

## The Great Forest of LOCH ARD

*By foot, horse or bike*

From Aberfoyle to the foothills of Ben Lomond, enjoy the variety and the scale of the landscape as you explore the Great Forest of Loch Ard.

### Loch Ard – the Faeries

In the 17th Century a local minister – the Reverend Robert Kirk – upset the Faeries by publishing his book "The Secret Commonwealth of Elves, Fauns and Faeries." The Faeries took their revenge. On top of Doon Hill stands a solitary Scots pine amid the oak. It is said to contain the tormented soul of Reverend Kirk imprisoned by the Faeries as a lesson to others who might have similar thoughts.

### Loch Ard – the Water

Throughout the forest there are many lochs and lochans, from the striking Loch Chon and Loch Ard to picturesque Lochan a'

► "Wait for me Dad!"



Ghleannain and tiny Clashmore Loch. Two important rivers – the Duchray Water and the Keltie Water – rise here, tumbling down through the forest to join the River Forth. You will notice that stream and riverbanks are being cleared of conifers. These corridors will gradually be colonised by native trees and shrubs such as Oak, Birch, Alder, Hazel, Willow and Rowan, improving the streamside environment and adding to the natural beauty of the forest.



► Fun for all the family

### Loch Ard – the Forest

Loch Ard Forest is a productive forest, but it is so much more than that. There are many areas of native woodland including remnants of the ancient oak woods that once covered this area. Forestry Commission Scotland is protecting these important areas and extending them to ensure that they will be here for future generations to enjoy.

#### Kinlochard trails information

- Couligarten | 4 kms | 1 hour 30 mins
- Bell House Walk | 9.5 kms | 3 hour 45 mins
- Kinlochard Bay Walk | 10 kms | 4 hour



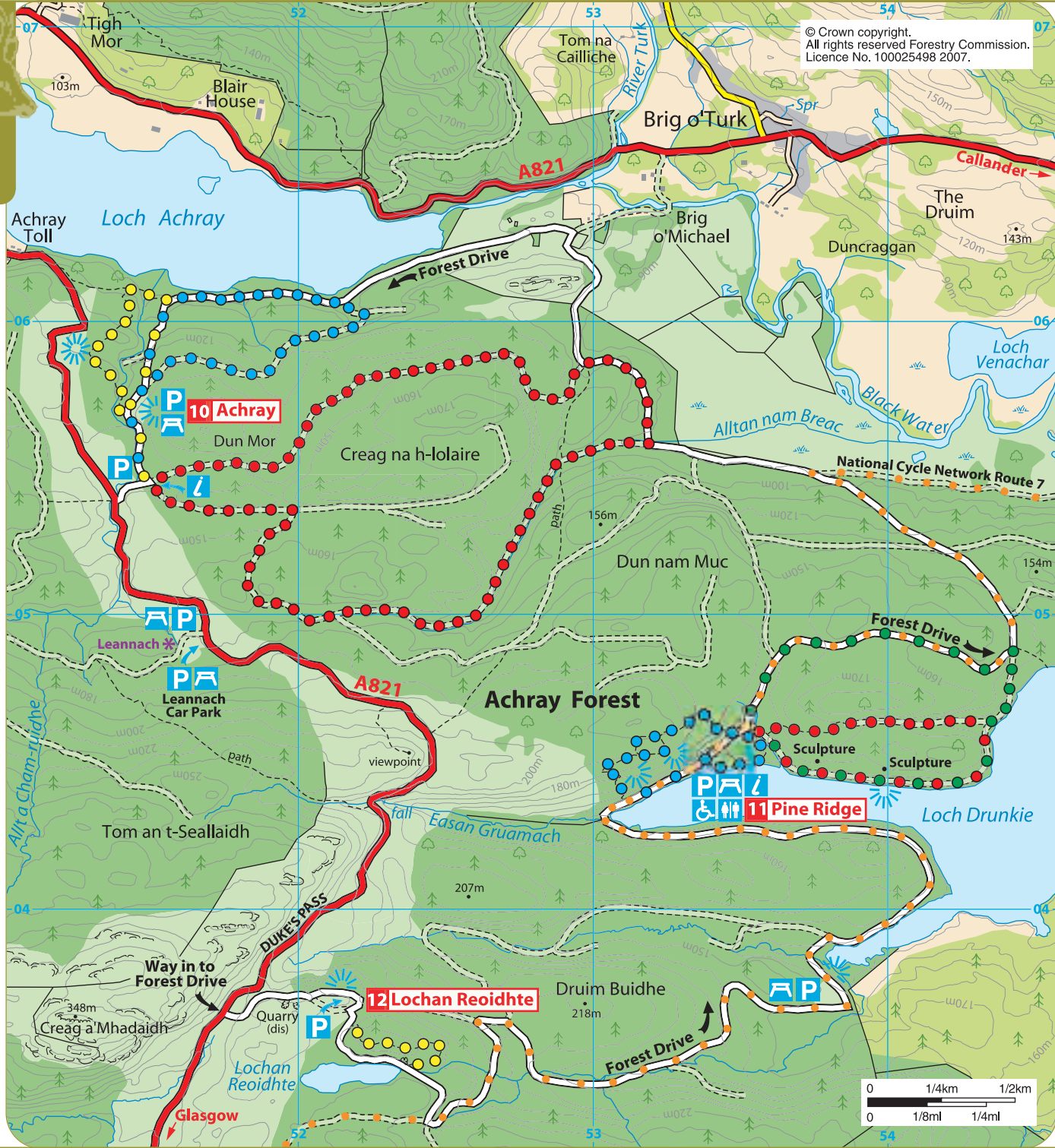
## THREE LOCHS FOREST DRIVE

Opened in 1977 to mark the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth, it consists of 7½ miles of winding forest road with car parks and trails to help you enjoy the forest.



► Loch Achray and Ben A'an

A fleeting glimpse of a deer, a picnic deep in the forest, fishing on the banks of Loch Drunkie or a leisurely walk – take your time there's lots to see and do.



#### Achray trails information

- Allt a Cham-ruidhe 1.6 kms | 45 mins
- Loch Achray 2.5 kms | 1 hr
- Creag na h-Iolaire 4.4 kms | 1 hr 45 mins

#### Pine Ridge trails information

- Pine Ridge 1.2 kms | 45 mins
- Red Sound Trail 1.8 kms | 1 hr
- Green Sound Trail 2.5 kms | 1 hr 15 mins

#### Lochan Reoidhte trails information

- Lochan Reoidhte 0.7 kms | 20 mins

► Loch Achray with Ben Venue behind.



## DAVID MARSHALL LODGE

*Visitor Centre*

The David Marshall Lodge overlooks the village of Aberfoyle and is the perfect place to start your visit to the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. This impressive building was gifted to the Forestry Commission by the Carnegie Trust in 1960 and is named after the then Chairman. The facilities offered include a restaurant, Go Ape high wire forest adventure, forest shop, wildlife viewing centre, picnic areas, toilets and a childrens play area.

Achray Forest can be explored via several waymarked trails starting from the Lodge. Ranger led guided walks, fun days and other family events are held at the visitor centre throughout the year.



► Bluebells at David Marshall Lodge Visitor Centre

#### David Marshall Lodge trails information

- Waterfall Trail 1.4 kms | 45 mins
- Oak Coppice Trail 3 kms | 1 hour
- Achray 7 kms | 3 hrs 15 mins
- Highland Boundary Fault Trail 7.5 kms | 3 hrs 15 mins

#### Loch Ard (Milton) trails information

- Viewpoint Walk 2 kms | 1 hr
- Lochan Sping 3 kms | 1 hr 30 mins
- Dalzell Wood 5 kms | 2 hr 15 mins
- Ghleannain Loch 6 kms | 2 hr 30 mins

#### Aberfoyle trails information

- Easter Park 4 kms | 1 hr 30 mins
- Doon Hill 4 kms | 1 hr 30 mins
- Lochan Sping 6 kms | 2 hr 30 mins
- Duchray 7.7 kms | 3 hr

#### Braeval trails information

- Larch Loop 1 kms | 30 mins
- Menteith 4 kms | 1 hr 30 mins
- Lime Craig 5.3 kms | 2 hr 30 mins

#### Lemahamish trails information

- Dunverig Woodland 2.3 kms | 1 hr
- Fairy Knowe 2.4 kms | 1 hr 15 mins

## Wild Forest, Wildlife – *The Forest is Alive*

The forest isn't just trees – the whole place is alive. Take the time to look – you'll be amazed at what you see! You might catch sight of deer (especially early in the morning or early evening); see red squirrels scampering around the forest and darting up trees, or even an Osprey fishing on the lochs. Whatever you see – enjoy the unexpected. The forest is full of marvels, from the mosses under your feet to the small birds calling above. The best way to see wildlife is to find somewhere nice to sit and be still and quiet – let it come to you. Listen...

**A healthy forest needs our help.** Conservation work is all in a day's work for a forester. We're involved in a wide range of work, looking after the life of the forest: from Ospreys to Water Voles. Come into David Marshall Lodge and talk to us about it.



► Red squirrel – Roe deer

## Take the Bus

**Travelling** from Glasgow to Aberfoyle you can use First Direct Bus Service Numbers **M8** or **C11** from Buchanan Street Bus Station. There is a local Bus Service at Aberfoyle to take you to DML 0844 567 5670 or [www.aberfoylecoaches.com](http://www.aberfoylecoaches.com). Booking ahead advisable.

## Take care on the hills

Please remember that the weather on the hills can change very quickly. Even in summer, conditions on the tops of hills 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 and stick to it
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return
- Take adequate warm & waterproof clothing
- Wear suitable footwear
- Take sufficient food and drink
- Carry map & compass, know how to use them
- Turn back if it gets too hard for you
- In emergencies call 999 and ask for the POLICE

When connected provide:  
a. Location of the incident  
b. Number of people in the party  
c. Any injuries  
(if there are ask the Police to inform the Ambulance Service)