



Stage Four : Rhubodach to Port Bannatyne (5 miles, 8.5km)

Route Notes:

- The starting point for Stage 4 is from the Car Park and Bus Stop beside the Rhubodach Ferry slipway.
- If you have already walked to Rhubodach via the Balnakailly Village Loop, you will now be setting off on unexplored territory. If you chose to complete Stage 3 by the forestry track route, you will now retrace your steps for a short while.
- Begin by heading south on the grass verge of the A886 roadway. Soon you will pass the road-end of Rhubodach Farm. Just a little further ahead you will see Rhubodach Cottage.
- Turn right to go up the track beside the cottage. There is a stile to use if the second gate is locked.
- Continue up this forestry track. Pass some forestry buildings and equipment on your left and then arrive at a junction. Take the path leading to the left – if you turn right it will take you back to Stage 3.
- Continue along the forestry track for over a mile until you reach a turning circle at the end. Look right to cross a wooden bridge that leads you up to a shady path through the rest of Shalunt Wood.
- Soon you will emerge into bright daylight. Look for the finger post and stile that will lead you onto the open moorland.
- Now walking mostly uphill, your route will skirt around the summit of Windy Hill. It then falls and rises as you pass near the summit of Kames Hill, finally reaching the summit of Edinbeg Hill.
- Enjoy the fantastic view from Edinbeg Hill over Kames Bay and Port Bannatyne below, and the Cowal peninsula and the Firth of Clyde beyond.
- The hardest work is all behind you now – the route is now all downhill to Port Bannatyne.
- Follow the visible path down in almost a straight line (keeping the distant Hilton Farm and track over to your right).
- Cross a stile and then bear right onto a path (watching carefully for the waymarkers) that will lead you around a large area of gorse bushes. Then cross some open ground and reach a wooden gate.
- The gate leads to the Hilton farm track. Turn left and walk down this pleasant track to emerge at Kames Bay.
- Walk round the shore pavement and into Port Bannatyne – **you are now at the end of Stage 4 and have completed Bute's 'West Island Way'!**