

## Kinlochewe - Coulin path (As of May 2016)

On leaving the road at Kinlochewe follow the track which ends around NH 029 616 then continue SSW along the edge of a terrace down to NH 027 611 where this meets the river.

There is a reasonably clear path until birch thickets are reached at around NH 027 607. South of here the path is less clear, but aim for a gateway in a fence, at around NH 026 604.

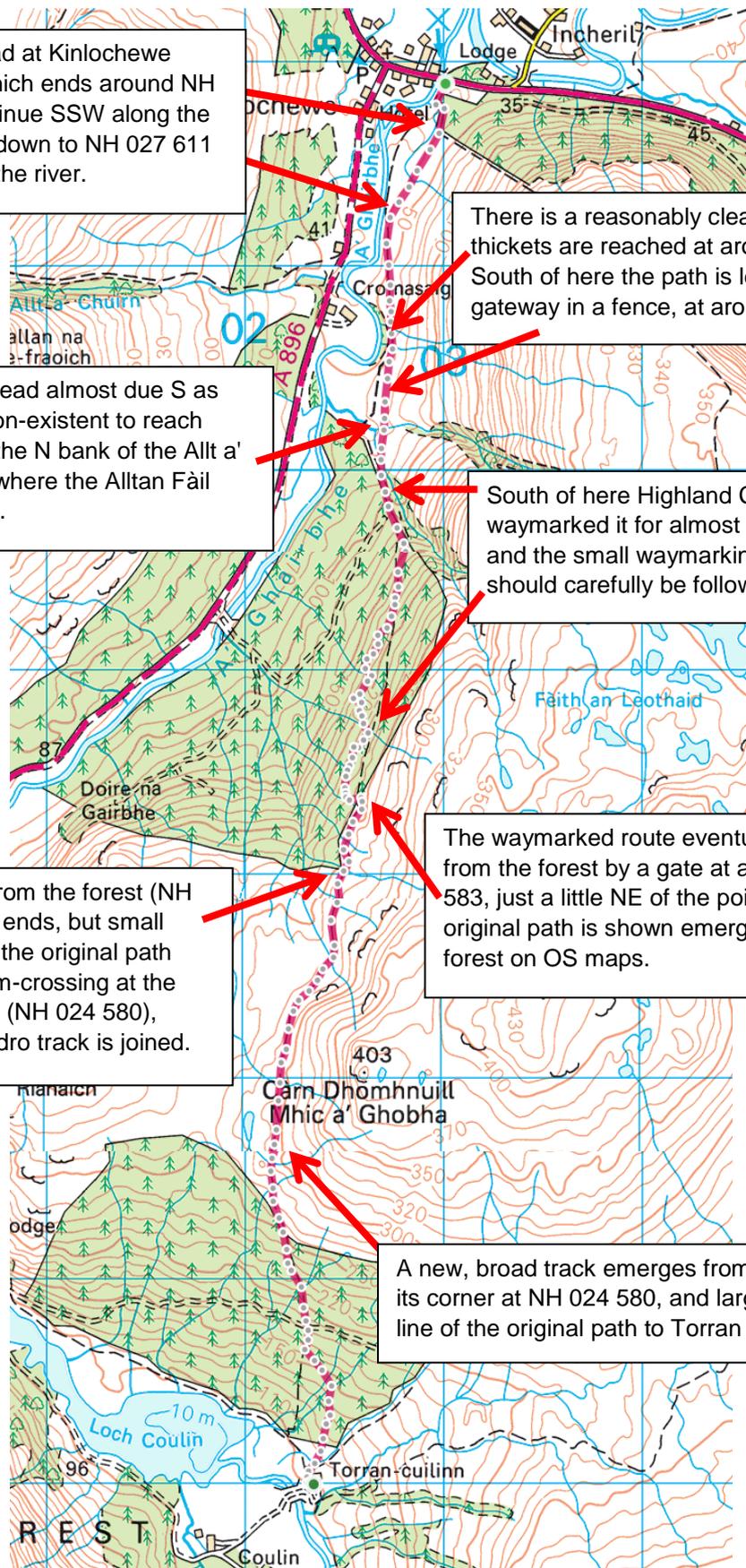
From the gateway, head almost due S as the path is faint or non-existent to reach substantial ruins on the N bank of the Allt a' Ghuithais, opposite where the Alltan Fàil joins it (NH 026 602).

South of here Highland Council has waymarked it for almost its entire length, and the small waymarking arrows should carefully be followed.

As the path emerges from the forest (NH 025 583), waymarking ends, but small cairns mark the line of the original path which leads to a stream-crossing at the SE corner of the forest (NH 024 580), where a broad new hydro track is joined.

The waymarked route eventually emerges from the forest by a gate at around NH 025 583, just a little NE of the point where the original path is shown emerging from the forest on OS maps.

A new, broad track emerges from the forest near its corner at NH 024 580, and largely follows the line of the original path to Torran Cuillin



## The full route description:

There have been some recent changes on the ground to this important route. The following represents the situation as of May 2016. The route is here considered in three sections. It is best navigated with a 1:25k OS map: the 1:50 omits some crucial features and can mislead.

**Section 1: Kinlochewe to ruin at junction of Allt a' Ghuithais and Alltan Fàil (NH 026 602).** On leaving the road at Kinlochewe, either (a) follow the path near the river, but keep to the E side of any deer fences, or (b) follow the track which ends around NH 029 616 then continue SSW along the edge of a terrace. Both routes join on the terrace around NH 027 611. Continue S on a reasonably clear path until birch thickets are reached at around NH 027 607. Carefully seek out the path as it penetrates these dense thickets and crosses three side-streams before emerging from the thickets near a gateway in a fence, at around NH 026 604. From the gateway, head almost due S over grassland and heather (path faint or non-existent) to reach substantial ruins on the N bank of the Allt a' Ghuithais, opposite where the Alltan Fàil joins it (NH 026 602). Follow the ruins round to their most southerly corner and from there cross to the S bank of the Allt a' Ghuithais immediately W of where the Alltan Fàil flows into it. It is important for what follows to end up on this part of the bank. (*NB: the 1:50k OS map appears erroneously to show the route crossing further downstream*). If travelling in the other direction (S-N), the key thing is to head marginally E of N from the ruins (as shown by the path line on the 1:25k map, though the path is faint or non-existent on the ground) to reach the gateway where the path enters the S end of the birch thickets (which are not shown on the map).

**Section 2: Junction of Allt a' Ghuithais and Alltan Fàil (NH 026 602) to new hydro track (NH 024 580).** Because of clear-felling and some replanting, this section of the route does not always follow the line of the path as shown on OS maps. However, Highland Council has waymarked it for almost its entire length, and the small waymarking arrows should carefully be followed. The first waymark is just up the bank (S) of the stream crossing described in Section 1, above, and the waymarked route continues up the Alltan Fàil for some 400m before entering the forest by a gate at NH 027 597. The waymarked route eventually emerges from the forest by a gate at around NH 025 583, just a little NE of the point where the original path is shown emerging from the forest on OS maps. At this point, waymarking ends, but small cairns mark the line of the original path which leads to a stream-crossing at the SE corner of the forest (NH 024 580), where a broad new hydro track is joined. If travelling in the other direction (S-N), leave the hydro track at the forest's edge (NH 024 580); cross the stream and turn sharply right up its N bank and follow the small cairns to the gate in the forest's perimeter fence (NH 025 583) where the waymarking down through the forest can be picked up.

**Section 3: New hydro track (NH 024 580) to Torran-Cuilinn (NH 023 550).** A new, broad track (associated with hydro-electric developments) emerges from the forest near its corner at NH 024 580, and largely follows the line of the original path to Torran Cuillin (NH 023 550). If travelling in the other direction (S-N), take the broad track as it climbs N behind the house at Torran-Cuilinn and follow it for some 3km until the gate where it enters a forest at NH 024 580.

**Note on the new hydro track.** The new hydro track runs from an existing forestry road at NH 023 590 (just after the forestry road turns NE), via the corner of the forest at NH 024 580, to Torran-Cuilinn. If desired, it therefore makes it possible to travel on a broad track all the way from the A896 at NH 018 592 to Torran-Cuilinn (or vice-versa). Note, however, that the line of the track between its start at NH 023 590 and the corner of the forest at NH 024 580 is not currently shown on maps, nor are a number of branch tracks that leave it.

Thanks to Kenny, James, Neil for gathering this information.