



Leaves on the line! Duilleagan air an loidhne!

Pronounced: Doolyakan ayr an loyna

It may be hard to believe but this used to be Invergarry Railway Station *Stèisean Rèile Inbhir Garadh*, part of the Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway *Rèile Inbhir Garadh* is *Chille Chuimein*.

The *Inverness Courier*, reporting on the line's opening in 1903, said:
"The buildings are of wood, on concrete foundations, the outer surface of Swiss shingle, after the pretty pattern first used on the West Highland Railway, and giving a very tasteful effect."

The Invergarry and Fort Augustus line was intended to be the first stretch of a railway which would eventually connect Fort William *An Gearasdan* and Inverness *Inbhir Nis*. Unfortunately, competition between the different Highland railway companies meant that the second stretch of line to Inverness was never built. This meant financial disaster for the Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway. It finally closed in 1946.

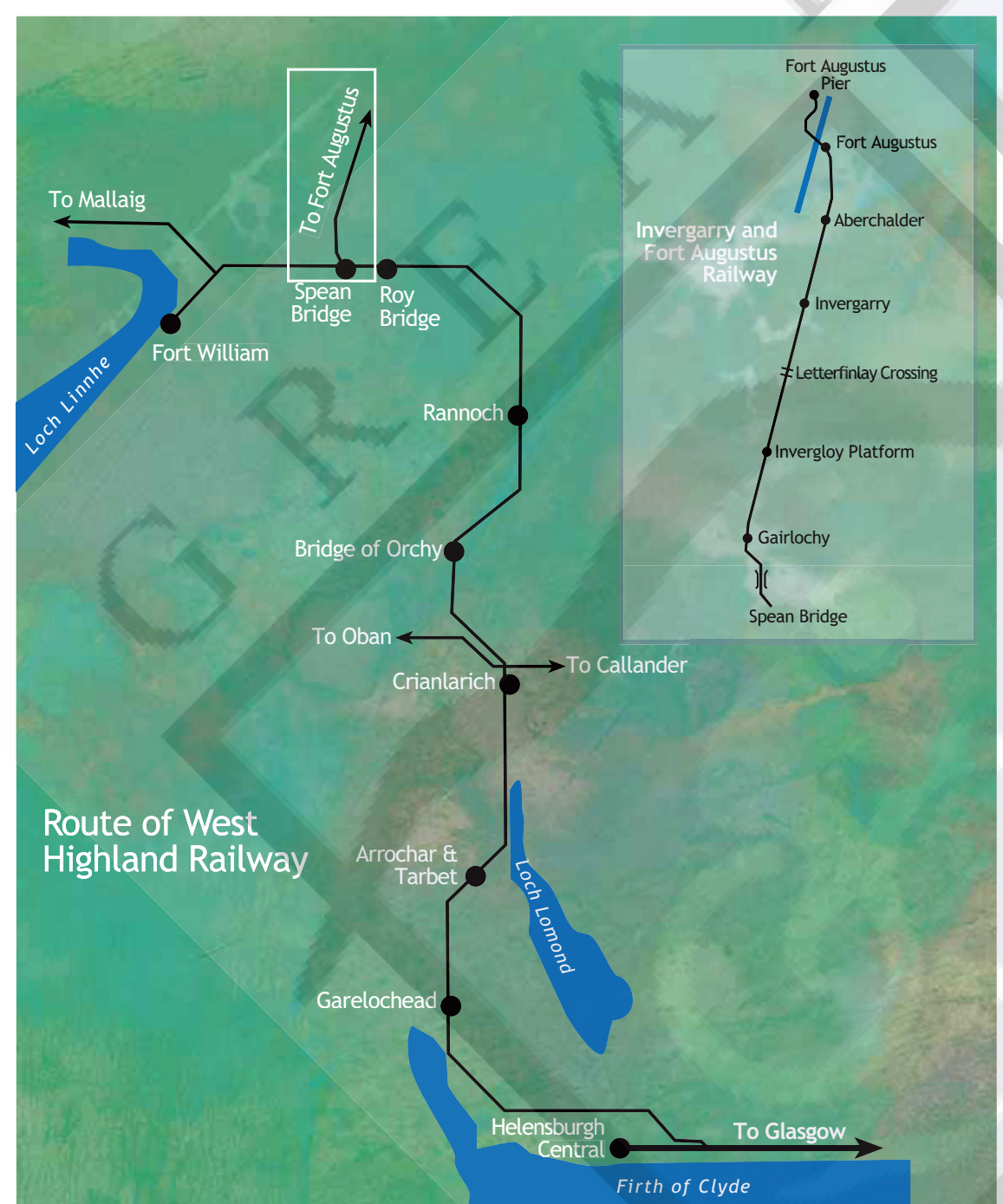
Today you can still find evidence of the station and tracks if you look closely. Nature is, however, reclaiming the site quickly, as shown by the large Douglas fir trees growing on the tracks and platforms. Leaves on the line indeed!



Steam trains, like this one, would once have been a common sight along this route.

Did you know...?

The developers of the Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway were so sure of its success that they invested £350,000 (equivalent to almost £20 million today) on tracks, bridges, tunnels and stations good enough for a major rail route.



This diagram shows how the Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway linked with other lines on the west coast.



Invergarry Station, 1931. The entrance to the station was from the south, through a tunnel or passageway.

Photographs: Courtesy of the University of St. Andrews Library (bottom left) and Highland Photographic Archive.
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