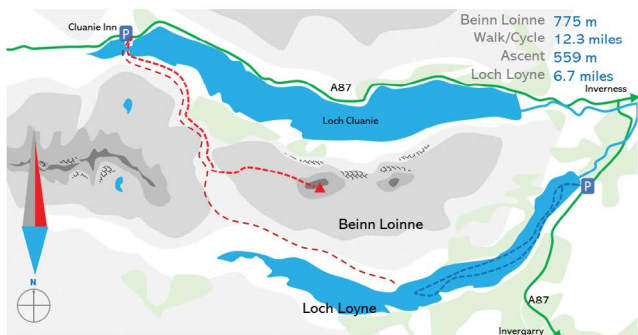


## Bienn Loinne + Loch Loyne



*The bike ride out from Ben Loinne.*

*Today I started in the dark and now I have finished in the dark, and I am beat.*

The fuel crisis is over; now we just have to worry about the turkeys for Christmas. I have a weekend opportunity to finish the remaining two Foxys, Loyne and Fannich.

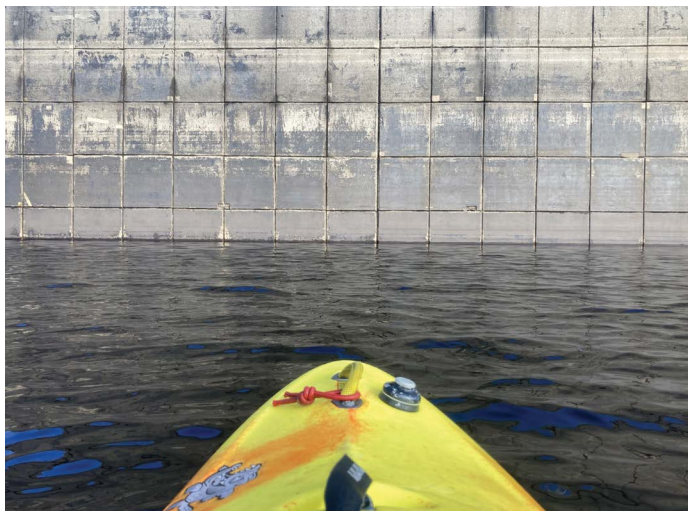
Despite all the motorway closures, traffic jams and delays that the road network throws at me, I reach Cluanie Inn by midnight. I set the alarm for 6am but it's dark when I awake and I'm not rushing to get out of my pit. I am, however, on my bike by 7.15am and start the climb up the track to the bealach between Beinn Loinne and Creag a' Mhàim. This was apparently a motorable road before the Loyne dam submerged it.

There is no discernible route through the bog from the bealach and I opt to make for the high ground just to the north as soon as I can. The weather is clear although a little overcast but there are views of Ben Nevis to the south. Just over two hours after starting I am at the cylindrical trig point of the high summit of Ben Loinne. There is a second summit ahead and given more time and a longer day I would have trekked to this but I have a lot to cover today. I descend as fast as can back to the track and once I am on this it is a speedy descent back to the car.

The weather improves as I drive around to the south of the mountain and park up by the Loyne Dam. I take the kayak onto the loch and paddle up far enough to see the peaks at the far end of the loch.

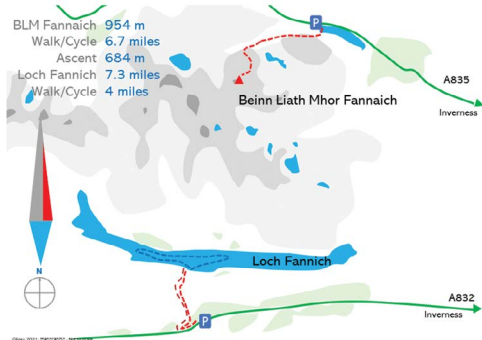


*On Loch Loyne.*



*The dam wall on Loch Loyne.*

## Beinn Liath Mhor Fannaich + Loch Fannich



After a late lunch I start the 70 mile drive north to the south of the Fannichs.

There is a locked gate that precedes a track up to the loch. I have parked a little way down the road and have cycled up to the gate; having just lifted my bike over the fence, over which I am about to climb, I am met by a descending 4x4. I hide my embarrassment but the driver is genial and appears unconcerned; we have a chat about how their day has been and it is just after 4pm when I start the cycle up.

It's just over 3 miles to the loch and with the occasional push I am there within the hour with clear views of the Fannich ridges ahead. The loch is smooth, which always bodes well for packrafting, and I take to the lake and cross to the other side. These high lochs have a calmness and seclusion about them; the only habitation here is Fannich Lodge



*The cycle in to Loch Fannich.*

on the far side. By the time I am off the water and have repacked the raft the light is failing and, despite a fast descent, I have switched to full beam on my bike lights and I arrive back at the car in the dark. I drive north and park up at the Silver Bridge parking area.

Today I started in the dark and now I have finished in the dark and I am beat. I have shovelled a bowl of tinned chicken tikka masala combined with microwave wave rice and heated over the stove