

## **MTB Route 04 – Strathtearn Loop**

*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 challenging loop, exploring the upper reaches of the wild and beautiful Strathtearn, part of the Coignafearn estate.

This is a tough route, taking you to wild and remote places, right in heart of the Monadhliath mountains.

This is also Golden Eagle country, so keep your eyes peeled!

### **Route Distance**

20 Km

### **Route Rating**

Hard.

Follows rough, rocky estate tracks, with numerous streams and burns to ford cross.

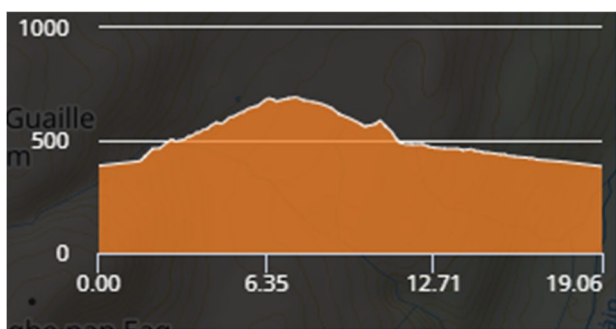
Recommended for mountain bikes only and in fairly dry, summer conditions. We also recommend taking some sandals or similar, to assist with the water crossings, and in case you have to carry your bike!

We recommend you take a GPS device or decent map to ensure you don't get lost – there are several "dead-end" tracks to be avoided.

### **Map**

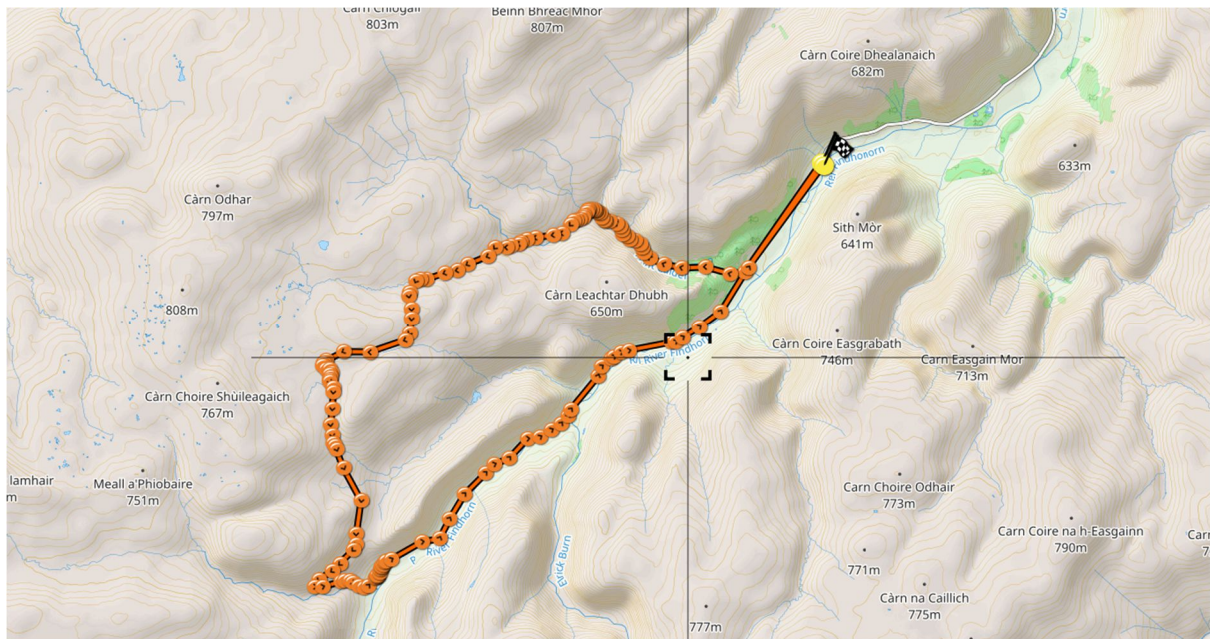
Number **417** : OS Explorer 1:25000 Monadhliath Mountains North & Strathtearn

### **Elevation Profile**



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### Route Map



### Route Description

1) The start of the route is approximately 45 minutes by car from Gask House.

There are two ways to get to the start from Gask :

- a) Take the direct route via Farr, up and over the Garbole road which links Strathnairn with Strathearn via a high mountain pass, only suitable in summer. This is mainly single track, with limited passing places and not suitable for large vehicles. It is, however, a beautiful drive.
- b) Take the A9 down to Tomatin and come in from there, it's about 15km from the A9..

Whichever route you take you will drive south-west along the upper reaches of the river Findhorn until you arrive at a small public car park at grid reference NH71114 18074. This is as far as you can go by car. This can be a busy spot for ornithologists, but there is room for several cars.

- 2) Ride into the estate ,past some cottages and along an arrow straight track. After about 1.5km take a turn to your right, and you will immediately start to climb sharply.
- 3) Use your GPS or Map to follow the track. You will encounter various streams with fording points that must be navigated. You climb inexorably up and into a very wild and remote place.
- 4) You will eventually come back down to the River Findhorn and the track you left a few hours ago. Turn left and cycle slightly down hill all the way back to the car.

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### Images

