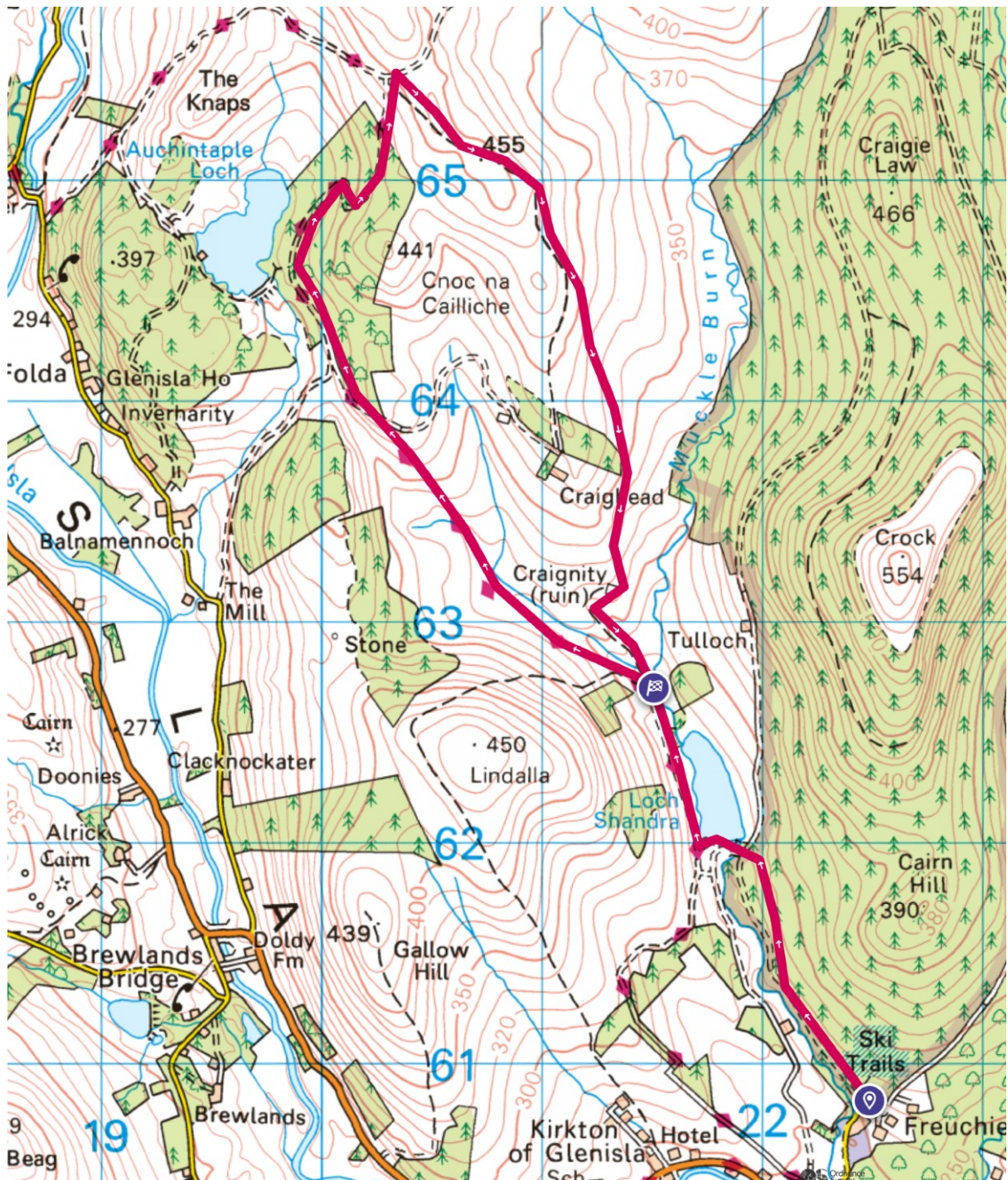


19th June 2023

“Skirt the Lochs” Glenisla

8 members met at Broxden P & R for 08:30 and then drove in 2 cars to Freuchies woodland car park in Glenisla. The entrance for the car park is easy to miss but finally we were ready to start at 09:50. The chosen route had come from an The Courier, “Skirt the Lochs” and turned out to be a very pleasant circular walk taking in two fishing lochs en route. The weather forecast had predicted spells of heavy rain, wind and potential thunderstorms following the recent hot spell and hence our choice of a lower than usual level walk. The start goes north from the car park following the Cateran Trail through woodland and eventually reaching Loch Shandra. Crossing the grassed low dam wall, the track turns right and continues north eventually leaving the loch and climbing gently into open moorland. We took a coffee break on reaching Auchintaple Loch. The southern edge of this loch sits within a forest plantation. Leaving the Cateran trail, we found our way through the woodland and across the dam and following the track NW and finally rejoining the Cateran trail East of Little Forter. Leaving the Cateran trail again, we continue to climb gently heading across the pathless moorland to a small flat top at 465m. During the descent southwards we were able to view two ruined farm dwellings at Craighead and Craignity before rejoining the Cateran trail for the final time and retraced our steps back to the car park around 3pm. In the end, we were lucky with the weather and only had to contend with two short spells of light rain.

Refreshments were enjoyed at Peel Farm which was up to its usual high standard.



Distance about 14 km (8 miles) Highest point 464m, ascent 263m



On route to the first Loch – Loch Shandra



Loch Shandra



On the main path next to Loch Shandra



Passing the second Loch – Loch Auchintaple



On the Cateran Trail



At the highest point



Dropping down back towards Loch Shandra



Lunch Time



Reaching the ruins at Craighead



Craighead



A last look at loch Shandra before reaching the car park.