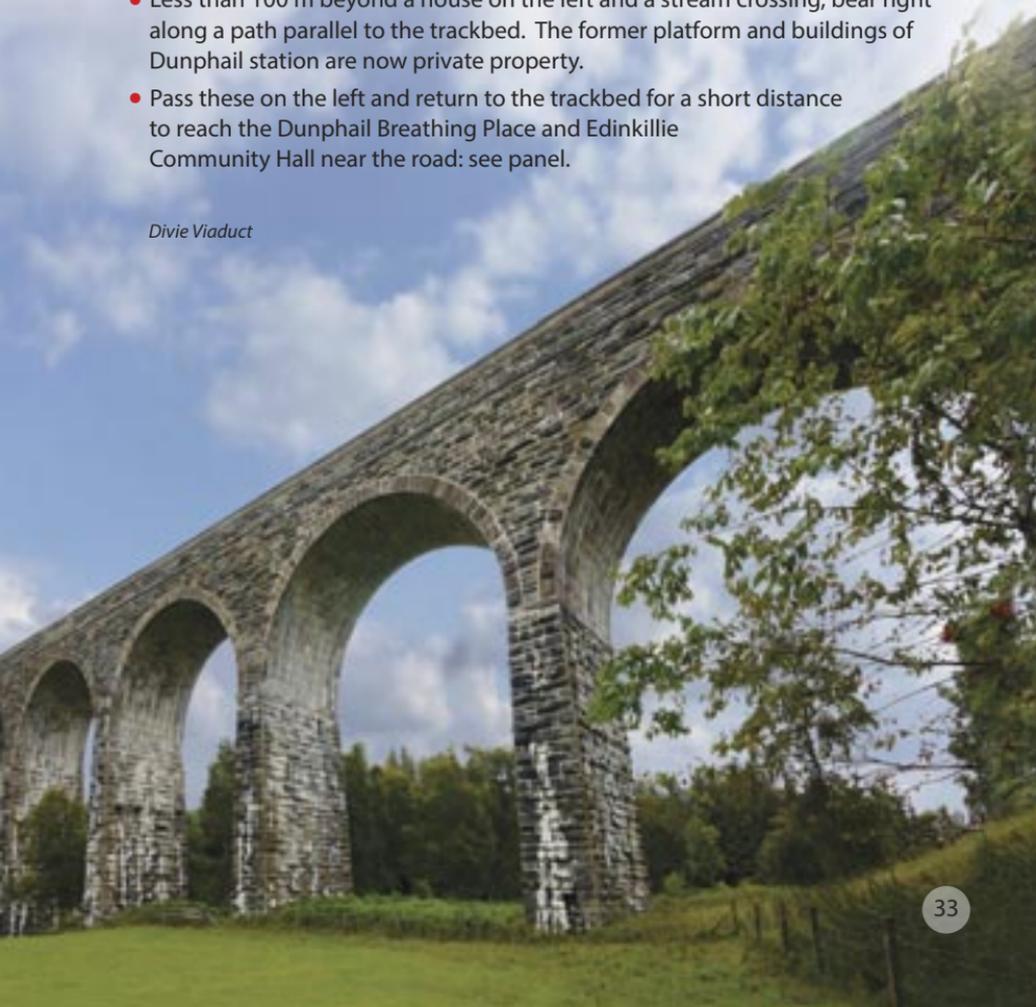
- Continue past the broad dome of Carn Eney to the west, and pass through attractive woodland, then open ground with the giant turbines of Glaschyle wind farm coming into view to the north. Beyond overhead power lines and another cutting, cross a vehicle track, a possible pick-up point, with parking available about 100 m east of the track.
- At mile 13.4 you reach a 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 on 20 October 1861. Inside two years, the line had opened for traffic on 9 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 a few 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. The former platform and buildings of Dunphail station are now private property.
- Pass these on the left and return to the trackbed 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 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 (no showers, tel 01309 611 736 for prices).

Divie Viaduct



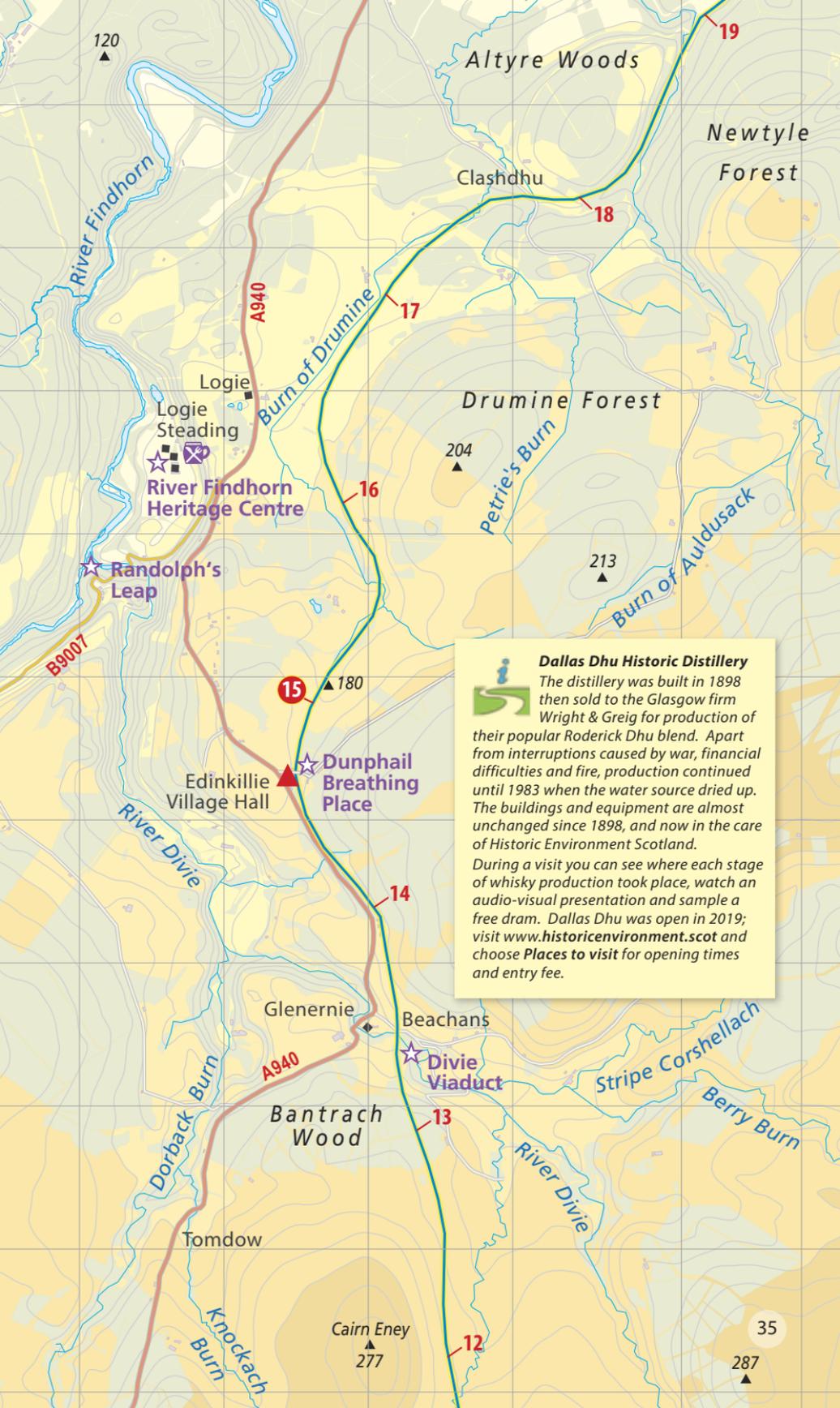
3.3 Dunphail to Forres

- From the Breathing Place, follow the wide trackbed under the stone bridge ahead (mile 14.7). It passes through woodland between fields for several km, and can be muddy.
- Beyond the next stone bridge, north of Peathillock, there were drainage problems in 2020 and there may be more mud. Views open up across the Moray Firth to Morven, the conical hill far to the north in Caithness.
- The Way continues across an embankment, through a mixture of fields, gorse and woodland. A few hundred metres further on there's an even better view northwards and the walking becomes drier on grass.



Road bridge, Dunphail

- The route swings east for a while, through mixed forest and away from the trackbed. It then crosses Half Davoch Road, where there's space to park a few small cars. Continue along the trackbed past an information board, and through a deep cutting.
- On the far side, cross the Altyre Burn at mile 18.9 on a small metal bridge, donated by A J Engineering of Forres. It replaced the original bridge, removed when the line closed in 1965.
- Go under a stone bridge, and 100 m further on, in front of another bridge, bear left up a ramp to bypass a flooded section of trackbed. Cross the bridge and turn left along a vehicle track. After just 15 m, keep to the right along a track, ignoring one on the left.
- The track gains some height through conifer forest to a wider track: bear left. At a fork beside a shed on the left, turn left to pass a house.
- Bear right at a minor junction where there's a stone bridge nearby on the left. Soon the track starts to descend. Turn sharp left, then soon right, to rejoin the trackbed.
- About 200 m further on, Rafford church tower is visible to the north-east, above the houses at Woodside. A better view soon opens up, including the ruins of Blervie Castle on the skyline.
- A small stone bridge crosses the minor road to Rafford. About 200 m further on, a signpost points to the village, a distance of about 1 km.
- Continue through woodland, across a burn hidden in the trees, and into the open. The chimney and turret of Dallas Dhu distillery appear about 1 km ahead. The Way leads through fields, past a short path to the distillery: see the panel opposite and page 36.



 **Dallas Dhu Historic Distillery**
The distillery was built in 1898 then sold to the Glasgow firm Wright & Greig for production of their popular Roderick Dhu blend. Apart from interruptions caused by war, financial difficulties and fire, production continued until 1983 when the water source dried up. The buildings and equipment are almost unchanged since 1898, and now in the care of Historic Environment Scotland. During a visit you can see where each stage of whisky production took place, watch an audio-visual presentation and sample a free dram. Dallas Dhu was open in 2019; visit www.historicenvironment.scot and choose **Places to visit** for opening times and entry fee.

120 ▲

19

Altyre Woods

Newtyle Forest

Clashdhu

18

A940

17

Burn of Drumine

Drumine Forest

Logie Steading
River Findhorn Heritage Centre

204 ▲

Petrie's Burn

Burn of Auldusack

213 ▲

Randolph's Leap

B9007

15 ▲ 180

Dunphail Breathing Place

Edinkillie Village Hall

River Divie

14

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Glenernie

Beachans

Divie Viaduct

Bantrach Wood

13

Stripe Corshellach

Berry Burn

Tomdow

Knockach Burn

Cairn Eney
277 ▲

12

35

287 ▲



Dallas Dhu Historic Distillery

- After the distillery, continue beneath the last stone bridge. Pass through a wide cutting leading to a ramp up to the former official end of the Way, beside Mannachie Avenue.
- The centre of Forres is still about 2 km/1.2 miles away. Turn right along the roadside footpath beside Mannachie Avenue: see the plan below.
- At a left bend, bear right along an access road for a few metres to a waymarked path past Sanquhar Woodland. Continue along Loch View's roadside path.
- At a crossroads, turn left and go down, soon past Sanquhar Loch then Forres Academy. Cross to a path beside parkland immediately north of the school, and continue past another school, then a small park.
- Cross Orchard Road then, at an intersection, bear slightly left along Tolbooth Street to reach the High Street and town centre.
- The trail ends at the Tolbooth (see photo opposite): congratulations on completing the Dava Way.

