

The Dava Way Association asks that when using the path you:-

Know the Code before you go ... Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly!

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- take responsibility for your own actions;
- respect the interests of other people;
- care for the environment.

Find out more by visiting www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



Work to improve access to the Dava Way continues. For up to date information or if you want to contact us, log on to;

www.davaway.org.uk

The Dava Way Association is a Charity Company Limited by Guarantee. Company No SC248592, Charity No SC030496, Registered office 20 Tolbooth Street, Forres IV36 1PH







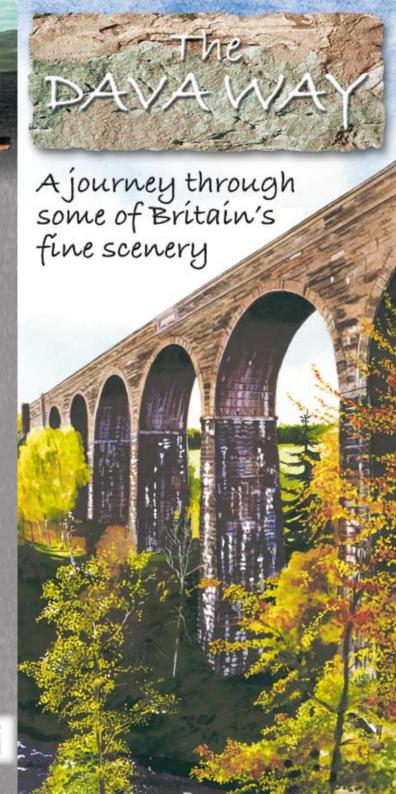












The Dava Way is a way marked path between the town of Forres and Grantown-on-Spey. There are panoramic views across the shire counties of Nairn, Inverness, Moray and Aberdeen. On a clear day there are views across the Moray Firth to Ross and Cromarty, and Sutherland.



The Dava Way is a path linking the towns of Forres (near the Moray coast) and Grantown-on-Spey (in the Cairngorm National Park), mostly following the route of the dismantled Highland Railway Line.

It is a way for you to enjoy the countryside, outdoor recreation and the benefits of improved health and wellbeing.

This is a pleasant and easy route. The surface of the path is generally compacted railway track-bed material, rough and rutted in places, and is good for walking and off road cycling. Depending on the weather, stretches may be very wet. There are 16 opening gates along the route with 2 kissing gates as you approach Grantown and low steps at the track end at Grantown with a steeper flight at Squirrel Neuk Bridge. Further detail on the route can be found at www.davaway.org.uk It offers a variety of landscape, flora and fauna along with natural and railway heritage. It is about 40km to Grantown-on-Spey from the centre of Forres.

Starting your journey from Forres; the Dava Way begins at Mannachie Avenue some 2km from the town centre. A network of sign-posted paths through the various woodlands surrounding Forres, from Grant Park and the Sanqhuar Pond all lead to the old railway and the start of the Dava Way.

Starting from Grantown-on-Spey Town Square, take the road leading towards the camping and caravan park.

It is a journey through woodland and across moorland with panoramic views of the shire counties of Nairn, Inverness, Moray, Ross & Cromarty and Sutherland. To the south, the Cromdale Hills and beyond that, the distinctive Lairig Ghru which cuts through the heart of the Cairngorms massif can be seen.

The Dava Way passes through a number of sporting estates. The shooting season runs almost throughout the year. You can help to minimise disturbance by being alert to the possibility of shooting taking place and taking account of advice on alternative routes. Avoid crossing land where a shoot is taking place until it is safe to do so.

The Dava Way is generally a wild environment. Take the appropriate clothing and footwear before setting out. Prepare for changing weather on the upland sections. Wild and domestic animals may be encountered. A midge repellant is recommended in the summer months.

The path is directed away from the railway at four locations. Three diversions are to avoid private property and minimise intrusion. Hens and geese roam there. Please keep your dog under close control or on a short lead. One diversion is to avoid a flooded section. These are clearly signposted.

Although the path is never far from the Grantown-on-Spey to Forres road, there is no public transport and there are no places for refreshment throughout the length of the route. You are advised to take food and water if you plan to walk or cycle long sections or the whole route.

Forres Footpaths Trust maintains a comprehensive path network in the woodlands surrounding the town. To the north it links up with the Moray Coastal Trail and the North Sea Cycle Route. The first distillery on the Speyside Whisky Trail, the Benromach, is situated outside Forres just off the A96.

At Grantown-on-Spey the Dava Way links up to the Speyside Way and a local paths network in the Anagach Wood.

The Highland Railway ran 166km from Forres to Dunkeld in Perthshire. Joseph Mitchell the Chief Inspector and Superintendent of Highland roads and bridges oversaw the construction. Building started on 17 October 1861 and the railway was passed by the Government Inspector of Railways on 9 September

1863, having taken 1 year and 11 months to build. Many of the bridges and structures are still standing despite the ravages of time.

Please visit our website at www. davaway.org.uk for more information about the path including updates, events and OS maps or to notify us about anything.