



Ordnance  
Survey

# CAIRNGORMS

## Outstanding Circular Walks

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# Loch Garten and Loch Mallachie

**Start** Loch Mallachie car park

**Distance** 1¾ miles (2.75km)

**Height gain** Negligible

**Approximate time** 1 hour

**Parking** Loch Mallachie car park, first on right before Loch Garten; RSPB reserve signed from B970 1½ miles (2.4km) east of Boat of Garten

**Ordnance Survey maps** Landranger 36 (Grantown & Aviemore), Explorer OL57 (Cairn Gorm & Aviemore)

## GPS waypoints

 NH 971 185

 NH 969 182

 NH 965 174

*This is a very short walk into the RSPB's reserve at Loch Garten famous for its nesting ospreys (though the hide for observing the nest site is about ½ mile (800m) to the east and is reached from the next car park). There is always the possibility of seeing one of the ospreys flying to or from the nest while on this walk which takes you to the shores of a pair of beautiful lochs, with views of the long ridge of the Kincardine Hills beyond.*



 From the RSPB car park take the woodland trail southwards through the forest. This is part of Abernethy Forest, the largest area of native pinewoods in Scotland. The RSPB reserve now covers over 31,000 acres (12,545 ha) and is renowned for its ospreys – birds of prey living primarily from fishing – which have bred here since 1959.

Many of the other species of birds to be seen in the reserve may lack the glamour and publicity value of the ospreys but are still of great interest to ornithologists.

Soon come to a fork where an arrow points right, but first go left for a view from the loch shore. The loch is fringed by pine trees and heather, and the western summit of the Kincardine Hills, Craiggowrie, draws the eye to the south. In the autumn



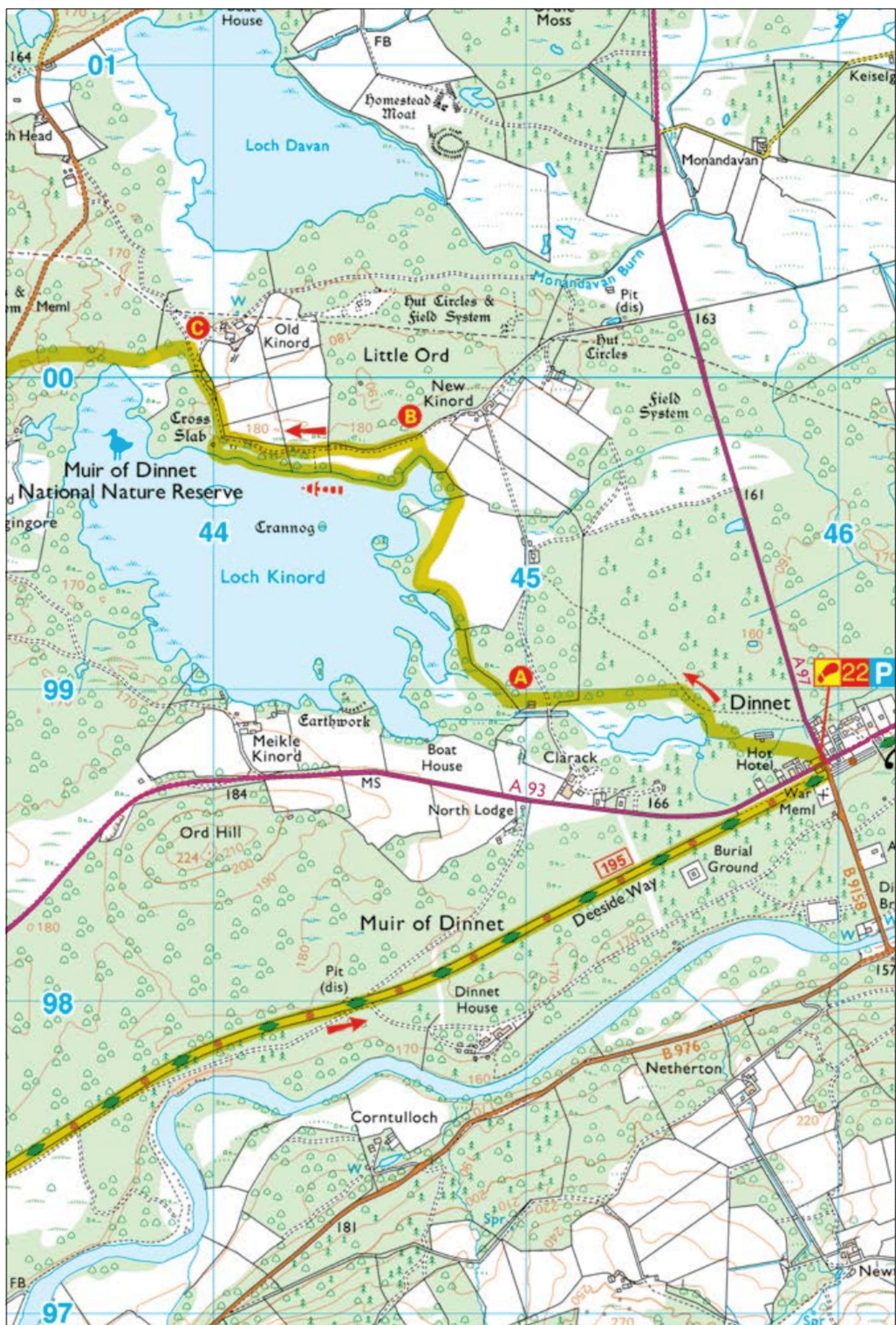
*Loch Morlich from Coire an t-Sneachda*

views northwards. On a good day you will be able to see the Sutherland mountains clearly and some have claimed to see the Cuillins of Skye from the Cairngorm summits. There is a cairn at the top of the buttress which is probably the best viewpoint on this route. Look to the left beyond the lochans on the floor of Coire an Lochain to see the homeward path.

A series of small cairns leads you around the rim of the corrie and up to the summit of Cairn Lochan (D) where the cairn itself (at 3,986 feet/1,215m) is built very close to the edge of a sheer drop of 1,000 feet (300m) – a fact made all the more dramatic by

the rock towers which overlook it. It is also worth looking southwards for a view of Ben Macdui, whose cairn should be quite clearly visible.

Leave the cairn and follow the rim of Coire an Lochain gradually turning towards the north-west. Then cross a wet flush by stepping stones to gain the well-maintained path running north down the Miaden Creagan Leth-choin ridge. Lower down this well-defined path angles down the right side of the ridge to cross a stream by stepping stones (E). It continues on a bee-line back to the ski car park, crossing another stream on the way.

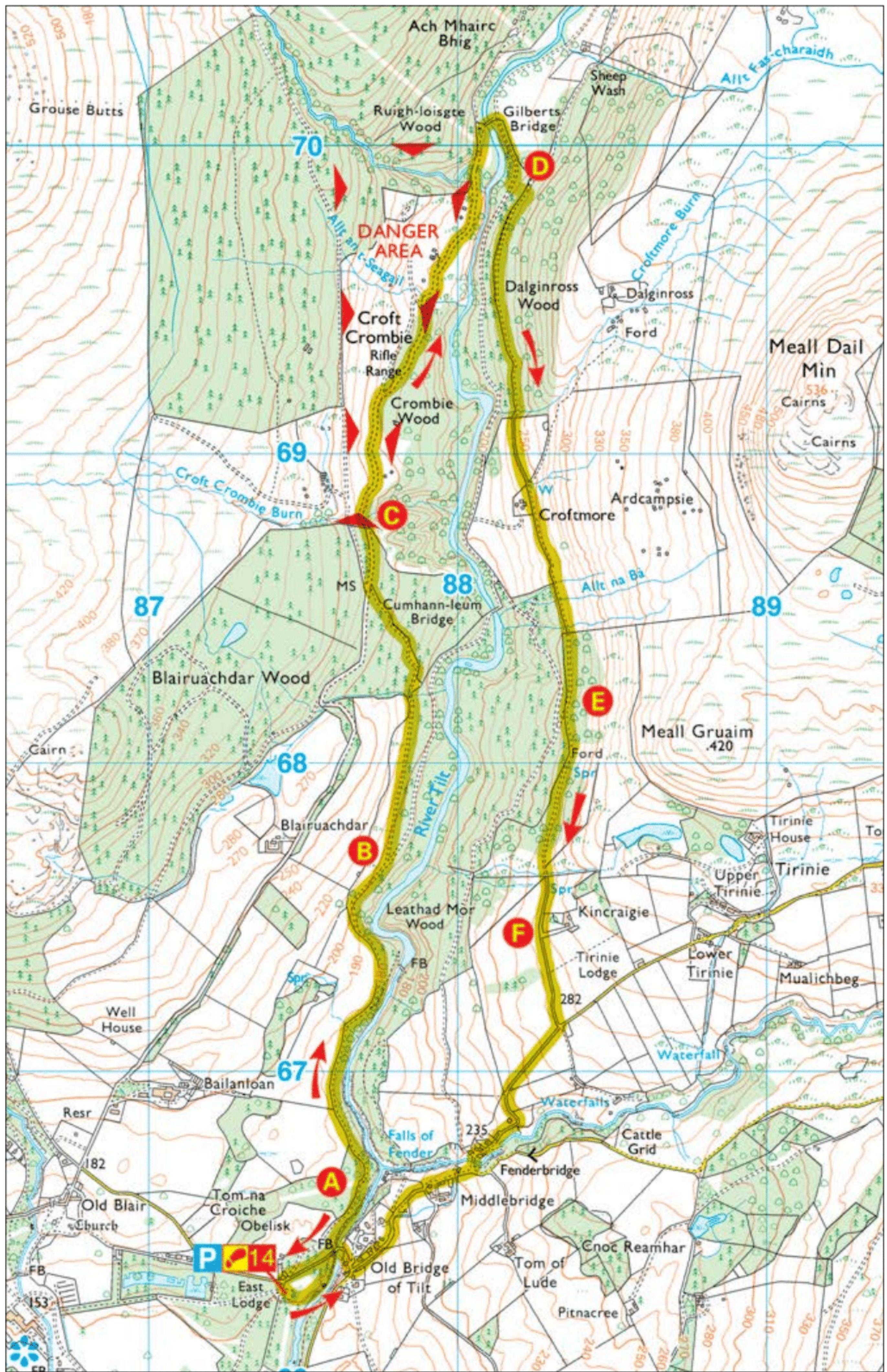
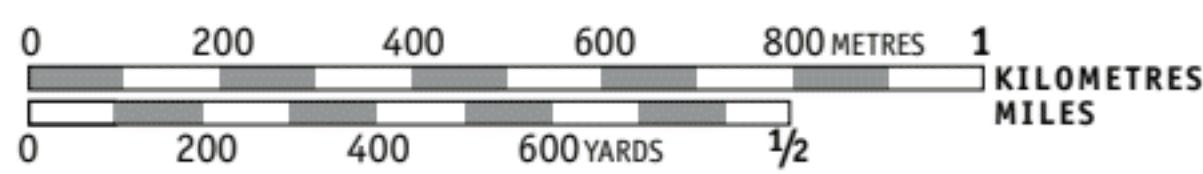


Dinnet the way passes through the heart of the Muir of Dinnet, a wide glacial basin overlooked by fine hills where the birch scrub and heather are particularly attractive in late summer and autumn. Dinnet itself was a village which sprang from the

coming of the railway. Its only other claim to fame was that, at the age of eight, Lord Byron spent time at a nearby farm recovering from scarlet fever. The former railway brings you back to the centre of the village opposite the starting point.

 Take a little path to the right of the information board in the car

park and in a few paces turn right towards the river. Bear left down to the riverside path. A folly with seats and a balcony lies just to the right, but the route goes left and crosses the



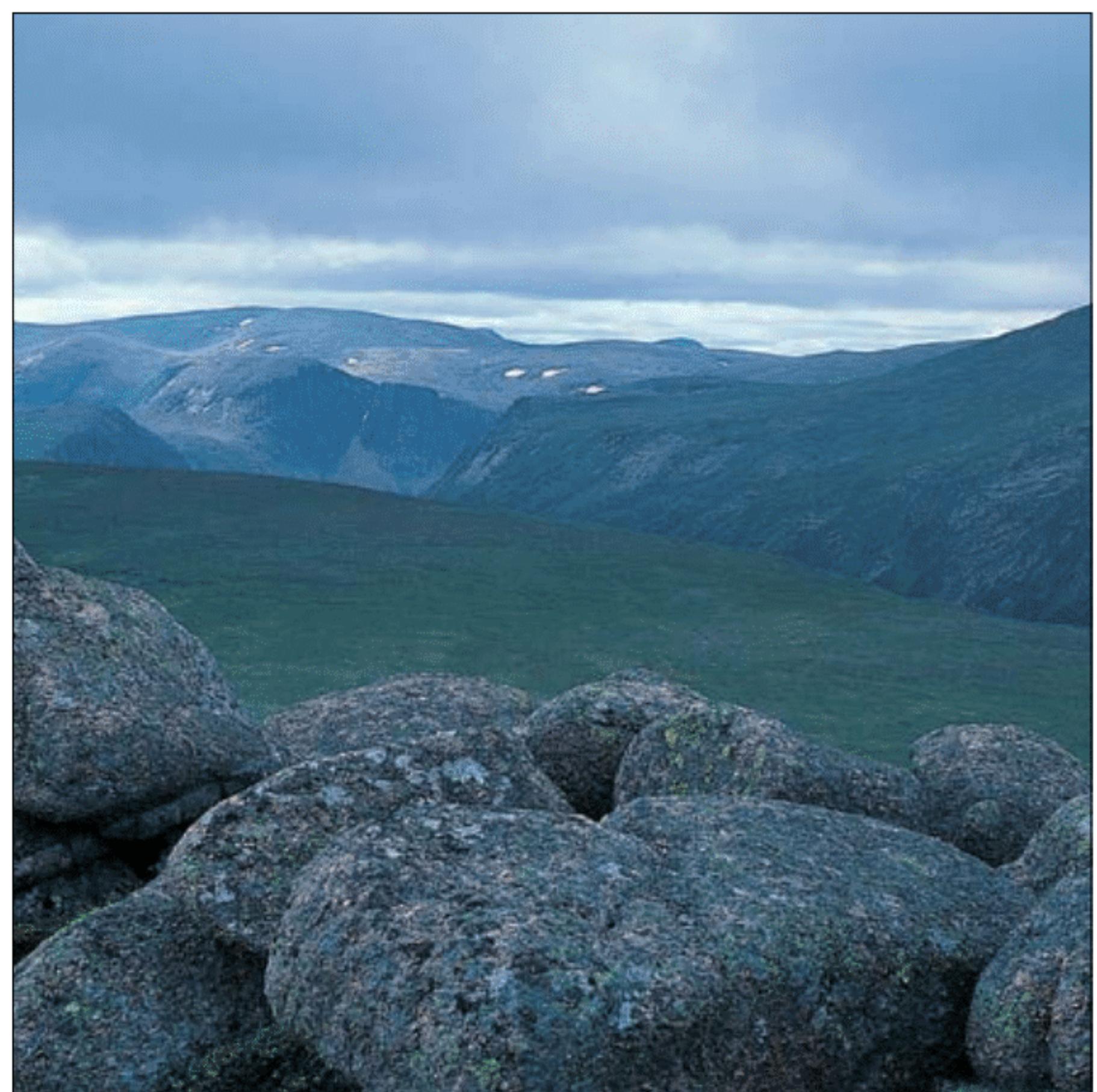


the Lairig an Laoigh, a route right through the Cairngorm mountains to rival the better known Lairig Ghru.

*Bynack More*

The path levels out and divides. Both become vague. The Lairig an Laoigh path swings away to the east and starts to descend. Our path (on the map) crosses spot height 818m

D from which the main ridge of Bynack More rises dead ahead. The first few feet of the ridge is up steep grass after which the gradient eases. The ridge is boulder strewn on the right and rocky on the left. The crest is not sharp and provides an interesting and relatively safe route to the top. At last the summit



# Carrbridge and General Wade's Road

**Start** Carrbridge

**Distance** 8 miles (12.8km)

**Height gain** 720 feet (220m)

**Approximate time** 4 hours

**Parking** Carrbridge car park

**Ordnance Survey maps** Landranger 36 (Grantown & Aviemore), Explorer OL57 (Cairn Gorm & Aviemore)

## GPS waypoints

	NH 907 227
	A NH 896 224
	B NH 895 212
	C NH 887 199
	D NH 883 199
	E NH 869 220
	F NH 891 226
	G NH 898 230

*This is an enjoyable low level ramble through forest and moor and on paths along meadows and riverbanks. The highlight of the walk is General Wade's Road which is followed as far as Sluggan Bridge, a memorable beauty spot. From here a path leads back to Carrbridge, never far from the River Dulnain. Note that after heavy rain there may be difficulty in fording Allt Lorgy near D.*

 From the car park on the Aviemore road (B9153) turn right and walk as far as the post office. Turn left here, just before the bridge, into Station Road. The remains of

*The old bridge, Carrbridge*

the famous packhorse bridge, built in 1717, can be seen on the right. It was badly damaged in the disastrous flood of August 1829.

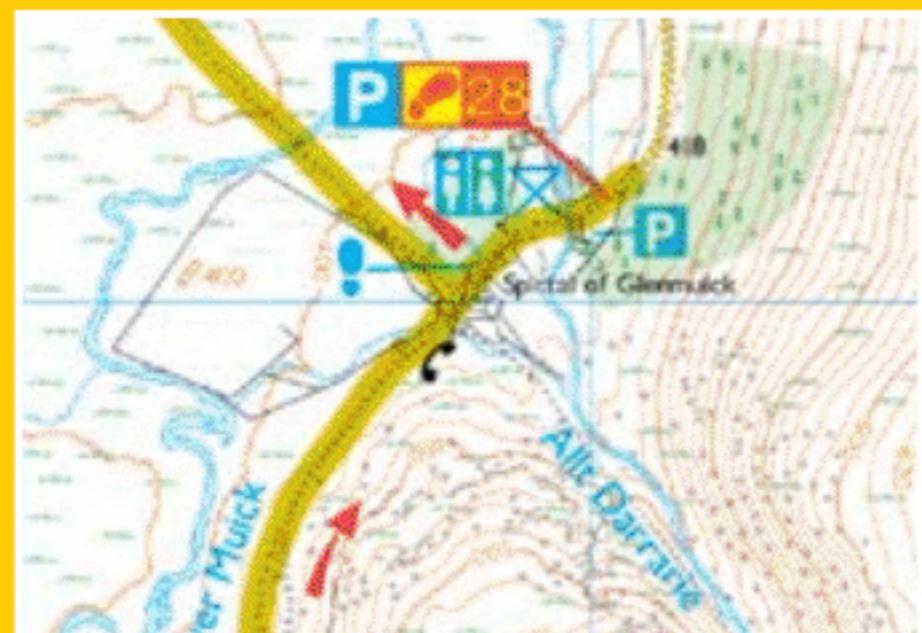
Pass the road to the station on the left and go under the railway and then the main road (A9). Turn left



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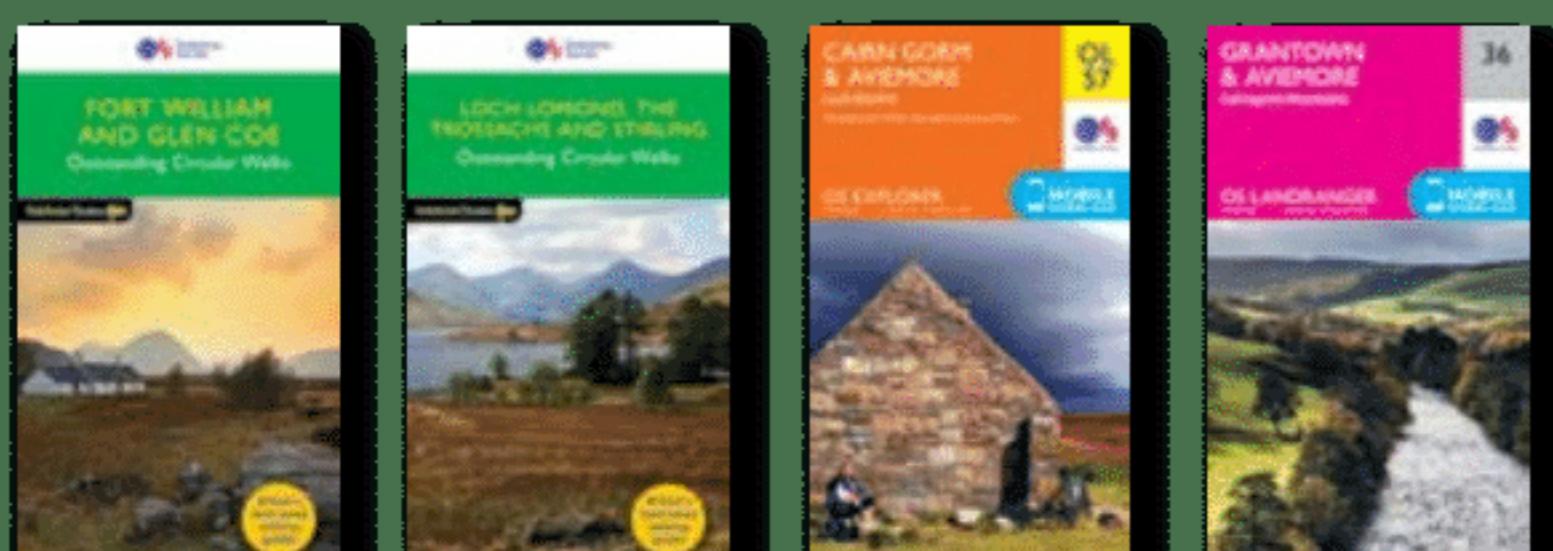
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