

Directions for a 3 mile walk around Sandaig (Camusfearna)

by Mike Clark

Take a pilgrimage to the former home of writer Gavin Maxwell and the otters featured in his autobiographical writings and immortalised in the film Ring of Bright Water. Before moving to Eilean Bàn, he lived in delightful Camusfearna, an isolated lighthouse keeper's cottage overlooking the Sound of Sleat and Skye's Cuillin hills.

The cottage was destroyed by a fire, but you can see the rowan tree that guarded it and explore the coastline. Nearby is a memorial to Edal the otter, who died in the fire.

THE WALK

1) Start

Park at the road side (see the map below). A forest track on the right marks the start of the walk.

2) 0.5m / 0.8km

Follow the track straight on (Big Sandaig Burn) right onto a path following the burn sharply downhill towards the Sound of Sleat.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

There are some great views of the Sound of Sleat and Skye beyond.



3) 1m / 1.6km

The path emerges from the forest and crosses the burn. It then follows the burn towards the Sound of Sleat.

4) 1.5m / 2.4km

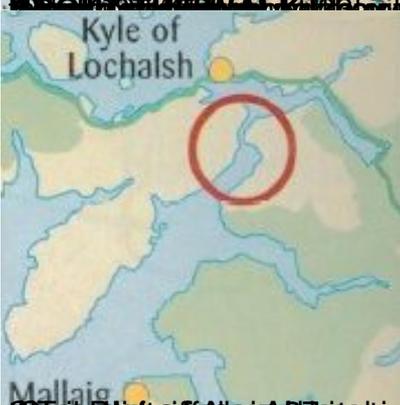
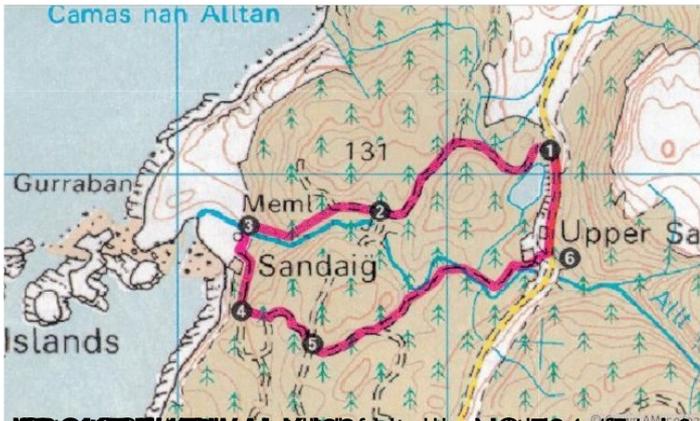
Explore the Sound of Sleat. You can pick up the remains of the heads for Maxwell's book. Keep an eye out for otters.

5) 2m / 3.2km

Where the track bears sharp left, you have two options. For an easier return, stay on the forest track, crossing the burn.

6) 2.5m / 4km

Turn left up the road from the path back to the start.



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