

## MTB Route 03 – Loch Ashie Circuit

*Please note all information below is provided in good faith and, to the best of our knowledge, is accurate and up to date. However, please always take care on all routes, ride safely and within your own limits. Ensure you are familiar with the route in advance and take a map (1:25,000). We are not responsible for your safety and we do not provide a recovery service!*

### **Route Overview**

A circular route, starting from Gask House. Fairly flat terrain, using mainly forest tracks and single-track roads. Some tracks can get very muddy when wet. Fine views over Loch Bunachton and Loch Ashie.

### **Route Distance**

24 Km

### **Route Rating**

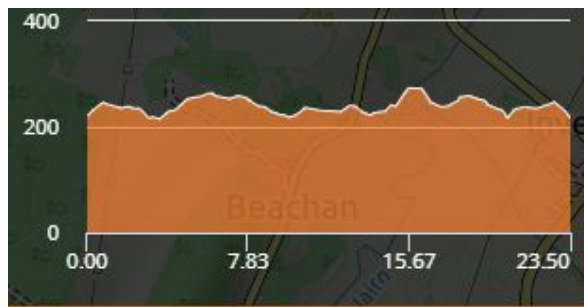
Medium.

B Road, Single track roads and very good forest track. Some sections may be muddy and rutted. Suitable for all MTBs.

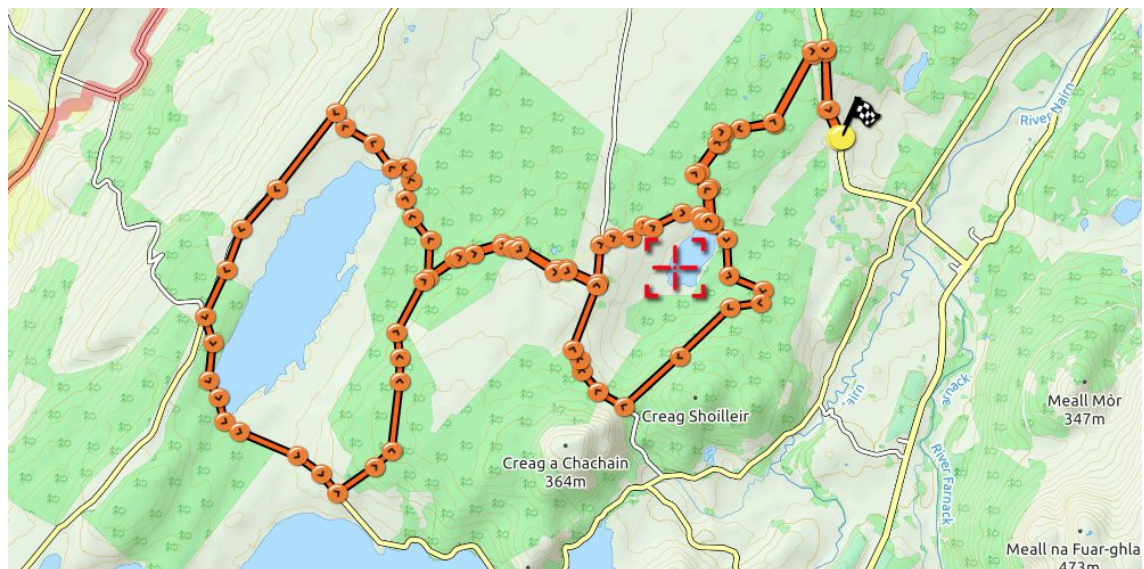
### **Map**

Number **416** : OS Explorer 1:25000 Inverness, Loch Ness & Culloden

### **Elevation Profile**



### **Route Map**



## MTB Route 03 – Loch Ashie Circuit

### Route Description

- 1) From Gask House, turn right onto B861 and cycle gently uphill for 500 metres.
  - 2) On your left, turn onto a clear forest track, passing through a gate.
  - 3) Continue on the moorland track for approx. 1.5km, passing under pylons and arriving above Loch Bunachton.
  - 4) Continue on past the edge of the Loch (spot the Fish camp – great spot if you fish!) for about 1km. When you come to a series of pylons running up the hill, turn right for about 100 metres, and then right again onto a clear path that enters a forest.
  - 5) Cycle through the forest for about 2km – sections can be rutted and muddy!
  - 6) You will eventually come onto a minor road (the Essich road). Turn right and head gently uphill for about 1km. There are fine views of Loch Bunachton to your right.
  - 7) You pass a couple of houses on your right. After the second, look for a gate on your left. There may be some “beware of the cows” or “logging in progress” signs on the gate. To-date I have not encountered any issues, but please be aware.
  - 8) Pass through the gate and cycle on through, approx. 1km, until you reach a cattle grid. This is the start of Ashie Forest.
  - 9) Ignore the track turning immediately to the right and head straight on. After about 800 metres, take a track on the right. Follow this gently descending track all the way to the northern end of Loch Ashie. Pass through a gate and work your way up past the water treatment works and up to the single-track road.
  - 10) Turn left onto the single-track road and follow for about 2km. Turn left and descend downhill to the southern end of the loch.
  - 11) Follow the road around the loch and then uphill for approx. 1km, until you come to a gate to Ashie forest on your left. Enter forest and follow track for approx. 2km. You will arrive back at the point where you previously branched off right.
  - 12) You can return home following the way you came, or alternatively, take a more direct route (described here). BEWARE this track can be very rutted, muddy and may require you to hump your bike over a gate or two.
- At the Essich road, turn left and look for a track on your right about 200m down the road. This will have a sign saying “private fishing” or similar. Take the track and follow it down to the northern edge of Loch Bunachton. You can then re-trace your tracks home.

### Images



**MTB Route 03 – Loch Ashie Circuit**