

## A Good Place to Look

Lichens can be found in many areas in the woods and an easy place to see them is **Anna's Path**.

By the side of the path you will find examples of *Lobaria pulmonaria* and *Lobaria virens*.

The other lichens are there too but you will have to look more carefully – see if you can spot them.

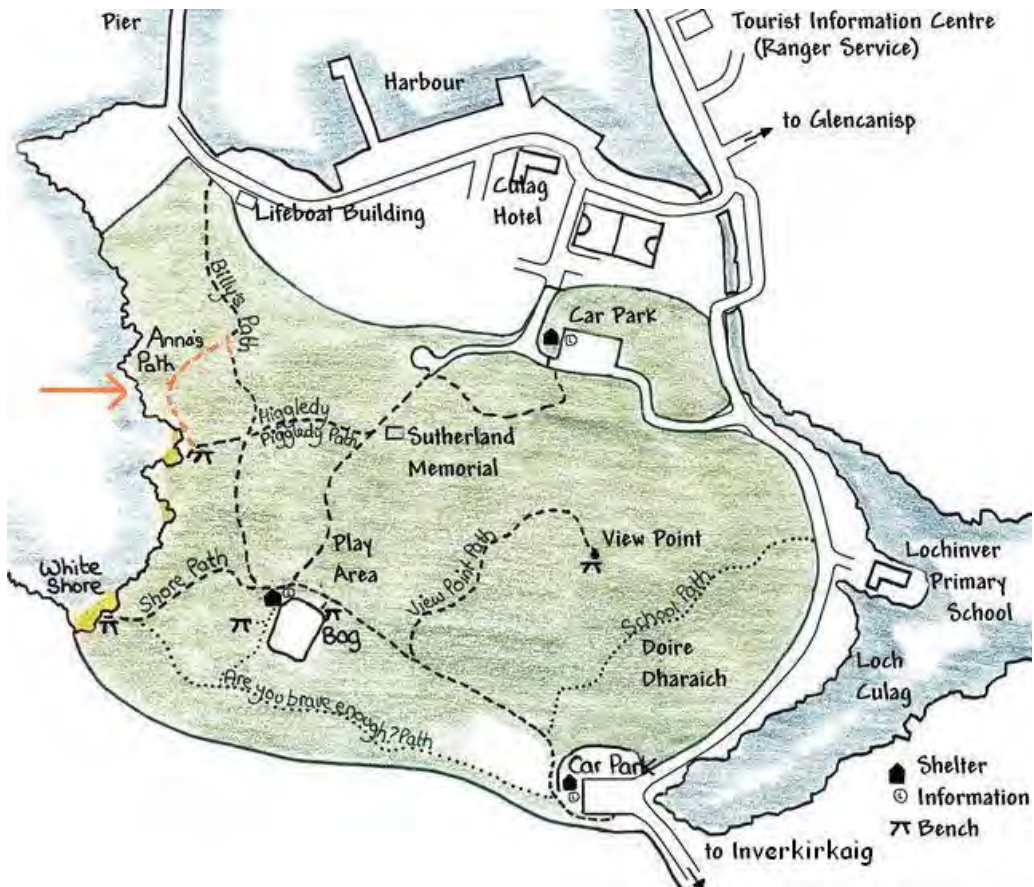
Look for the amplissima on the rocks on the shore and look for more than one sort growing together .

They grow on trees and rocks. They thrive in this area of high humidity, clean air, not too much disturbance and lack of grazing contributing greatly to the ecology of the woods.

The lichens provide a rich habitat for a variety of creatures, tiny herbivores such as bark lice, moth caterpillars, snails and slugs, mites and nematodes. Some eat off the lichens or feed on the matter caught around the lichens. Others use the lichens for camouflage and shelter, whilst some are travellers; moving from the undergrowth into the tree canopy via the lichen leaves. Carnivores also benefit from the lichens, finding their food amongst the herbivores! Look out for beetles, lace wings, slaters and spring tails amongst others. Bird species such as tree creepers, wrens and small tits also take advantage of this diverse food supply.

Increasing our understanding of how lichens grow and inhabit woodland will help us to protect this rich diversity of life.

[www.culagwoods.org.uk](http://www.culagwoods.org.uk)



[Want to know more?](#)

Some interesting websites:  
[www.biol.paisley.ac.uk](http://www.biol.paisley.ac.uk)  
[www.thebls.org.uk](http://www.thebls.org.uk)

And for an informative read try:  
*Lichens*, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2004  
For identification:  
*Lichens*, Frank S Dobson, 2005

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# Special Lichens of Culag Woods



Taking a walk in Culag Wood is taking a walk back in time. Certain lichens indicate that native trees, such as hazel, rowan and downy birch, have been present for hundreds of years. The woods at Culag still have the remains of this ancient woodland and in order to protect these important areas during the management of the woods a small group of members have got together to study these particular lichens over the next four years.

What is a lichen? A symbiotic relationship between a fungus and an alga.

This leaflet introduces you to six of these special lichens. They are part of the rare lichen community called the 'Lobarion', after its most conspicuous family. These are of European importance and Culag Wood is a stronghold for them. in the north west of Scotland.



***Lobaria pulmonaria***  
 'Tree Lungwort'

A frilly leafy, spreading lichen which is crispy and brown when dry and flabby and green when wet. Look for the ridges on this leaf-like (foliose) abundant lichen



***Lobaria virens***  
 'Green satin'

A vivid green lichen when wet and grey when dry. Flat on the surface with no ridges



***Lobaria amplissima***  
 'Parchment lichen'

White to brownish when dry, pale green grey when wet. Smooth towards the tips and wrinkled in the centre



***Sticta sylvatica***  
 'Stinking Sticta' (fishy smell when damp)

Dark brown, multi-lobed with faint net-like ridging over the upper surface. Scattered dark brown, gritty specks on upper surface. Lower surface is brown with white dots.



***Degelia plumbea***

A lead grey coloured lichen Usually circular with brown fruiting bodies (apothecia) on the upper surface



***Pannaria rubiginosa***

Similar to *D plumbea* but look out for the white ring around the apothecia