

# Welcome to Carrbridge

The picturesque village of Carrbridge is famous for its 18th century packhorse bridge, which stands high over the River Dulnain in the centre of the village.

The bridge was built in 1717 to provide passage – by foot or horse – over the river. It was often used for funerals to reach the Duthil churchyard, hence the bridge's other local name of the 'coffin bridge'. In 1808 a plan was drawn up for the 'intended village at the Bridge of Carr' and the first building completed was an inn – and so began Carrbridge's tradition of a good highland welcome!

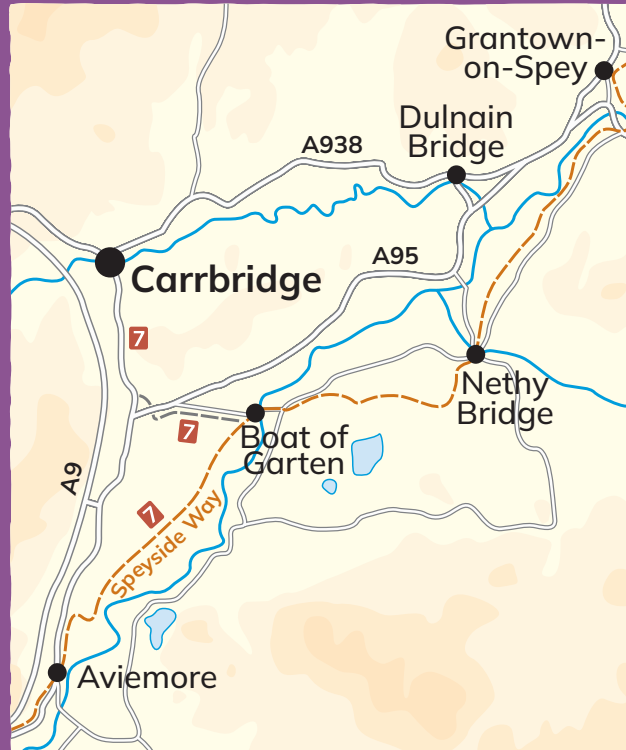
The village is surrounded by spectacular scenery and mature woodland. The local woods are explored by a network of waymarked trails, offering fine views, abundant wildlife and a glimpse of local history.



Discover more about Carrbridge at [carrbridge.com](http://carrbridge.com)

If you enjoyed exploring the paths around Carrbridge, look out for other path leaflets in this series to help you explore more of the Cairngorms National Park.

Pick up a leaflet locally or download from [cairngorms.co.uk](http://cairngorms.co.uk)



To find public transport and active travel routes between villages download the GoHi app.



**Visitor information:**  
Aviemore iCentre (01479 810 930)  
or [visitcairngorms.com](http://visitcairngorms.com)

Produced by the Cairngorms National Park Authority in association with the Carrbridge community.

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# Paths around Carrbridge

Come and explore



**Cairngorms**  
National Park  
Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh



## Woods and wildlife

The ancient pinewoods around Carrbridge are home to an abundance of wildlife including red squirrels, pine marten, Scottish crossbills, crested tits, capercaillie and the elusive Scottish wildcat. In spring and summer the woods and riverbanks are abundant with beautiful displays of flowers.



Capercaillie



Red squirrel

Capercaillie are huge, rare birds that feed on pine needles and insects found on blaeberry. They are very vulnerable to disturbance, so we can all help by not going looking for them and giving the birds space.



Wood ant nest

Look out for wood ant nests in the woods. These large, thatched mounds of pine needles, twigs and moss can be up to two metres tall and home to tens of thousands of worker ants.

## Spurtles and saws

Carrbridge hosts an eclectic programme of events, including two popular annual competitions which attract competitors from all over the world.

### Carve Carrbridge

The Scottish Open Chainsaw Carving Competition sees international artists create stunning wooden sculptures from large logs while captivating audiences.

Many of these chainsaw sculptures can be seen around the village and in the woods by following the Carving Trail.



Download the Carrbridge Carving Trail map and information

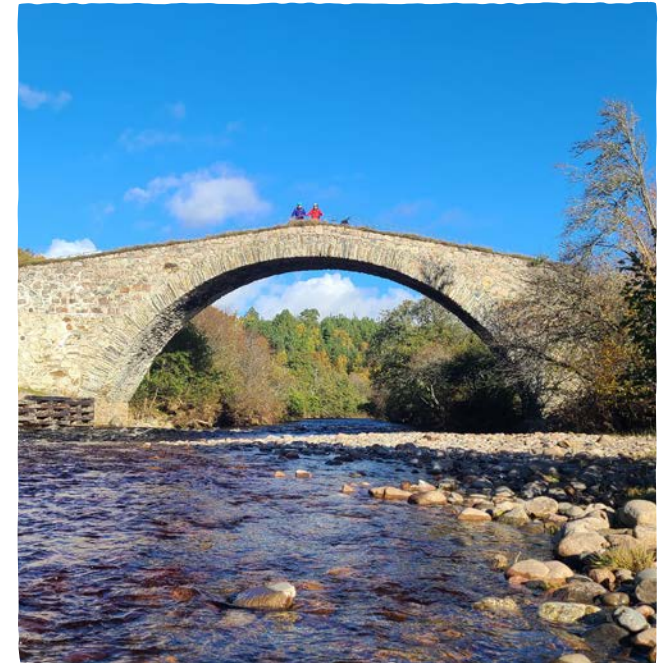


### World Porridge Making Championships

Professional chefs and home cooks alike compete in this cook-off to make the best traditional porridge using just oats, water and salt. The winner is awarded the Golden Spurtle trophy and title of 'World Porridge Making Champion'.

## Sluggan bridge

About three miles upriver from Carrbridge is the historic Sluggan bridge, another lovely scenic bridge worth a visit. The river crossing here was a part of the military road network, with the first bridge being constructed in the 1760s. The original low, two-arched bridge was swept away in the great flood of 1829. It was then replaced by the high, single-span bridge, which still towers above the river today.



### To reach Sluggan bridge

Follow along Station Road for two miles, before turning off the road onto a track which forks off to the right and heads downhill to the river and bridge.

**Distance:** 3 miles / 4.8 km, one-way. Not waymarked or signposted.

# Paths around Carrbridge

We hope you enjoy exploring the trails around Carrbridge, but please do so responsibly. The National Park is a special place with rare wildlife, some of which is sensitive to disturbance. You can help protect the local wildlife by following all signs and keeping dogs close by (on a lead where requested).

**SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE**  
[outdooraccess-scotland.scot](https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)



## Riverside path

A lovely route from the old packhorse bridge following up the beautiful River Dulnain. After crossing the river at the Ellan bridge return along Station Road or via the woods.

Mostly firm, flat gravel path with a short section of rough track on a moderate slope. Pavements and short road section. Narrow bridge and boardwalk.



1½ miles  
2.4 km  
Allow  
1 hour

## Calderwood viewpoint

A walk across the golf course and onto heather moorland with fine views towards the Cairngorms. The walk is named after Professor Calderwood, a well-respected Carrbridge resident.

Track, steep in places, rough hill path on upper section.

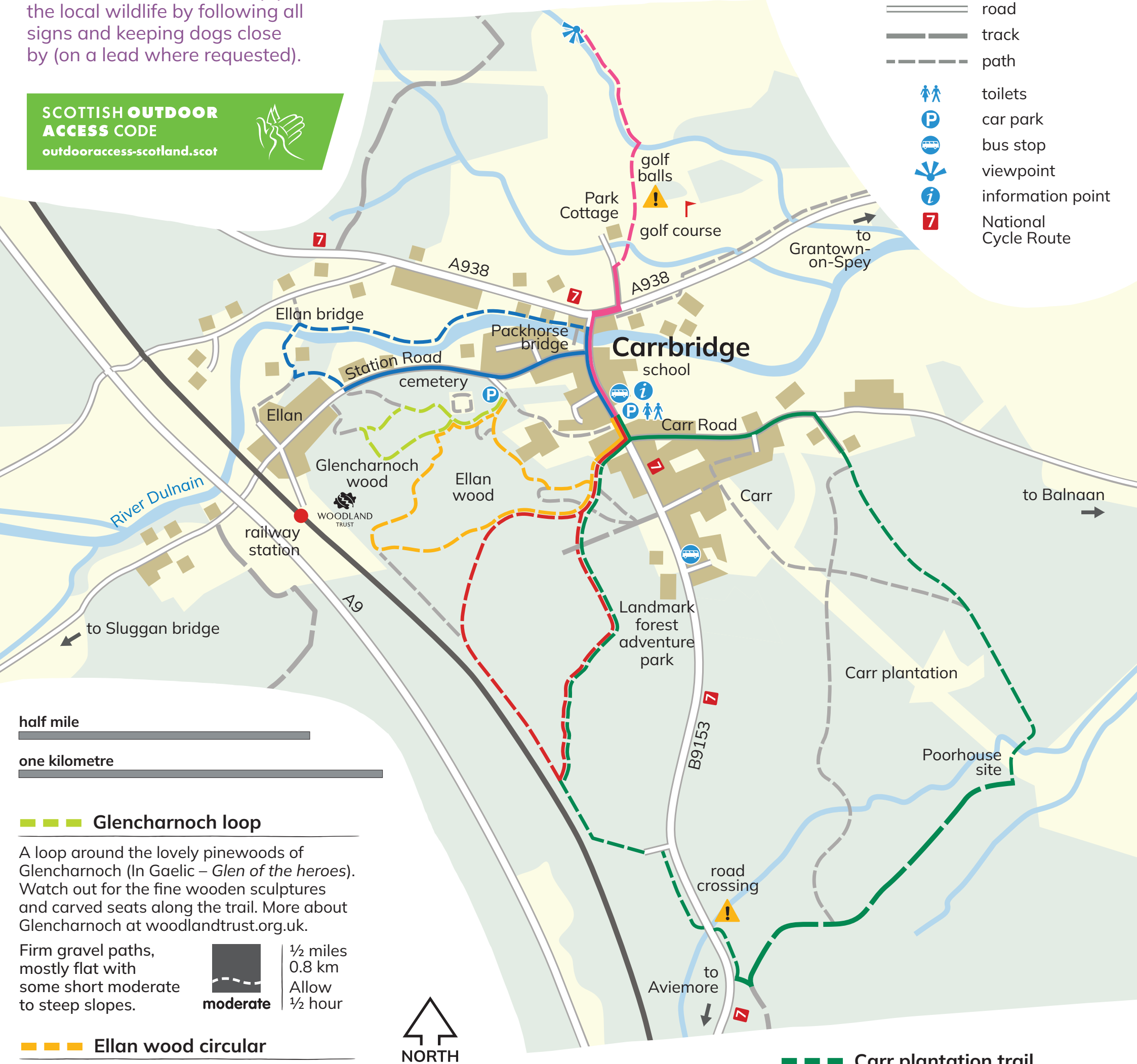


**moderate**

1½ miles  
2.4 km  
Allow  
1½ hours

Distance / time includes return to car park.

- road
- track
- path
- toilets
- car park
- bus stop
- viewpoint
- information point
- National Cycle Route



half mile

one kilometre

## Glencharnoch loop

A loop around the lovely pinewoods of Glencharnoch (In Gaelic – *Glen of the heroes*). Watch out for the fine wooden sculptures and carved seats along the trail. More about Glencharnoch at [woodlandtrust.org.uk](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk).

Firm gravel paths, mostly flat with some short moderate to steep slopes.



**moderate**

½ miles  
0.8 km  
Allow  
½ hour

## Ellan wood circular

A great circular route through mixed woodland and past wetland. ‘Ellan’ comes from the Gaelic ‘*ailean*’ meaning a green or plain, which probably refers to the land adjacent to the river

Forest track and narrower paths, some rough and may be muddy after rain. Boardwalks and steps.



**moderate**

1 mile  
1.6 km  
Allow  
¾ hour

## Railway path

A circular walk through the forest passing beside the railway line.

Mostly forest tracks, relatively flat, some rough and muddy sections.



**easy**

1½ miles  
2.4 km  
Allow  
¾ hour

## Carr plantation trail

A circular route through a mature forest of Scots pine. The poorhouse was built c.1864 to accommodate the poor of the parish.

Mostly forest tracks and paths, one short road section. Relatively flat, paths may be narrow and rough in places.



**moderate**

3 miles  
4.8 km  
Allow  
2 hours