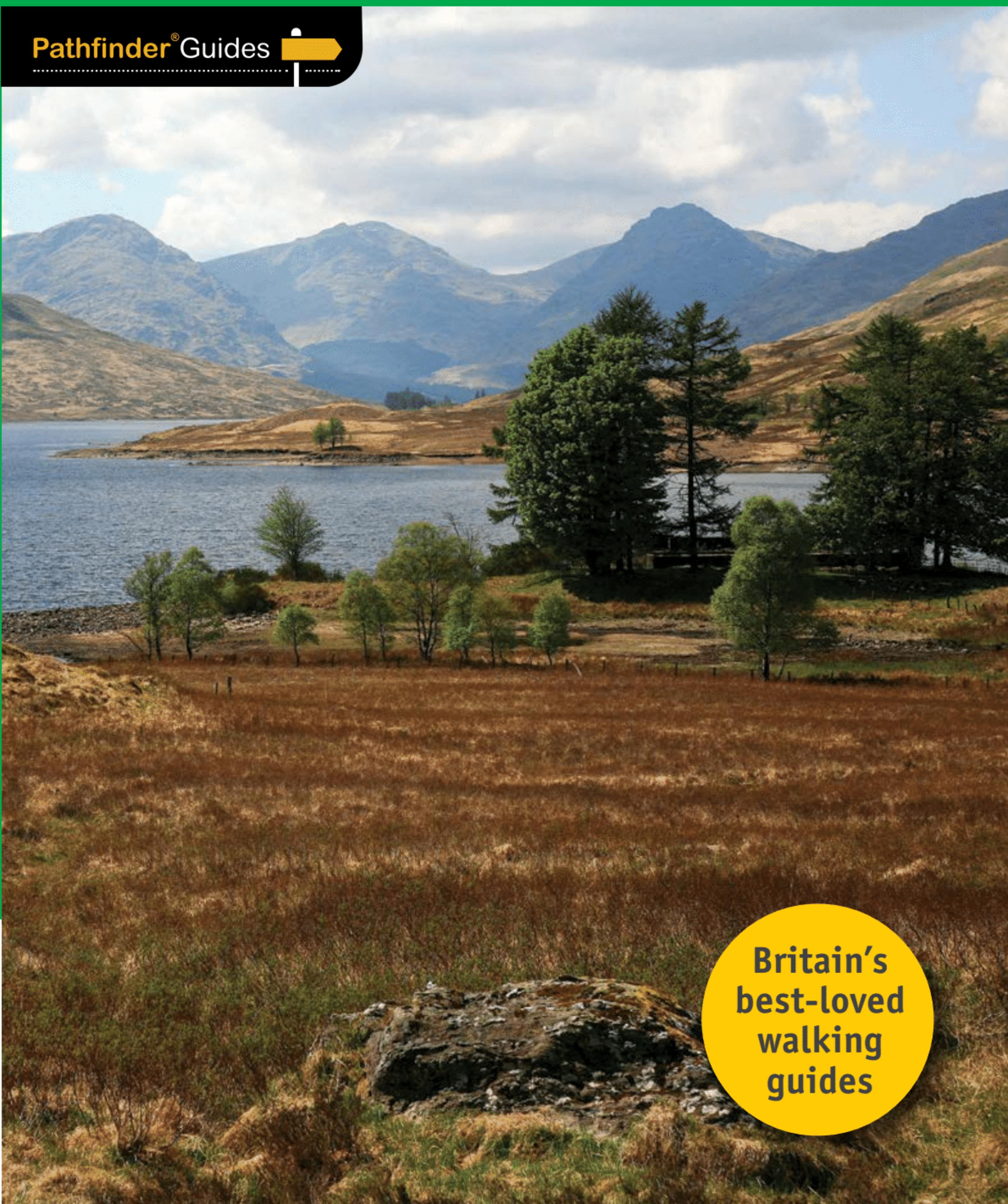


# LOCH LOMOND, THE TROSSACHS AND STIRLING

## Outstanding Circular Walks

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# Sallochy Wood

**Start** Sallochy, 4 miles (6.4km) north of Balmaha

**Distance** 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles (6.8km)

**Height gain** 1,100 feet (335m)

**Approximate time** 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours

**Parking** Sallochy Wood car park (Pay and Display)

**Route terrain** Forest tracks and clear paths, one prolonged climb

**Ordnance Survey maps** Landranger 56 (Loch Lomond & Inveraray), Explorer OL39 (Loch Lomond North)

## GPS waypoints

-  NS 380 957
-  NS 390 948
-  NS 396 955
-  NS 384 966
-  NS 385 960
-  NS 383 958

*The woodlands and forests of Loch Lomond's eastern shore are rich in both plant and wildlife and a delight to explore. This ramble climbs the hillside behind Sallochy, where native deciduous woodland, mature conifer plantation, new planting and regeneration each offer a different perspective on the landscape. The modest height gained reveals grand views of distant mountains, while the ruin of an abandoned settlement provokes thoughts of the landscape and life before the Clearances.*

Today, the lower slopes of the highlands are characterised by conifer plantations and bare hillsides, but 250 years ago, they were scattered with homesteads

and small crofts. Stone and turf boundaries bounded irregular fields

*Looking to the southern islands of the loch*



**Start** Minor lane to Sheriffmuir, 1 mile (1.6km) north of Stirling University

**Distance** 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles (5.2km)

**Height gain** 900 feet (275m)

**Approximate time** 2 hours

**Parking** Roadside parking at start

**Route terrain** Clear moorland paths

**Dog friendly** Dogs should be kept on leads

**Ordnance Survey maps** Landranger 57 (Stirling & The Trossachs), Explorer 366 (Stirling & Ochil Hills West)

#### GPS waypoints

- NS 813 980
- A NS 825 977
- B NS 835 976

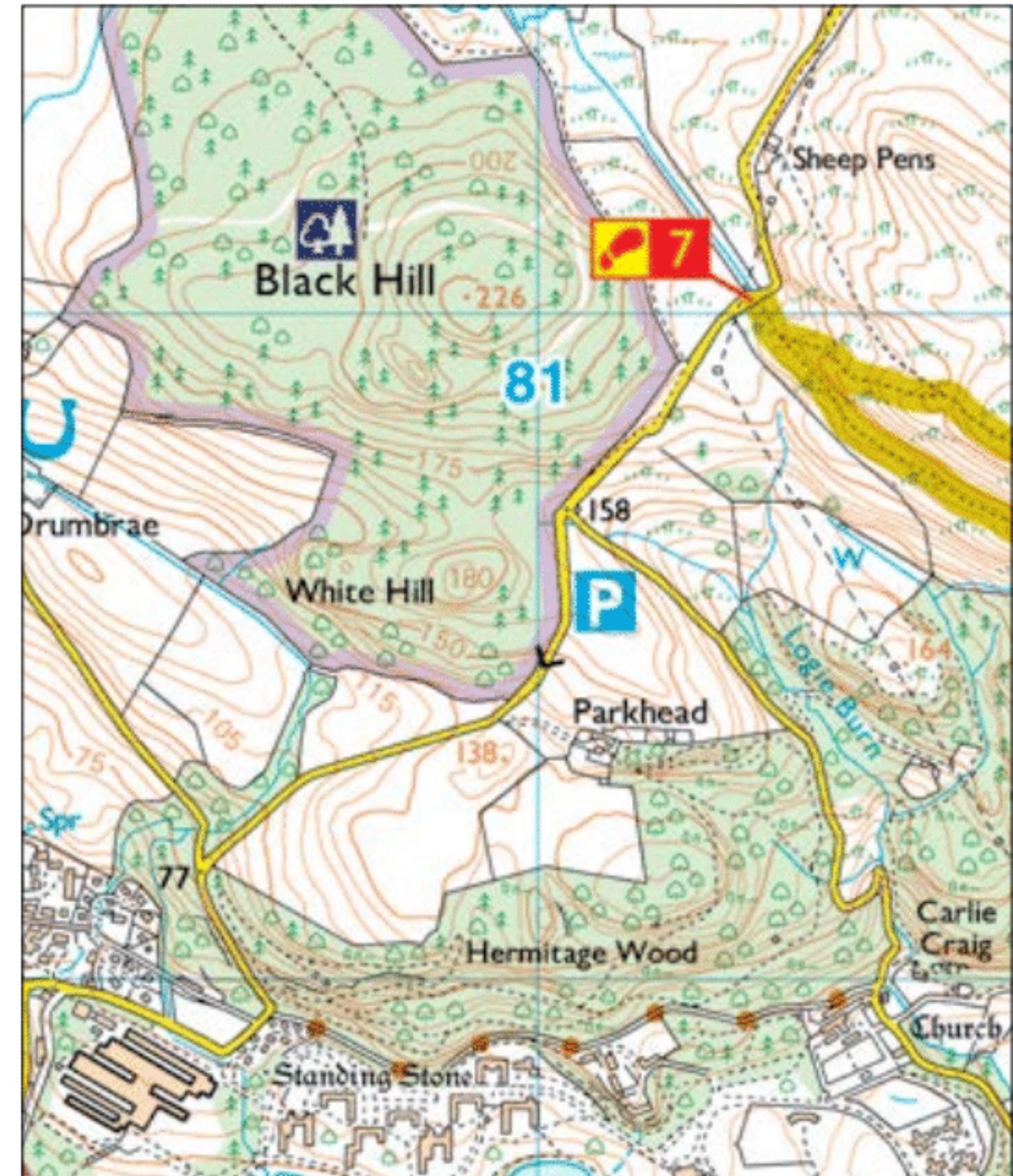
*Despite its modest height, Dumyat, the most westerly of the Ochil peaks, is a fine hill to climb and gives a magnificent panorama over Stirling and the Forth Valley to the more distant vistas of the Trossachs and Pentland Hills.*

 Pass through a gate onto the open hillside and at a fork a few yards ahead, take the right-hand path. The views open from the start and below, looped by the River Forth, is Stirling, one of the six towns in the United Kingdom granted city status in 2002 to mark Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. During the Middle Ages, the castle's strategic position often saw it changing hands, but in the 16th and 17th centuries, the Stuart kings transformed the medieval fortress into a royal palace. The striking Victorian monument to the heroic William Wallace was built overlooking the site of his greatest victory against Edward I's army in 1297. The way undulates across the bracken hillside taking the left branch where it splits in nearly 3/4 mile (1.2km).

The track later curves left and continues steadily uphill. Keep right at a fork, rising over a knoll to meet another path above a grassy gully .

Follow it right, descending into a dip and, as you head upwards again, the signal beacon on the summit of Dumyat appears in view.

Reaching a level area of marshy ground, detour left to a stile across an intervening fence before returning to





*The ruined croft by Rowchoish*

Otherwise leave the track at **C**, descending easily through the wood, the path elevated above marshy sections on duckboards. Ignore the subsequent

path off to the bothy at Rowchoish, just beyond which is the lonely ruin of a croft. The path later touches the shore at a delightful beach, suggesting another pause along the way before reaching a junction, where a grass track climbs away to the left **D**. *It leads back up to the main track and offers a less demanding return.*

The path ahead becomes increasingly rugged with occasional scrambly sections as it negotiates the steepening hillside that crowds the shore below the viewpoint passed





*The path up to Ben Vorlich*

upwards for another  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile (800m) to a railed bridge over its main tributary, Allt a' Choire Bhuidhe **B**. The continuing track gains height along the flank of the hill's bold north-ern ridge, opening a fine retrospective view beyond Loch Earn and the intervening hills to the commanding summit of distant Ben Lawers, which at 3,983 feet (1,214m) is the highest mountain of the Southern Highlands.

Higher up the going becomes more arduous as the path zigzags very steeply towards the top. However, the gradient eventually eases onto the summit plateau, with the triangulation pillar **C** at this end and a large cairn about 100 yards away to the south-east.

The reward is a staggering view as befits such a grand mountain. Ben Lawers stands to the north and Ben More way out to the west, with Ben Lomond farther round to the south. An impressive ridge drops away to Stuc a' Chroin, offering a challenging route to bag a second Munro. However, *unless you are experienced, it should be left alone* as it involves some 800 feet (245m) of scrambling re-ascent from the bealach. When having admired the magnificent views, you can tarry no longer; the descent is by the same route that you came up.

0 200 400 600 800 METRES 1 KILOMETRES  
0 200 400 600 YARDS  $\frac{1}{2}$  MILES





*The Cobbler's central peak*

climbers of his generation. Tom continued walking until his late 80s and died aged 92 in 2006. He is best remembered as an outdoor writer and his 1970s TV series *Weir's Way* has attained cult status.

Leave the southern end of the car park, crossing the road to a waymarked path opposite marked by the worn, wooden carving of a fox. The traditional route used to tackle the hillside head on, but today's footpath takes an easier, zigzagging line,

climbing to reach a forest track.

Turn left, briefly following the track to a second junction just before a transmitter mast, where a waymarked path then leaves on the right **A**. It continues to wind up the hill, albeit now more steeply, the gradient eventually easing as it exchanges the trees for open hillside above the dashing burn, Allt a' Bhalachain. The Cobbler is suddenly revealed in all its glory and a left fork, a little farther on drops to the stream, a popular spot for a moment's rest before resuming along the main path.

The next part of the route is

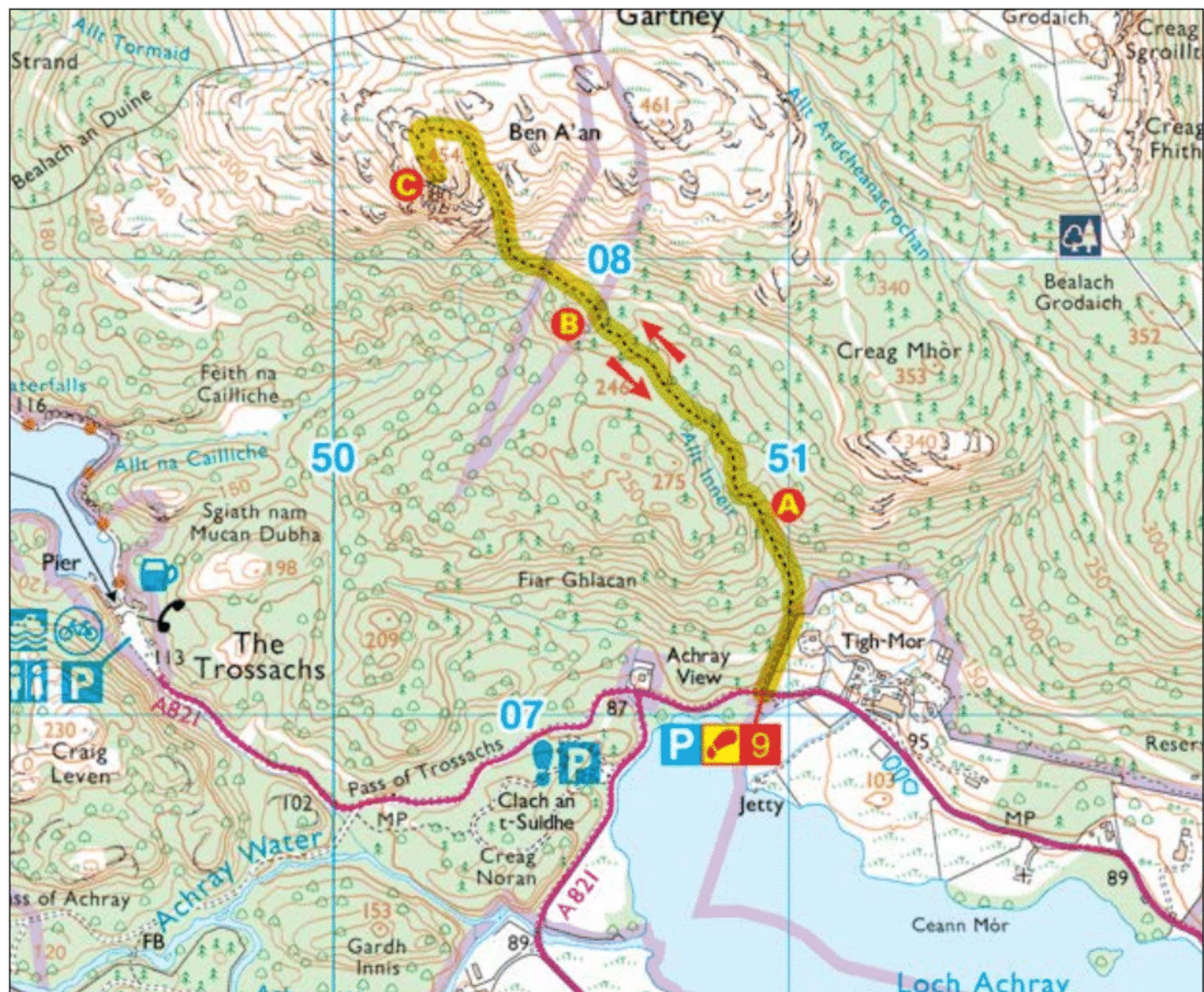
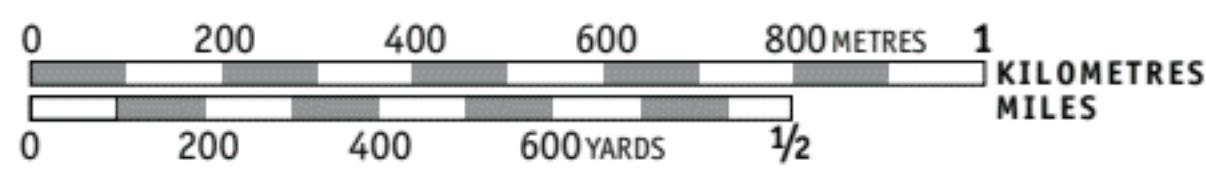


serves as a reservoir providing water for the city of Glasgow and beneath Ben A'an, an aqueduct adds water from the Glen Finglas reservoir in the

*Loch Katrine from the top of Ben A'an*

neighbouring valley.

On a fine day it is a place to linger, but when you can finally tear yourself away from the view, simply return to the car park by the outward path.



SCALE 1:25 000 or 2 1/2 INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM

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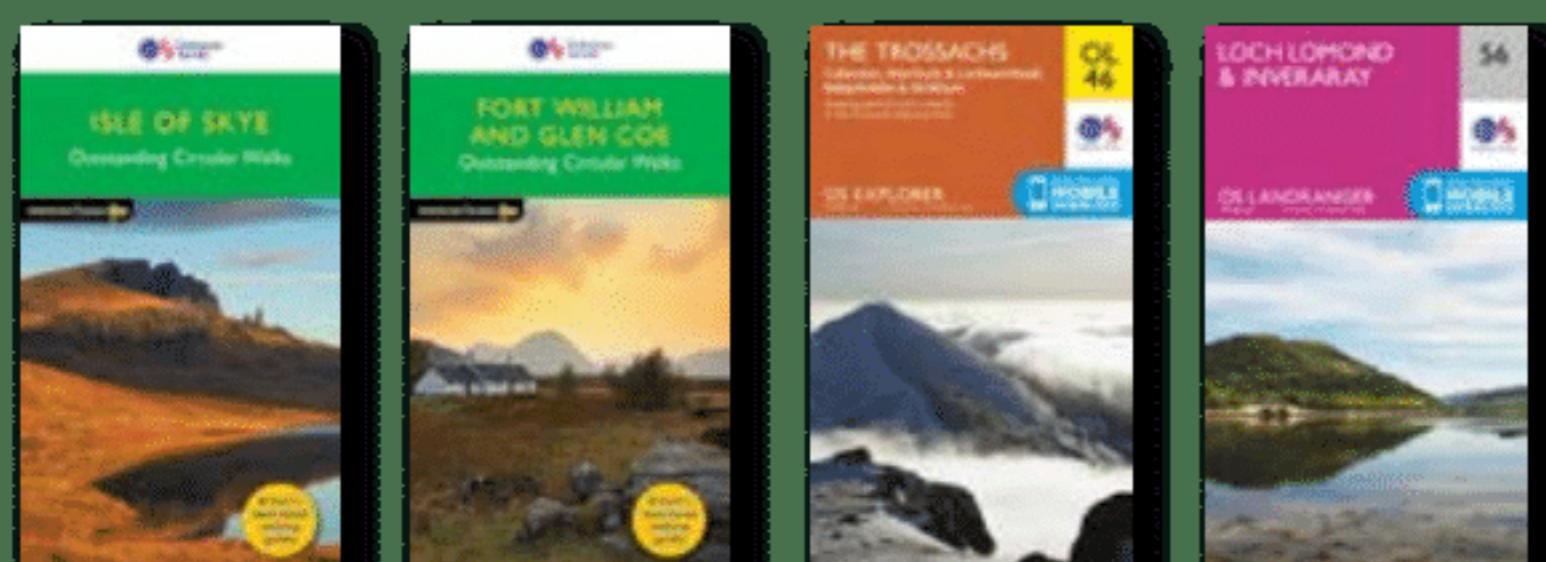
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