

Colour maps with guide notes to six local walks on rights of way

Comrie

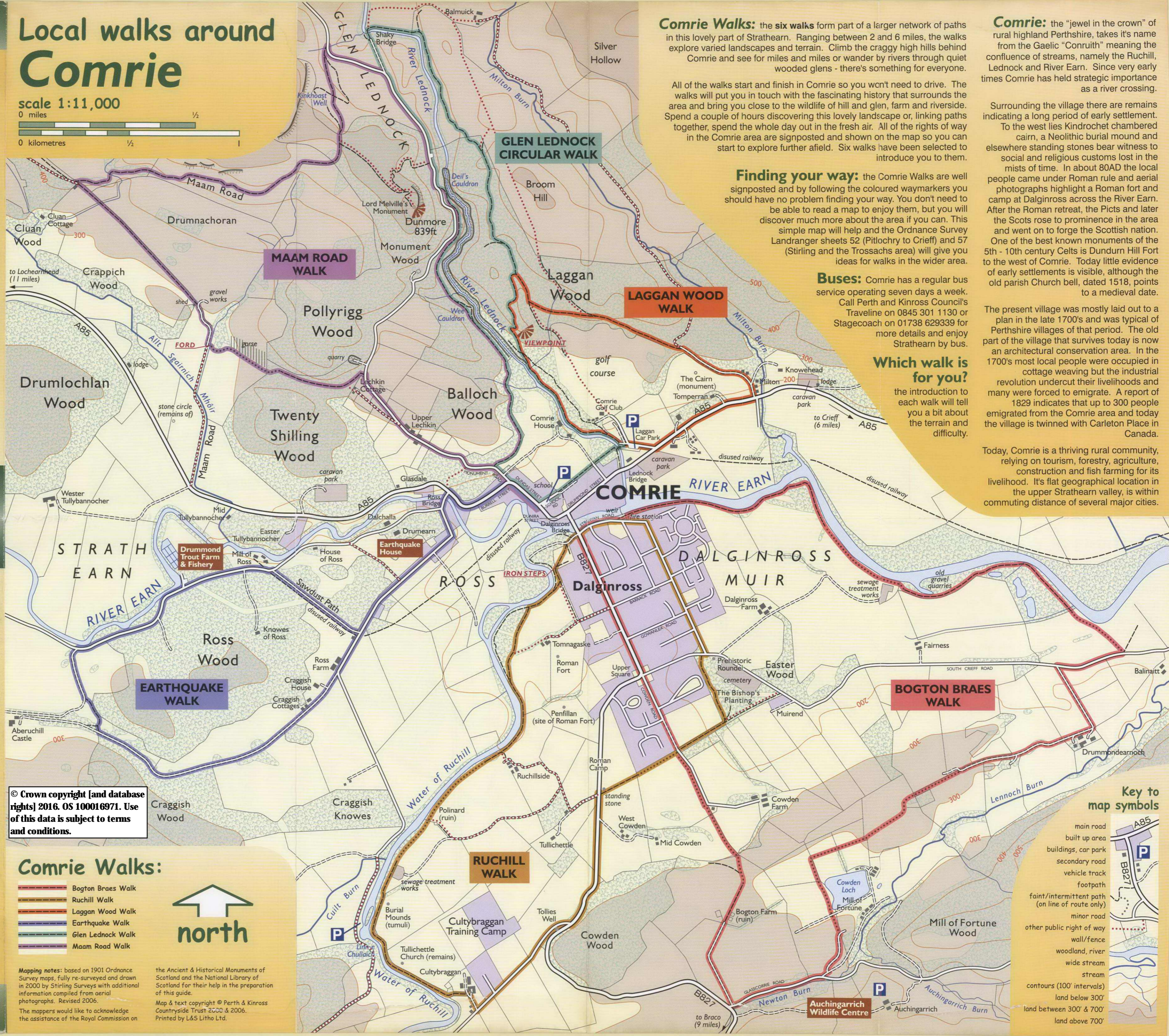
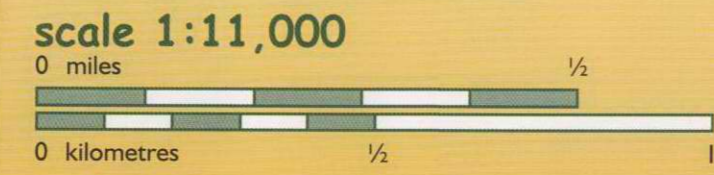
Local walks around Comrie

Colour maps with guide notes to six local walks on rights of way



The Comrie Walks form part of a larger network of paths in this lovely part of Strathearn. Ranging between 2 and 6 miles, the walks explore varied landscapes and terrain. Climb the craggy hills behind Comrie and see for miles and miles or wander by rivers through quiet wooded glens - there's something for everyone.

Local walks around Comrie



Comrie Walks: the six walks form part of a larger network of paths in this lovely part of Strathearn. Ranging between 2 and 6 miles, the walks explore varied landscapes and terrain. Climb the craggy high hills behind Comrie and see for miles and miles or wander by rivers through quiet wooded glens - there's something for everyone.

All of the walks start and finish in Comrie so you won't need to drive. The walks will put you in touch with the fascinating history that surrounds the area and bring you close to the wildlife of hill and glen, farm and riverside. Spend a couple of hours discovering this lovely landscape or, linking paths together, spend the whole day out in the fresh air. All of the rights of way in the Comrie area are signposted and shown on the map so you can start to explore further afield. Six walks have been selected to introduce you to them.

Finding your way: the Comrie Walks are well signposted and by following the coloured waymarkers you should have no problem finding your way. You don't need to be able to read a map to enjoy them, but you will discover much more about the area if you can. This simple map will help and the Ordnance Survey Landranger sheets 52 (Pitlochry to Crieff) and 57 (Stirling and the Trossachs area) will give you ideas for walks in the wider area.

Buses: Comrie has a regular bus service operating seven days a week. Call Perth and Kinross Council's Traveline on 0845 301 1130 or Stagecoach on 01738 629339 for more details and enjoy Strathearn by bus.

Which walk is for you? the introduction to each walk will tell you a bit about the terrain and difficulty.

The present village was mostly laid out to a plan in the late 1700's and was typical of Perthshire villages of that period. The old part of the village that survives today is now an architectural conservation area. In the 1700's most local people were occupied in cottage weaving but the industrial revolution undercut their livelihoods and many were forced to emigrate. A report of 1829 indicates that up to 300 people emigrated from the Comrie area and today the village is twinned with Carleton Place in Canada.

Today, Comrie is a thriving rural community, relying on tourism, forestry, agriculture, construction and fish farming for its livelihood. It's flat geographical location in the upper Strathearn valley, is within commuting distance of several major cities.

© Crown copyright [and database rights] 2016. OS 100016971. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions.

Comrie Walks:

- Bogton Braes Walk
- Ruchill Walk
- Laggan Wood Walk
- Earthquake Walk
- Glen Lednock Walk
- Maam Road Walk



Mapping notes: based on 1901 Ordnance Survey maps, fully re-surveyed and drawn in 2000 by Stirling Surveys with additional information compiled from aerial photographs. Revised 2006. The mappers would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Royal Commission on

the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland and the National Library of Scotland for their help in the preparation of this guide. Map & text copyright © Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust 2006 & 2006. Printed by L&S Litho Ltd.

Key to map symbols

- main road
- built up area
- buildings, car park
- secondary road
- vehicle track
- footpath
- faint/intermittent path (on line of route only)
- minor road
- other public right of way
- wall/fence
- woodland, river
- wide stream
- stream
- contours (100' intervals)
- land below 300'
- land between 300' & 700'
- land above 700'

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR WALK

Even in summer the weather can change quickly, so always take a waterproof and warm clothing. The paths can be muddy or steep so sensible shoes or boots will make your walk more comfortable. Take a snack and a drink along - it's always a good excuse to stop and enjoy the view.

These **Comrie Walks** have been set up with the support of local landowners and farmers. They make their living from the land so please ensure that their livelihoods are not affected by your enjoyment.

- keep to the waymarked paths
- park in the village and avoid blocking farm tracks
- always keep your dog under close control and on a lead near stock.
- cows can be curious about human beings and protective if they have calves - try to avoid splitting the herd.
- leave gates as you find them
- take your litter home with you

The paths cross working countryside with farming and forestry activities going on all around. Occasionally one of the paths may need to be closed, so please follow any temporary signs.

To find out what else there is to see and do in this part of Strathearn, call in at the **Tourist Information Centre in Crieff** or telephone 01764 652578.

Many of the walks are maintained by **Perth and Kinross Council's Countryside Ranger Service**. If you have any comments please contact: Perth and Kinross Countryside Ranger Service, Planning and Development Services, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD. Telephone: 01738 475300

A big thank you to: James Mitchell for his photographs, George Carson for route advice, local landowners for their co-operation, Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust & LEADER II.

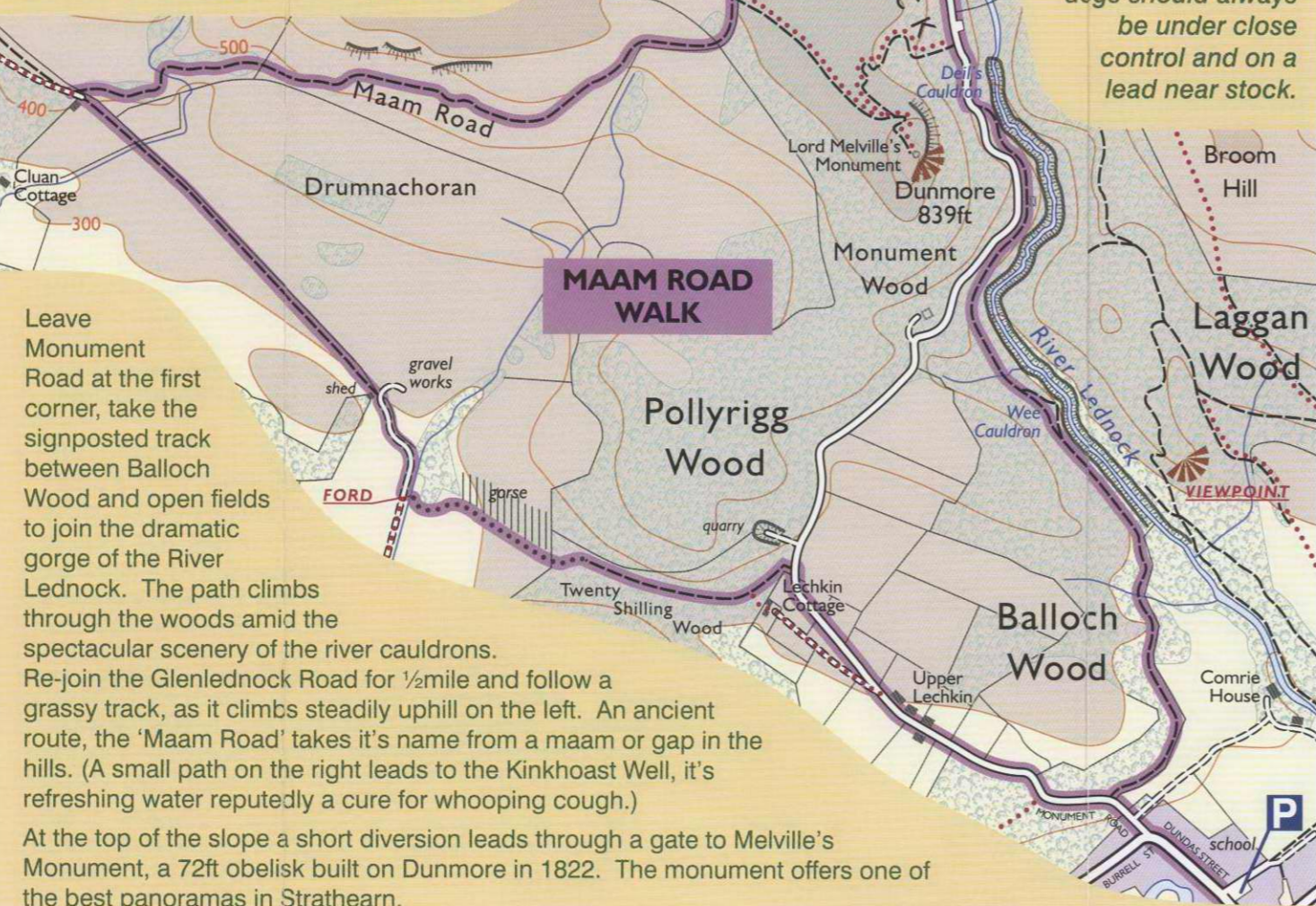
Maam Road Walk

Great views and mountain scenery in the hills above Comrie.

Distance: 6 miles

Approximate time: 3 to 3½ hours

Start and finish: Comrie village centre



Leave Monument Road at the first corner, take the signposted track between Balloch Wood and open fields to join the dramatic gorge of the River Lednock. The path climbs through the woods amid the spectacular scenery of the river cauldrons.

Re-join the Glenlednock Road for ½ mile and follow a grassy track, as it climbs steadily uphill on the left. An ancient route, the 'Maam Road' takes its name from a maam or gap in the hills. (A small path on the right leads to the Kinkhoast Well, it's refreshing water reputedly a cure for whooping cough.)

At the top of the slope a short diversion leads through a gate to Melville's Monument, a 72ft obelisk built on Dunmore in 1822. The monument offers one of the best panoramas in Strathearn.

Back on the 'Maam Road' enjoy a gradual descent and expansive views of upper Strathearn. At the track junction turn left past a sheep tank (or fold) through open country. Once past a large shed, leave the Maam Road and climb steadily towards Pollyrigg and Twenty Shilling Woods. Important places for nature conservation, the woods are separated by the path which rejoins Monument Road above Lechkin Cottage.

Terrain: Rough going in places, but worth it for the views.

Refreshments: Comrie Village

The walk passes through stock fields, dogs should always be under close control and on a lead near stock.

This well loved circular walk can be enjoyed by following the waymarkers. You can find out much more about the history and wildlife of this fascinating area by picking up Perth and Kinross Council's informative walk leaflet in Laggan Car Park.

From the car park the path climbs steadily beside the river for about a mile through ancient woodland. Once a source of firewood, building materials and footwear (alder wood makes fine clogs) the woods are now protected for the abundant wildlife they harbour. In Laggan Woods the path passes through conifer plantation before crossing into open fields and descending to the Shaky Bridge (locals say it's been shaky since the day it was built!)

Leaving the narrow public road about a mile further on, the path descends into exciting country close to the river, hurling itself through the gorge. In the Deil's (Devils) Cauldron water 'boils' furiously and rushes towards the 'Wee Cauldron' below. Deep scouring by melting glaciers created the original cauldrons at the end of the last ice age. The rocks and grit carried by the turbulent river continue the process today. A well worn path between woods and fields leads onto Monument Road and back to Comrie. Follow the path from School Road or enjoy a stroll through the village back to the Laggan Car Park.

Glen Lednock Circular Walk

Spectacular river scenery and sylvan woods

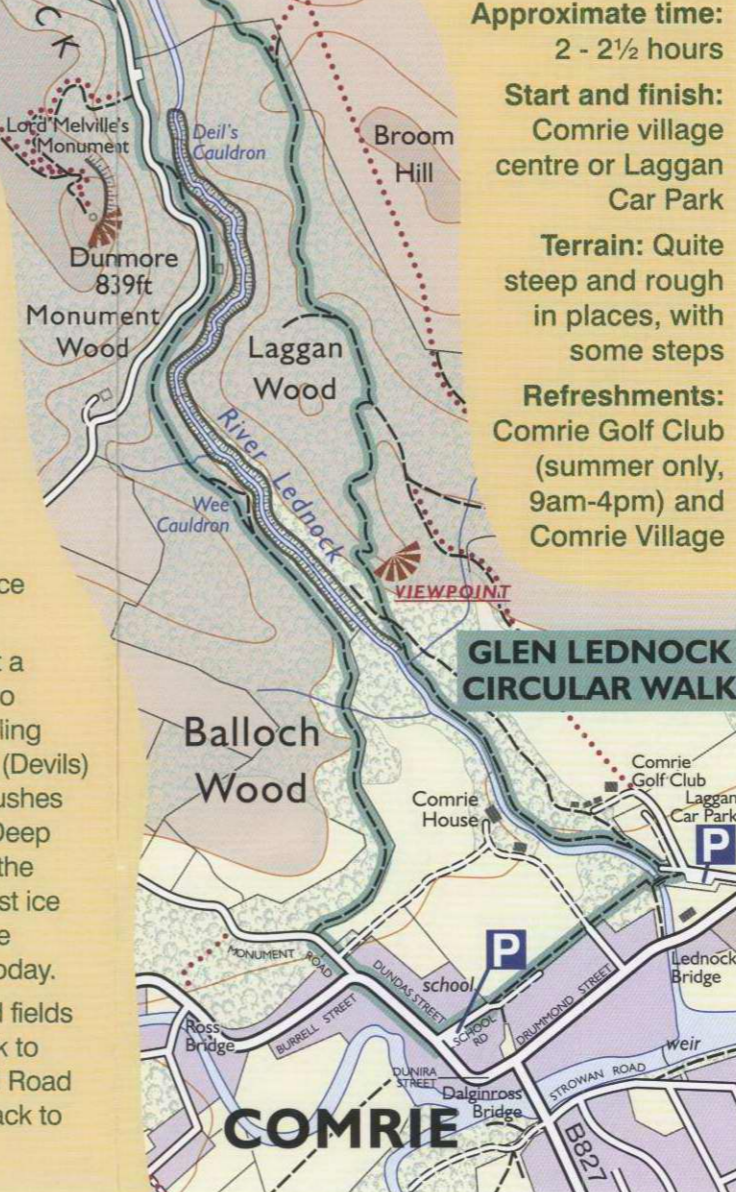
Distance: 4 miles

Approximate time: 2 - 2½ hours

Start and finish: Comrie village centre or Laggan Car Park

Terrain: Quite steep and rough in places, with some steps

Refreshments: Comrie Golf Club (summer only, 9am-4pm) and Comrie Village



Laggan Wood Walk

Enjoy contrasting woodland scenery on this short circular walk

Distance: 2 miles

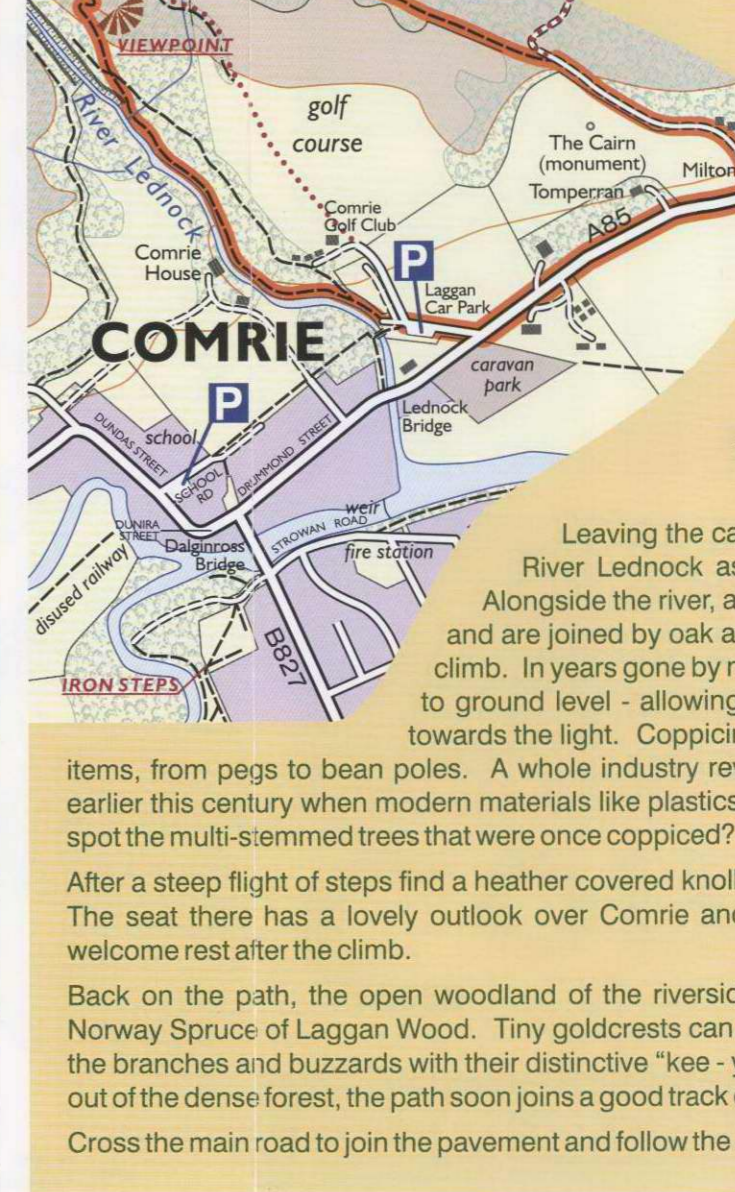
Approximate time: 1 - 1½ hours

Start and finish: Laggan Car Park

Terrain: Some steep slopes and steps, muddy at times.

Refreshments: Comrie Golf Club (summer only, 9am-4pm)

Take care crossing the busy A85 main road!!



Leaving the car park the path soon joins the River Lednock as it tumbles towards Comrie. Alongside the river, ancient hazel trees line the way and are joined by oak and birch as the path begins to climb. In years gone by many trees were coppiced - cut to ground level - allowing new shoots to grow straight towards the light. Coppicing produced many household items, from pegs to bean poles. A whole industry revolved around coppicing until earlier this century when modern materials like plastics began to take over. Can you spot the multi-stemmed trees that were once coppiced?

After a steep flight of steps find a heather covered knoll a short distance to your right. The seat there has a lovely outlook over Comrie and Ben Halton and provides a welcome rest after the climb.

Back on the path, the open woodland of the riverside gradually gives way to the Norway Spruce of Laggan Wood. Tiny goldcrests can often be heard jingling high in the branches and buzzards with their distinctive "kee - yoo" soar overhead. Breaking out of the dense forest, the path soon joins a good track descending towards Comrie. Cross the main road to join the pavement and follow the A85 back to the car park.

Earthquake Walk

A historic walk through the old weavers' part of the village

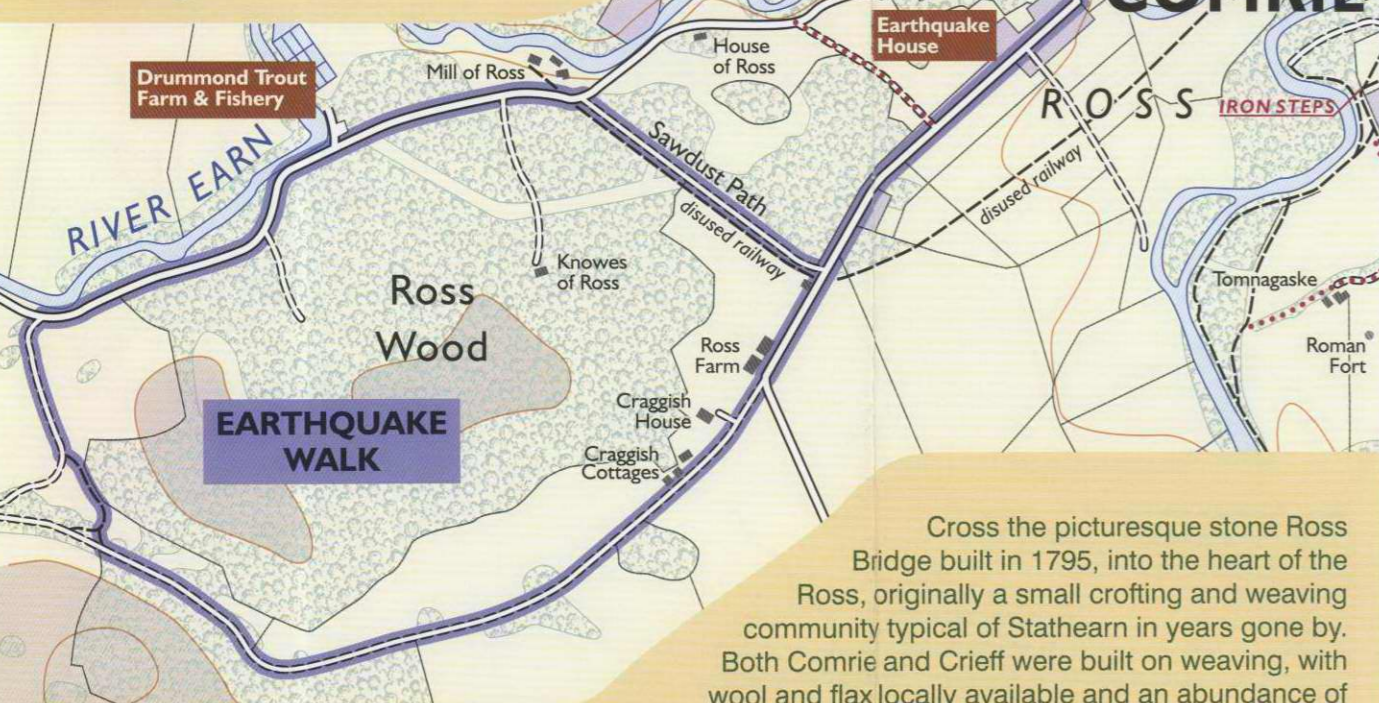
Distance: 4 miles

Approximate time: 2 to 2½ hours

Start and finish: Comrie village centre or the Ross Bridge

Terrain: Quite level, on country roads and paths

Refreshments: Drummond Fish Farm and Comrie Village



Cross the picturesque stone Ross Bridge built in 1795, into the heart of the Ross, originally a small crofting and weaving community typical of Strathearn in years gone by. Both Comrie and Crieff were built on weaving, with wool and flax locally available and an abundance of water power to drive mills.

On the right of the road through the Ross stands the world's first seismometer. Lying on the Highland Boundary Fault, Comrie or the 'Shaky Town' has experienced earth tremors for many centuries. These were first recorded in 1579 and a major series of 70 shocks in 1789. To measure the tremors, local people set up the world's first seismometer in Comrie in 1840. It was replaced by the one you can see in the field in 1869. The interior of Earthquake House can be viewed through the window during daylight hours.

On your way back to Comrie, alongside the Earn, you pass by Drummond Fish Farm in what was once the Millers Field at the Mills of Ross. Timber was sawn and pins (bobbins) made at the Pirmill here for the local thread industry.

Ruchill Walk

A pleasant walk through fields, woods and riverside.

Distance: 4½ miles

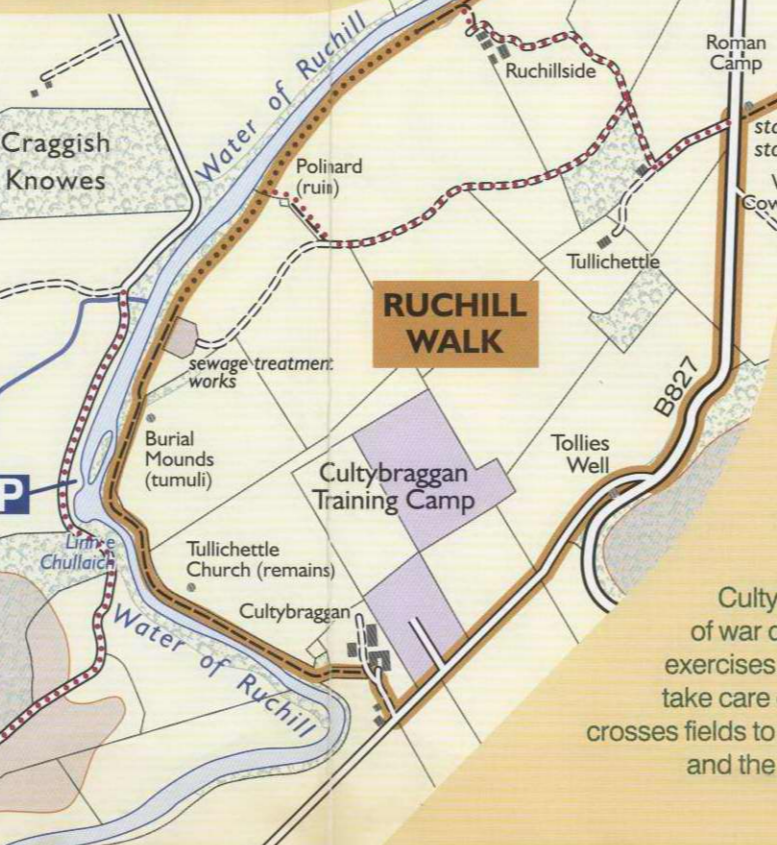
Approximate time: 2 to 2½ hours

Start and finish: Comrie village centre

Terrain: Fairly level on paths and roads

Refreshments: Comrie Village

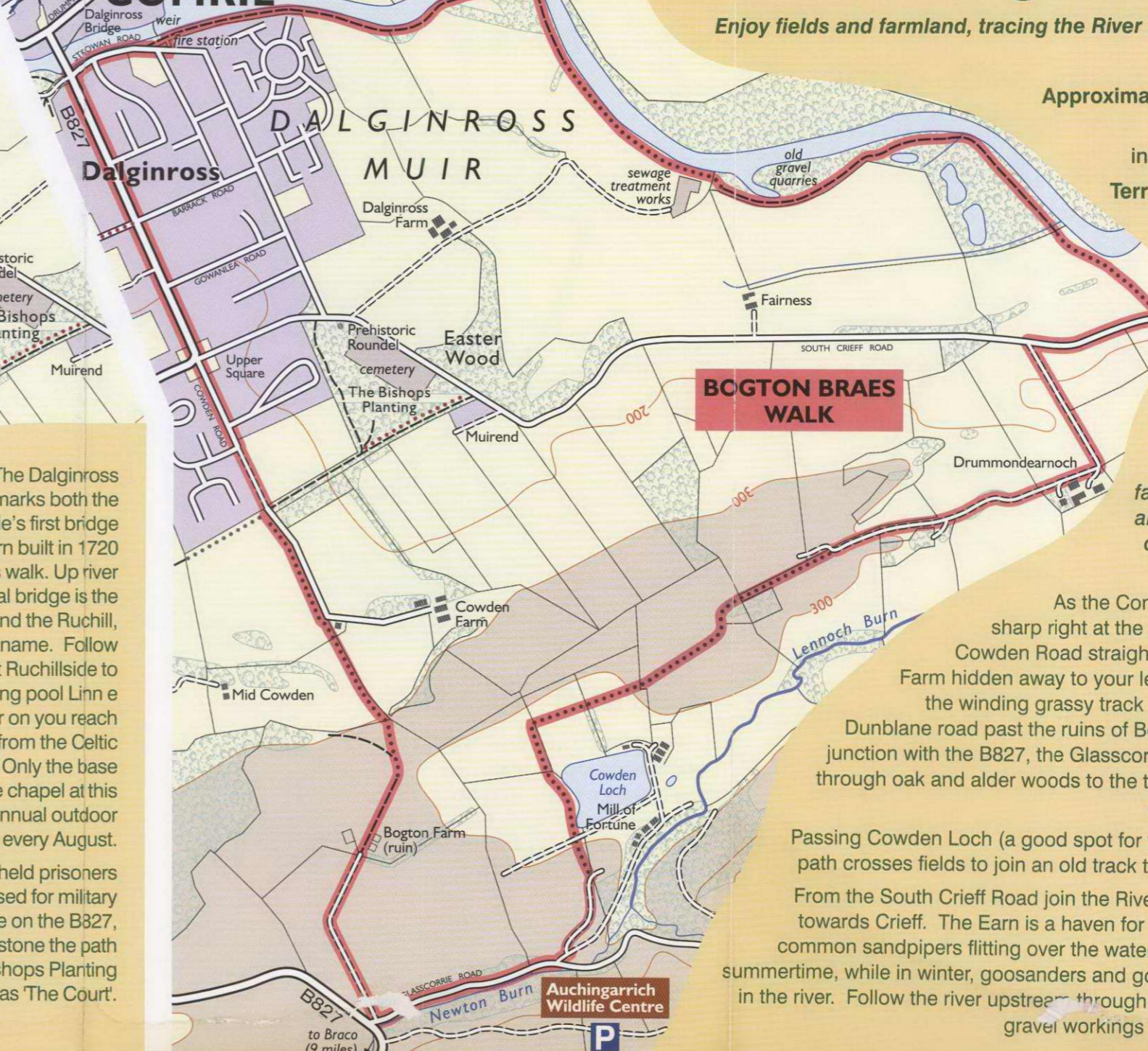
The walk passes through stock fields, dogs should always be under close control and on a lead near stock.



The Dalginross Bridge marks both the site of Comrie's first bridge over the River Earn built in 1720 and the start of this walk. Up river from today's metal bridge is the junction of the Earn and the Ruchill, the origin of Comrie's name. Follow the path upstream past Ruchillside to the village bathing pool Linn e Chullaich. Further on you reach Tullichettle Church - from the Celtic meaning 'Vale of Sleep'. Only the base stones now remain of the chapel at this ancient burial place but an annual outdoor service is still held here every August.

Culybraggan Camp which once held prisoners of war during World War 2, is now used for military exercises. Head back towards Comrie on the B827, take care on the road. At the standing stone the path crosses fields to Cowden Road and on to Bishops Planting and the prehistoric 'roundel', known as 'The Court'.

COMRIE RIVER EARN



Bogton Braes Walk

Enjoy fields and farmland, tracing the River Earn back to Comrie

Distance: 6 miles

Approximate time: 3 - 3½ hours

Start and finish: in the centre of Comrie

Terrain: paths and tracks through farmland, muddy at times.

Refreshments: Comrie village & Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre (open Easter - October)

The walk passes through rough farmland, dogs should always be under close control and on a lead near stock.

As the Comrie - Braco road turns sharp right at the village edge follow the Cowden Road straight ahead. With Cowden Farm hidden away to your left, the path soon joins the winding grassy track of the ancient Comrie-Dunblane road past the ruins of Bogton Farm. From the junction with the B827, the Glasscorie Road winds quietly through oak and alder woods to the track at Mill of Fortune, once a local meal mill.

Passing Cowden Loch (a good spot for wintering wildfowl) the path crosses fields to join an old track to Drummondearnoch. From the South Crief Road join the River Earn carving its way towards Crieff. The Earn is a haven for wildlife all year round; common sandpipers fitting over the water and shingle banks in summertime, while in winter, geosanders and goldeneye dive for food in the river. Follow the river upstream through woods, fields and old gravel workings all the way to Comrie.