



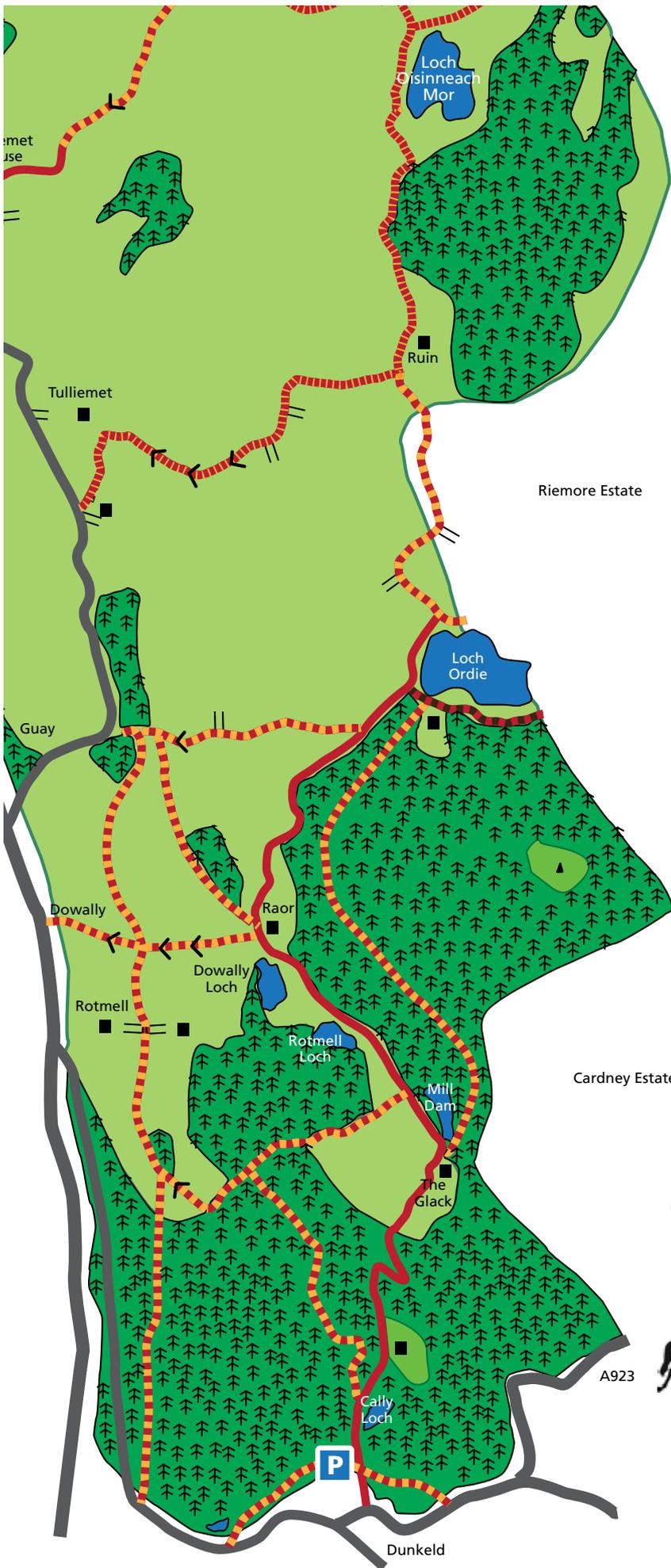
# Countryside Trails Dunkeld

## WELCOME

Welcome to this southern end of Atholl Estates. The countryside here is a wonderful blend of lochs, woodland and heather moor. There is a large network of paths to explore. Some suggested routes are outlined overleaf, but you are welcome to choose your own. Just remember that some of the countryside to the north of the map, around Loch Oisineach and Loch Broom, is very remote. Be prepared for rough paths and rough weather, and carry plenty of food.

Although this area seems wild, it is used for farming and forestry. Sheep and cattle graze the open hill ground, and lambing takes place in the open here in spring. Forestry works felling trees and removing timber or planting new trees may be taking place at any time. The fallow deer population is also culled from time to time to keep the population to a reasonable level to prevent damage to trees and natural habitats. As they have no natural predators anymore, our stalker has to keep the numbers down.





-  Public Road
-  Smooth, well graded track
-  Rough track
-  Very rough track
-  Woodland
-  Estate boundary
-  Steep gradient
-  Cally car park

  
1 Kilometre

### Shared Use Paths

 **Cyclists:** Please slow down for horses and walkers and use a bell or similar to let people know you are there.

 **Horse Riders:** Please do not use rough tracks after wet weather to minimize damage to paths from horses hooves.

# CYCLING ROUTES

## 1. RAOR AND ROTMELL 9 miles

A scenic route with some ups and downs, but nothing too rough or technical.

Cycle out of the car park along the way you came in, but turn L up the hill, following 'The Glack' sign. Keep on the main track, ignoring tracks off to the L, past houses, over a cattle grid and, after 2 miles, through a gate. Shortly you reach Mill Dam, a lovely place to stop for a breather and to enjoy the scenery. Carry on to the end of Mill Dam and ignore the next track off to the L. Soon you are cycling past Rotmell and Dowally Lochs – keep an eye out for ospreys fishing here. At the next house (Raor Lodge), turn L down the hill beside the burn. At the bottom of the hill turn L again and follow this track through fields and woods, until after 3 miles, you reach the road. Follow the road past Polney Loch and then take the path L at the far end of the loch. Follow this path back up to the Cally Car Park.



## 2. LOCH ORDIE AND TULLIEMET 16 miles

A scenic route into the wild. Starts easy, but gets tougher past Loch Ordie.

Follow Route 1 as far as Raor Lodge. At Raor turn R and stay on this track, ignoring routes off to the L, until you reach Loch Ordie. Here turn L, along the edge of the loch, then follow the track straight on uphill as you reach the top end of the loch. Follow this bigger track, ignoring tracks to the left, then swinging right through a gate, over a bridge and round to the L. The going now gets tougher. After reaching a gate out onto the open moor, take the next track L, just before a ruin, and enjoy the downhill (beware of sheep and gates). At the bottom of the hill follow the track round to the L, through a field, past houses to the road. Here you have 2 choices:



Had enough? Follow the road L all the way down to the cycle route beside the A9, go L here for 1 mile and then take the back road back to Dunkeld and the car park.

Ready for more? Follow the road L, and as the road heads downhill look for a layby on the L, with a path heading off uphill. Follow this, turning R at the track junction. Keep to this track through fields and woods for 4 miles to reach the road just before Polney Loch. Follow the road back to Dunkeld or the Cally car Park.

## 3. ORDIE OISINNEACH GRAND TOUR 21 miles

A tough ride through wild countryside on rough and often wet tracks.

Follow Route 2 past Loch Ordie as far as the ruin. Here keep straight on to reach Loch Oisinneach. Cycle along the loch shore, looking for a track up to the L just before the loch ends. Follow this up, over the moor to gate into a field. Follow the right side of the field to reach a bridge and blue metal shed at the bottom. Turn L here and follow the track down to Tulliemet (watch out for sheep while enjoying the downhill). When you reach the public road, turn L and pick up the 2 return route choices of Route 2.





## WALKING ROUTES

### 1. CALLY – LOCH ORDIE CIRCUIT

11 miles

A very scenic route with no steep ups or downs.

Follow the main sign posted track up to Loch Ordie, past The Glack, Mill Dam and Rotmell and Dowally Lochs. At Raor Lodge make sure to turn R past the house. Once you reach Loch Ordie, turn R, through the rhododendron bushes, and just before the house, turn R uphill to a gate in the deer fence. Go through the gate and follow the rough track along the side of the hill, enjoying lovely views of your outward route. As you reach the bottom of Mill Dam you will pick up the main track of your outward route, follow this back to the car park.

### 2. RAOR – GUAY CIRCUIT 10 miles

A varied walk of lochs, woods and fields.

Follow Route 1 as far as Raor Lodge. Here keep R past the house, but then go L over a stone bridge. Follow this track along and downhill to reach a little crossroads after a mile or so. Here go L to soon reach a double gate in a wall. Turn L after the gate and follow the track for 4 miles through woods and fields, and more woods to the road. At the road turn L, and just after the Polney Loch take the path, L, beside the loch, which then veers R and uphill to the Cally Car Park.



### 3. ATHOLL WOODS WALK 6.5 or 5 miles

Good views and varied terrain. Can be muddy.

Follow the yellow waymarkers for this walk (part of Dunkeld path network).

This walk takes you up to Mill Dam as for the 2 previous walks. At the top end of Mill Dam take the track, L, through a gate and then uphill. Follow this track up, then along the edge of a field (often muddy) and into conifer woods. Here the shorter return route goes off to the L – follow this back to reach the outward route shortly before the car park. Continue straight on for the longer route, to a gate and then down through a rough field, with great views up the Tay. At the bottom of the field, turn L, and follow this track back through the woods to the road. Follow the road briefly then pick up the path, L, at the far end of the Polney Loch, which will take you back to the car park.



Please help us to manage this beautiful wild area by following the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In particular:

- Keep your dog under close control or on a lead, particularly in the spring when wild birds are nesting and the sheep are lambing.
- Follow any advice given on signs, in particular if a path is closed or diverted temporarily. This is only done when the safety of you and the forestry workers is an issue.
- Using the car park provided and enjoying the area on foot, by bike or on horseback
- Be considerate of other users.

## WILDLIFE



There is an abundance of wildlife in this area which can be seen by quiet and observant visitors. Fallow deer and red squirrels are live in the woods north of the Cally Car Park. The deer here are mostly dark, not spotty, as shown in many books. Listen for the belching call of the fallow bucks in the rut in the autumn.

The area to the north of Raor Lodge and Loch Ordie is a Special Protection Area – a European designation, here made for the populations of moorland birds of prey, and also for good numbers of black grouse. Osprey, merlin, short-eared owl and hen harrier are all here in good numbers, although generally in decline in Britain. You have a good chance of seeing an osprey, particularly flying or fishing near one of the many lochs. They are here from April to August and then fly to Africa for the winter.



# Atholl Estates Blair Castle Trekking Centre

## Discover more of Atholl Estates

There are many ways to enjoy the spectacular scenery and wildlife on Atholl Estates, on foot, on horse-back or by bike. With 145,000 acres to explore, you've got so much more to discover.

### Blair Castle Trekking Centre



Here at Blair Castle Trekking Centre, our emphasis is on safety and scenery. The ponies used on Atholl are traditional Highland Ponies, Scotland's largest

native pony breed. Their main job on the estate for the past 250 years has been to carry the culled deer off the surrounding hills during the stalking season. To do this they must have an exceptionally quiet and docile nature or to use a horsy term be 'bomb proof'. It also teaches them sure-footedness and good balance.

Having these qualities makes our ponies fantastic trekking ponies, ideal for the nervous beginner or older rider, but fun enough for the experienced rider too. The centre offers a range of treks from one and two hour beginner's treks to the more advanced Reach Craig Urrard Summit trek and the four hour Stop for a Picnic ride. For further information on the treks available, please visit [www.blaircastletrekking.co.uk](http://www.blaircastletrekking.co.uk). We warmly welcome enquiries and bookings on 01796 481568 (24 hour answer machine) and Vicki@blaircastletrekking.co.uk .

The trekking centre is open Tuesday to Sunday (closed Mondays) from 1st April 2009, and Sunday to Friday (closed Saturdays) from 1st July – mid September.



## Cycling from Blair Atholl – Atholl Estates

There are nearly 50 miles of routes suitable for cycles on the northern part of Atholl Estates. The tracks take you through woodlands, alongside rivers, past waterfalls, and onto open moorland. They vary from easy through to moderate and hard levels of difficulty and offer ample opportunity to enjoy the local wildlife. Distances range from 4 to 22 miles.

A map detailing cycle routes from Blair Atholl is available from the Atholl Estates Information Centre in Blair Atholl (01796 481646) or from the site shop inside the Blair Castle Caravan Park reception building (01796 481263).



## Fishing

Keen fishermen and women can arrange a day on one of Atholl Estates' 3 renowned salmon rivers or 3 hill lochs (in season). For further information please visit [www.atholl-estates.co.uk/fishing](http://www.atholl-estates.co.uk/fishing) or contact the Estate Office on 01796 481 355.



Loch Broom

## ATHOLL ESTATES RANGER SERVICE

The ranger service is based in Blair Atholl, but covers the Dunkeld part of the estate as well.

The rangers lead educational visits for schools, colleges and other groups, run a programme of countryside events through the summer months, help maintain the paths and trail networks and carry out wildlife monitoring.

If you would like to find out more, come and visit us at the Atholl Estates Information Centre in Blair Atholl, or via our website:

[www.atholl-estatesrangerservice.co.uk](http://www.atholl-estatesrangerservice.co.uk)

To contact the ranger service phone 01796 481355 or e-mail: [pf@atholl-estates.co.uk](mailto:pf@atholl-estates.co.uk)

Atholl Estates Ranger Service is part-funded by Scottish Natural Heritage

