

## 3·7 Aberfeldy to Pitlochry

Map **panel 5**

Distance **9·3 miles (15 km)**

Terrain **riverside path and disused railway trackbed, then informal uphill path with boggy bits across open moorland, finally forest tracks almost all the way**

Grade **low-level flattish paths at first, then steady ascent to 1150 ft/350 m followed by moderate descent into Pitlochry**

Food and drink **Aberfeldy, Strathtay (small shop), Pitlochry**

Side-trips **Visitor Centre and other attractions, Pitlochry**

Summary **after the easy first five miles, follow an ancient Right of Way through moorland and forest, past a stone circle, to finish in the centre of Pitlochry**



- The Square lies at the centre of Aberfeldy, with Birks Cinema and historic fountain. From here, walk east along the A827 road. After 900 m, Dewar's Distillery is on your right: see below.
- Just beyond the cemetery on your left, follow the timber fingerpost pointing along the footpath beside the road.
- The path soon heads down toward the River Tay to follow its south bank: enjoy some fine riverside views with plenty of water birds. Road noise recedes, and the path is punctuated by metal gates and a timber footbridge.
- About 1·5 miles (2·4 km) from the A827, the footpath bears right uphill to the embanked trackbed of the old railway line. Follow it all the way to Grandtully, with the river on your left and A827 on your right, sometimes in cuttings.
- After a further 2 mi/3 km approach Grandtully, marked by noise from the nearby main road: ignore it and keep to the trackbed all the way to the village centre.

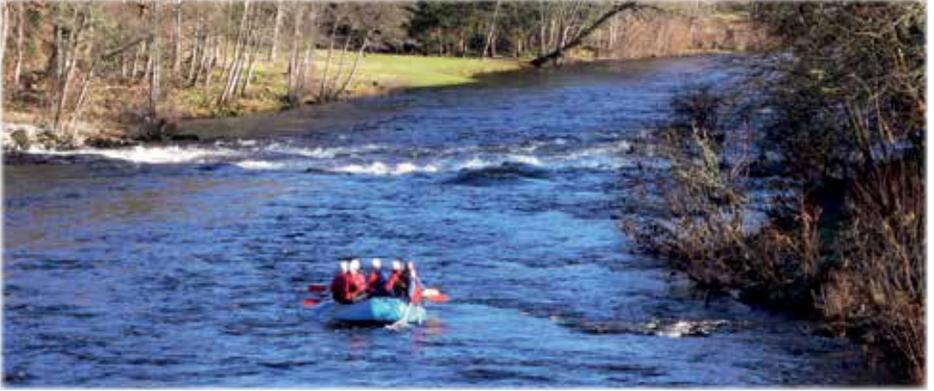


Former railway trackbed



**Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery**  
[www.dewars.com](http://www.dewars.com)

Established in 1898, it offers tours with tastings and audio guide (eight languages). An audiovisual presentation interprets the story of malt whisky. Café, e-postcard kiosk, nature trail and steam train. Open year-round: tel 01887 822 010.

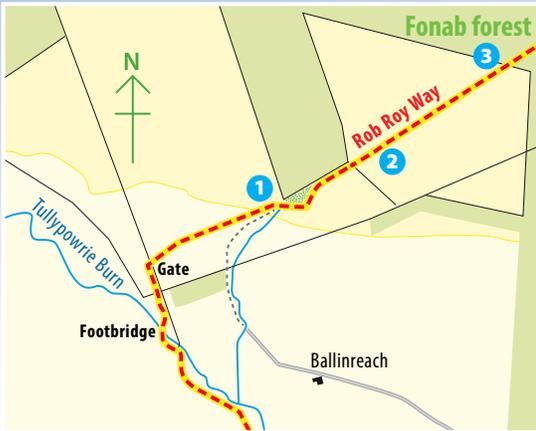


*Rafting on the Tay at Grandtully*

- Pass through a railway arch to emerge at the Old Station Yard (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. You may see canoes on the river, running its rapids and weaving through slalom gates.
- Beyond the river, you face Strathtay's War Memorial where you turn right along the road past Bendarroch Guest House. (Keep ahead to detour via the village store and post office.)
- Within 300 m you join the village road that runs beside the golf course. Cross diagonally right towards the red phone box, and turn left up the lane (fingerpost 'Public Footpath to Pitlochry'). On entering the golf club, immediately look for a low sign pointing right uphill.
- At first, the walk feels pleasantly enclosed by dry-stone walls, with overhanging oak, beech and birch. You climb steadily, passing through various gates to emerge into open farmland with sheep grazing. Stay to the right of gorse bushes approaching Tullypowrie Burn.
- Continue uphill with the burn on your right for about 1 km until you see a footbridge, and turn right across it. On its far side, continue uphill across a steep boggy bit for about 100 m.
- Reach a fence on your right and follow it for 70 m before going through a tall gate. On the left, a low timber sign points the way to Pitlochry. Follow its line and emerge from the gorse.

*Sign in the gorse*





- You now follow a bearing of  $060^\circ$  (east-north-east) across pathless moorland for over 1 km. In good conditions, this may be easy to navigate, but in poor visibility you need map and compass skills.
- Aim uphill on the same heading towards a corner of the plantation **1**. Approach it, but stay about 50 m short of it to avoid gorse bushes, and cross a stream.
- At the end of this bit of plantation, reach a fence and pass through the gap at its left end. Just beyond you will see the fine Scots pine shown above **2** and on page 29.
- Stay on the same heading of  $060^\circ$  for a further 500 m to approach the corner of Fonab forest. Pass through the tall gate about 70 m to the left of its corner **3**. Before you enter the forest, look behind you for glorious views south-west to Ben Lawers: see the photo on page 23.
- Follow the forest road north-easterly, ignoring a left turn after 400 m. After a further 150 m, look left for an ancient stone circle standing aloof and mysterious. You can go up close to these 3600-year old stones, but please don't touch them. The four-poster circle is about 5 m in diameter, with fragments of the fourth stone buried in the ground.

*Clachan an Diridh stone circle*



- Within a further 200 m, you reach a crossroads with a timber signpost. Go straight over on the narrow grassy path and follow brownish signs to Pitlochry via the Clunie Walk. At first the Way runs alongside another forest road, then crosses it and descends alongside a burn.
-  Emerge from Fonab forest by a kissing-gate, and turn right to descend the minor road as it zigzags downhill past farm buildings. Cross the A9, Scotland's main north-south highway, with great care (fast-moving traffic).
- Go straight ahead through the gate down a lane, soon crossing Foss Road, angling left. The Way now bears left towards Port-na-Craig.
- Before turning right to cross the footbridge, consider a detour to visit the dam, with a famous fish ladder used by 250,000 salmon. Go straight ahead past the Festival Theatre to its Visitor Centre which opens daily, entry free: [www.pitlochrydam.com](http://www.pitlochrydam.com).
- The Way continues across the River Tummel by its fine suspension bridge, which in 1913 replaced the ferry that had plied there since the 12th century. Its wobbles may be slightly unsettling, but it gives fine views and an information board explains the bridge and its opening.
- Keep ahead on the path between houses and playing fields, and cross straight over Tummell Crescent onto a narrow footpath. This winds north-west through Bobbin Mill Wood. Cross Ferry Road with Pay & Display car park on the right, and pass through the arch under the railway bridge with a stream on your right.
- Turn right across the footbridge on a path that leads into the back corner of the Memorial Garden that marks the end of the Way. The War Memorial stands on Atholl Road, Pitlochry's main street; turn right for its VisitScotland iCentre.

Congratulations on completing the Way. This may be time to reflect on all you've experienced since leaving Drymen, and the changes in landscapes and lifestyles since Rob Roy's lifetime.

*Pitlochry Memorial Garden*

