



Locks, lighthouses... and a dark goddess? *Lochan, taigh-solais... agus ban-dia dhorcha?*

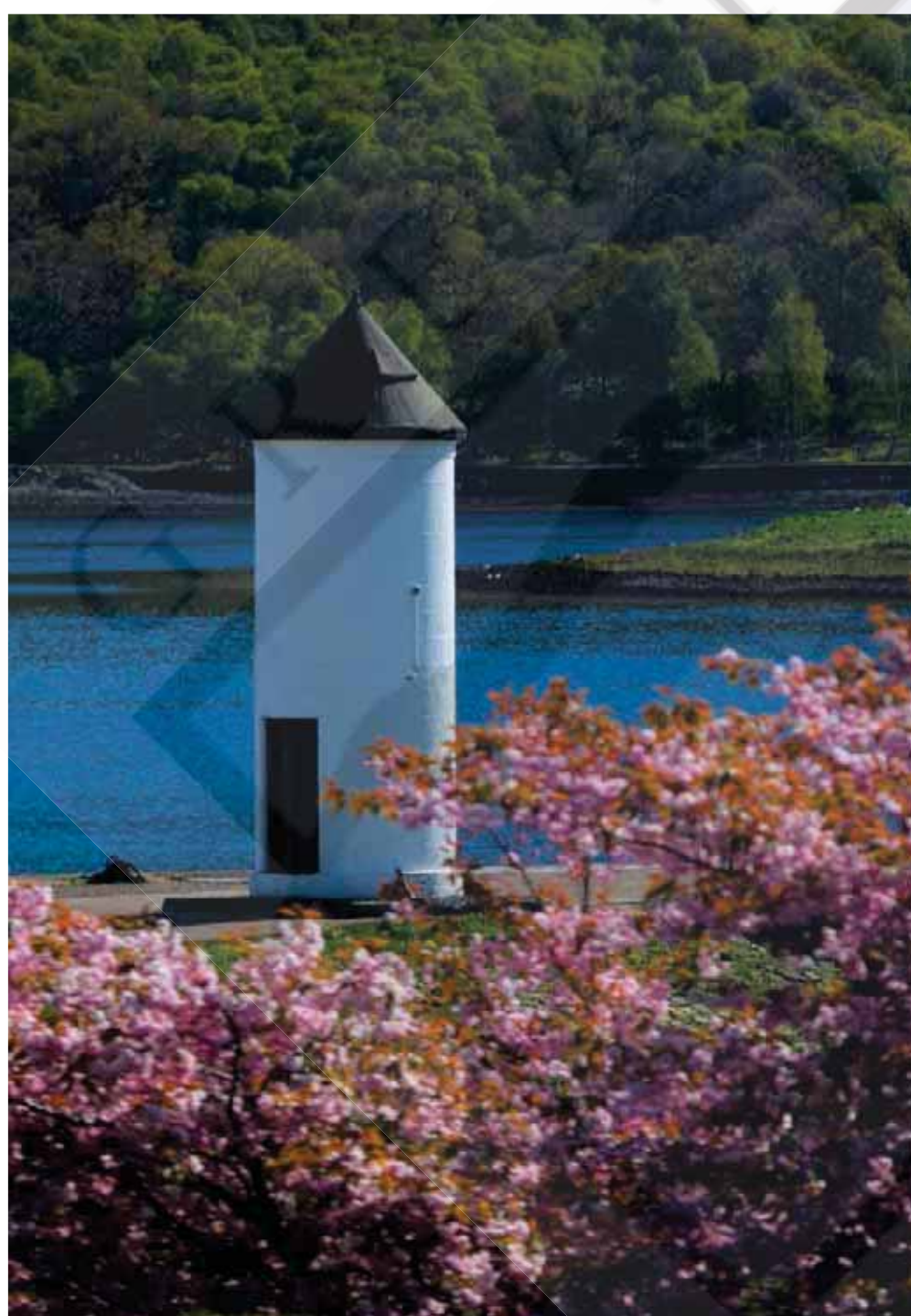
Pronounced: Lochan, tysolish... agus bandeea ghorocha

The locks at Gairlochy allow boats to pass between Loch Lochy and the canal.

A little “pepper-pot” lighthouse *taigh-solais air chumadh “poit phiobair”*, which guides boats entering or leaving this stretch of the canal, is located just a short walk from here. Please see map for details.

Gairlochy originally had only one lock, which was built during 1811-12: a massive job which involved cutting down into solid rock. The lock-keeper’s house, nearby, dates from this time. The bay-windowed upper room was known as “Telford’s Room” because Thomas Telford, the civil engineer who designed the canal and oversaw its construction, stayed in it when he came to inspect the workmen’s progress.

A second lock (the upper lock) was added in 1844 after floods three feet higher than the original lock submerged the farmland around Loch Lochy. The upper lock is the only lock on the canal which does not date from the original construction of the canal.



A “pepper-pot” lighthouse



Distance on foot to:

- Spean Bridge**
Drochaid an Aonachain 6 km/4 miles
- Banavie (Neptune’s Staircase)**
Bainbhidh (Staidhre Neptune) 11 km/7 miles
(follow towpath)
- Western Terminus of GGW**
Ceann an Iar Slighe a’ Ghlinne
Mhòir 17.5 km/11 miles
- Laggan Locks** Glasan Lagain 19 km/12 miles
- Fort Augustus Cille Chuimein** 37 km/23 miles
(follow towpath)

Did you know...?

Loch Lochy is said to mean “Loch of the Dark Goddess” – *loch na ban-dia dhorcha*. Gairlochy comes from the Gaelic *Geàrr Lòchaidh* – Lochy Gorge.