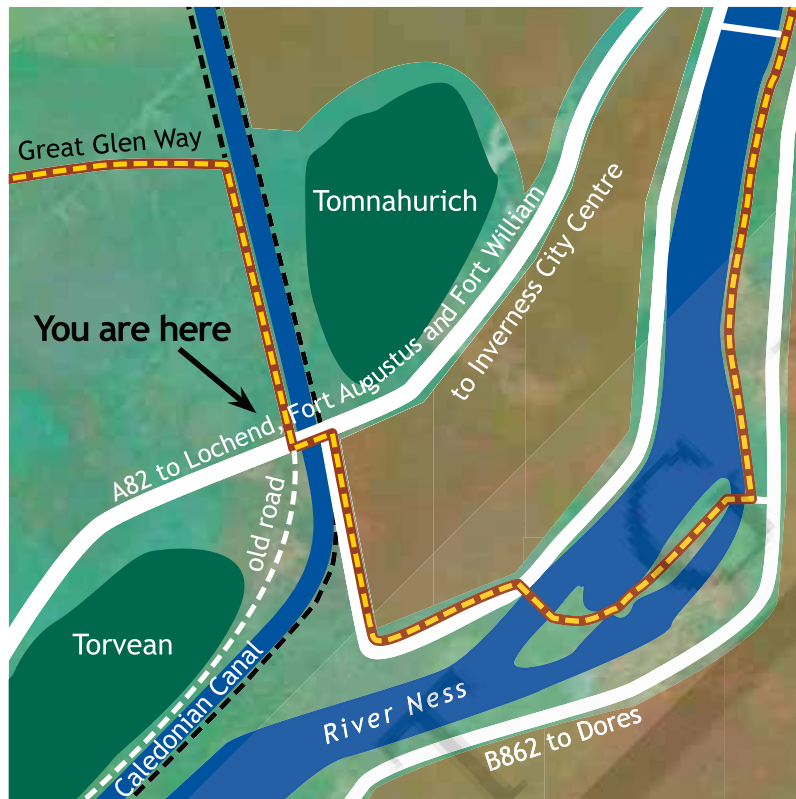


# Crossing the Highlands

## A' dol tarsainn na Gàidhealtachd

Pronounced: A dol tarsheen na Gyaltachd



Pre-historic carved stone ball from Tomnahurich and Pictish silver chain from Torvean - both these historic artefacts were discovered during excavation work on the canal.

From this point you can see the range of modern-day routes through the Great Glen - the Caledonian Canal for boats, the A82 Inverness-Fort William road and the Great Glen Way for walkers and cyclists.

### Did you know...?

There were once plans for a light railway linking Inverness and Lochend. Passengers could then have sailed along Loch Ness to Fort Augustus, where a railway connecting with Fort William would complete the coast-to-coast link. Although the Fort William - Fort Augustus section of railway was built in the late 1890s, disagreements between competing commercial interests ultimately prevented any rail link with Inverness. This greatly affected the financial viability of the southern section, which eventually closed. Today there is still no railway through the Great Glen.

Travel in the Highlands has not always been so easy. There were virtually no roads and journeys were often easier by sea *muir*. Things gradually became better with the building of General Wade's military road and bridge network (1725 onwards), the Caledonian Canal (early 1800s), new "parliamentary" roads *ròidean* (early 1800s onwards), and, later still, a flurry of new railways *rèileachan*.

When the canal was being built, there was already a road from Inverness to Fort Augustus, which ran east of Torvean. The canal made this road dangerous and a new stretch of road to the west of Torvean was built to replace it. The present A82 still follows this route.