



## Ledmore & Migdale Wood

4½, 6½ OR 9 MILES

2, 3 OR 5 HOURS

MODERATE WITH STEEP DOWNHILL SECTIONS

### 1 START

From the small layby at the edge of Loch Migdale, follow the level path with stunning views of the loch to R and impressive pine trees surrounding Migdale Rock to L. Continue on as the grassy path leaves the water's edge and passes through pine and birch woodland.

### 2 2 MILES

For both the two shorter routes turn R before the stream. After 300 metres, pass over the wooden bridge to take a short ascent up the hill.

For 4½-mile route bear R at the fork in the path to continue climbing the hill. As the woodland opens out the path levels off and eventually affords beautiful views over Loch Migdale to R. After a continually gradual incline, bear R at the fork in the path to rejoin the main route

at point 5.

For 6½-mile route take the L fork and follow the path along the valley edge. After approximately 600 metres turn R, then L, and then R again to rejoin the main route at point 4.

For longer walk ignore R turn and follow the path over the stream, past the information board to the road at Fairy Glen. Turn L, taking care along the quiet country lane. (For a short but steep detour to a chambered cairn Scheduled Ancient Monument, follow the Highland Heritage Network waymarker posts on the R.) After 1 kilometre on the road, turn R along the Achue Track. Follow the straight track through regenerating woodland, past another collapsed chambered cairn on the R. The effects of grazing can clearly be seen in the open mature pinewoods on the L compared with the dense regenerating woodland on the R.

### 3 4 MILES

Turn R 500 metres before the road to take a path down to the stream. Cross the wooden bridge and follow the

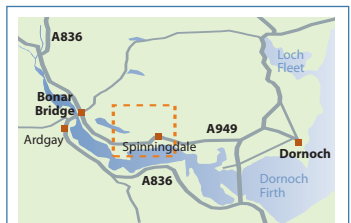
path up and then down through old birch trees coated in moss. Take care down the steep section. Stay inside the woodland at the gap in the wall, and follow the narrow path as it climbs gently up along the woodland edge. At the Woodland Trust waymarker post turn R. Go past a derelict white house on the L, and the remains of a stone cottage also on the L, to reach a gravel track. Follow this to the road and turn L. After 50 metres, turn R on to A949 for 200 metres through Spinningdale, taking great care on the stretch without a pavement. Once over the river, turn R up the track after the house, to a Woodland Trust information board. After 200 metres turn L up a new track that snakes through a coniferous plantation.

### 4 5½ MILES

After the path from the R joins the main route, continue to follow the track as it makes its way uphill. Gradually the woodland opens out, allowing younger trees to colonise the area. As the route bends and twists look out for views to the south-east across Dornoch Firth and eventually views over Loch Migdale to the north.

### 5 7 MILES

At the T-junction, bear L for 150 metres. (For a spectacular viewing point coast to coast across Scotland, continue straight along the path as it bends round to L for 600 metres. Retrace steps.) Turn R down the steep slope towards the loch, taking great care over any loose stones. At the bottom, take a short 100-metre detour to the L to view a beautiful stony beach at the head of Loch Migdale. Retrace steps and follow the path over a stone bridge to the T-junction where the circular walk began. Return to the car park along the water's-edge path.



### TERRAIN

All routes are on well-defined tracks, with the longer one following two short road sections along a quiet lane and A949. There are some gradual inclines and two steep tracks, one down to Loch Migdale from point 5 and the other through birch woodland between points 3 and 4.

### PARKING

Loch Migdale car park is a small layby (grid reference NH634914). Fairy Glen car park is a larger layby (grid reference NH666907).

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Nearest train station is at Ardgay. Buses run to Bonar Bridge and Spinningdale. Coaches travel to Dornoch. For information on train and bus services call Traveline on 0870 608 2608 ([www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)). For details of coach services contact National Express on 0870 580 8080 ([www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)).

### REFRESHMENTS

Handmade Crafts & Café, Bonar Bridge; open Tuesday to Saturday (grid reference NH610913; telephone 01863 766777). Dunroamin Hotel, Bonar Bridge (grid reference NH609917; telephone 0845 4566399). Bridge Hotel & Restaurant, Bonar Bridge (grid reference NH610913; telephone 01863 766737).

### ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centre, The Square, Dornoch, Sutherland IV25 3SD (grid reference NH798896; telephone 01862 810 400). Nearest youth hostel is in Carbisdale Castle (grid reference NH574954; telephone 0870 004 1109 or visit [www.syha.org.uk](http://www.syha.org.uk)).

### MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 441, Landranger 21 (visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/woods](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/woods) to buy online).

### OTHER WOODS TO VISIT

See the Our Woods section on the Trust's website at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk).

