

## 3·7 Glendevon to Glenfarg

**Map** panel 4

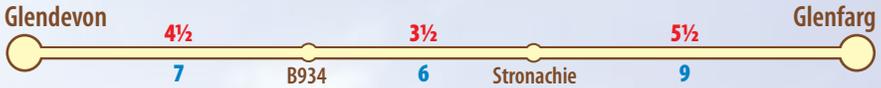
**Distance** 13 miles (22 km)

**Terrain** mostly on forest tracks and moorland paths, with a quiet country lane into Glenfarg; two short trackless stretches and a 2 km moor crossing need careful navigation

**Grade** steady climb of 220 m from the start, then undulating

**Food and drink** Glendevon (hotel), Glenfarg (shop and hotel)

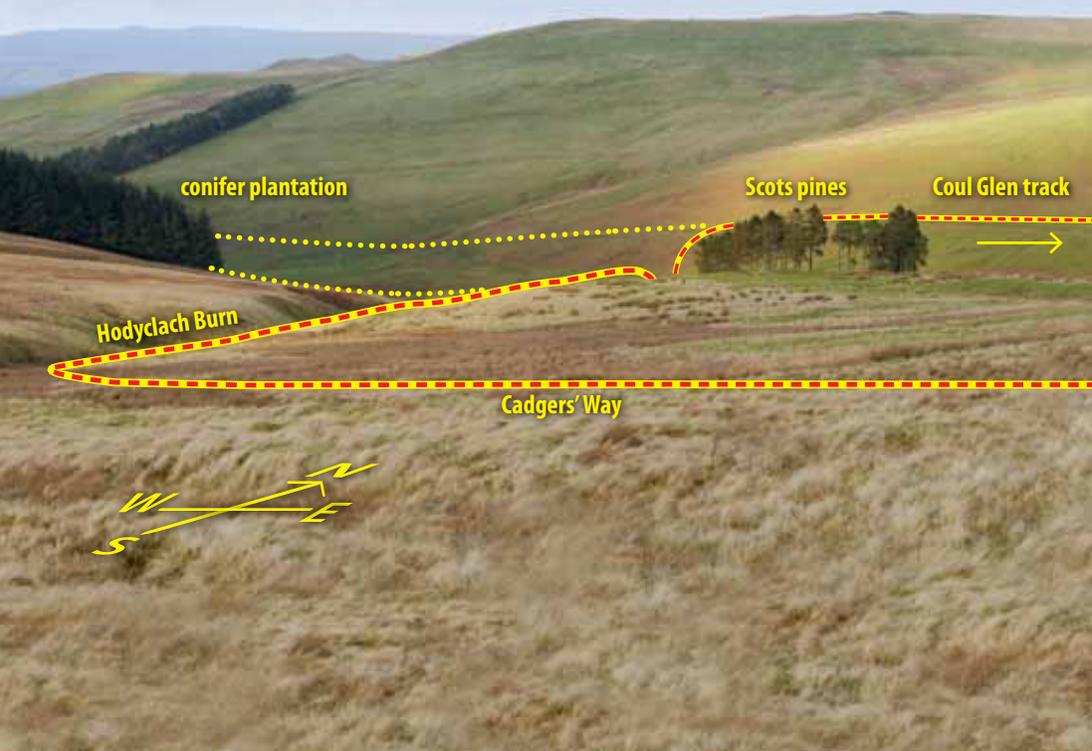
**Summary** tough but rewarding section over the highest point of the Way, with a mixture of hill, forest and moorland and splendid scenery



- Walk up the road in Glendevon for 150 m and turn right through a gate at a sign for Auchterarder. Follow the track up past the former youth hostel, now a private house.
- In 400 m you reach the solitary house of Glenfoot. Pass through the gate to its right, which bears a battered sign for Auchterarder, and follow the faint boggy track up through a field. This heads slightly west of north at first and curves gradually right, reaching a gate after 500 m.
- Keep ahead on a much better track that joins from the left. This passes through a second gate and becomes a grassy highway, which you follow to the top of the pass. As you climb, the wind turbines of Green Knowes become increasingly prominent on your left.
- The pass is the Cadgers' Yett (Gate), and at 435 m (1425 ft) it's the highest point of the Way. It gives a fine view of the distant hills to the north-west – if you can ignore the wind turbines.

*Cadgers' Way: approaching the pass*

- Go through the gate at the top, and onwards another 100 m. This is a good vantage point from which to survey the route ahead: see the photo below.
- You can see the track ahead descending north, getting closer to the deep cleft of the Hodyclach Burn on your left. Below left is a large plantation, and to its right is a small stand of ancient pines. Between them on the hillside ahead you can see the Coul Glen track running west to east, which is your onward route.
- From the vantage point, follow the track down for just over 1 km. Just after you pass the stand of ancient pines the track makes an S-bend, veering right then sharp left. Bear right (north-east) off the track before its sharp left, aiming for the Coul Glen track in the photograph.
- Shortly you need to step over a wire fence. Scramble down to the Coul Burn and look for a good crossing place.
- Crossing the burn is usually easy, but if it is not possible safely then return to the track you've just left and continue along it for 1.3 km to Coulshill Farm where there is a bridge. Cross and turn right to join the Coul Glen track: this detour adds 2.5 km.
- Once across the burn, head up the grassy slope to reach the Coul Glen track. Turn right and walk for 1 km up to the pass at 360 m/1180 ft.
- Go through a gate into the steep sided Corb Glen where, oddly, there is no burn. Its water has disappeared underground, and indeed you pass a spring as the glen opens out.

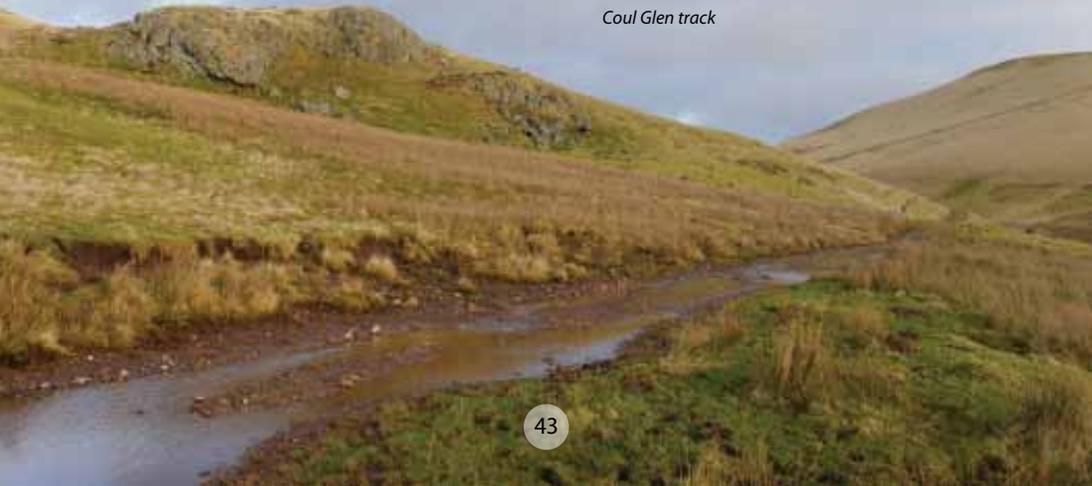


- The track descends steadily through the glen. Just after a quarry on your left it rises briefly to a junction. Ignore the track that bears left uphill to an abandoned farm, sticking to the main track which descends generally east, then south-east.
- You descend through felled woodland to reach the B934 road after 1.3 km. Cross the road and walk a few metres right to the car park opposite. From its far left (north-east) corner, a short path leads up between wooden posts into a firebreak through the forest.
- The firebreak has a good path along it, with (in 2012) some obstacles from timber extraction in places. After 1 km you emerge to meet a forest road at a marker pole.

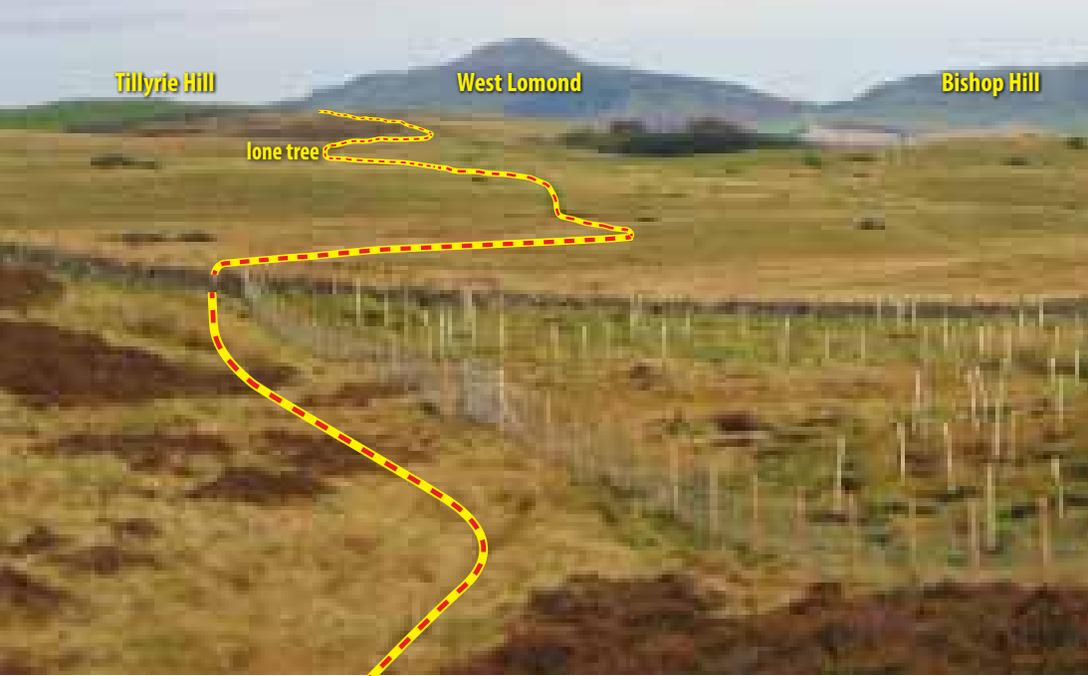


- Originally the Way went left here, but after a section had become blocked by fallen trees the route was changed. It now turns right instead for 800 m to a junction of forest roads. At this, turn sharp left.
- Follow the road as it climbs steadily through forest (partly felled in 2011) for 2.5 km. The gradient eases and the road emerges from the trees, with a clear view of West Lomond to the east. The road is soon crossed near its highest point by the line of an old fence.
- Turn left on the far side of the fence and follow it for the next 3 km. At first you ascend Coalcraig Hill with forest to your left and a fence to step over *en route*, with wide views on your right over Loch Leven and the Forth beyond.
- After climbing a wooden barrier at a fence, ascend over Heads Hill with forest on both sides. Finally, pass over Slungie Hill with forest on your right and open views to the left.
- On the descent, the trod path beside the fence becomes better defined and broadens into a track as it passes a reservoir, which fed the former distillery at Stronachie. The track swings right through the forest and descends to a road at a space for car parking.
- Turn left along the road for 400 m, then right onto a broad track through the trees. This emerges to run along the forest edge, down to a gate and over Chapel Burn.

*Coul Glen track*



- The track rises, and after 200 m it forks. The junction may be indistinct, but in summer is marked by an extensive patch of thistles: take the right fork, heading south-east.
- Continue up the valley for 1.5 km, rising steadily, crossing a couple of burns and passing through a gate. To your left are the slopes of Dochrie Hill. Some 200 m beyond the gate the path forks again, near a small hollow where stones have been quarried.
- Go left up to the ridge and pause again here to survey the route ahead. The Lomond Hills are on the skyline, with Loch Leven to the right and Tillyrie Hill to the left. The Way goes over Tillyrie Hill and later passes through the gap between West Lomond and Bishop Hill: see photo below.
- Across the moor, below West Lomond is a wood, and to its left a lone larch tree – your next objective. To reach it, you will need to cross open moorland for 1 km. There is no single path, but lots of tracks.
- Descend from the ridge and cross the wall and fence ahead by a stile. Go half-right for 200 m, keeping to slightly higher ground, then head towards Tillyrie Hill. After 700 m cross an old fence and wall, and soon reach the lone larch tree: for its photo see page 16.
- Just beyond it, bear right to converge with a high deer fence. Follow it to a corner with an older fence and wall. Climb over these and turn right, following the twin fences. Go up to a corner, turn left and follow the fences for another 300 m until they diverge.
- Continue following the lower, older fence down to a pond at the foot of Tillyrie Hill: see photo on page 45. Turn right through a gate and follow the track across the field to a gateway into another field. Immediately to your left, a gate leads into a plantation.





*Pond at foot of Tillyrie Hill*

- Go through the gate and up through the wood. At the top, the Tillyrie Hill trig point at 332 m (1090 ft) is just to your left, over a stile. Ahead is another big gate and beyond it, and below, is the low mound of Holeton Hill: the Lomond Hills are half-right.
- Go through the gate into the field and downhill towards Holeton Hill. At the bottom cross an old wall and follow it left for 200 m to reach a marshy depression, with a reedy lochan to its right.
- Leave the wall on a faint path that passes to the right of the lochan, following a grassy strip through the heather. Soon you see the prominent outcrop of White Craigs on Holeton Hill to your right.
- Below you is a fenced square lochan, the remains of an old quarry. Descend to its right hand corner, and squeeze through the upper wires of the fence just to its right, into a field.
- Descend with the lochan on your left and continue down to a gate on the far side of the field to emerge at the road.
- Turn right along the road, and follow it down for 800 m to the junction where a signpost directs you left for 'Glenfarg 2 miles'. Follow this road, after 3 km descending past Arngask Parish Church into Glenfarg.
- At the bottom of Church Brae, cross the road and go straight ahead along Ladeside to reach the crossroads with Glenfarg Hotel on the left.



*Glenfarg Hotel*