

3.3 Callander to Strathyre

Map panel 2

Distance 9 miles (14 km)

Terrain good surface nearly all the way

Grade easy, mainly flat Cycle Route, following the trackbed of a dismantled railway; mostly well drained, but with some muddy bits

Food and drink Callander, Kilmahog, Strathyre

Side-trips Ben Ledi (see page 28)

Summary easy section shared with Cycle Route 7 along the west shore of Loch Lubnaig

- Leave Callander by walking west along the main road (A84), looking out for the Cycle Route 7 sign. This follows the dismantled railway trackbed, with railway relics including signals, arches and old sleepers. The first mile is embanked over the river's flood plain, after which you meet the A821 (cross with care).
- From here, the Way shares the Cycle Route all the way to Strathyre (7.5 miles), through splendid oak woodlands, with Loch Lubnaig to your right and plentiful wildlife.

Loch Lubnaig – the 'loch with a bend'





Ben Ledi seen across Loch Venachar

- You walk upstream alongside the river Garbh Uisge. After heavy rainfall, it has fast-flowing rapids culminating in the Falls of Leny. Rushing water drowns traffic noise from the main road, so watch out for cyclists.
- After the falls, you cross a minor road to the Stank car park: keep straight on past the Strathyre Forest Holiday Cabins (unless planning to climb Ben Ledi, see page 28). The river widens to become the southern end of Loch Lubnaig, which often displays beautiful reflections of the surrounding hills.
- After about four miles, Loch Lubnaig ends in a spit of land deposited by the River Balvag, with a small lochan. This Site of Special Scientific Interest has outstanding riverine plant and animal life (eg azure damselfly and pearl mussel), and mixed woodland rich in bird life, including pied flycatcher
- You descend gently to Strathyre along the minor road, with houses on your right signalling your approach to the village. Look out for wooden marker posts for Strathyre (blue arrow in a white circle) showing where you turn right then immediately left for the village. (If you miss this turning, you will still reach Strathyre, but after more tarmac.)
- Descend to and cross the suspension bridge (a good place to see dippers, see page 30) and bear left at its end. Cross a smaller bridge and follow the path along the back of a row of houses to emerge in the centre of Strathyre, where there are refreshments and accommodation.

