



A short circular walk on good paths, named after a local forester in the 1840's. From the wood a link route head towards Ballonan can be taken.

**3 Gunn's Wood**

Ord Hill Archaeology Trails heads south from the Visitor Centre passing ancient cairns, remains of hut circles, burnt mounds, ancient bank and field clearance heaps. The trail is 2.1km long on reasonable paths but with some loose stone surfacing and a short section over rough unmade ground.

**2 Ord Hill**



Ferry Wood lies to the north of the Visitor Centre and offers a gentle 1.2km (marked in Red) or 2.4km (marked in Green) trail on good paths. The longer trail passes the site of a 2000 year old broch and both trails take in views over Little Loch Shin towards Lairg.

**1 Ferry Wood**

**Historical and Tourist Information**

Lairg (Scottish Gaelic, Luirg) is a village with a population of about 900 and is situated in central Sutherland at the south eastern end of Loch Shin.

It is a larger settlement than other inland villages due to the convergence of four roads and mainline railway. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was known as "The Crossroads of the North". Due to this central position it is an excellent place to stay when visiting/exploring the Highlands.

Lairg has a number of interesting sites covering a large span of time from 1000 BC to the present day. A visit to Ferrycroft Visitor Centre will give you an insight into the many changes to Sutherland's landscape from the Ice Age to present day. The largest single day sheep sale in Europe is held at the Auction Mart in August. Little Loch Shin, a man made loch created by the Hydroelectric scheme completed in 1959, is in the centre of the village look for the home of the "Broon's House" sited on a tiny island not far from the road. The "Falls of Shin", where one can see salmon leaping, is not too far.

Many activities can be pursued at Lairg, fishing, sailing, bird watching, archaeology, sightseeing and all levels of walking. Lairg has a petrol station, pub/hotel, campsite, library, post office, bank, various shops, B&Bs and a tourist information centre at Ferrycroft Visitor Centre.

Please when completing any of the walks follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The walks are all achievable by any moderately fit person. The information is provided as guidance only and may change through time and inclement weather. Please go with suitable footwear and clothing. ENJOY your chosen walk/s and see Lairg from many different viewpoints.

**Key**

- Easy—sensible footwear
- Moderate –waterproof footwear
- Strenuous - hill walking gear

**Further information**

[www.lairginitiative.co.uk](http://www.lairginitiative.co.uk)

Area and further walks information can be found at the Ferrycroft Visitor Centre.



# Walks Around Lairg



**The Lairg & District Community Initiative**





### 7 Challenger Lodge (Old Drovers Road)



Start by the Culbuie cattle grid. Follow track north and pass bungalow on right, continue straight ahead and when track bears left to a old gate (no longer a gate) at the side of a garage. One has to stride over where the gate should be, continue on the track downhill which turns right and along the face of the hill, continue on this track heading north east, over the gates which are fastened with baler twine to reach the road from Savalbeg to Challenger Lodge/ Fountain forest.

8 An alternative access can be made from the Saval road.



Loch Dola and Loch Shin

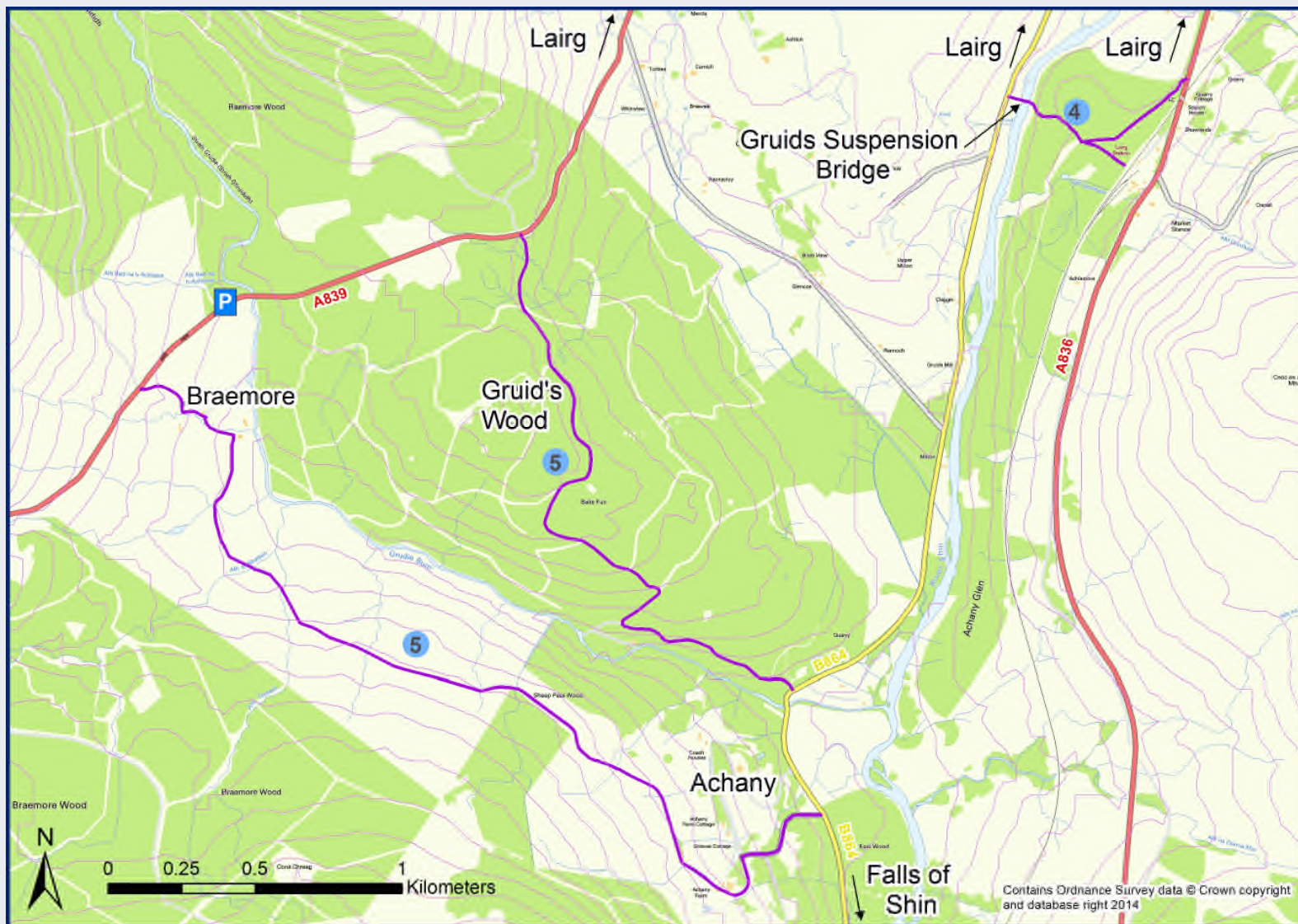
### 6 Meall Dola



Start at the middle gate at Balcharn and head up the track leading to a covered water reservoir. As the track turns sharply right, head straight on heading for a small copse of trees.

The route continues on a faint track in an easterly direction, passing through several sets of old gates. Before the large commercial forestry block, turn north over a fence and up a heather slope to the summit of Meall Dola. An alternative route can be made by taking a direct line from below Cnoc Moine na Cailinn.

Return on same route.



Gruit's Bridge



Braemore

### 4 Lairg—Gruit's—Lairg



Park at Ferrycroft Centre or by petrol station and proceed along the A839 south then turn left on the B864 towards the Falls of Shin.

After 1km cross over the River Shin on the Gruit's suspension bridge. Follow path upto railway station or take forest track left to level crossing. Head back into Lairg along the A839. Footway reached at Lairg dam, until then walk on verge of A road. Cross over the Little Loch Shin Dam to return to start point.

### 5 Achany and Braemore



Longer distance routes for a more strenuous walk or even mountain bike or horse ride.

Full circuit of both routes is approx. 8km. Park with care on the B864 or A839.