

JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

FOR
wild LAND &
wild PLACES



PHOTOGRAPH: KEITH BERANE

A guide to East Schiehallion (Sith Chailleann)

A John Muir Trust property
www.johnmuirtrust.org



The heather-dominated heathland on the lower slopes is interspersed with bracken, bog and small areas of herb-rich grassland.

INTRODUCING EAST SCHIEHALLION

A distinctive summit with stunning views surrounded by diverse habitats

East Schiehallion covers an area of 871 hectares (2,153 acres), which includes the eastern part of Schiehallion as well as the quieter and wilder Gleann Mòr to the south. It forms part of the designated Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area and Schiehallion Site of Special Scientific Interest.

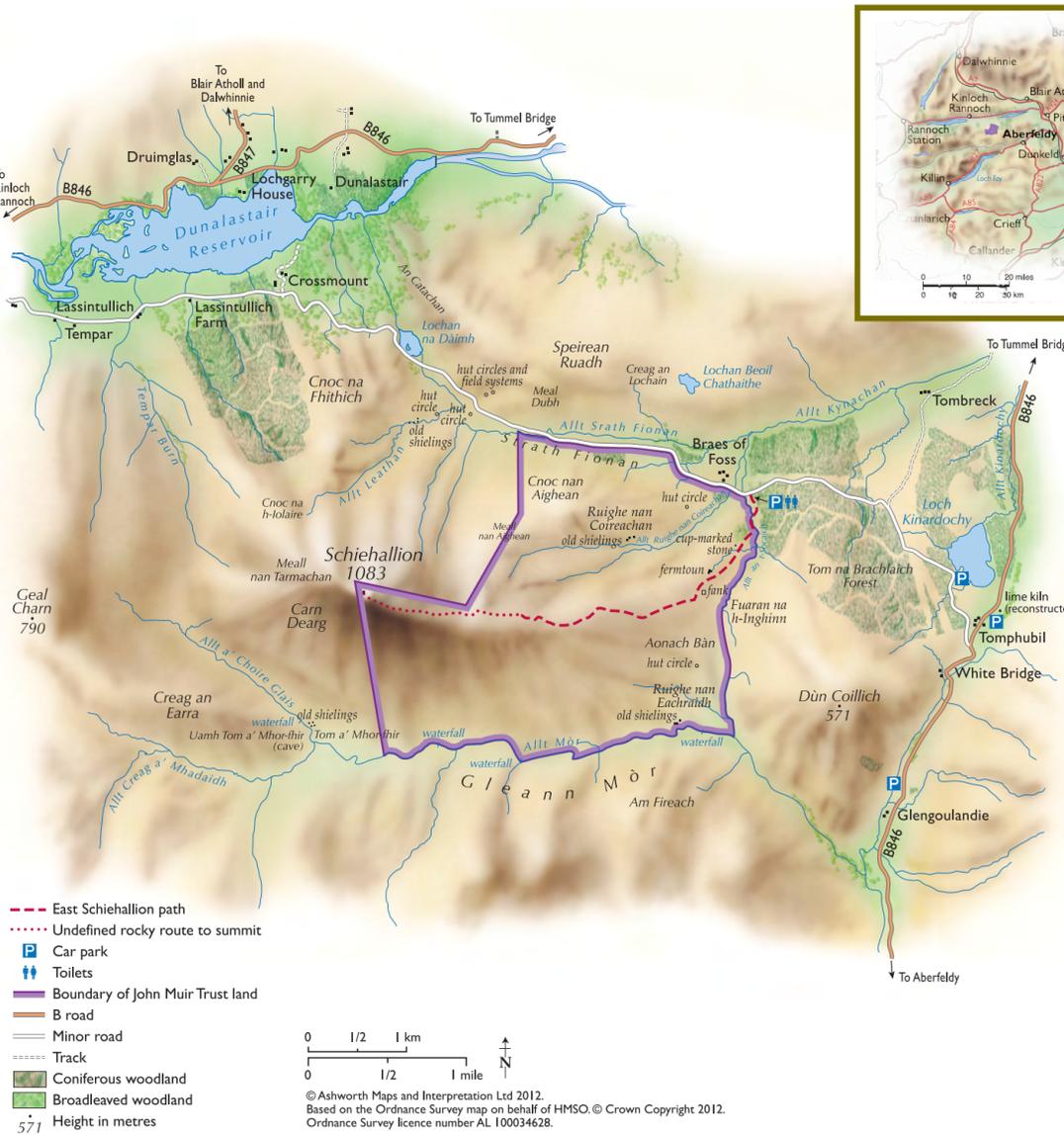
At 1,083 metres (3,547 feet), Schiehallion is one of Highland Perthshire's most popular Munros. In Gaelic, Sith Chailleann means 'Fairy Hill of the Caledonians'. This symmetrical mountain with its long east-west axis, and widely visible summit, is one of Scotland's most iconic hills and offers extensive views of Loch Rannoch, the wilds of the Moor of Rannoch and the hills of the central Highlands as far as Glencoe.

Schiehallion is home to red deer, hares, many different birds (including black grouse) and a wide range of habitats (including woodland) supporting all sorts of wild flowers and wildlife. It also has a unique place in scientific history as the setting for an 18th Century experiment in 'weighing the world'.

East Schiehallion borders Dùn Coilich, a community woodland trust that's currently planting native trees on a former deer farm; the Forestry Commission, which owns and manages the Braes of Foss car park and its facilities; and a number of estates, including Kynachan estate with whom the Trust works closely.

EAST SCHIEHALLION: A WILD PLACE

- Is home to red deer, hares, and many different birds such as black grouse, the ptarmigan and ring ouzel.
- Has a unique place in scientific history as the setting for Rev Neville Maskelyne's 18th Century experiment in 'weighing the world'.
- Is known in Gaelic as Sith Chailleann, meaning 'Fairy Hill of the Caledonians'.
- Is where Charles Hutton first developed the concept of contour lines to aid Maskelyne's calculations.
- Was lived on and cultivated from more than 3,000 years ago until around 200 years ago.



PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE GARVIE



PHOTOGRAPH: JÜRGEN HEMPEL

Hardy species like black grouse and purple saxifrage benefit from the Trust's management of Schiehallion.

EXPLORING EAST SCHIEHALLION

There are no way markers on the hill. The built path from the car park offers dramatic views and goes as far as the rocky summit ridge. From there, the path disappears and it's a walk across rocks and boulders to reach the summit.

An alternative to climbing the mountain is to head south into Gleann Mòr – a quiet, open glen on the sunny side of the hill with a wooded gorge and grassy areas.

The map on this leaflet is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended for navigation.

MANAGING THE LAND

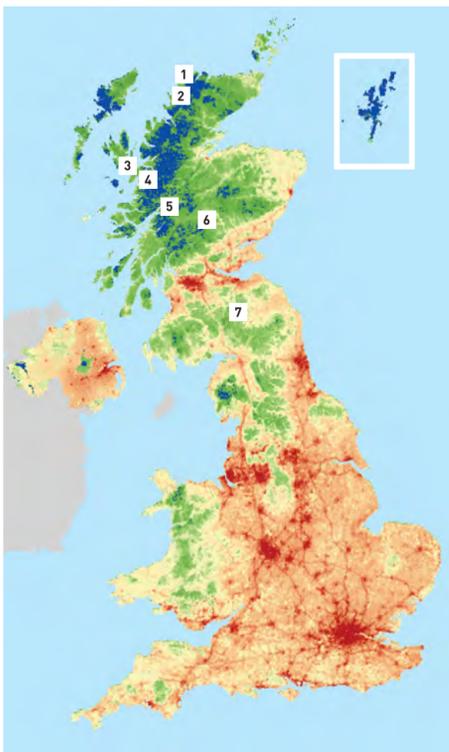
We work to improve important upland habitats at Schiehallion

The John Muir Trust works to improve important upland habitats at Schiehallion – including heather moorland and bog – which are home to threatened species such as black grouse. We're also encouraging natural regeneration of native woodland by controlling deer and sheep numbers. Deer are an essential part of the ecosystem but high populations of deer have a negative impact on habitats through overgrazing and trampling.



When the Trust took ownership of Schiehallion in 1998, the main path to the summit from the Braes of Foss car park had become an ugly scar on the hill (extremely muddy and up to 90 feet wide in sections). Over a five-year period, the Trust set out to realign the main path up the hill onto a more sustainable line. The new path was built using locally sourced materials and offers dramatic views. The Trust has since embarked on a programme to heal the damage caused by the old path, and the scar is much less noticeable.

LEFT: A classic view of the 'fairy hill of the Caledonians', Schiehallion from the west. BELOW: Trust staff and volunteers repair the built section of the path.



OUR PROPERTIES:

- 1 SANDWOOD
- 2 QUINAG
- 3 SCONSER, STRATHAIRD AND TORRIN ON SKYE
- 4 LI AND COIRE DHORRAICAIL, KNOYDART
- 5 BEN NEVIS
- 6 EAST SCHIEHALLION
- 7 GLENLUDE

WILD LAND QUALITY INDEX

- TOP 10% WILDEST LAND
- HIGH
- LOW

DO SOMETHING
FOR WILDNESS
AND MAKE THE
MOUNTAINS
GLAD.

JOHN MUIR, 1901

JOHN MUIR TRUST PROPERTIES

Protecting and enhancing our wild land for generations to come

The John Muir Trust is the leading wild land conservation charity in the UK. We love wild places and are dedicated to protecting and improving them for people and wildlife. Over 10,000 members support us in our work.

If you care about the natural world,
please join us

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