

1 Phemies Walk

Length: 2.3km (circular)

Park in the village centre and start this Forestry Commission walk from the western side of Strontian Bridge. It is a circular walk through a beautiful mixed woodland including oak, beech and silver fir. It is a grassy or earthy path and some areas may be muddy. There are some steep slopes, steps and sections of boardwalk.

This walk links with **Walks 2 and 3** (see map).

2 Ardnastang Common Grazings

Length: 0.5km (each way)

This path runs across rough hill pastures from Phemies Walk (**Walk 1**) to the High Road (**Walk 3**), with splendid open views to Loch Sunart. The path has an uneven gravel surface with grassy and earthy sections, and parts may be narrow, rocky or muddy.

Please Note: Cattle graze along this route, so please keep your dogs under close control at all times.

3 The High Road

Length: 3km (each way)

This ancient route takes you from Ardnastang to Scotstown along one of the many coffin routes which converge on *Eilean Fhianain* (St Finnan's Isle) on Loch Shiel. On this walk you find wonderful views of the surrounding mountains including *Sgùrr Dhòmhnuille* (Donald's Peak). The path has an uneven gravel surface with earthy sections and can be very muddy in places, particularly after rain.

A circular route can be made from the village centre along Phemies Walk (**Walk 1**), Ardnastang Grazings (**Walk 2**) and the High Road, with a return from Scotstown down the single-track road. **Length for full circular route:** 9km

Please Note: Cattle graze along this route, so please keep your dogs under close control at all times.

4 Longrigg Burn

Length: 0.6km (each way)

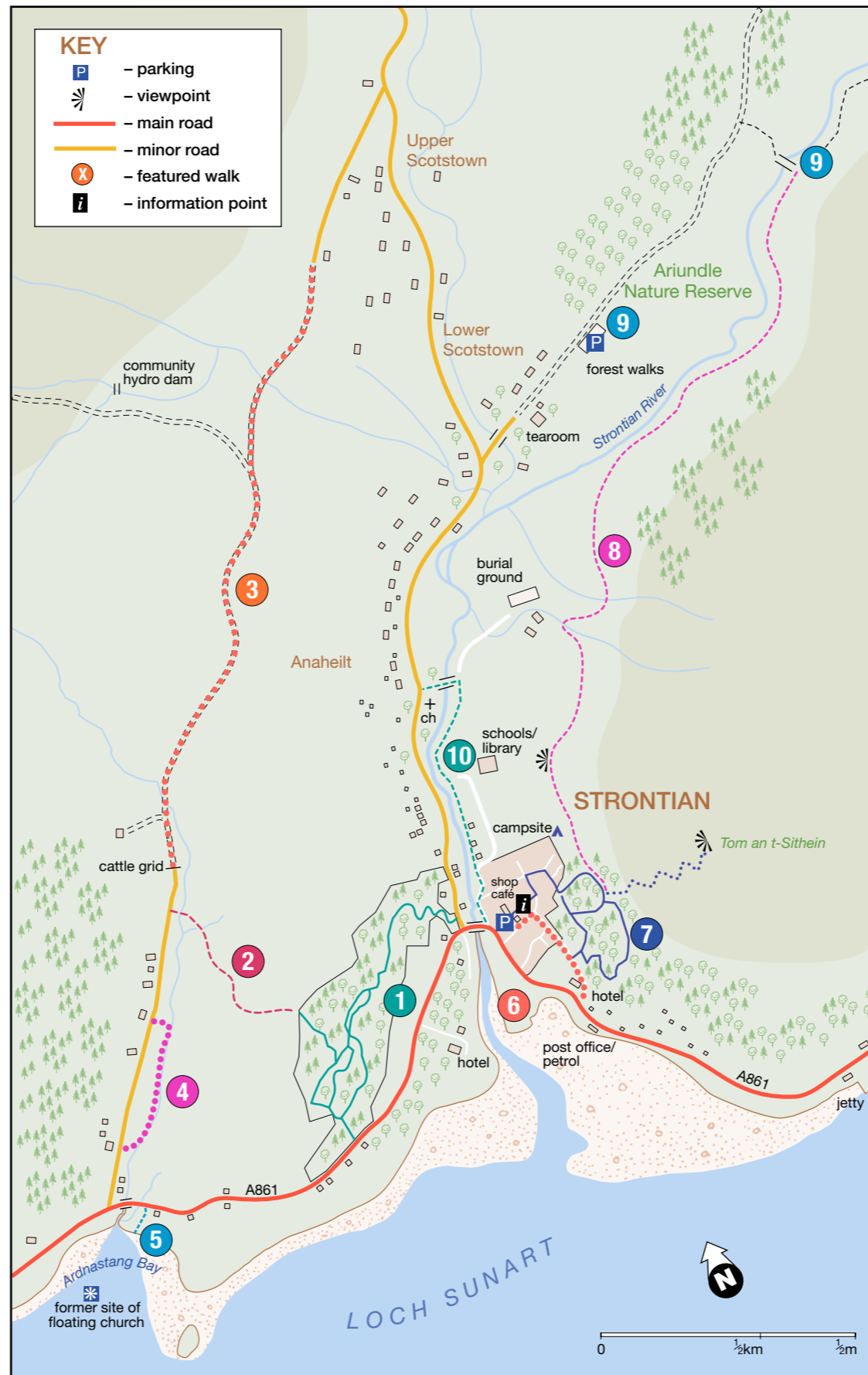
This path follows a section of the fast-flowing Longrigg Burn. It is a lovely walk which bypasses part of Longrigg Road. It is a grassy path with some narrow, rocky and muddy sections. There are sections of gravel, boardwalk, bridges and steps.

5 Ardnastang Beach

Length: 0.14km (each way)

This secluded coarse sand beach is a perfect place to enjoy the views over Loch Sunart, where the Floating Church was sited in 1846, and beyond to the hills of Laudale and Morven. There is limited parking on the right by the hatchery shed, just under 1 mile west of Strontian on the A861. Carefully cross the road and look for a small sign marking the start of the path leading down to the beach. This short path is a little uneven and rocky in places.

Paths Around Strontian



6 Footpath to Strontian Hotel

Length: 0.4km (each way)

This short walk takes you from the village centre past the care home (Dail Mhor), to the Strontian Hotel on the shores of Loch Sunart. The path has a gravel surface, and can be muddy in places after wet weather.

7 Strontian Community Woodland

Length: 1.6km (add 2km if climbing 'Tom an t-Sithein')

This is a lovely short walk through a former policy woodland of the Sunart Estate. The woodland was planted by the Riddell family in the 1800s and boasts over 60 exotic and native species of tree, including firs, spruces and pines, as well as a range of fine deciduous trees.

The path has an uneven gravel surface with some fairly steep slopes, and parts may be narrow or muddy. At the top of the woodland, there is a gate leading onto the Fairies Road (**Walk 8**). Alternatively, if you're feeling energetic, a very rough path leads from the gate steeply up the hillside to the summit of 'Tom an t-Sithein' (Hill of the Fairies). The view from the top is well worth the steep climb. Park in the village centre.

8 Fairies Road

Length: 3.2km (each way)

From the top of the Community Woodland (**Walk 7**), through a gate, there is a beautiful path which takes you north up the glen of the Strontian River. It runs along the hillside before dropping down steeply to follow the river more closely.

It is an uneven gravel path, with some grassy sections. There are some bridges and steep slopes. This path joins the Ariundle Oakwoods Path (**Walk 9**).

9 Ariundle Oakwoods

Length: 4.5km (circular)

This fabulous route, starting from the Forestry Commission car park at Ariundle, passes through one of Scotland's finest mature Atlantic Oakwoods. In part it follows the lovely Strontian River, providing unforgettable views up the glen to *Sgùrr Dhòmhnuille* (Donald's Peak).

The path has an uneven gravel surface with grassy, narrow, rocky and muddy sections. There are some short, fairly steep slopes, bridges and a long section of boardwalk. This walk can be linked to Fairies Road (**Walk 8**) and Community Woodland (**Walk 7**).

10 The Back Road 'An Rathad Cuil'

Length: 0.5km (each way)

This short walk takes you from the village centre along the Strontian River and on to the 'Telford' church, passing the Ardnamurchan High School and the community-owned Primary School. From the church you can either return the same way or return along the single-track road. Look out for dippers and even a kingfisher!

The path has a gravel surface, with some narrow, rocky and uneven sections.



Depending on the time of year and habitat you are walking in, there is a range of different wild flowers to be seen in Sunart. These include carpets of bluebells, wood sorrel, lesser celandine and yellow archangel in the woodland; ling, bell and cross leaved heather, heath spotted orchids, bog asphodel, lousewort and butterwort on the heathland; and, on the shoreline, sea campion and thrift.



A great array of birdlife can be seen in Sunart – from golden and sea eagles, red grouse and ravens on the hill, to dippers, and even the occasional kingfisher by the river. Many other species, such as finches, yellowhammer, redpoll, woodpecker, siskin, treecreeper and long-tailed tit, are also to be found in and around the village.

Along our shoreline. The Atlantic Oak Woodlands are home to fabulous mosses, ferns and lichens, and the rare chequered skipper butterfly may be glimpsed here in late May and June.



We have a range of fantastic habitats in Sunart and these host a wide variety of flora and fauna. Red deer live on the hill ground and often descend to the fields around the village at dusk. Pine martens and badgers are frequent visitors to gardens, and others can be seen



Our Wildlife

What should I take?

- Stout shoes or boots are best. Some of the paths go over rough or wet ground.
- Take waterproofs as weather can change.
- Take a snack and drink. It's always a good excuse to stop and admire the views.

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Your access rights and responsibilities are outlined in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

The main messages from SOAC are:

- Take responsibility for your own actions.
- Respect the interests of other people.
- Care for the environment.

Can I take my dog?

Yes, but keep dogs under close control:

- Wild flora and fauna should be respected.
- Be aware especially on grazings that livestock are likely to be found all year.
- Remove and dispose of dog waste responsibly.

Leave no trace

- Carry out what you carry in.
- Refrain from lighting campfires.
- Extinguish and dispose of cigarette ends responsibly.

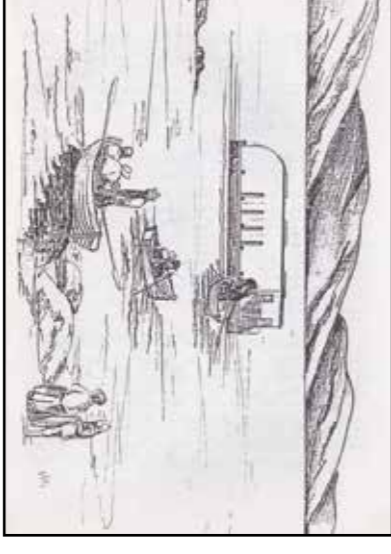
The area is covered on OS Explorer Map 391.

Paths Around SUNART



Leaflet Number 1
STRONTIAN

The Strontian Floating Church was one of the most extraordinary vessels ever built in Scotland! When The Free Church broke from The Church of Scotland in 1843, the community in Sunart asked the landowner for a piece of land on which they could build a new place of worship. He refused. Somehow this isolated community raised a remarkable £1,400, to have a Floating Church constructed at a shipyard in Glasgow. It was launched in 1846 and towed all the way to Loch Sunart where it was moored in Ardnastang Bay.



The Strontian Floating Church

In 1790 the isolation of Strontium from the local mineral Strontianite resulted in some renewed activity and the name of the village being recognised worldwide. After the Napoleonic wars the productivity of the mines steadily declined until their closure in 1871. The mines were reopened for a few years in the 1980s for extraction of barytes, for use in the oil industry.

In 1722 the estate of Sunart and Ardnamurchan was purchased by Sir Alexander Murray, who opened the lead mines of Strontian in 1723. During the peak period of activity, over 500 men were employed in the mines. After Sir James Riddell bought the estate in 1767 the mines were only exploited intermittently.

Sron an t-Sithein (the nose or point of the fairies), lies at the head of Loch Sunart and is the 'Gateway to Ardnamurchan'.



Some worshippers walked miles and then either crossed by rowing boat or from the stone jetty, pulling themselves out in small boats on long ropes stretched between the church and the shore. They went to remarkable efforts for their faith.

Years later in a great storm the church broke from her anchors. It was blown ashore and settled between high and low tide, and as this is designated as 'no man's land' the unapproving laird could not intervene. Here it was used for some years as a church and a school until finally the laird permitted a plot of land to be used to build a stone church on.

Strontian Now

Strontian has a village centre with shop, post office, café, primary and high schools.

The village extends along the crofting townships of Anarheil, Scotstown and Ardnastang. Some crofts are still worked and sell their locally-reared or grown produce.

The Sunart community is a vibrant one with an active community council and community company, Sunart Community Renewables built a hydro scheme in 2015 which provides funding to support community projects. In 2018, Strontian Community School Building Ltd built the first community-owned primary school in Scotland. We have working groups who voluntarily help with a range of local projects for the benefit of those who live, work and visit Sunart. These include the Sunart Paths Network, who work to improve and promote our local paths.

Please visit our website for more information on local paths, the work of the Sunart Paths Network, and the other work of the Sunart Community Company www.sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk

We hope you enjoy your visit!



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The Sunart Community Company
'Keeping Sunart a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit'

The Sunart Paths Network would like to thank the following for funding and support in the creation of this leaflet

