



3.2 Aberfoyle to Callander

35 37 41

Distance 9.9 miles (15.9 km)

Terrain mainly forest tracks, some stony paths and several streams to cross, sometimes boggy underfoot; forest tracks then minor road into Callander

Grade mainly gentle gradients with maximum height 220 m (720 ft) at the lochan, followed by descent to fairly flat roads for the final few miles

Food and drink Aberfoyle, Callander, also Kilmahog

Summary glorious walk through the Menteith hills, followed by a descent to Loch Venachar with fine views to the north



- Return to the crossroads and go north up the A821 as signed; it's a right-left dogleg if you've come direct from Manse Road. Follow the A821 for 450 m, and after the last house, walkers take the stone steps on your right which then descend to join the cycleway.



Cyclists continue for 50 m to the ironwork gates on NCN7, and read the notice about terrain and suitable bikes.



- Turn right to follow the cycleway into and through the forest. Within 500 m reach the footbridge across the Allt a' Mhangain ('the burn of the fawn'), with a waterfall to the left. Keep an eye out for red squirrels and roe deer in this part of the forest.
- Once across the footbridge, turn sharp right to follow the burn downstream (mile 11.4). After 800 m you are rejoined by a track coming up from Dounans Centre, which until 2021 the Way followed.





- The road gradually gains height, lined by stately mature trees. To the right and behind you are picturesque views over Aberfoyle Golf Course and the Campsie Fells beyond.
- Follow the forest road, ignoring side tracks, and descend to a T-junction at mile 13 where you turn left up another forest road. (A right turn here would take you down to Braeval, a car park on the A81 that is useful for day visitors.)
- After nearly a mile on this broad stone-chipped forest road, it ends abruptly and the Way bears left down to a narrow winding path – after rain, perhaps boggy in places.



East along the forest road

- Descend through the final section of forest to emerge into an open section in which the outcrops of the rugged Menteith Hills become visible on your left. The tallest of these is Craig of Monievreckie at 400 m.
- Pass through a stone wall by a metal gate with a Malling Estate notice warning that Glenny Hill is a sheep grazing area and reminding dog owners of the need for close control. Continue ahead across rough pasture, with (in 2021) areas of clear felling. Stay alert for livestock.
- After a further 1 km, just beyond a stream crossing, follow the path that bears left uphill: see the photo below. Shortly afterwards, the Way passes through another stone wall by a metal gate.

Keep left uphill beyond the stream





Lochan Allt a' Chip Dhuibh

- Climb briefly through trees and, after you emerge, gain your first glimpse of the hills to the north. Descend on a twisting route through clear-felled forestry and newly planted saplings to the reed-fringed Lochan Allt a' Chip Dhuibh (mile 15.7).
- The lochan is rich in vegetation and home to fish and waterfowl. The Way starts along its left side, then veers away uphill to meet a forestry road at which you turn right. (If following the Way southbound, don't miss this narrow path down to the lochan: in 2021 its sign was as shown, with no RRW logo.)
- From the forest road you may see views of the hills to the north, with Ben Ledi high above Loch Venachar. Follow the road as it swings around the far end of the lochan with a boathouse. It's worth looking back from here for a view of the Menteith Hills.
- After a brief climb, for the next 1.5 miles (2.4 km) the track descends gradually towards the shore of Loch Venachar through a mixture of felled forestry and recent planting. En route you gain good views over the loch to the towering heights of Ben Ledi.
- The road drops steeply to a barrier: pass to its left to descend through the car park and reach the road. Turn right to leave Invertrossachs Estate through its East Lodge gateway.
- Follow the road along the south shore of Loch Venachar. Half a mile (800 m) after the end of the loch, a road on your left leads to Gartchonzie Bridge, a much-filmed bridge of great character, built in 1777 and still carrying vehicles (mile 18.7).



South-west over the Menteith Hills





Ben Ledi from Callander Meadows



- To bypass Callander, see below. For Callander itself, most cyclists will follow NCN7 along Invertrossachs Road and after 2 km turn left at the A81 into its centre. Walkers continue ahead around a bend and after 200 m, just after Wheels and the Trossachs Tryst, leave the road by turning right into Coilhullan Wood.
- Pass through the car park and follow the rough track uphill past a metal gate. It climbs through the wood with some glimpses of Ben Ledi to your left. Over a mile (1.8 km) after the car park, the track turns sharp right through some boulders, soon reaching a T-junction. Turn left and descend to reach the A81 within 450 m.
- Cross over and turn right, but within 50 m turn left on a footpath that descends to playing fields and reaches the River Teith. Turn right to cross the river by a narrow concrete footbridge (built in 1931) and reach the centre of Callander.



Track ends at boulders

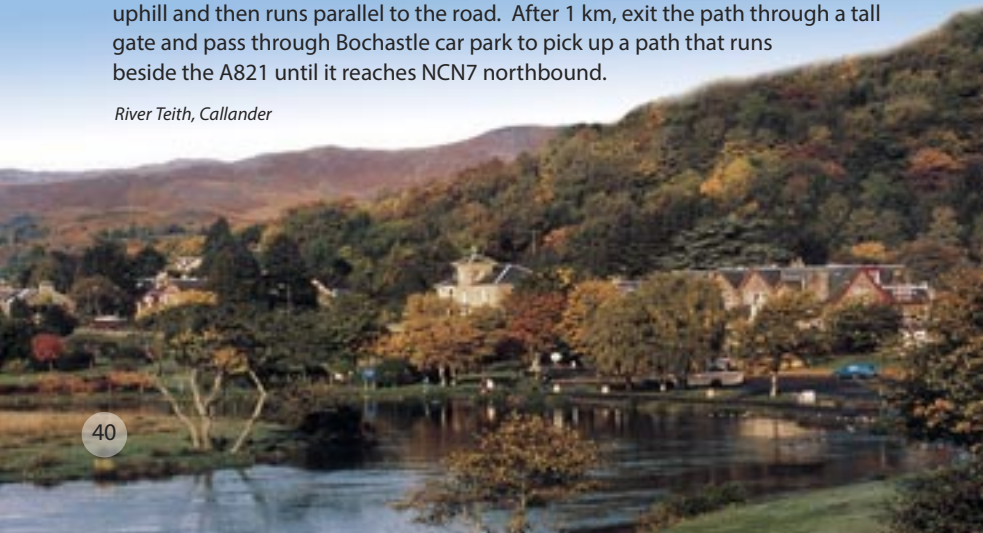
To bypass Callander

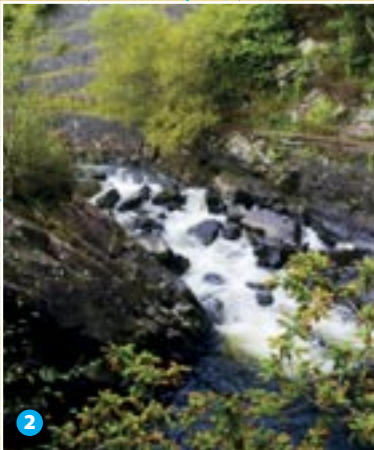


- Turn left across Gartchonzie Bridge over the Eas Gobhain to reach the A821. Walkers cross the main road and pass through a timber gate past a Woodland Trust Scotland sign. Most cyclists will instead turn right to follow the main road for 1 km before turning left to resume NCN7.
- After the gate, follow the footpath (signed Great Trossachs Path) which curves uphill and then runs parallel to the road. After 1 km, exit the path through a tall gate and pass through Bochastle car park to pick up a path that runs beside the A821 until it reaches NCN7 northbound.



River Teith, Callander





Falls of Leny

Samson's Stone 1
Samson's Stone is the nickname of a large boulder (a glacial erratic) perched improbably on the hillside above the 'Callander bypass'. It's also known as Samson's Putting Stone.