



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for nature

Glencoe

An Torr woodland walks

Description

An Torr is Gaelic for rocky hill and here you will find over 2 miles of easy walks which lead you through this beautiful undulating woodland.

You can follow the blue trail which leads to Signal Rock, the yellow trail which runs along the picturesque Clachaig Burn, or the black trail which will take you through the forest to the heart of An Torr. Or link them all together for a longer walk of up to 2 hours.

Grade

Easy / Moderate

Terrain

The trails are undulating and unsurfaced. The yellow trail is an all ability trail.

Distance

Black trail	1¼ miles / 2km
Blue trail	1 mile / 1.75km
Yellow trail	½ mile / 1km

Time

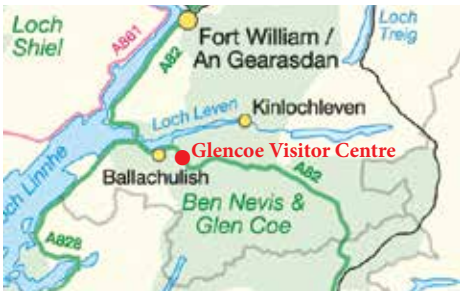
Black trail	1 hour
Blue trail	45 mins
Yellow trail	25 mins

OS Map

Landranger Sheet 41

Facilities

Parking



The Trust is supported by



1 Arriving at the main car park off the A82, walk across the bridge over the River Coe. From here you can turn right and follow the **YELLOW** all ability path along the Clachaig Burn. If you carry straight on, the path climbs a series of steps to a kissing gate. Go through this to enter the wood.

The mountain behind you is Aonach Dubh. Its steep face is made up of volcanic rocks. The dark vegetated crags of the lower slopes were formed when hot magma, or molten rock, was slowly squeezed into muds on the floor of a lake. The pink rocks of the higher cliffs were formed when searingly hot clouds of ash and volcanic particles exploded from the volcano in red-hot pyroclastic flows.

2 A little further up the woodland path you will come to a colour-coded waymarker where the path splits in two directions. The **BLACK** and **BLUE** trails lead left and will take you to Signal Rock or into the heart of An Torr. If you follow this path you will walk through the conifer trees planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1950s and 60s. But continue for a further 300 metres and you will notice that the trees change. The area on your right is part of an ancient woodland which has been continuously wooded since around 1600. Many of the trees are thick with moss and lichens, an indicator of their age. Compare the ground beneath these trees with the forest floor to the left of the path where the conifers grow. The native trees allow far more light through and many more plants spring up, providing food and habitats for a great variety of wildlife, just one of the many benefits which native trees bring.

3 The path splits here. The **BLUE** trail continues up to Signal Rock, while the **BLACK** trail carries on to the top of An Torr.

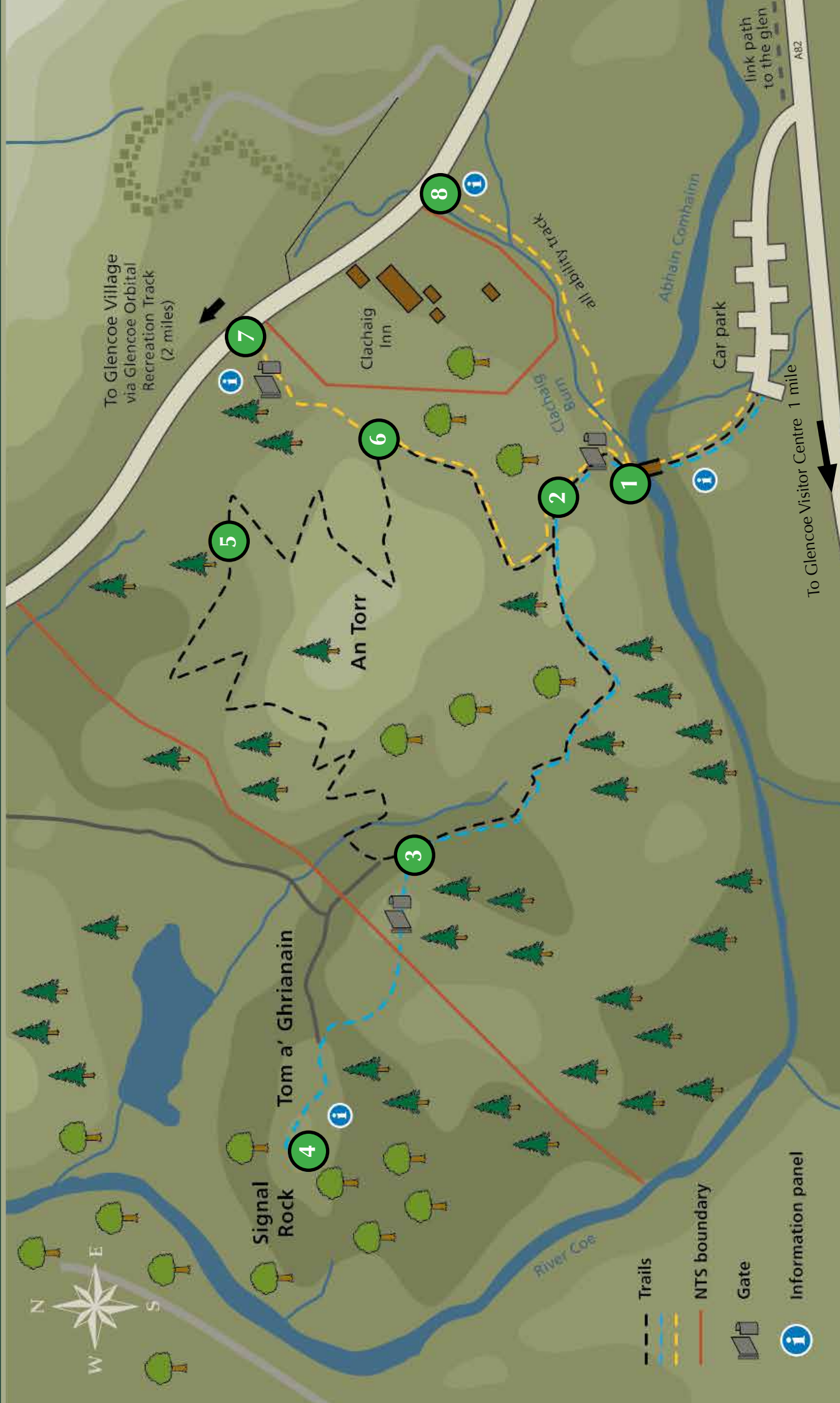
If you follow the **BLUE** trail it will lead you up a small hill. At the top of this hill, look for the exposed rock on your right, etched with deep scratches. These are evidence of the glaciers which carved out the U-shaped valleys of the glen some 10,000 years ago during the last Ice Age. Carry on through the gate ahead.

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Signal Rock



Clachaig Gully in winter – no place for beginners!



Look out for pine martens in the woods

4 The last point on the **BLUE** trail leads you to Tom a' Ghrianain (the Hill of the Sun), dominated by rugged Signal Rock. Climb up the steps to the rear of Signal Rock to enjoy the view. Look west and you will glimpse the rounded form of Meall Mor. You might be able to spot sheep or Highland cattle grazing on this hill, part of our management strategy to keep scrub down and allow the rare alpine plants which grow here to flourish. To the south you can see An t-Sron, meaning 'the nose', together with the Three Sisters these mountains form the south side of Glen Coe. From Signal Rock you can follow the **BLUE** trail back to the car park or pick up one of the other trails for a longer walk.

5 At the top of the **BLACK** trail, which leads to An Torr, you will come to an area of the path which is made up of large slabs. Looking through the trees you can see a dark slash in the mountain face: this is Clachaig Gully, one of the great Scottish gully climbs and for experienced climbers only. Continue along the path as it zig-zags through the conifer trees leading up to the highest point on An Torr.

6 At this junction the **BLACK** and **YELLOW** route to the right will take you through a section where we are thinning the conifers and reintroducing native species; this will lead you back to the bridge over the River Coe and to the car park. The **YELLOW** path to the left leads to the old Glencoe village road.

7 The **YELLOW** route is a short and easy walk through woodland and along the banks of the Clachaig Burn. From here, you can turn right along a short section of single-track road to reach point 8. Take care walking along the road and watch out for traffic.

8 The path through the woodland here is an all ability trail, suitable for buggies and wheelchairs. It follows the route of the Clachaig Burn before it flows into the River Coe. Look out for the native water-loving alder trees which grow along the riverbank.