

Rob Roy Way route upgrades (around Callander and Aberfeldy to Grandtully)

These directions replace those on pages 40-41 and 58 of our *Rob Roy Way* guidebook

1 New offroad paths to reach Callander and to bypass it (replaces p40 last bullet and p41)

Bear right and follow the Invertrossachs 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 the hump-backed Gartchonzie Bridge.

To reach the facilities of Callander

Continue ahead around a bend and after 200 m, just after Wheels/Trossachs Tryst, turn right into Coilhullan Wood. Pass the car park and follow the track (signed for Ben Gullipen/Loch Rusky) as it climbs through the wood (much of which has been felled, opening up the views) and then descends. About 1.8 km from the car park, the track ends suddenly at some boulders, but a short path off to the right leads uphill to a T-junction.

Turn left (signed for Callander) and descend to the A81: cross over and turn right. Within 50 m, turn left to follow a footpath that runs down to playing fields and crosses the River Teith by a footbridge to reach the centre of Callander.

To bypass Callander

Turn left, crossing Gartchonzie Bridge over the river Eas Gobhain, and after 300 m reach the A821. Cross the main road and pass through a timber gate to an interpretation board which tells you about Dunmore Fort and Samson's Putting Stone – a huge boulder or glacial *erratic*, improbably perched on the hillside above. Each of these is a detour uphill from the main path.

Otherwise follow the footpath which curves up and right and then runs parallel to the road. After about 1 km exit the path through a gate and go up to the entrance to Bochastle car park. Just inside it, a short path leads down to the A821, running briefly beside the road. This joins Cycle Route 7 northbound, which eventually takes you to Strathyre.

2 New offroad path Aberfeldy to Grandtully (replaces page 58)

The route now remains on the south bank of the River Tay from Aberfeldy to Grandtully. This replaces 4.5 miles (over 7 km) of road-walking with pleasant riverside footpath and old railway trackbed, and is also slightly shorter.

Follow the A827 road eastward through the centre of Aberfeldy. After 3/4 mile of pavement, pass *Dewar's World of Whisky* on your right. Just beyond the cemetery on your left, follow the timber fingerpost (see photo) that points along the footpath beside the road.

The path soon heads down toward the River Tay to follow its south bank with some fine riverside views, sightings of water birds and a good variety of trees. The path is narrow in places, punctuated by metal gates and a timber footbridge.

Within 3 km of its start, the footpath bears right uphill to the embanked trackbed of the old railway line.

(Southbound walkers need to bear right here.) The trackbed remains between river and A827, sometimes embanked, sometimes in cuttings, all the way to Grandtully (over 3 km). Most of the way the traffic noise has receded, and the trackbed is heavily tree-lined. Your approach to Grandtully is heralded by the return of the road, but stick to the trackbed all the way to the centre of the village. You pass through a railway arch beneath the A827 to emerge at the Old Station Yard (now the campsite of the Scottish Canoe Association).

Turn left across the yard and continue to the A827 where you turn right for 100 m. Cross the River Tay by the metal bridge on your left: take care because there's no pavement. Beyond the river, you face a War Memorial where you turn right along the road past Bendarroch Guest House.

Within 300 m this joins the minor road along the edge of the golf course. Cross over, bearing right. Turn left immediately up the driveway signposted 'Public Footpath to Pitlochry'. Once inside the golf course, immediately turn right uphill: the low timber signpost is not obvious.



3 Other update notes

Drymen Tourist Information Centre has closed (p34). Direct buses Glasgow/Drymen now only twice a day, so use train to Balloch then 15-minute bus ride or taxi, see **www.travelinescotland.com**

There is no longer any warning notice on the right road into Loch Ard forest (p35, first bullet), but waymarkers identify the route at all junctions in the Loch Ard forest. The Corrie Aqueduct has been covered and security-fenced, no longer looking like our p19 photo.

The Achmore Burn track gate now stands open (p50, first bullet) and its sign has gone. However, this narrow tarmac road is obvious: turn right 1.5 km beyond Killin. After 2 km, the 'high gates' are now low and loosely tied. (Should this change again, there's still an informal ladder stile below, to the left.)

Ladder stiles have been replaced by steel gates after the open section (p56, second bullet).

Many thanks to all readers who contributed: please email any comments to info@rucsacs.com

