Backpacking Coast-to-Coast Across Scotland

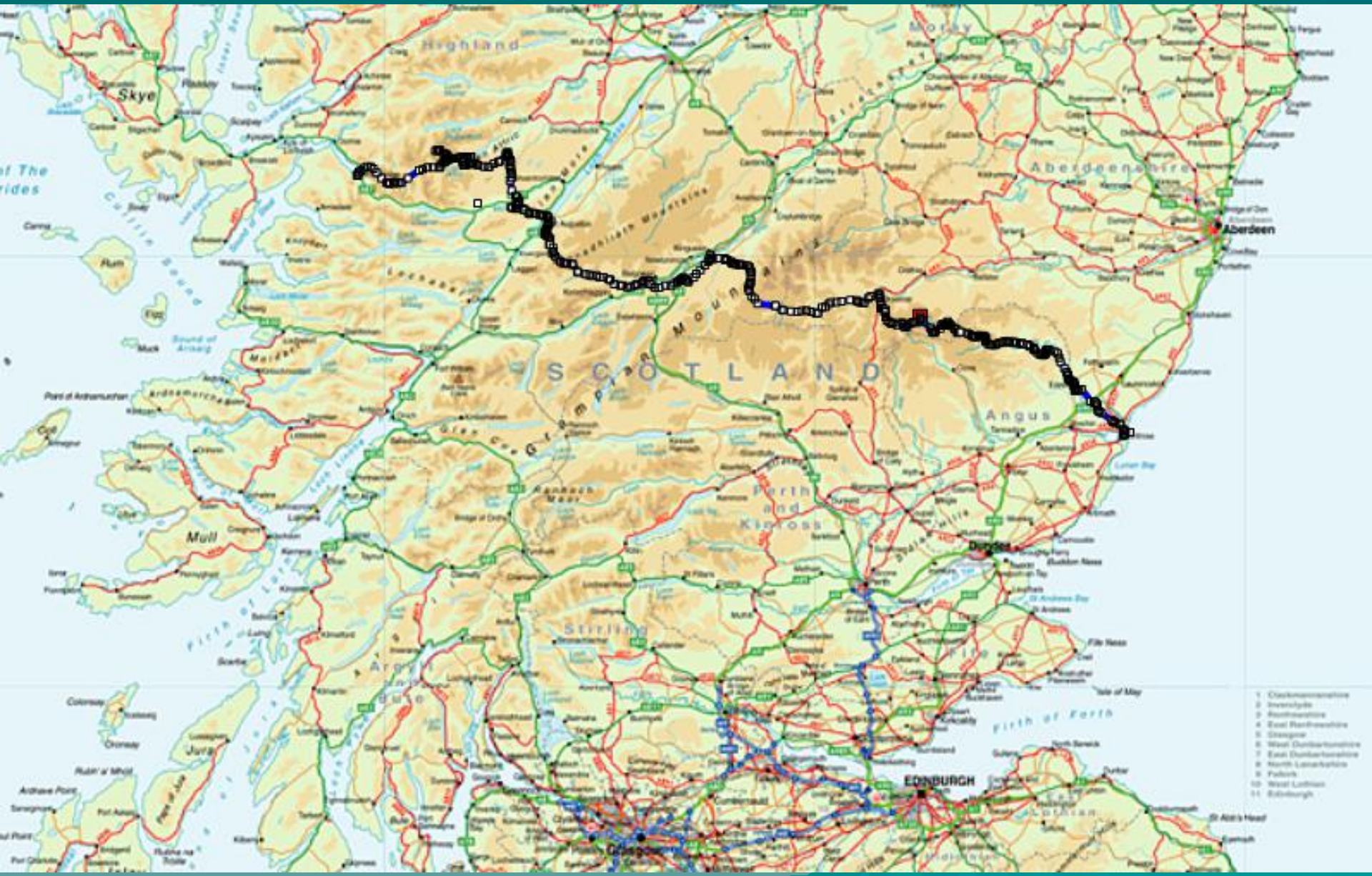
Philip Werner
SectionHiker.com

Agenda

- TGO Challenge Overview
- Preparation
- The Hike
- Q & A

The TGO Challenge Overview

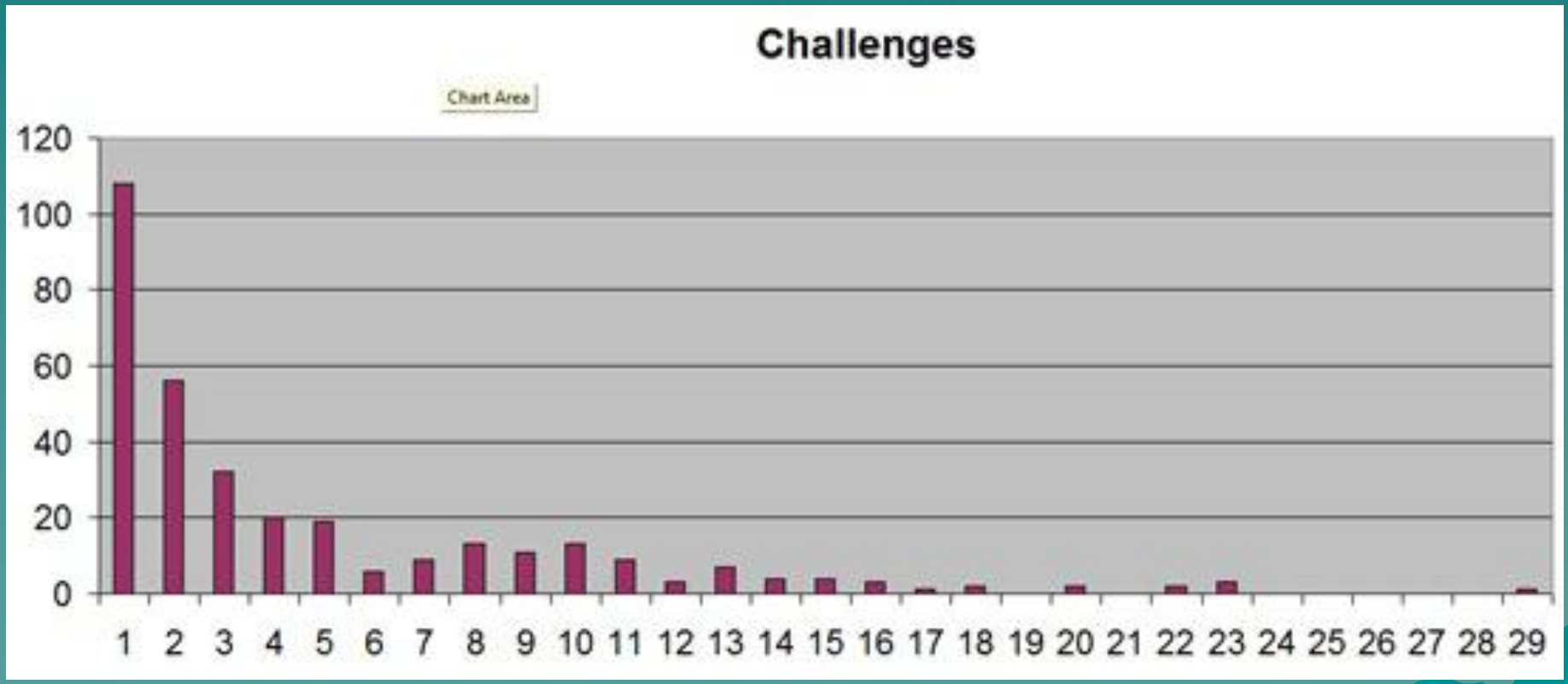
Scotland – 2010 Route



About the TGO Challenge

- Coast-to-Coast Hike
  - Attributed to Hamish Brown
  - Started in 1980
  - 300 participants a year
  - Non-competitive
  - 15 days maximum
  - Design your own route
  - Solo or in a group
  - Foot travel only
  - Camp or B&B
  - Average 180 miles

Repeat Offenders



Courtesy Alan Sloman

Planning Help and Advice

Mike Knipe, Northern Pies

Chris Townsend, Townsend Outdoors

Martin Rye, Summit and Valley

Challenger Camaraderie

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Getting into the Challenge

- Scottish hill walking experience required, but can be waived

An Tealloch, West Highlands

Eildon Hills, Scottish Borders

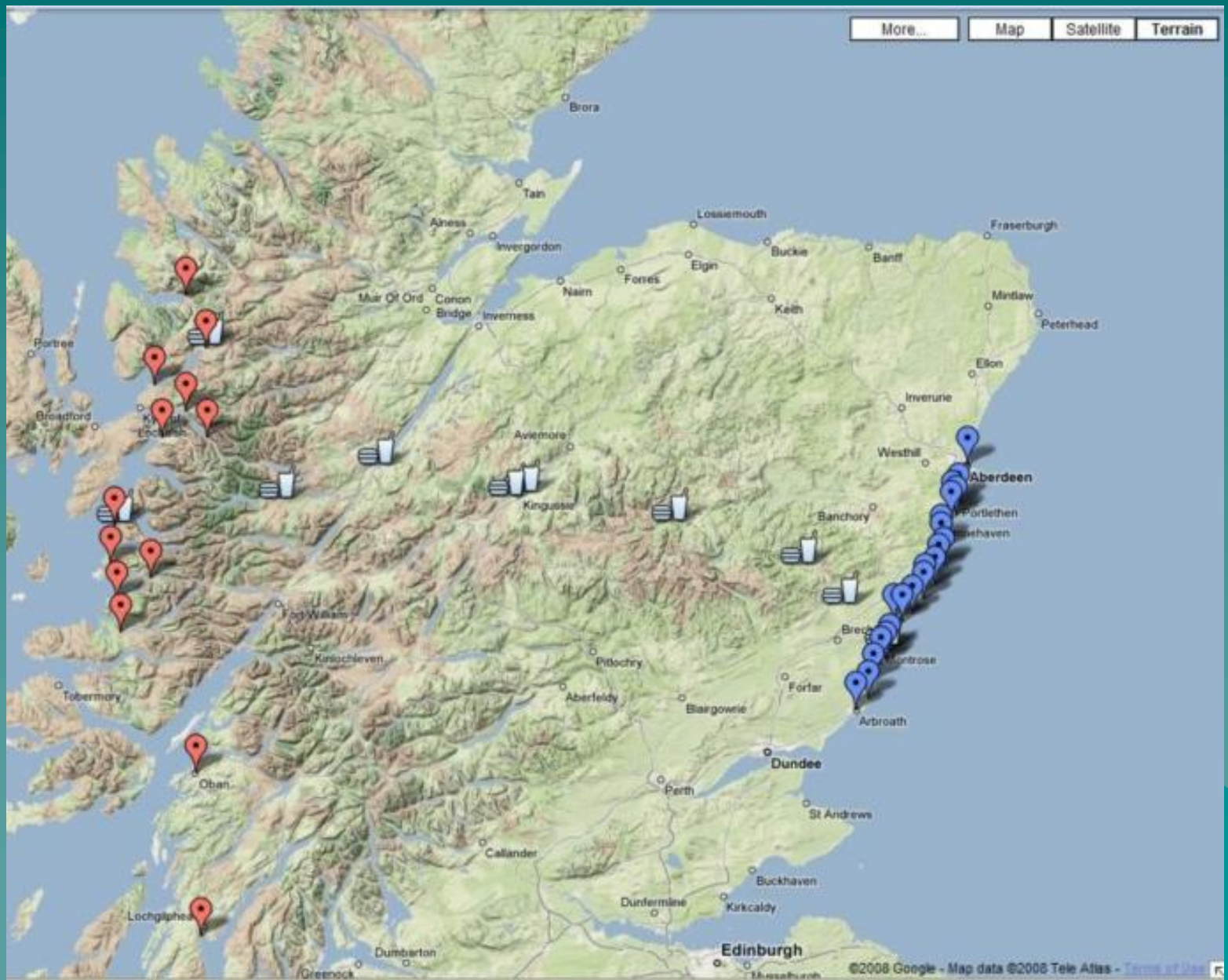
Challenge Timeline

- October 15 - Applications Due
- December 1 – Hiker Selection
- February 28 – Route Plans Due
- March 30 – Vetter Comments
- May 13-14 – Start Point Sign-outs
  - 3 check-ins with Challenge Control
- May 26 & 27– Sign Out in Montrose
  - Banquet at Park Hotel

Backpacking in the States

White Mountain Trails

There is no “trail”



Cross Country Hiking in Scotland

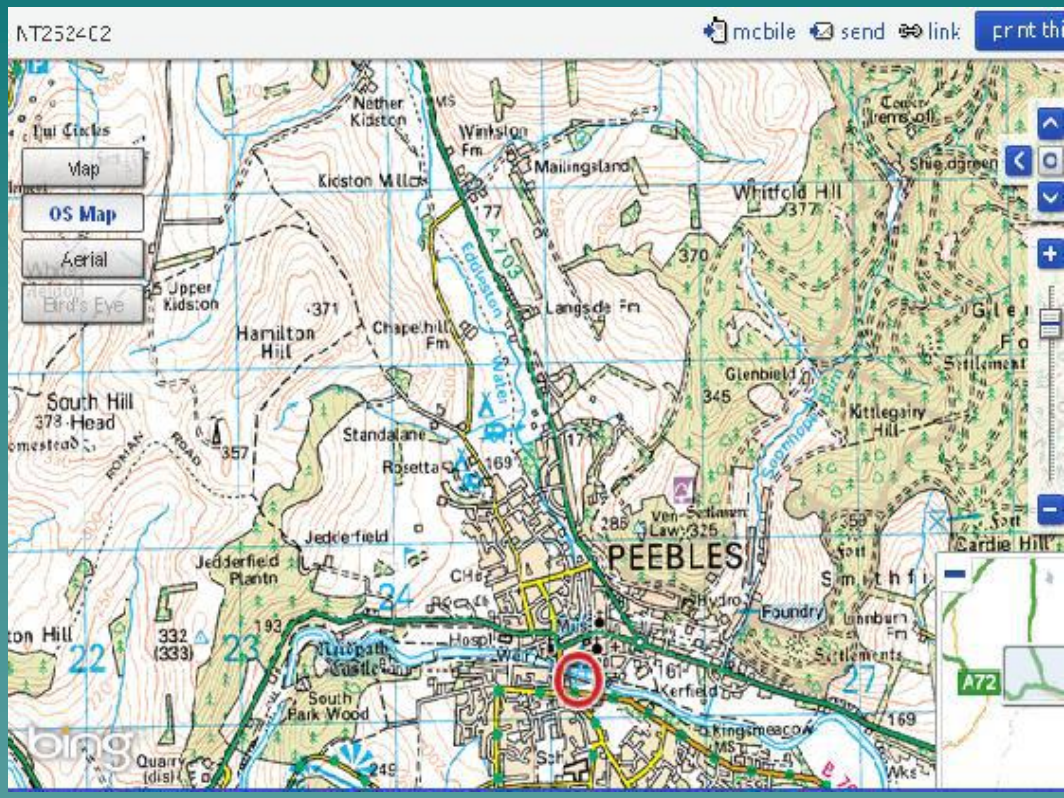
- Scottish Rights of Way Law
- Unpredictable Weather
  - Snow and Rain
- In May, 19 hours of Daylight
- Natural Barriers
  - Mountain Ranges and Passes
  - Great Glen (Loch Ness)
  - Rivers
  - Bogs
- Sparsely Populated
- Learn a Little Gaelic
- Different Map Coordinate System

Navigation in the UK

100km Grid squares

Great Britain is covered by 100 x 100 kilometre grid squares, each grid square is identified by two letters.

HL	HM	HN	HO	HP	JL	JM
HQ	HR	HS	HT	HU	JQ	JR
HV	HW	HX	HY	HZ	JV	JW
NA	NB	NC	ND	NE	OA	OB
NF	NG	NH	NJ	NK	OF	OG
NL	NM	NN	NO	NP	OL	OM
NQ	NR	NS	NT	NU	OQ	OR
NV	NW	NX	NY	NZ	OV	OW
SA	SB	SC	SD	SE	TA	TB
SF	SG	SH	SJ	SK	TF	TG
SL	SM	SN	SO	SP	TL	TM
SQ	SR	SS	ST	SU	TQ	TR
SV	SW	SX	SY	SZ	TV	TW



OS Grid Reference is 2 Grid Letters, 3 Numbers (easting), 3 Numbers (northing)
Peebles is at NT252402

25.2 kilometers east

40.2 kilometers north

Each Blue Square on Paper Map is 1 KM Square

Guidelines for First Time Challengers

- Take a Low Level Route
- Follow River Valleys
- Verify all Bridges
- Use Hill Tracks
- Avoid High Mountain Passes
- Make sure Towns on Maps Have Shops or Inhabitants

Challenge Route Plan

TGO CHALLENGE 2010

TGOC 2010 Route Sheet 1

SIGN-OUT POINT	DATE	NAMES
Shiel Bridge	14-5-10	Philip Werner
FINISH POINT Montrose	DATE 26-5-10	

Date MAY	DAYS ITINERARY WITH FOUL WEATHER ALTERNATIVES (if needed)	OS SHEET	DISTANCE(km) & ASCENT (m)		OVERNIGHT HALT
FRI 14th	Activity Center, Glenlicht House, Allt Grannda Waterfalls, Camban	33	18.4	650	Alltbeithe YH (camp)
	FWA				
SAT 15th	Carnach Mor, Cnoc Fada, Coire Leachavie, Mam Sodhail(1181m), Carn Eige (1183m), Sgurr na Lapaich(1036m)	33,25	22.3	1441	Loch Affric (camp)
	FWA Skip Munros and continue with route (12.5 km distance/214 m ascent)				
SUN 16th	Allt Garbh, Cougie, Creag Bhog, Coire Dho	25,34	18.8	477	Cul Dubh (camp)
	FWA				
MON 17th	Ceannacroc Bridge, Collie Ghormaig, Meall Dahm, Druim a' Chathair, Old Military Rd, Jenkins Farm	34	18.7	464	Fort Augustus (B&B)
	FWA				
TUE 18th	Culhachy Ho, General Wades, Corrievairack Pass, Melgarve	34	26.1	972	Garva Bridge (Camp)
	FWA				
WED 19th	Garvamore, Laggan, Drumgask, Catlodge, Melm	35	24.8	435	Phones (Camp)

Vetter Response, with route amendments and suggestions

Preparation

Gear Choices

- Shoes – Trail Runners – Dry Quickly
- Shelter – Pyramid Tarp- Wind Resistance
- Bivy Bag with Head Net – Water Resistance/Bugs
- Backpack – Cuben Fiber - Lightweight
- Chlorine Dioxide – Water Treatment
- 1 Qt Plastic Bottle – Hydration
- Navigation – Garmin Geko 301 – Position Checks
- Tracking/Emergency– SPOT II GPS Messenger
- Stove – Snowpeak Giga – Fast
  - Bad Choice

Basil, the Moose

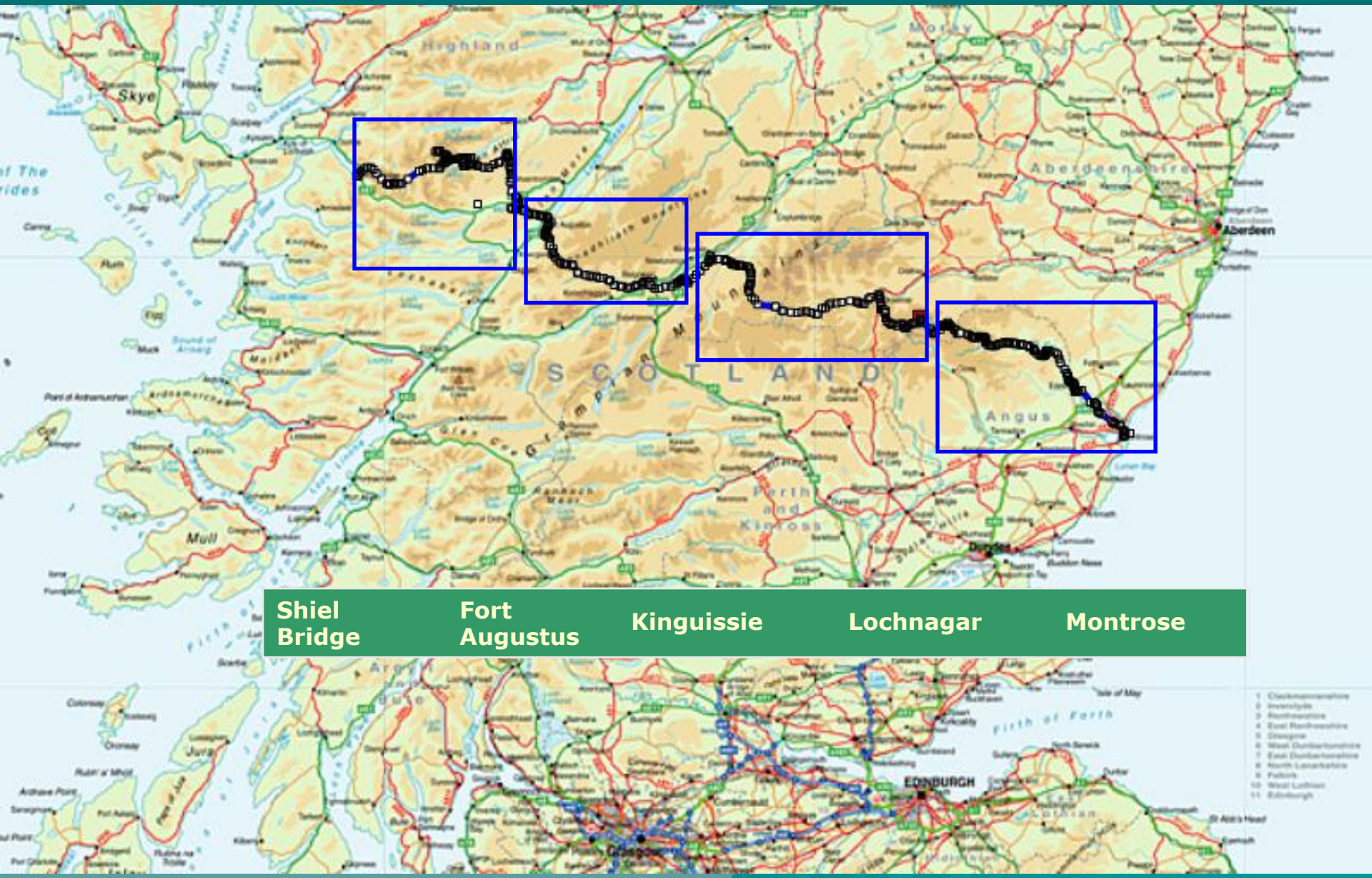
The Hike

Boston to Shiel Bridge

Eyjafjallajökull

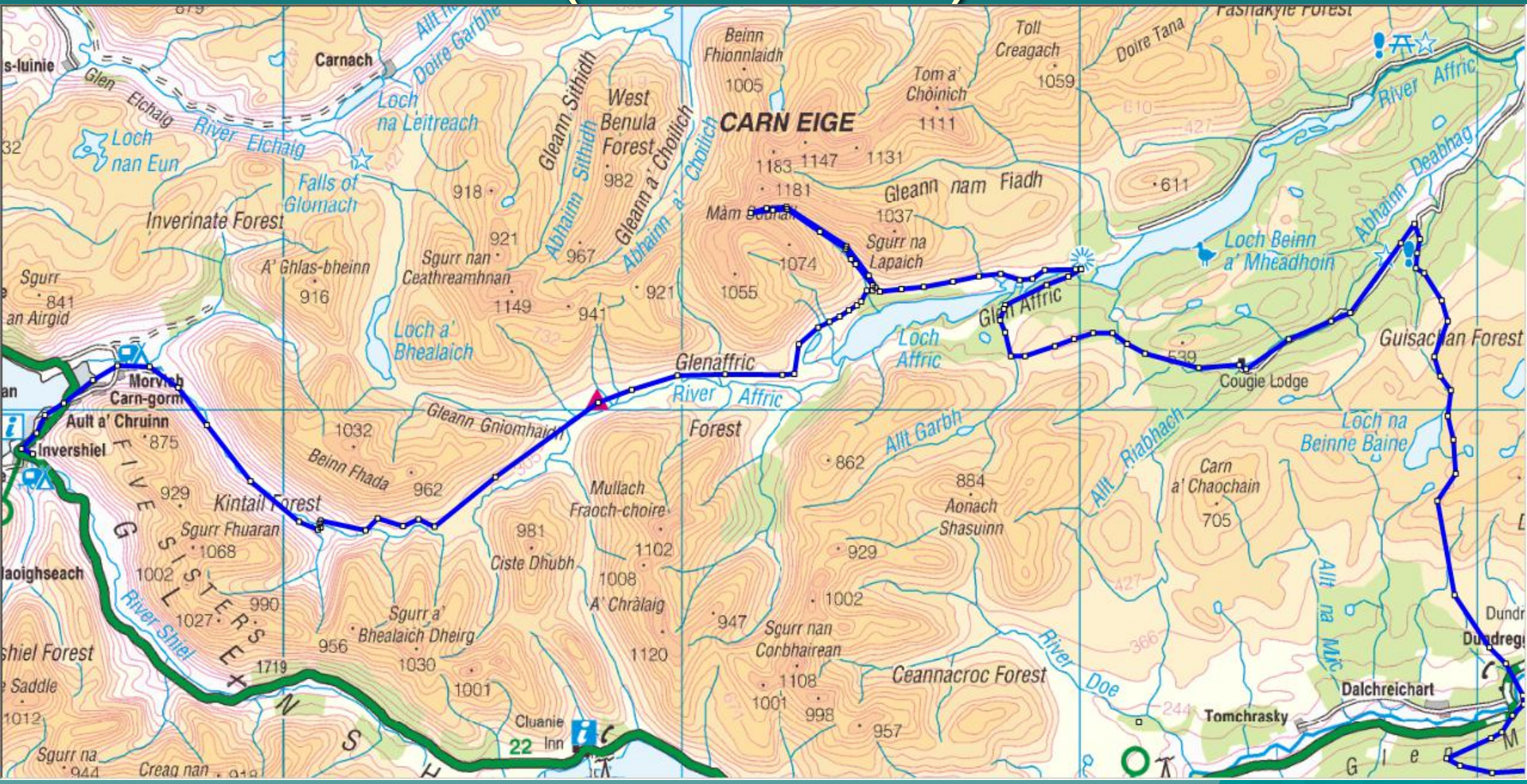
- Boston to Dublin - Fly
- Dublin to Glasgow – Fly
- Glasgow to Shiel Bridge - Cab

Scotland – 2010 TGO Route



Shiel Bridge – Kintail Lodge

Shiel Bridge to Fort Augustus (~50 miles)



Five Sisters of Kintail

Day 1, Dawn at Shiel Bridge

Waterfalls along Gleann Licht

Looking Backwards

First Water Break

Canban Bothy – Lunch Stop

Alt Grannda

Day 1, Sputan Ban Waterfall

Glen Affric

Allt Corie Leachavie

Glen Affric – Looking Back

Mam Sodhail

Mam Sodhail Summit Ridge

Day 2, South Side, Glen Affric

Tree Farms near Glen Affric

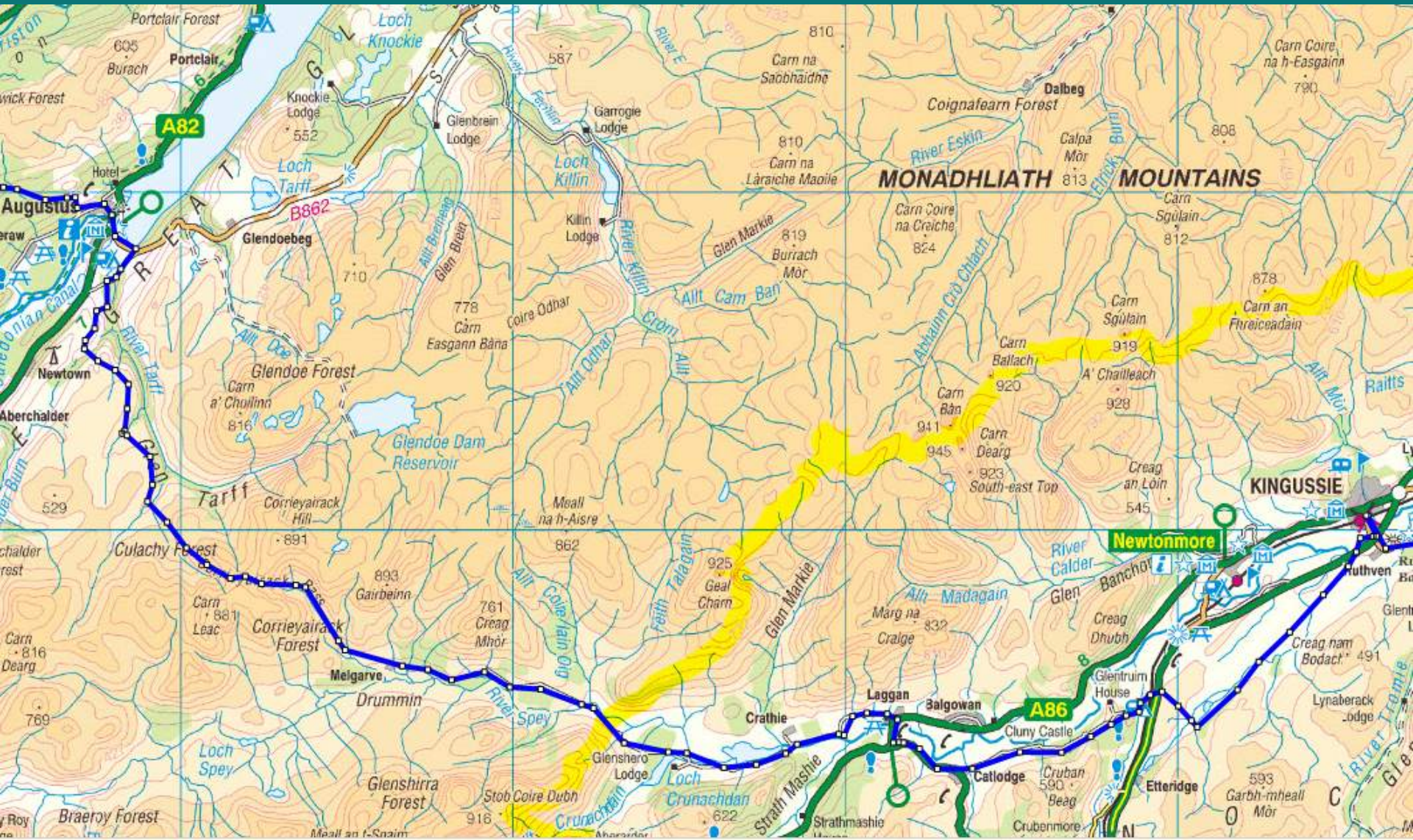
Guisachan Forest

Tree Harvesting

Road to Fort Augustus

Day 3, Allt Phocaichain

Fort Augustus to Kingussie



Leaving Fort Augustus

Jane Egg

Looking Back to Loch Ness

Corrieyairick Pass

Blackburn Bothy, Corrieyairick Pass

Inside my Tarp

Moment of Contentment

Corrieyairick Pass

Spey River Valley

Garva Bridge, Road to Laggan

Spey River, Road to Laggan

Monadhliath Hotel

Phones Track

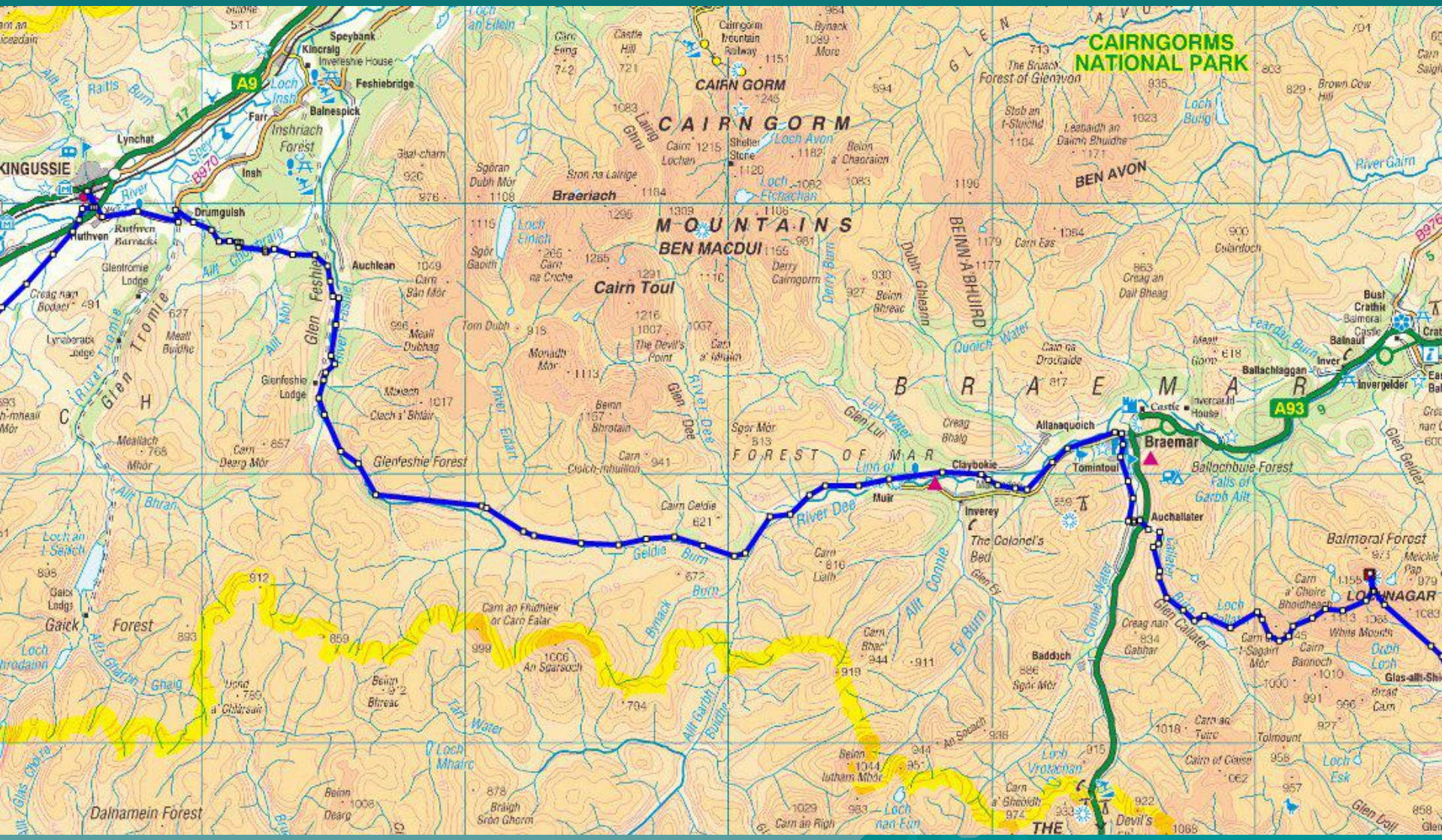
Ruthven Barracks, Kingussie

Kingussie

Columba House Garden

Resupply and Laundry

Kingussie to Lochnagar



Baileguish

Glen Feshie

Feshie Bridge, The Last Bridge

The Trees of Glen Feshie

Upper Feshie

Fording the Feshie

Slochd Beag

Stream Crossing

Upper Feshie Camp

Source of the Feshie

Peat Bog

Pass through the Cairngorms to the Dee

White Bridge over the River Dee

Scottish Tan

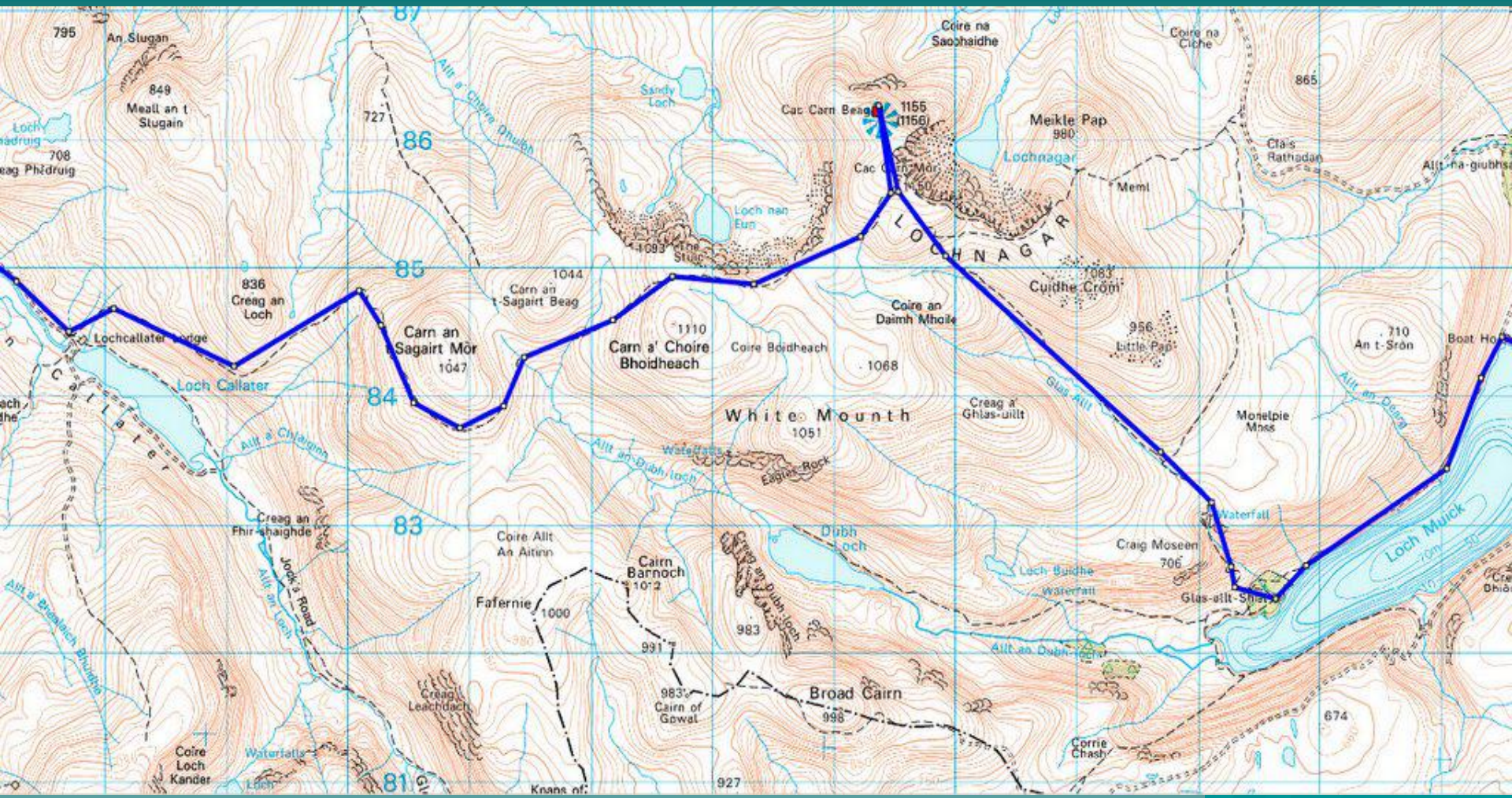
Lin of Dee

Braemar Bomb

Glen Clunie

Camping along Callater Burn

Lochnagar and Surrounds



Loch Callater

Stan and Bill’s, Callater Lodge

My First Bacon Buttie

Glen Callater and Jocks Road

Graham Lewis – Mr REI

Lochnagar

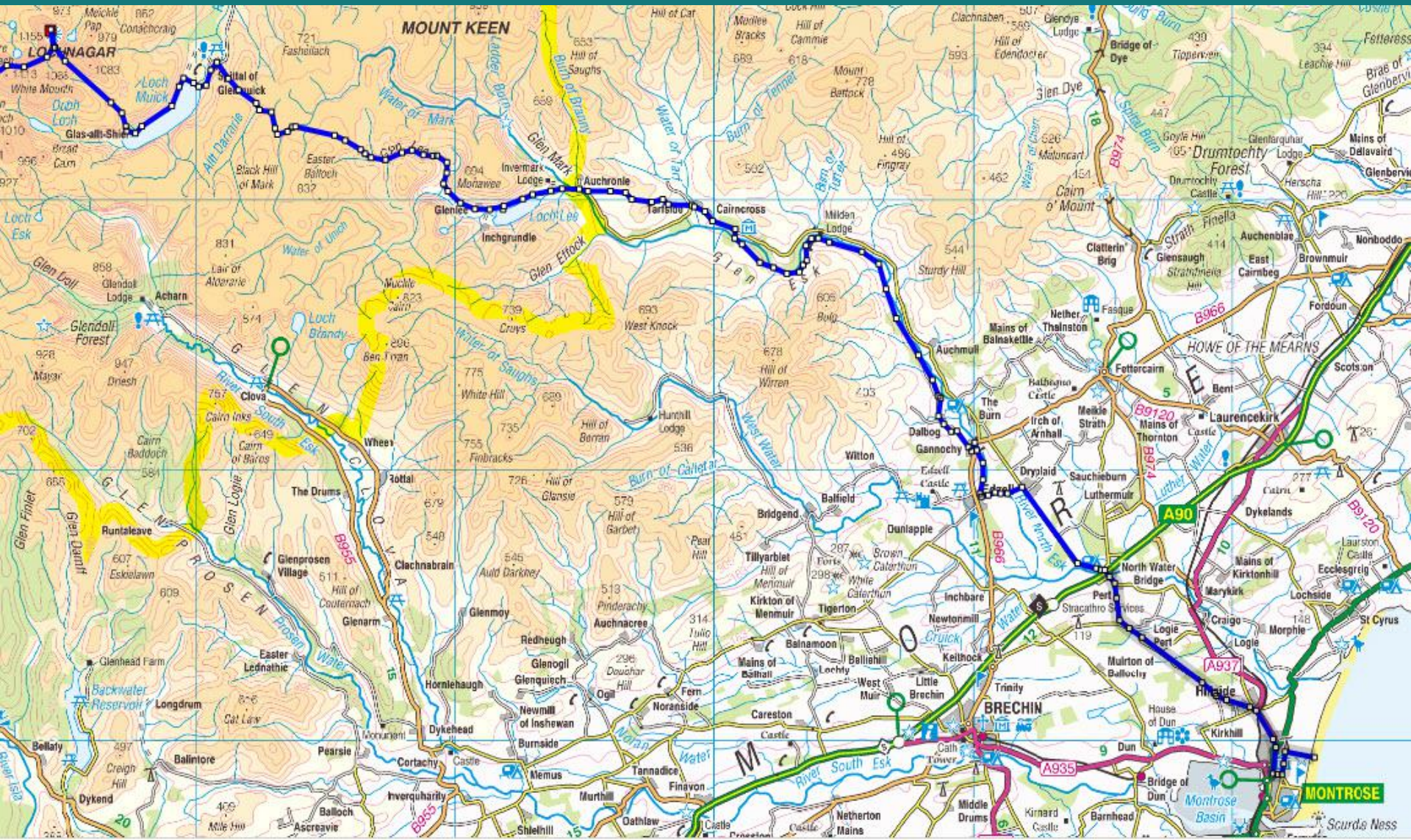
Lochnagar Summit

The Stuic and Loch nan Eun

Cac Carn Mor

Lochnagar, North Face

Lochnagar to Montrose



Glas Allt

Waterfall

Graham Lewis

Loch Muick

Shielin of Mark

Hilleberg Atko

Hiking Down to Glen Lee

Adder Skin

Glen Lee

St Drostan’s - Tarfside

St Drostan’s

The Ladies of St. Drostan’s

Glen Esk

Glen Esk

Tuck Inn, Edzell

Fields outside Montrose

First Glimpse of the Sea

Montrose – Journey’s End

The Park Hotel

Signing Out at Challenge Control

The Banquet

Journey Home