



Paul Young/WTPL



WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND

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Printed on recycled paper ♻ 3211 11/06

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Uig Wood



Your guide to a **tangled** island wood

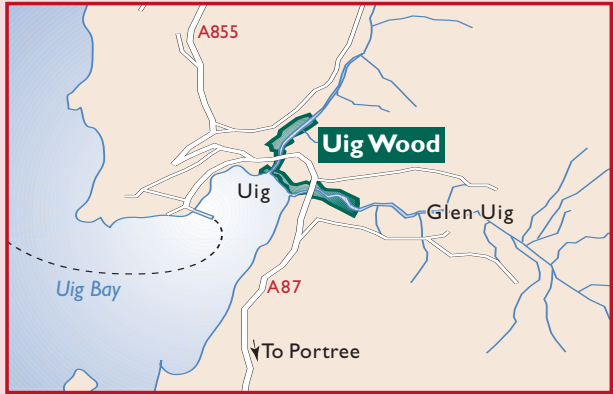


Getting there

Uig wood is 16 miles north of Portree on the western edge of the Trotternish peninsula of the Isle of Skye. It lies within the village of Uig itself and you can park beside the local shop and post office or at Uig village hall, a few hundred metres nearer the ferry terminal for the Western Isles. The wood is within easy walking distance of the ferry.

There is a regular bus service between Uig and Portree which often connects with buses from Fort William and Inverness. The nearest train station is at Mallaig which adjoins a ferry to Armadale. Buses then provide access to the rest of the island.

Portree Tourist Information	0845 225 5121	www.skye.co.uk
National bus company	08705 505050	www.citylink.co.uk
Local bus company	08706 082608	www.traveline.org
National Rail Enquiries	08457 484950	www.firstscotrail.com
Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries	01470 542219	www.calmac.co.uk



Fàilte gu Coille Uige Welcome to Uig Wood

The Isle of Skye is not famed for trees which perhaps makes its woods all the more special. Special because there aren't many of them and special because they survive the wild island weather be it January or July!

Coille Uige (Uig Wood) on the shores of Uig Bay is the largest broad-leaved wood you'll find on north Skye.

In Uig Wood you'll find a tangle of intertwining roots; two rivers spill into the sea, languages overlap, natives rub shoulders with newcomers, plants unite.

See what you can unravel.

Uig Wood: come and join the tangle!

Trail tips

Following the path between the village hall and the post office takes you through the **most accessible part of the wood** on an **easy path**.

The paths along the river banks at either end of the wood take you into the river gorges. Spectacular sights await you! **Stay on the path** though as the surrounding ground can be treacherous.

tangle with Uig Wood...

Viking longship
Popperfoto.com

Uig primary with their CD Hearing
WTPU/Paul Young

A tangle of... tongues

Uig (pronounced oo-ick) was the name given by the Norsemen who visited Skye more than 1000 years ago. Imagine your longship rounding the headland into this sheltered inlet. "Uig!" ("a bay!"), you exclaim, and the name sticks.

The rivers Conon and Rha flow through Uig wood. Hidden behind English spellings, their true sources are Gaelic, the traditional language of Skye, and possibly Norse.

Conon, from *Caoin Abhainn*, is Gaelic for a gentle flowing river. The *Abhainn Ra* may have a Norse root, *gja*, meaning a steep-sided ravine, which aptly describes it.

The place names of Skye reflect our heritage. Names often capture how people used to see and connect with the landscape. Although Norse is no longer spoken here Gaelic is still alive but, like the woodland, you have to seek it out.



A tangle of... natives and newcomers

Some of the trees *crabhan*, the giant sycamores and many conifers, are relative newcomers to Scotland. Among them, native trees – such as alder *fearn*, birch *beith*, elder *ruis*, hawthorne *uath*, oak *darach*, rowan *luis* and wych elm *ailm* - have also crept in. Growing together, these trees provide an important place for insects, birds and other wildlife to live. And, of course, for all of us to enjoy.

There is link to a very ancient woodland here too. Stunted hazel *coll*, true descendents of the ice age forests, cling to the precipitous gorge of the *Abhainn Ra*; out of reach of grazing animals, gnarled and twisted but surviving.

A tangle of... plant life

Lichen *crotal* is not one plant, but two; an algae (like seaweed) and a fungi (like mushrooms), living together as one. Lichen grows on almost anything but, it is extremely fussy about its air and water. Over 100 different types grow in Uig Wood, a sign that you're breathing good clean air here.

In the past, people used lichen for various purposes, one of which was to make different coloured dyes. Nowadays, scientists are using it to study air pollution and even global warming.

Children making stuff
WTPU/Niall Benvie

Wild garlic: John Phillips
Some sort of lichen: Les Bates

...now un**tangle** yourself!