

River Earn Path

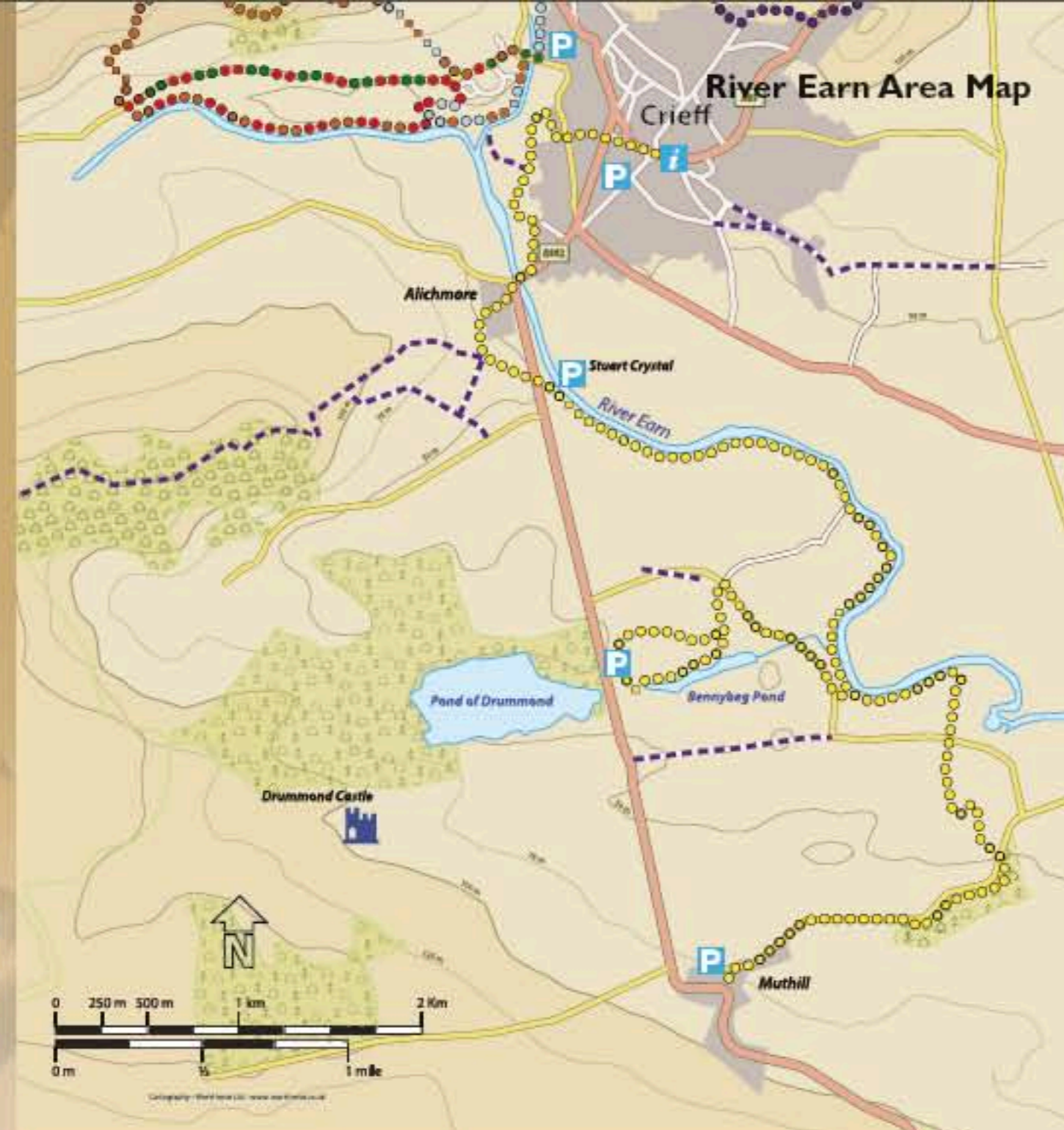
Distance: 9 km (5½ ml) with some steep slopes and steps in the town
Approx time: 3 hrs one way
Start & finish: James Square, Crieff or join at Stuart Crystal car park.
Return by bus from Muthill

Leaving town by the back streets, the route runs alongside the playing fields with their mill lade, a channel once used for carrying water to power factories. Clues to the history of Crieff can be found in the place names and millstones glimpsed as you move between houses and gardens. The majority of this path follows the river Earn as it winds through the fields to the south of Crieff.

The derelict piers crossing the river mark the point where the path parts company with the Earn to make new use of the old railway line. Leaving the straight and narrow, delve into Sallyardoch Wood then join the quiet road to Muthill.

Bennybeg Nature Trail

A wee detour from the River Earn Path takes you to a 1½ km (1 ml) circular, wheelchair friendly trail with a viewing platform overlooking Bennybeg Pond.



Torlum Path

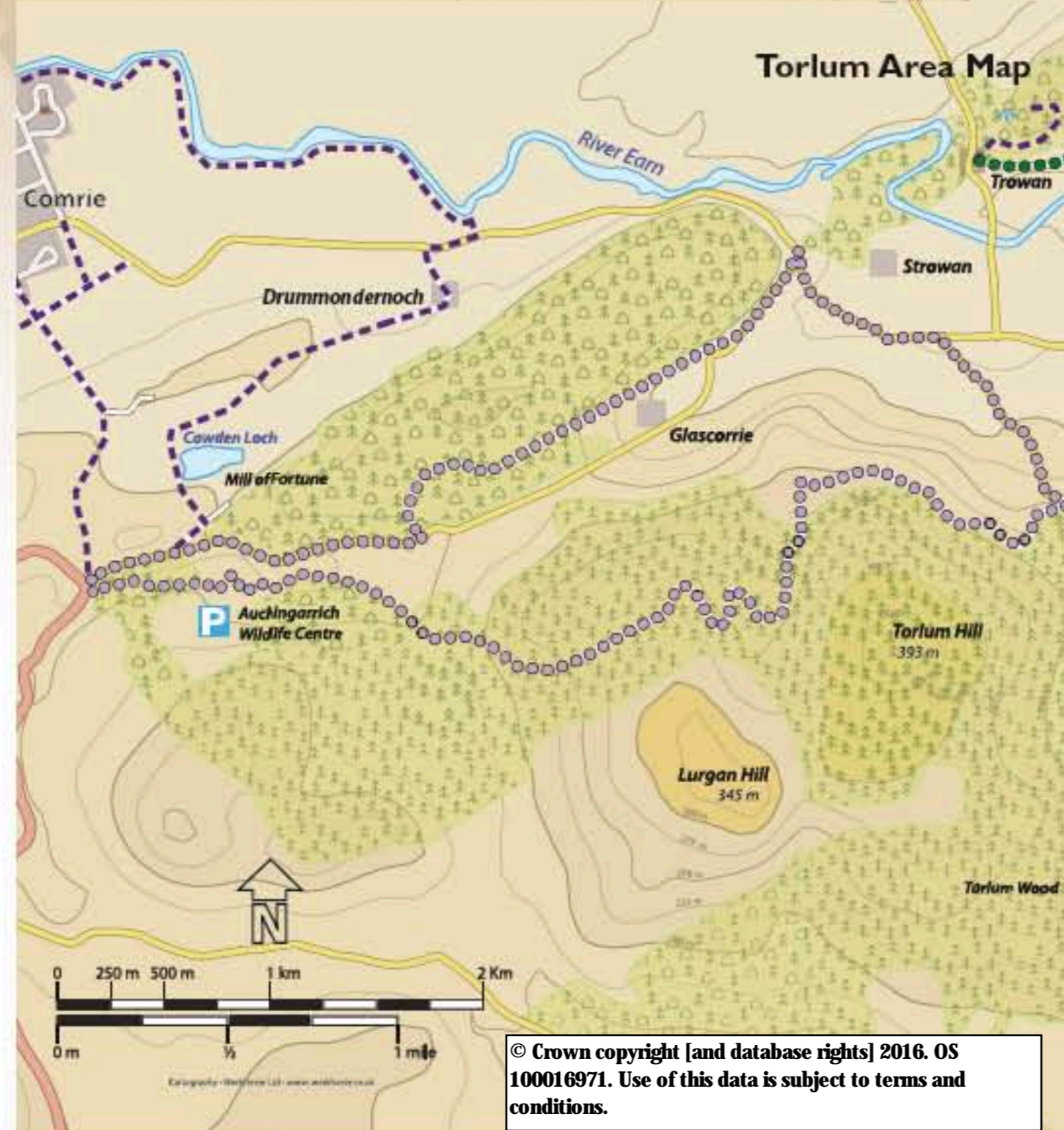
Distance: 13 km (8 ml) with variable paths and some steep sections
Approx time: 4½ hrs
Start & finish: Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre near Comrie

The circular route is a journey through the young plants of a future woodland before stepping back in time amongst mature oak and birch beyond. Wildlife abounds in the ancient wood.

In the summer months, take a few minutes to examine the trunks of trees very closely to see some of their tiny guests. Following a burn and hugging field edges, the track climbs steadily through spruce and juniper trees to a lookout point.

Striding on through tree plantations, try carefully touching some of the prolific Sitka spruce – the most common forestry tree in Scotland – to discover the truth in the saying 'you can't shake hands with a Sitka'.

Curving between woods of oak on the dry slopes and alder in the marshy hollows, the Glascorrie Road brings you to the main driveway back to Auchingarrich. Very quiet, alert walkers may catch sight of woodland residents going about their business...



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time to meet to cat others, and during winter look for that reclusive celebrity the red squirrel.



Other Hairy: I see the Wier

to the north and the fertile lowlands to the south. The striking landscape astride the Highland Boundary Fault line echoes an historic meeting place.

Welcome to Crieff, on the border between the real highlands to the north and the fertile lowlands to the south. The striking landscape astride the Highland Boundary Fault line echoes an historic meeting place.

Three hundred years ago it was the site of the Crieff Fairs, Scotland's biggest cattle market, where the clansmen of the hills struck deals with their southern neighbours. Both refreshed themselves at the River Earn and its tributaries, a river that has helped to sculpt the countryside around.

To day's path network includes many of the drove roads once trapped by Cattle have come and gone but the beauty of this stunning area remains.

In summer you may witness the even more ancient 'yest' between migrant birds like the sand martin and their sites on the river as dusk settles. Blink and you may miss a bat. Regular year-round visitors will be on nodding terms with the bobbing dipper, a bird that never strays from running water. The beginning or end of the day is the best



Mid Gaelic

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Know the Code before you go...

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment

Find out more by visiting www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or contacting your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

Contact Perth and Kinross Council Ranger Service on 01738 475000

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Perth & Kinross Council and several private landowners own and manage the Crieff Path Network. Crieff and Strathearn is one of six cluster areas included in the Perthshire Big Tree Country Heritage and Access project, celebrating the amazing woodland heritage in the area, and co-ordinated by Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust.

Other Big Tree Country sites in this cluster are:

- Epple Callum's Oak
- Glen Lednock
- The Knock
- Loch Turret
- MacRosty Park

Cover image: Couple enjoying a stroll along Lovers' Walk © PKCT

This project is funded and supported by:



Explore
Crieff Path Network



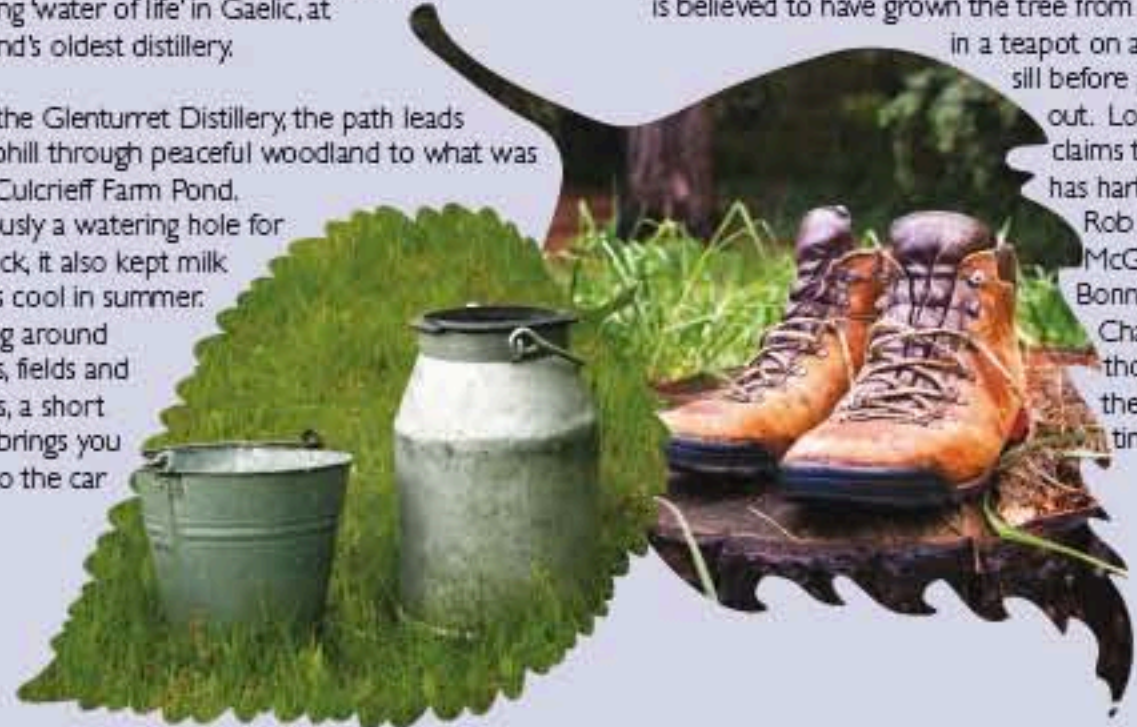
The Hosh Path

Distance: 4 km (2½ ml) including some steep parts
Approx time: 1 hr
Start & finish: Walk from Crieff town centre or park at the Knock car park

Just past the Crieff Hydro Activity Centre, the walk slips between fields and woodlands offering views across the valley to Ochertyre House, once the seat of the powerful Murray family.

The Shaggie Burn footbridge brings you to the Hosh and the road bridge over the Turret Burn which at one time powered the town's mill wheels. The water of the burn is still put to good use providing an essential ingredient for whisky, meaning 'water of life' in Gaelic, at Scotland's oldest distillery.

After the Glenturret Distillery, the path leads you uphill through peaceful woodland to what was once Culcrieff Farm Pond. Previously a watering hole for livestock, it also kept milk churns cool in summer. Skirting around woods, fields and houses, a short climb brings you back to the car park.



Lady Mary's Walk

Distance: 5.5 km (3½ ml) including a few steep slopes
Approx time: 2 hrs
Start & finish: Walk from Crieff town centre or park at Taylor Park

Beginning on public roads, the 'most-abilities' path soon passes through the distinctive gateposts marking the old Ochertyre Estate. The peaceful woodland trail crosses the disused Crieff to Lochearnhead railway before joining the original Lady Mary's Walk on the banks of the River Earn.

This beautiful path with its tree guard of honour was a favourite of Lady Mary Murray of Ochertyre. It was named for her by her father and opened to the public in 1825. The area is a haven for wildlife – keep your eyes peeled for salmon and trout rising, a powerful draw for the majestic heron.

As the path joins the Laggan Road, retrace the lumbering trek of thousands of Highland cattle along this ancient drover's road on their way to the famous Crieff Tryst.

CS Lady Mary's Walk © PKCT

Trowan Path

Distance: 5 km (3 ml) one way
Approx time: 1 hr each way
Start & finish: Bus from centre of Crieff to Monzievaird and follow route back to town

Leaving Monzievaird, a short walk brings you to the start of the Trowan Path, where a quiet farm track winds discretely past an ancient oak woodland and the ruins of Trowan Lodge.

Following in the footsteps of long-gone cattle drovers, you eventually come upon the site of the Crieff Tryst, (where cattle were bought and sold,) but not before you meet with Eppie Callum's Oak.

Named after the keeper of the Oakbank Inn, who is believed to have grown the tree from an acorn in a teapot on a window sill before planting it out. Local legend claims the tree has harboured Rob Roy McGregor and Bonnie Prince Charlie... though not at the same time!

Laggan Hill Path

Distance: 6 km (4 ml) with some steep sections
Approx time: 2 hrs
Start & finish: Walk from Crieff town centre or park at Taylor Park

A narrow path by the River Turret forms the start of the trail, which leads you under a soaring stone railway viaduct before wandering through a young oak woodland to join the original Lady Mary's Walk.

Whilst strolling beside the Earn, look out for the Sands next to the pool where children used to dive and paddle in the river.

At the far end of Lady Mary's Walk, the path turns towards Laggan Hill, climbing steadily. Breathtaking views will unfold over Torlum Hill and Strathearn and offer the perfect excuse to take a breath. On arrival at the summit, it's worth making a small detour to the lovely Puddock (frog) Pond before making your woodland descent.

Lady Mary's Walk © VisitScotland Scottish Viewpoint

Currochs Path

Distance: 6.5 km (4 ml)
Approx time: 2 hrs
Start & finish: Glenturret Distillery

Over the burn at the distillery, the path climbs through the conspiratorial woods to join Lovers' Walk. Countless courting couples have enjoyed the delights of this stunning riverside path... one of Crieff's best kept secrets.

Emerging alongside the busy A85, the route crosses the road and turns towards Crieff. Entering MacRosty Park through its well-worn gate, the route introduces you to bandstands and majestic Douglas fir trees, and finally to Taylor and Mungall parks. All three were gifted to the town by past provosts and civic leaders, and have been restored to former glories recently.

As the path once again skirts the Turret Burn, try to spot dippers bobbing in and out of the water or kingfishers plunging after small fish, before you head into the woods of the Currochs strip or 'boggy plain'.

After re-crossing the A85, take a moment to enjoy the spectacular views up Glenturret, before returning to the distillery.



The Knock Path

Distance: Short walk of 1 km (½ ml), Longer walk of 6 km (4 ml) with a steep climb
Approx time: ½ hr or 2 hrs
Start & finish: Walk from Crieff town centre or park at the Knock car park

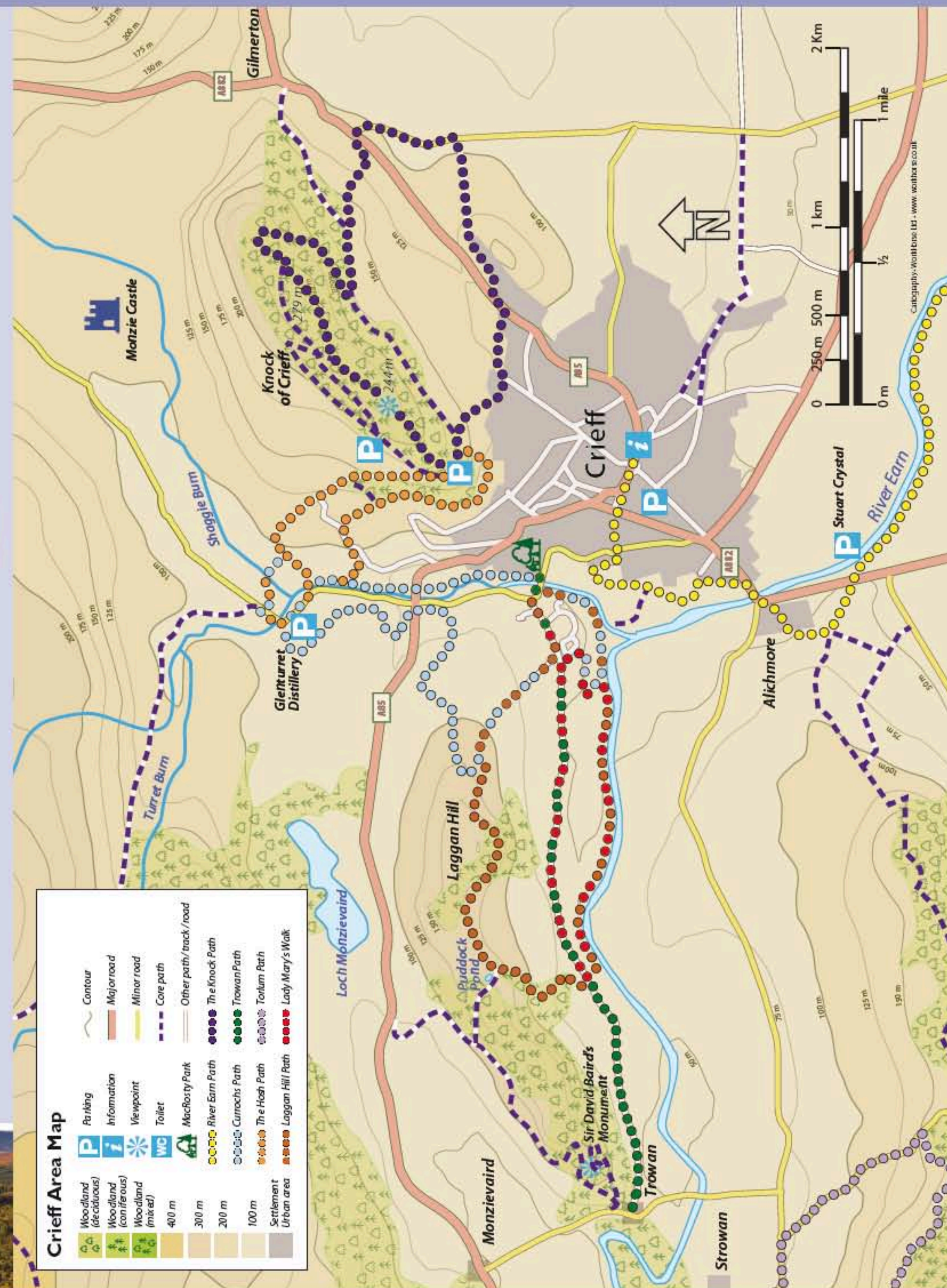
As you begin your ascent to the top of The Knock, watch for the shy, red, bushy tailed residents of the mixed woodland. Beneath your feet, the rock has smaller stones set within it and is known as 'pudding stone' for its resemblance to a kind of fruit pudding.

The panoramic views from the summit are well worth the effort, revealing the dramatic contrast between the fertile plains of the Lowlands and the rugged mountains of the Highlands.

Either return the way you came, or descend through a conifer forest to cross the busy A85 to Highlandman Loan, so named for the drovers who used the road to avoid paying Crieff's heavy tolls.

Tread the way of the pall-bearers along Spoke Road, the ancient coffin road to Crieff. Callum's Hill takes you through a hospitable wood of oak before returning through the backstreets of Crieff.

View from the Knock © Perthshire Picture Agency



Crieff Area Map

Woodland (deciduous)	Contour	Major road	Information	Viewpoint	Toilet	MacRosty Park	River Earn Path	Currochs Path	The Hosh Path	Laggan Hill Path	Sir David Baird's Monument
Woodland (coniferous)	Minor road	Core path	Other path/track/road	The Knock Path	Trowan Path	Torum Path	Lady Mary's Walk				
Woodland (mixed)											
400 m											
300 m											
200 m											
100 m											
Settlement											
Urban area											

