The walk
Follow the GREEN arrows, turn right. At the Police Station stop and read the inscription in the wall at the Witches Stone. 1 Cross the road and continue to fork bearing left into Findhorn Road to Sueno’s Stone. 2 Retrace steps to junction with Croft Road and follow this until it joins Bogton Road where you will turn left. On the right is a cottage - if you peep over the wall as you turn right into the track taking you to the kissing gate - you will see in the garden the last remaining well in Forres and now a mere trickle (known to locals as Piggery Well). To your left you will see the entrance to Christie Elite Garden Centre.

Follow the track towards the by-pass and pass through the Kissing Gate. Cross carefully and pass through a second Kissing Gate onto the track on the north side of the by-pass. Follow the line of trees, with the railway line on the right. Look to your left for one of the finest views of Forres. Arriving at the Mosset Burn, you will see Benromach Distillery 3 on your right.

Come back on yourself and, once again, cross the by-pass. Keeping the burn on your right and houses on your left pass forward onto the green at the front of the Mosset Tavern. 4 A good stop-off point for refreshments.

Leaving the Mosset Tavern cross the footbridge over the burn into Invererne Road. Turn left. Arriving at Castle Bridge, cross the road and turn left into the middle of the bridge where you will see a plaque in the wall to the memory of Lord Strathcona. 5 Retrace your steps to

Now turn your back on this and walk forward down past the Forres Academy and Swimming Pool to the junction with Sanquhar Road. Turn right and cross the road. Walk until you reach the loch on your left hand side. The beginning of the loch is indicated by a small Parking Area. Before going alongside the Loch, you may wish to pop over the road to the opposite side for a look at the Fish Ladder. From the Parking Area, go over the bank to be met by the lovely vista of the Loch and the surrounding woodland. 6 Follow the footpath, along the side of the Loch, until you meet an upward climbing path on your left (with steps). Take the path until you find yourself alongside a high wooden fence on your left - this brings you out alongside St. Leonard’s Court. Yeer away to your right on the track to a broken MacAdam track known as the Breakback (just a few yards). Come out onto St Leonard’s Road. Immediately opposite is the way forward. Moving upwards between the houses you will enter a broad avenue of trees.

Watch for the way markers on the right hand side taking you up to the Nelson Tower. 7 After visiting the Nelson Tower retrace steps to the junction of the tracks and bear right to follow the track downhill (keeping left). Eventually you will meet the track passing the cemetery. Turn right, following the track round and into Grant Park. 8 Bear right and onto the avenue of trees which will take you down to the lovely green. Turn right here and follow the main track back to the car park.

There are geocaches on/near this route (see below)

Mosset Walk
A circular walk around Forres, taking in Sanquhar Loch, the panoramic view from the Nelson Tower at the top of Cluny Hill and a fine view of the town from Councillor’s Walk.

6km/4miles
3hrs

Swan and ducks on Sanquhar Loch

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visit our website: www.forresfootpathstrust.org.uk
1 The Witches Stone
Situated in the wall at the front of the Police Station is a plaque commemorating the burning of witches on the nearby Cluny Hill. Legend has it that witches were placed in barrels and rolled down the hill. This spot being where they came to a halt.

2 Sueno’s Stone
This ancient monument is impossible to date accurately, but it is believed to have been carved in the ninth or tenth century. It is made of grey sandstone of the type found locally. The main faces show a large cross with Celtic interlace on one side and, on the other, a battle scene. The narrow sides are interlaced with patterns and human faces.

3 Benromach Distillery
This distillery was designed in 1898 by Elgin architect Charles Doig, who was famous for designing the pagoda roof. Up until the early 1970’s Benromach Distillery stood proudly with its pagoda roof over the malt kiln. Unfortunately, due to decay, the pagoda was removed by the owners as malting had ceased at the distillery in the late 1960’s.

Over one of the outbuildings at Benromach Distillery is a weather-vane. Where the cockerel ought to be is the profile of a jaunty Highlander, kilted and brandishing a bottle. This is ‘Old Angus’, the original trade mark of the Benromach brand.

Charles Doigs plans included a revolutionary idea of taking cooling water out of the Sanquhar Loch and sending it back unpolluted - requiring a method of making water flow uphill. Nowadays the old fuel bond has been converted to receive the hot waters from the condensers for cooling to 30°C. From the Invererne Road you can see the wonderful display that the cooling water makes in the spray pond, before it is again safely returned to the Mosset Burn.

4 The Mosset Tavern
This hostelry stands on the site of the former Taylor Mills and Laundry. Part of the old building can be seen in Burn Green Lane at the rear of the inn.

5 Lord Strathcona’s Plaque
Born Donald Alexander Smith, at the age of seventeen he left Forres for Canada. There he became the resident Governor of the Hudson Bay Company. He created the Canadian Pacific Railway (completed in 1885). In 1886 he was knighted by Queen Victoria and was given the title Lord Strathcona.

6 Sanquhar Loch
Sanquhar Loch is less than a mile from the High Street. Yet here is an oasis of peace and tranquility where the walker can pause awhile to feast his eyes on this beautiful spot which was once part of the 2,000 acre Sanquhar Estate owned by distilling magnate, Alexander Edward. It is now much smaller than it used to be. It is estimated that 60% of the original water area has been lost to silting, progressing to colonisation by plants and trees which in turn has become a haven for birds and wildlife. As you walk round listen and watch for some of the inhabitants which include swans, wrens, moorhen, heron, dippers - they nest behind the cascading water at the waterfall - thrushes, blackbirds, mallards, redwing, great spotted woodpecker, wagtails, tits, warblers have all been seen and heard here.

Walking round you will have noticed footpaths appearing, disappearing. The Loch is at the centre of a network of footpaths which invite you to return and sample the pleasures that await the walker prepared to explore a little further afield.

7 The Nelson Tower
Standing on top of Cluny Hill the tower is a conspicuous landmark for miles around. It was built in 1806, the year after Nelson’s victory at Trafalgar. The tower is now a museum and is open six afternoons a week during the summer months. A magnificent viewing platform is available on the roof offering a spectacular vista of Forres and beyond - well worth the climb!

8 Grant Park
Once the site of Forres House, the sunken gardens are now a peaceful oasis on a hot day. Strolling amongst the floral displays you can appreciate the imagination of the designs that have brought numerous awards to this beautiful 32 acre park. Have a game of bowls, watch a cricket match or see young football stars in the making. Youngsters will enjoy a visit to the play area. There is so much to do and see here or you could simply sit a while and watch the world go by. This park has been instrumental in the towns success in ‘Scotland In Bloom’ and ‘Britain In Bloom’ over the years.