

Walk description:

This walk is a visit to two monuments and two lochans up in the hills, reached by a forestry track. The gradients are mostly easy and the views stunning. The walk has a special significance for me as I did it as a memorial to my Scottish mother, Jane Inglis Shade, whose wish was to have her ashes scattered in Glen Affric, her favourite spot in the Highlands. The hills around the glen form the view from the top of Beinn Mhor and for me there are now three monuments in this spot.

Access information:

To reach Tomich you need first to go to Cannich on the A831 between Drumnadrochit and Beauly. Tomich is signposted from there. Drive through the village and on the outskirts, fork left at a signpost to Plodda Falls. 1km along this road look for a ruinous barn on the right, just past a bend to the right and before you cross a burn. There is plenty of room to park here.

Additional info:

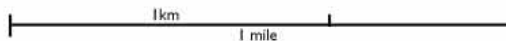
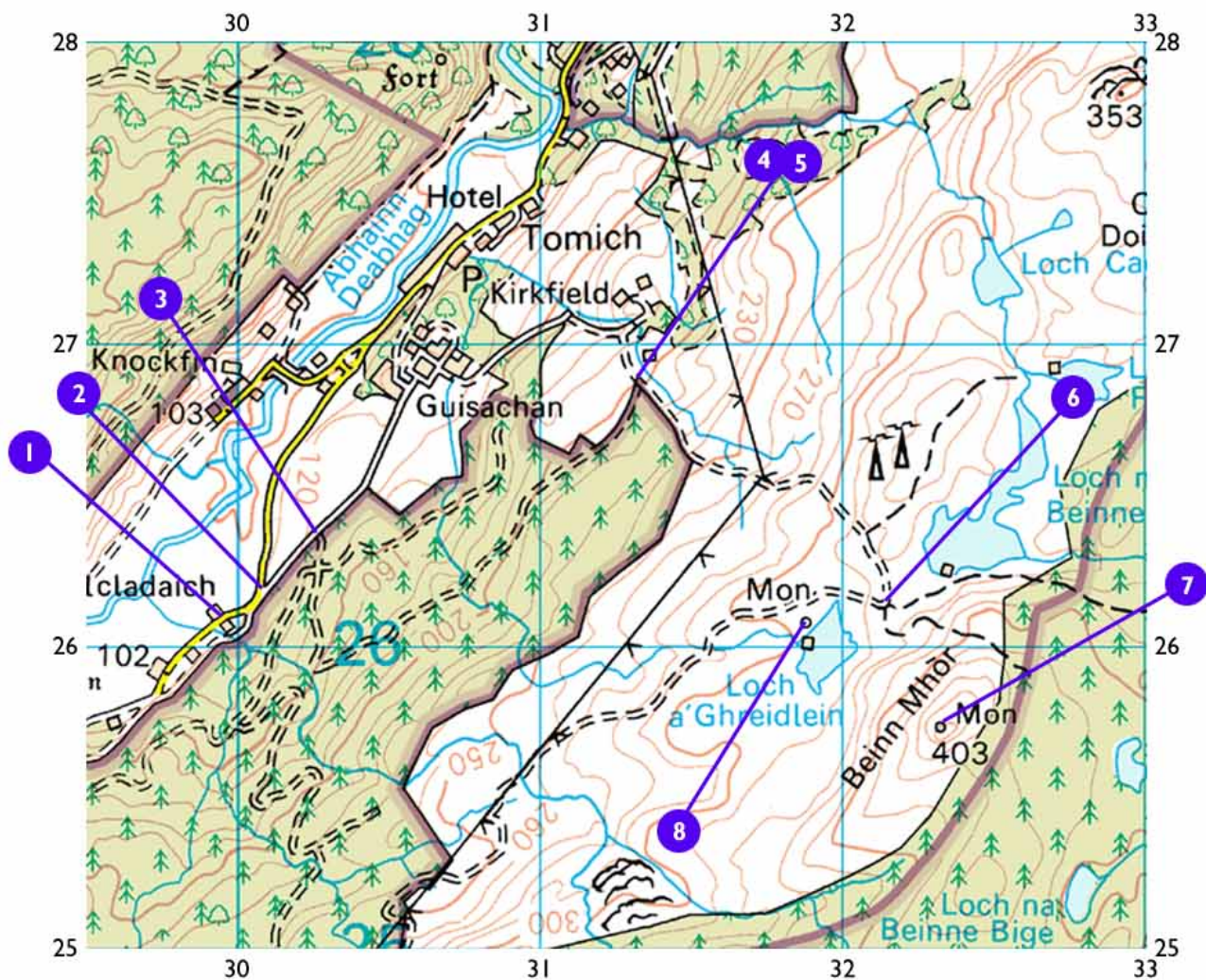
The monument by the lochan is to Henry Waddell, the last owner of the Guisachan Estate before it was broken up. That on the summit, a huge cross with an iron fence around it, is to Lord and Lady Tweedmouth, who have another monument by the roadside in Tomich. They bought the estate from the Fraser clan and transformed it, moving the village from its sunny position where it spoiled their view, to its colder winter position, albeit with better houses and attractive street lighting. They built the hotel and also a brewery and encouraged other ways of making a living. Their country house, Guisachan, is in ruins and you can visit it (see Walk 878). There is a board there recording the fact that the golden retriever was first bred here.





Start grid ref: NH299261**OS map:** Explorer 415: Glen Affric & Glen Moriston**Walk length:** 4.97 miles**Duration:** 180 minutes**Height gain:** 300 metres**Contributor:** Jim Grindle**Weathercall:** Get a local forecast for this walk.

Call 09068 020 525 from your phone or mobile. Or dial 09065 22 45 06 from your fax machine to receive a fax. 09068 calls 60p/min, 09065 calls £1.50p/min.

Features:

- Hills or Fells
- Lake/Loch
- Pub
- Wildlife
- Birds
- Flowers
- Great Views
- Butterflies
- Moor
- Woodland
- Ancient Monument



- 1**  Although the sign says 'passing place', there is plenty of room to park here. Walk back towards Tomich Village for 100m and you will see a turning area where there are several green wheelie-bins. (Grid ref: 299261)
- 2**  (Although there is space, this is where the bin lorry turns, so it might not be a good idea to park). Fork to the right up the gravelled track until this in turn forks. The gravelled track then goes round a corner to the right, while the track ahead is concreted. (Grid ref: 301262)
- 3**  Turn right at the junction, keeping to the gravelled track. (Behind a bush of broom on the right is a low metal signpost with the words 'Scottish Rights of Way Society To Glenmoriston'). When you have turned the corner you will see a deer-fence and gate 50m ahead and when you have passed that, there is a crossing of tracks another 50m further on. Go straight over the crossing and stay on the track, which will bend sharply to the left and then go in the wrong direction! Stay on it though, for 2km until you come to another gate in the deer-fence. (Grid ref: 302263)
- 4**  Go through, taking care to close the gate, then turn right. Almost at once you will see a low, locked barrier across the track. (Grid ref: 313269)
- 5**  The track now begins to climb again and you will pass beneath a large power line. The track levels out and you will see the Tweedmouth monument on a hill ahead before two lochans come into view, one on either side of the track. Stop when the track takes a sharp turn to the right towards one of the lochans. (Grid ref: 313269)
- 6**  The Land-Rover might even be there again, because these lochans are very popular for fishing. The bend is unmistakable though and there is a small, wooden post as well. From here go directly towards the hill with the monument on. There is no path at all, although you might find a few small cairns. It would be best to go for the easier ground to the right and avoid the boulder-studded areas. There is nothing too difficult about it and it should take only twenty minutes to reach the very large monument on the summit. (You could of course, go to Waymark 8 first if you wish. Just follow the track when it bends to the right). (Grid ref: 321261)
- 7**  From here return to the bend in the path and follow the track towards the lochan. Just before you get there you will find the second monument, this one in the form of a cairn. (Grid ref: 323257)
- 8**  The plaque describes Henry Waddell as a lover of the hills, but he actually owned them and had the fishing lodge just in front of you, constructed. The key will probably be in the lock - such is the hospitality in the hills here that I doubt if anybody would object to your taking shelter if you treat the place with respect. From here return to the start by the outward route. (Grid ref: 318260)