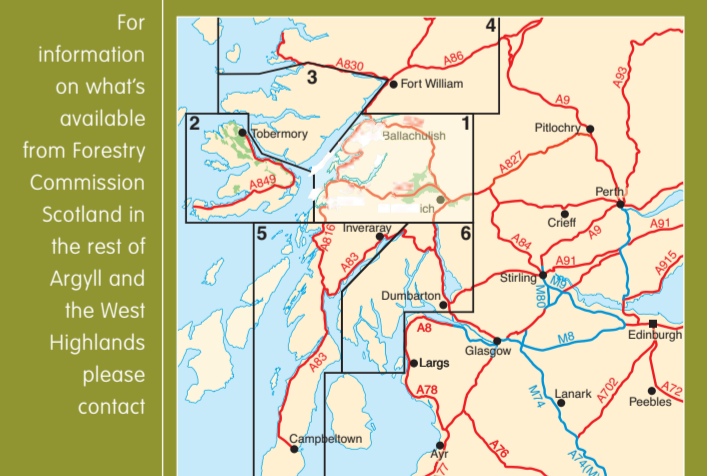


Explore The Forests of North Argyll



Contact 1 Forestry Commission Scotland
 Lorne Forest District
 Millpark Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4NH
 Tel: 01631 566155
 E-mail: lorne.district@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
 Web: www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland
 Public enquiry line 0845 FORESTS (367 3787)



- Forestry Commission Scotland, Lorne Forest District
Aros Office, Salen, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA72 6JP
Tel: 01680 300346, E-mail: lorne.district@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- Sunart Oakwoods Initiative, Morvern & Ardnamurchan
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- Forestry Commission Scotland, Lochaber Forest District
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- Forestry Commission Scotland, West Argyll Forest District
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Tel: 01546 602518, E-mail: west.argyll.forest@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- Forestry Commission Scotland, Cowal & Trossachs Forest District
Aberfoyle, Stirling, FK8 3UX
Tel: 01877 382383, E-mail: cowal.trossachs.forest@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

For information on public transport services contact:
 Traveline Scotland, 0871 200 2233 or
www.travelinescotland.com
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Taking care on the hills

Please remember that the weather on the hills and mountains can change very quickly. Even in summer, conditions on the tops of mountains are often much colder and windier than at low levels, despite clear skies. Here are some pointers for a safe and enjoyable trip.

- Be properly equipped
- Plan your route carefully
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return
- Take adequate warm and waterproof clothing
- Wear suitable footwear
- Carry a map and compass and know how to use them
- Take sufficient food and drink
- Be prepared to turn back if it gets too hard for you
- Keep to the route you intended
- In an emergency dial 999 and ask for the police

Forestry Commission Scotland's woods are 'working forests' and large volumes of timber are harvested from them every year. Other activities such as road maintenance and deer control also take place from time to time so it is important to take notice of warning signs or diversions; these are for your own safety.

Grades of Walking

Forestry Commission walks are graded according to the degree of difficulty and type of conditions visitors can expect.

Easy Sensible Footwear	Moderate Waterproof Footwear	Strenuous Hillwalking Boots
Easy Muscle Loosener	Moderate Muscle Stretcher	Strenuous Muscle Builder

What to see



In the west of Scotland, the forests contain many interesting archaeological features including: standing stones, cairns, crannogs and charcoal hearths. Particular features of the forest area are the sites of pre-clearance villages which are being rediscovered as the first rotation of trees are felled. Please remember not to move or remove any stones or climb on any structures - most of them are unstable and easily damaged.

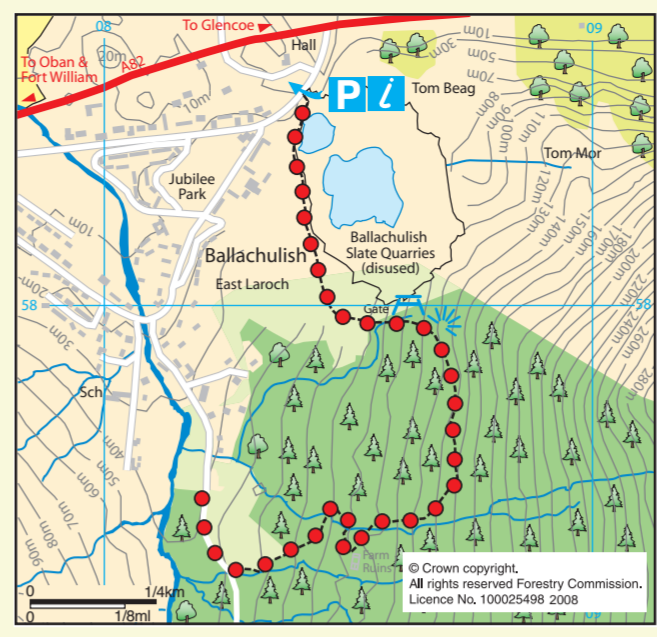
You will also find abundant wildlife in the forest; red and roe deer are present as are pine marten, foxes, badgers, otters, wildcats and red squirrels. Bird species you may see include: buzzards, pied flycatchers, goldeneye ducks, red and black throated divers and rarities like golden eagles, white-tailed sea eagles and hen harriers.

Patience and quietness is required to catch a glimpse of these creatures.

When you are in the outdoors:

- 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.



Brecklet

● Brecklet Path - 2 miles

This walk was developed as part of the Access in Lochaber Project and starts from the Ballachulish Visitor Centre, which has a car park and toilets and is located just off the A82 at the eastern end of Ballachulish village. From the car park, cross the minor road and go through the gate into the old Ballachulish Quarry.

Follow the oak waymarkers labelled 'Brecklet' up the steep path to the right which has superb views across the quarry and the village to Loch Leven and Eilean Munde, the burial isle. Enter the Forestry Commission woodland through the gate in the deer fence and follow the waymarkers to a viewpoint with a table. The path then winds downhill through Brecklet Forest passing two ruins, the first a byre and the second a house, both built in the late 19th Century.

Where the path meets the forest road, turn right and walk downhill past houses and a church, then turn right at the bridge and right again at the Post Office to return to the car park.

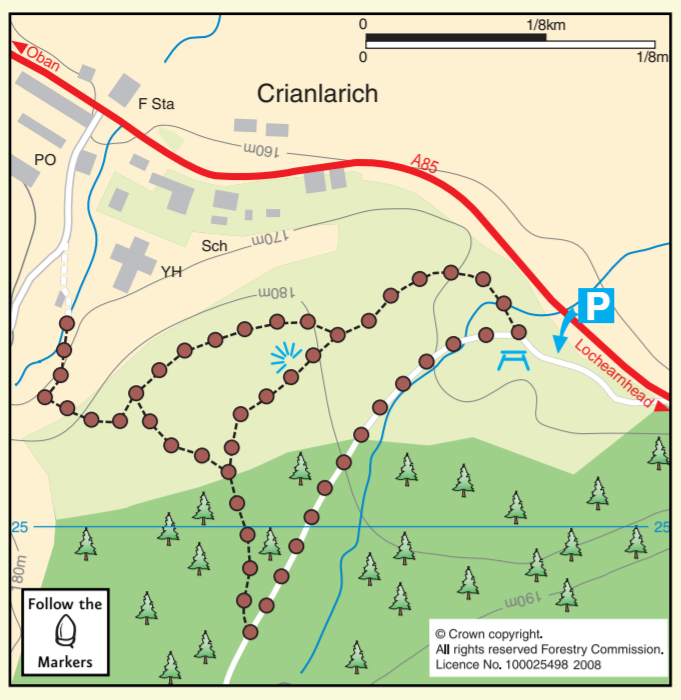
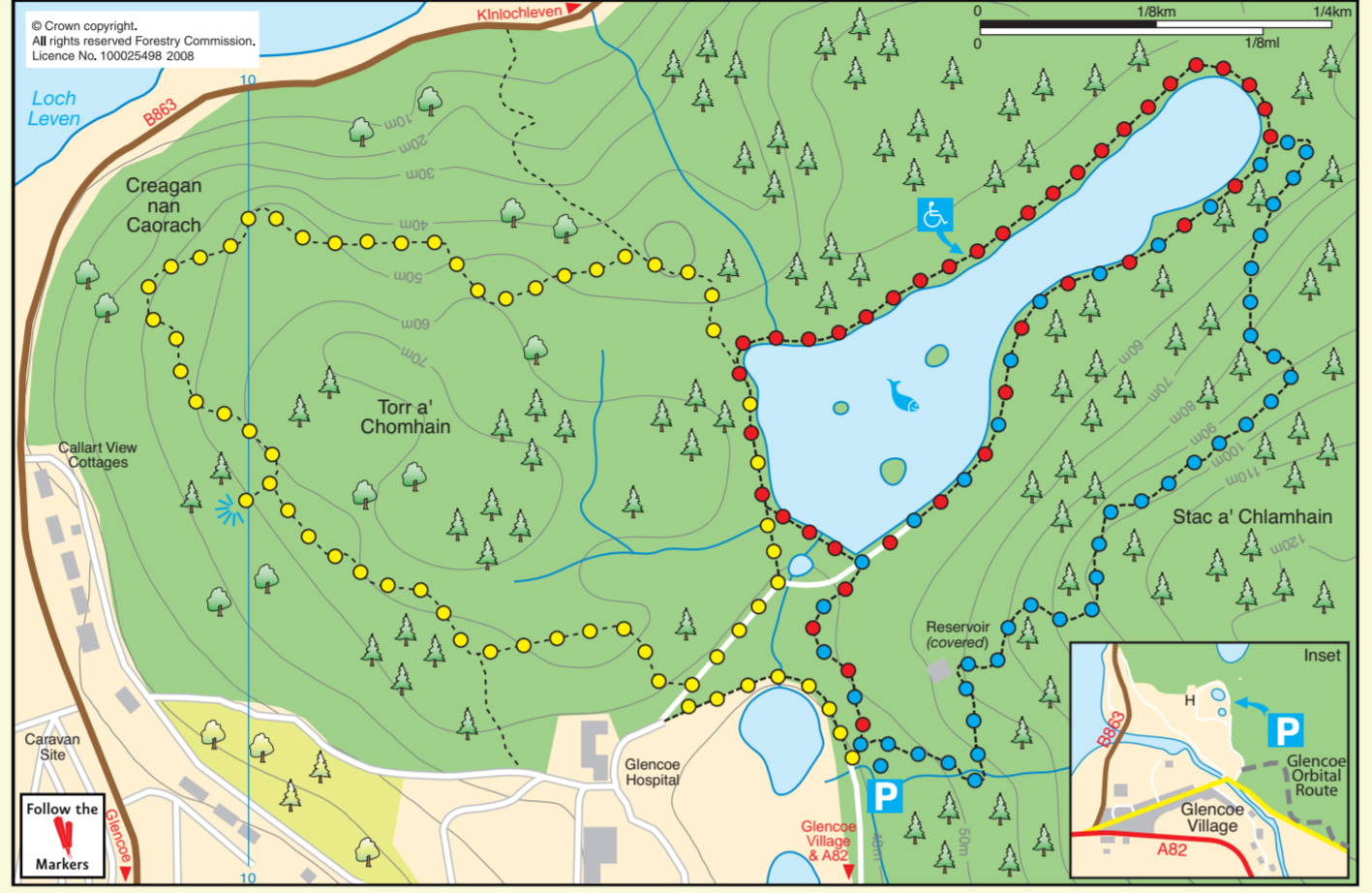


The lochan is stocked with trout and fishing permits can be purchased from Scorrybrae Guesthouse (adjacent to the hospital), the Invercoe campsite, Glencoe Post Office and Ballachulish Tourist Information Centre. The fishing platforms offer all abilities access. The Woodland Walk winds through a variety of coniferous and deciduous woodland. A viewpoint half way round lets you admire the breathtaking scenery of Loch Leven and surrounding mountains. The Mountain Walk is steeper but you are fully rewarded by the panoramic views. Although there are no toilet facilities at the site, accessible toilets are available in Glencoe village.

Glencoe Lochan

● Woodland Walk, 1.5 miles
 ● Lochan Walk, 1 mile
 ● Mountain Walk, 1.5 miles

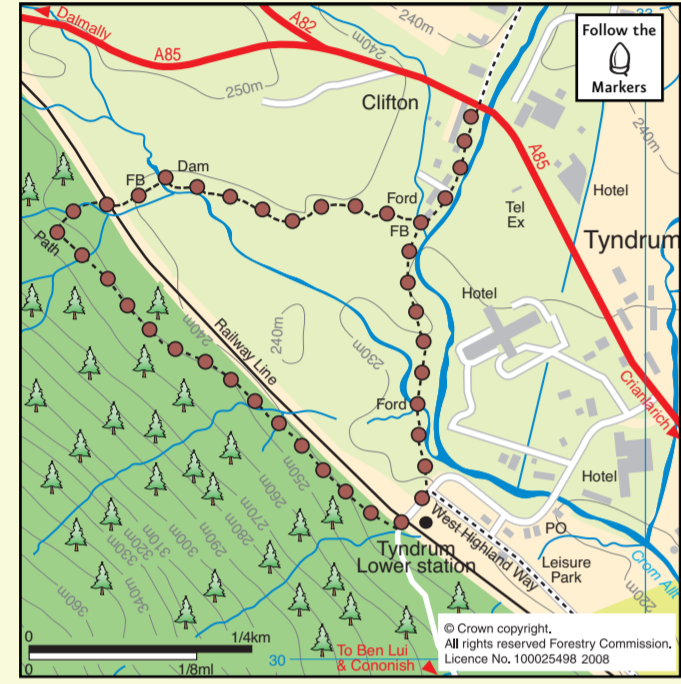
Turn left at the end of the village, towards the hospital, then fork right up towards the car park. The lochan and its surrounding woodland was created in the late 19th Century by Lord Strathcona for his wife who was from British Columbia and of Native American descent. He wanted to make her feel at home and so planted a forest which mimicked those of North-West America. He also created a large network of paths as well as large areas of orchards and vegetable gardens for the estate. The all abilities Lochan Walk is a short circular route around the water's edge with stunning reflections of the Pap of Glencoe on a still day.



Criarlarich

● Woodland Walk, 0.6 miles

This is a short walk through a growing woodland that was planted by local residents and school children. The Criarlarich Community Woodland project is a partnership between the Strathfillan Community Development Trust and Forestry Commission Scotland. Access is either from a car park situated just off the A85 (T) to the east of Criarlarich, or on foot from the Youth Hostel in the village. The walk passes through other habitats with a boardwalk over a wetland area and access into Inverardran Forest, an upland forest planted with productive timber species on the slopes of Cruach Adrain (1045m).



The Forests of North Argyll



The forests of North Argyll stretch from the dramatic scenery of Glencoe in the north, along the beautiful Argyll coastline to the interior mountains and glens around Ben More and Ben Lui. It is an area where water and mountains, wide open vistas and peaceful solitude weave a spell of the wild.

Forestry Commission Scotland provides waymarked routes for walking and cycling in Lorne Forest District. The walking routes are described in this leaflet and are marked on the ground by waymarkers like these (see photo). Walkers, cyclists and horse riders are asked to be aware of, and considerate to, other forest users.

Separate leaflets about cycle routes, the forests of the Isle of Mull and Glen Nant National Nature Reserve are also available from the Lorne Forest District Office (see back page for contact details), Tourist Information Centres and some local shops.

For details of other facilities, such as wayfaring trails, please contact the Lorne Forest District Office.

Walks

1 Leitir Mhor	1 miles	Easy
2 Glen Creran	1.5 miles	Moderate
3 Glenn Duror	4 miles	Strenuous
4 Mile Walk	3.5 miles	Moderate
4 Sutherland's Grove	1.5 miles	Moderate
4 Glen Dubh Walk	0.75 miles	Moderate
4 Troll Trail	2 miles	Moderate
4 Lochan Walk	5 miles	Moderate
5 Barcaldine	5 miles	Moderate
6 Beinn Lora	1 mile	Moderate
6 Coastal Climb	3 miles	Strenuous
7 Fearnoch	1.5 miles	Moderate
7 Ceum nan Seangan	2.5 miles	Moderate

8 Glen Nant	2.5 miles	Moderate
8 Ant Trail	0.5 miles	Easy
9 Cologin	2 miles	Moderate
10 Strone Hill	0.5 miles	Easy
10 Waterfall Woods	1 mile	Moderate
10 An Rhuadh Darach	0.6 miles	Moderate
11 Tyndrum	1 mile	Moderate
12 Criarlarich	0.6 miles	Moderate
13 Glencoe Lochan	1.5 miles	Moderate
13 Woodland Walk	1 mile	Easy
13 Lochan Walk	1.5 miles	Strenuous
14 Brecklet	2 miles	Moderate
14 Brecklet Path	2 miles	Moderate

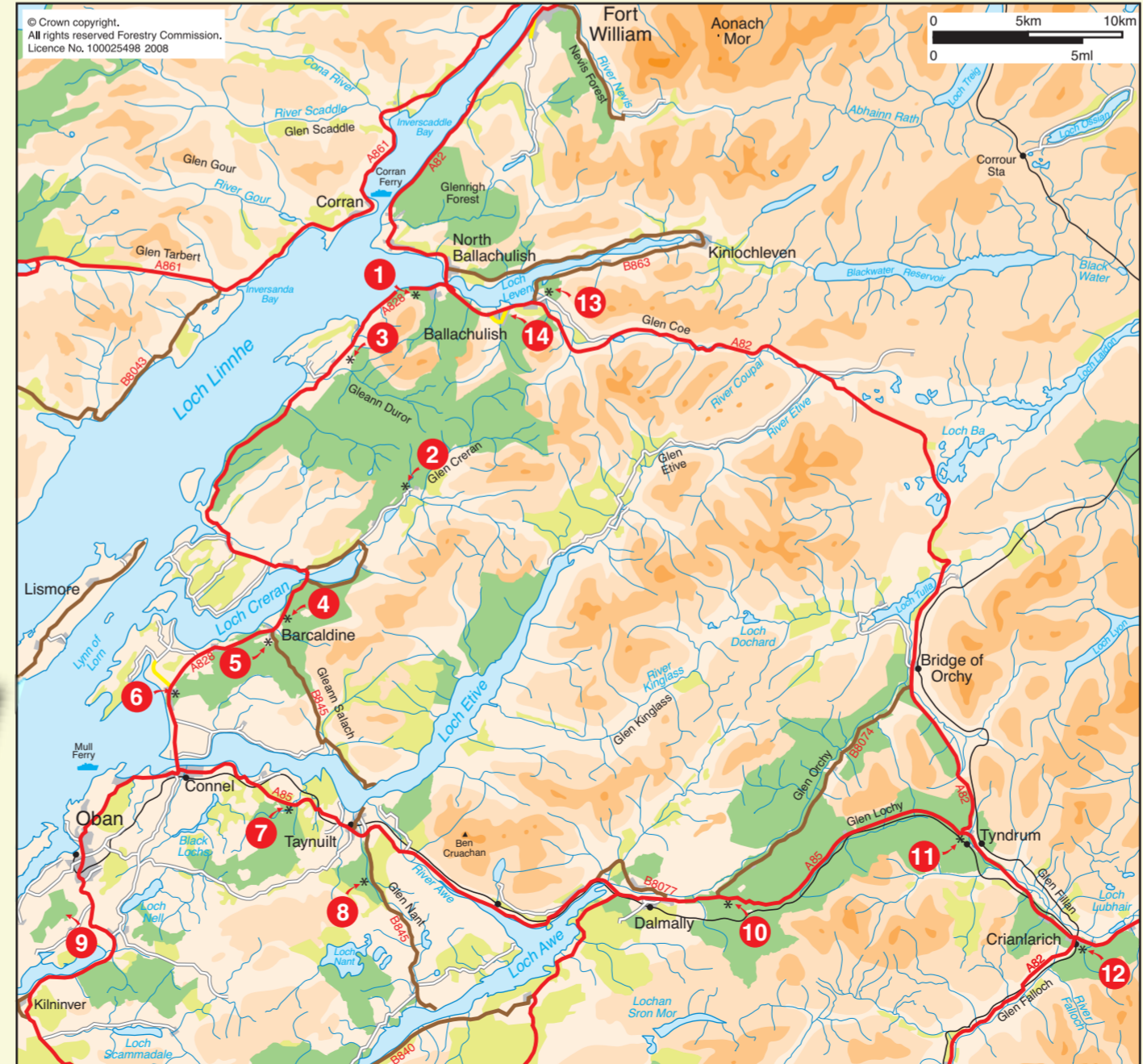


Look out for these other leaflets which will give you even more information on the area.

Gaelic Translations

- Glen Dubh
Ceum nan Seangan
Tri Drochaidean
An Rhuadh Darach
- Black Glen
Path of the Ants
Three Bridges
The Red Oak

Overview Map - Walks of North Argyll




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Leitir Mhor

part of the Last Clansman Trail

1 ● Cairn Trail, 1 mile

A short trail leads from the car park up the left hand fork of the forest road. This takes you to the site of the notorious 1752 Appin Murder. It was here that Colin Campbell of Glenure, factor and government official, was shot on his way to evict farming tenants of Gleann Duror. Controversially, James of the Glen Stewart was tried and sentenced for the murder although it was believed he was not the perpetrator. You can also follow the Last Clansman Trail and visit the sites of James' birthplace in Gleann Duror (walk no.3), his execution by hanging at Cnap a' Chaolais (at the south end of Ballachulish Bridge by the A82) and Colin's home at Glen Ure (walk no.2).




A Last Clansman Trail panel and marker post.



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Glen Creran

part of the Last Clansman Trail

2 ● Pine Marten Trail, 1.5 miles


Located in the beautiful Glen Creran Woods SAC (Special Area of Conservation), this walk is in a wonderfully secluded part of North Argyll. Cross the road from Elleric car park to follow the Pine Marten waymarkers up the hill. These take you to the spectacular gorge created by the Allt Coire Mulrooney. Here the community's 'Millennium Bridge' spans the gorge; it is made almost entirely of native oak timbers. The path then continues into a regeneration enclosure (an area where exotic conifers such as Sitka Spruce have been felled to allow native Scottish trees to regenerate). Spectacular views of Beinn Sgùlaird, Glen Creran and Glen Ure can be seen as the path gradually climbs up the hill. Glen Ure was the home of Colin Campbell of Glenure, the 'Red Fox' of Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Kidnapped' (see walk no. 1). You can read the Last Clansman Trail panel here which links the other sites of the story. Elleric car park is also the start of the long distance route linking Glen Creran with Gleann Duror and Ballachulish, marked by white footprint waymarkers. Please be properly prepared for this walk as it is on open hill in parts; carry sensible equipment and the relevant OS maps.

Gleann Duror

part of the Last Clansman Trail

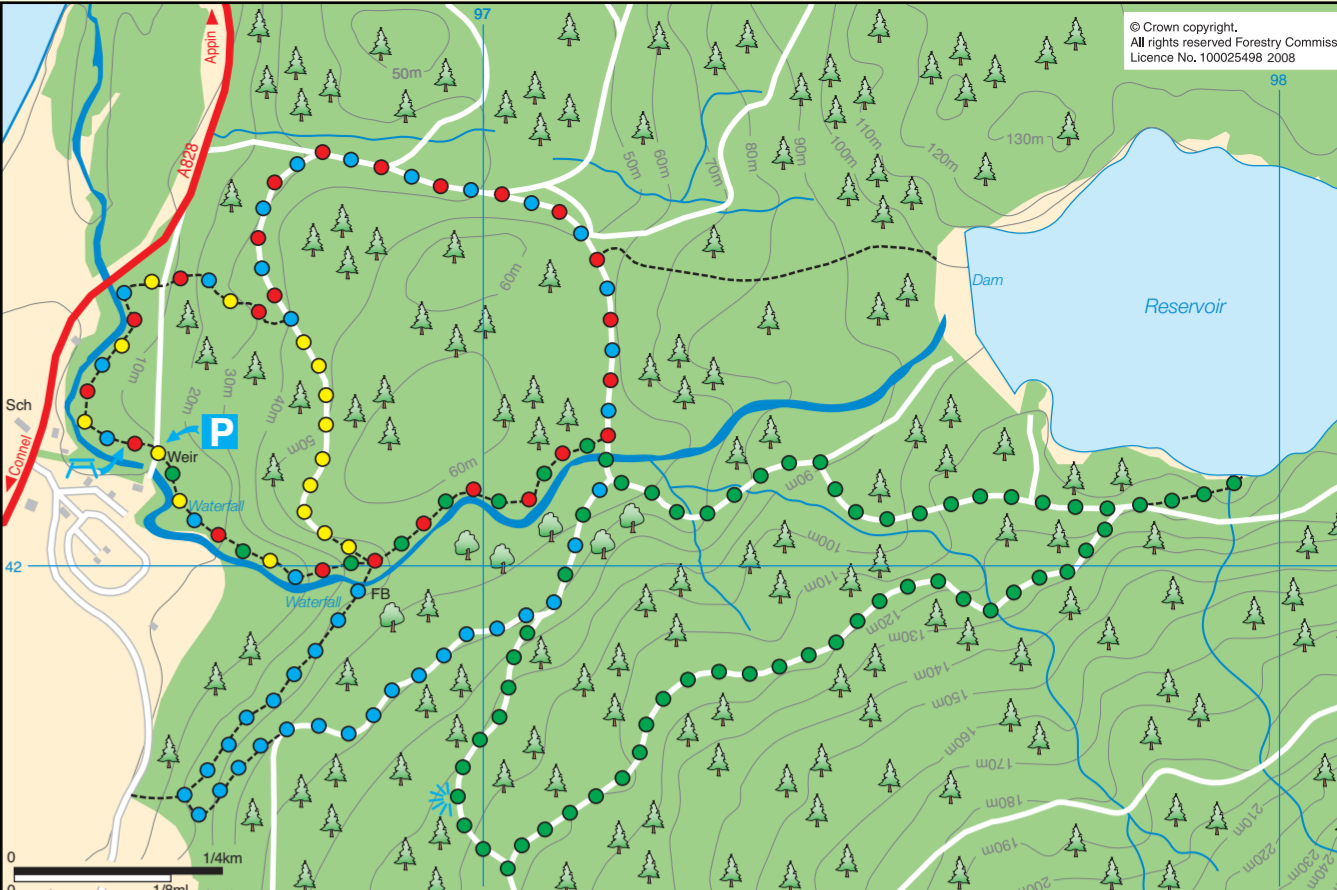
3 ● 4 Mile Walk, 4 miles
● Bothy Walk, 3-5 miles

The circular '4 Mile Walk' starts at the car park behind the village and follows the right hand forest road heading up the glen and follows the right hand forest road heading up the glen. The path later turns off the road to the right, crossing over a footbridge and follows back around to the village on the forest road. Look behind you at the views as you climb up the footpath! When you reach the trailhead sign at the public road you can follow the road eastwards to get back to the car park.



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Sutherland's Grove

4 ● Glen Dubh Walk, 1.5 miles
● The Grove Trail, 0.75 miles
● Troll Trail, 2 miles
● Lochan Walk, 5 miles

All the walks lead up from the car park to follow the Abhainn Teithil burn through the splendid grove of majestic Douglas Fir planted in 1870 with the largest standing at 30m. Further firs were planted in 1921 to commemorate the Commissioner, Lord Sutherland. Beautifully sculptured rocks create spectacular waterfalls in the gorge, especially when the river is in spate. Please be aware that parts of the path by the river have rough surfaces. Within the mixed woodland there are bird boxes put up by Wildlife Rangers to encourage small birds to nest. The paths split at the bridge across the gorge with the 'Lochan Walk' carrying on up to Glen Dubh reservoir. This supplies water to a hydroelectric scheme at the Marine Resource Centre in Barcaldine village. On returning to the car park you can enjoy your picnic under the large Douglas Fir trees by the river. The cycle and wayfaring routes also start here. Parts of these trails are also cycle routes - please watch out for cyclists.





Majestic grove of Douglas Fir

Barcaldine

5 ● The Coffin Route, 5 miles

This trail is named 'The Coffin Route' as it was used to carry coffins over the hill to Achnaba. After two and a half miles, the path will bring you out at the edge of the forest, looking southwards, down towards Loch Etive. Colin Campbell the 'Red Fox', victim of the 1752 Appin Murder, was carried along this route from his home at Glenure (walk no.2) and laid to rest at Ardrachatan Priory at the bottom of the hill below you. From the edge of the forest you should retrace your footsteps back to the car park at the start of the walk (an alternative parking area lies just to the south, at the start of a circular cycle route). Part of this trail is also a cycle route - please watch out for cyclists.



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Fearnoch

7 ● Ceum nan Seangan, 1.5 miles
● Tri Drochaidean, 2.5 miles

These two circular routes are an easy walk around Fearnoch Forest on a mixture of forest roads and dedicated trails. The first section winds through areas of mixed woodland and gives spectacular views towards Ben Cruachan, Argyll's highest munro. As the trail rejoins the forest road after half a mile, you can choose to complete the shorter circle by turning left (red route), or continue to the right for a longer walk (yellow route). This second, longer loop forms a riverside trail deeper within the forest which leads back around to the junction and then on to the car park. There is a great variety of wildlife to be found in Fearnoch with deer often seen as well as red squirrels, wood ant nests and, if you're lucky, glow worms. Parts of these trails are also cycle routes; please watch out for cyclists.




River Luchanogon

Glen Nant

8 ● Ant Trail, 2.5 miles
● Riverbank Trail, 0.5 miles

Glen Nant was fully designated as a National Nature Reserve in 2003. It is situated about 3 miles south of Taynuilt on the B845 to Kilchrenan. The car park is just across a small bridge and is the starting point for a short all abilities trail along the riverside, leading to a picnic spot. The Ant Trail, a longer, more demanding route, heads up the forest road before turning right onto a narrow track through the forest. The first half of the trail leads through mature oakwoods, often known as the temperate rainforests of the Atlantic Seaboard, and the area is particularly noted for its mosses, liverworts and lichens. Glen Nant's other designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) demonstrates how important the area is, both as a remnant of Scotland's ancient native woodland and also for its part in Argyll's social history. Surprisingly these woodlands played a vital role in British industry. In the early stages of the industrial revolution, charcoal for iron smelting was produced in the forest from coppiced oak trees. It was then transported by pack horse to Bonawe Furnace near Taynuilt (this is now managed by Historic Scotland). Turn left as the path rejoins the road to find areas of more open, regenerating woodland. Although there are no toilet facilities at the site, accessible toilets are available in Taynuilt village.



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Cologin


9 ● Red Trail, 2 miles

This is a 2-mile waymarked trail through conifer plantation with pockets of Scots Pine and mixed broadleaved woodland. The walk starts from the car park beside the Barn Bar and Cologin Chalets, which are signposted from the A816 road, approximately 2 miles south of Oban.

Strone Hill

10 ● Waterfall Woods, 0.5 miles
● An Rhuadh Darach, 1 mile

Located 3 miles east of Dalmy, the Strone Hill walks begin from a car park just south of the main A85. Both trails pass through mixed/deciduous woodland, mostly comprising oak. Some of these trees are being managed by Forestry Commission Scotland to produce valuable broadleaf trees for the future. The short circular walk takes you through the woods, high above the banks of the River Lochy. The deep pools and impressive waterfalls are well worth a visit, especially after heavy rain. The longer route winds further through the oakwoods, with short tracks taking you closer to the river.



River Lochy - Strone Hill



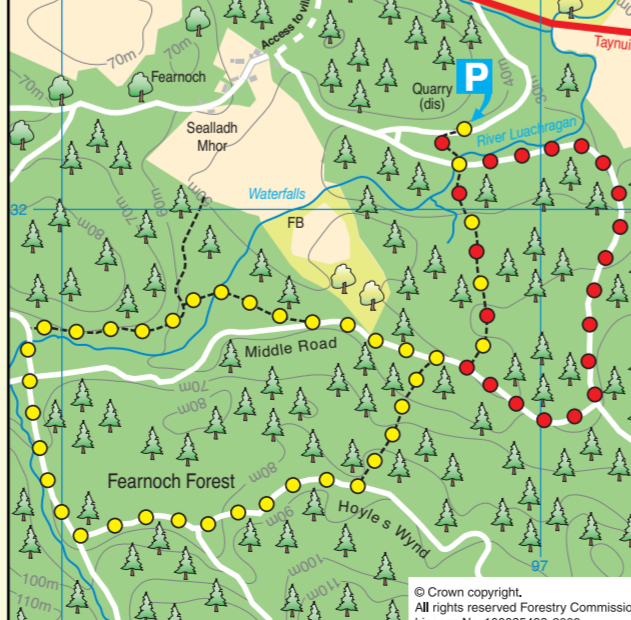
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Beinn Lora

6 ● Coastal Climb, 1 mile
● Summit & Eagle's Eyrie, 3 miles

Both routes start at the car park in Benderloch village, 7 miles north of Oban. The two fairly steep walks, which have rough surfaces in places, lead up through the forest to give excellent panoramic views to the west: the Lynn of Lorne SAC (Special Area of Conservation), Lismore, Mull, the Morvern Peninsula and the islands south of Oban. The lower 'Coastal Climb' route is an energetic walk through woodland containing a wide variety of tree species, including a beautiful grove of mature Beech trees. The longer 'Summit & Eagle's Eyrie' trail takes the more adventurous even higher into the forest and links with a footpath to the summit of Beinn Lora. As a reward for the climb, magnificent views are to be had from both the viewpoints and the summit over the islands in the west to the impressive peak of Ben Cruachan to the south-east (at 1126m, this is Argyll's highest Munro). Parts of the forest are used for mountain biking - please watch out for cyclists.

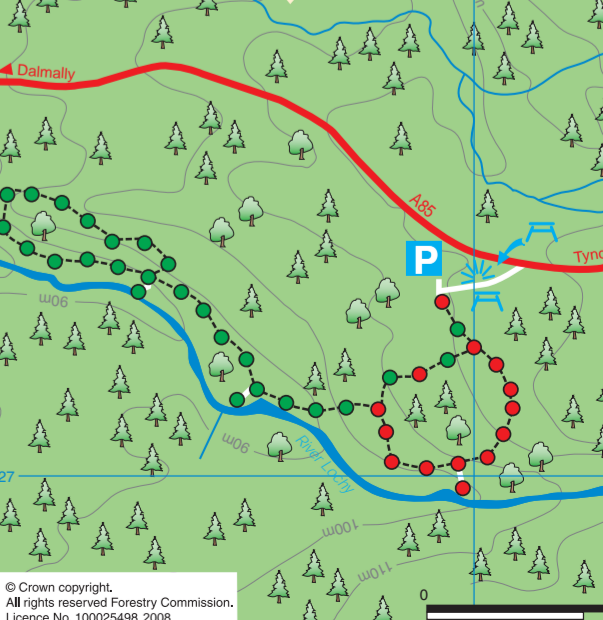


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KEY TO MAPS

	Forest Commission Woodland		Forest Walks (colour coded)
	Other Woodland		Forest Walks (detailed on inset maps)
	Forest Road		Wayfaring
	Main A Road		Tourist Information Centre
	Secondary B Road		All Abilities Access
	Minor Road		Car Park
	Footpath		Viewpoint
	Fishing		Picnic Place
	Cycle Trails		



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