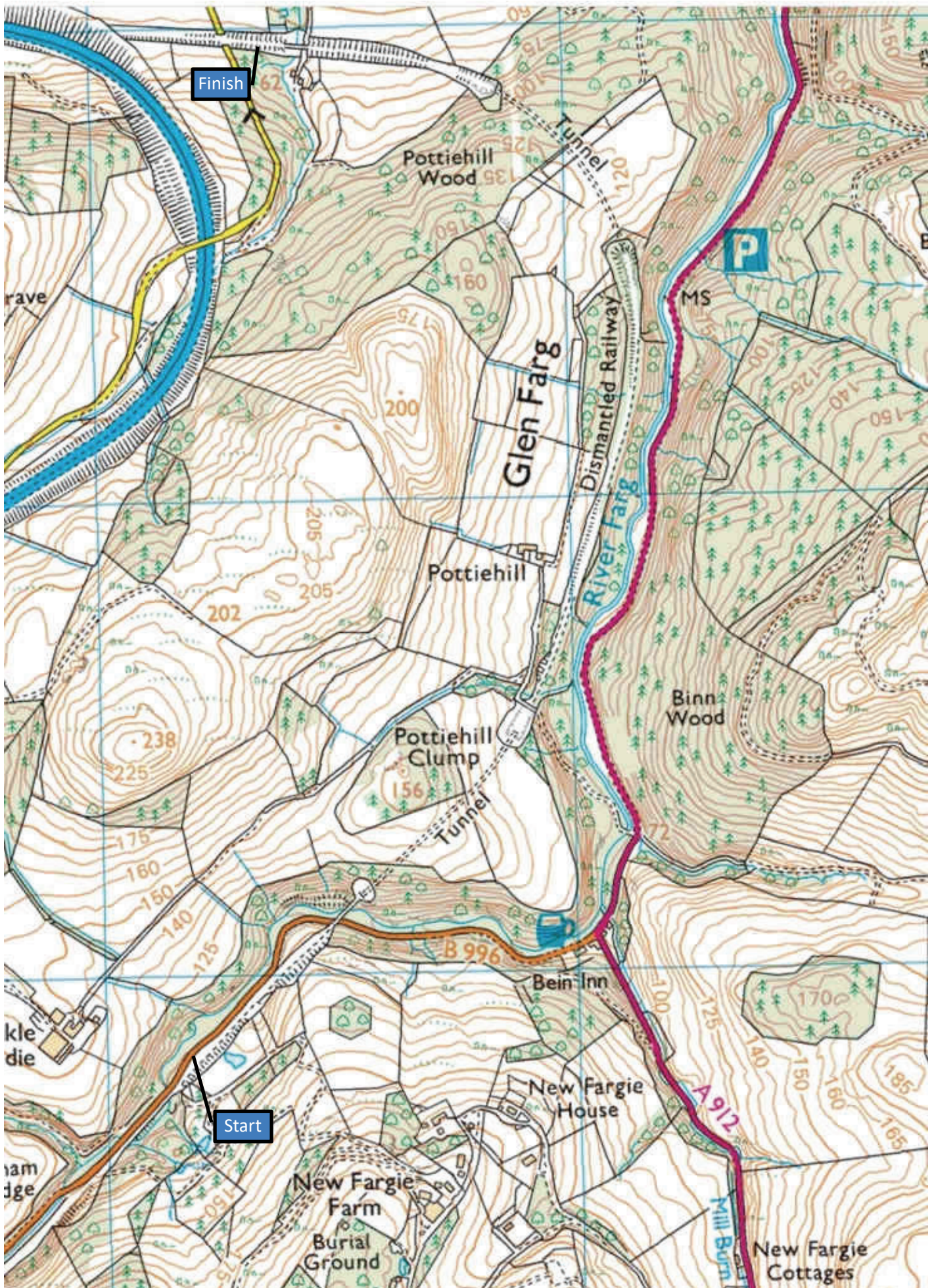


Glenfarg Railway Tunnels

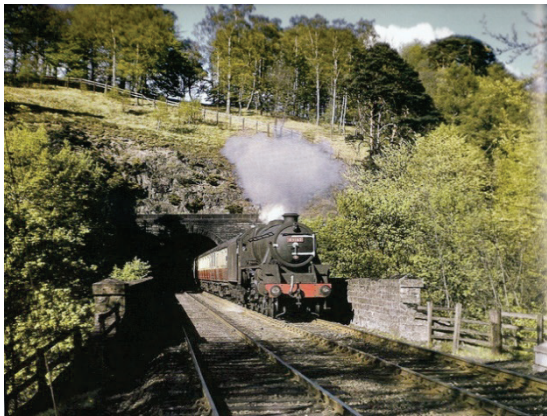


There are two tunnels: the southern and the northern tunnels. It is possible to walk through starting at GR 143118 and finishing at GR 154149. The southern tunnel is 480 metres long and consist of two straights with a bend about 2/3 of the distance from south to north. Because of this it is possible to walk it without a torch as you can always see one end. The northern tunnel is 460 metres long and is a continuous curve and is therefore more difficult, but not impossible, to walk without the aid of a torch. Distance from the start to the southern tunnel is 570 metres and between the two tunnels is 450 metres. From the end of the last tunnel to the Wicks of Baglie road is 420 metres making a total walk of 4.8 km round trip.

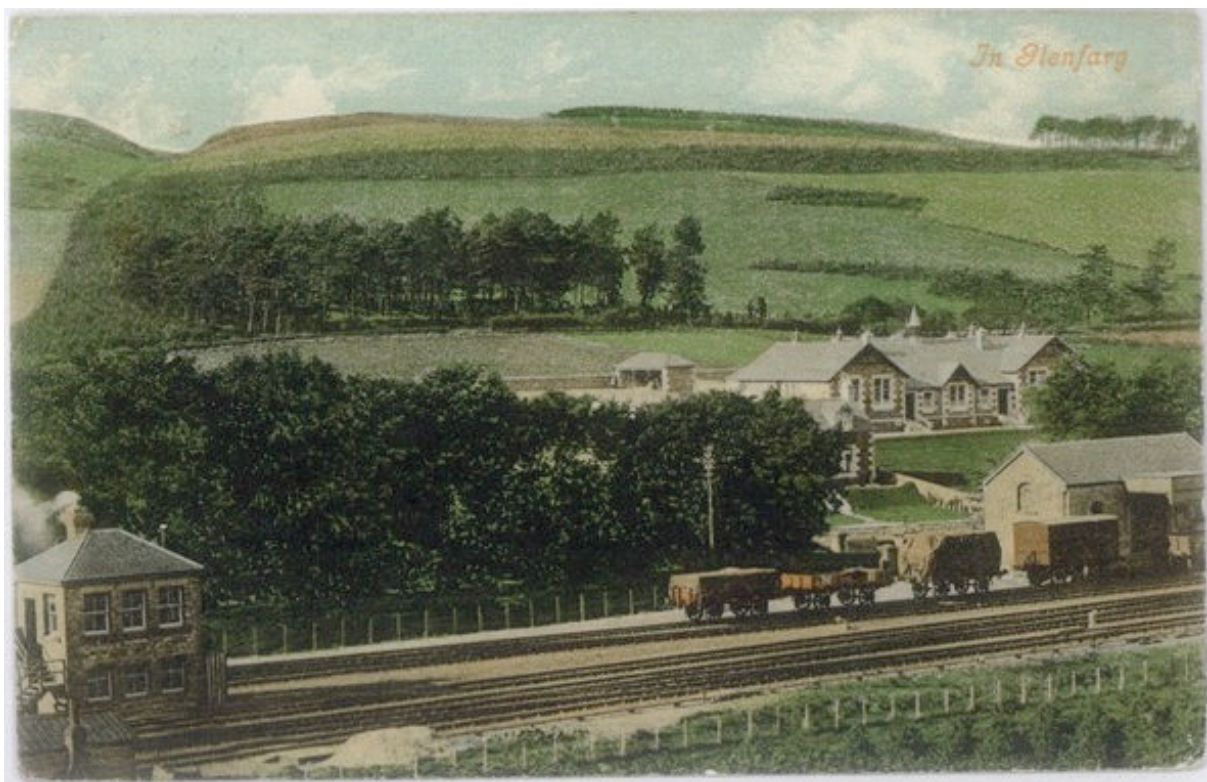
From the start to the southern tunnel and between the two tunnels the walk is comparatively closed-in by cuttings and trees. It is better when the trees are not in leaf so one can appreciate the River Farg running far below. The walk after the end of the northern tunnel is a much more open aspect with glorious views over Strathearn to Moncrieff Hill.

The railway line was opened in 1890 along with the completion of the Forth Bridge giving a direct rail link from Edinburgh to Perth. The summit of the line was Glenfarg and the stretch from Glenfarg had a constant gradient down to Bridge of Earn of 1:74. This is about half the steepest gradient found on a main line.

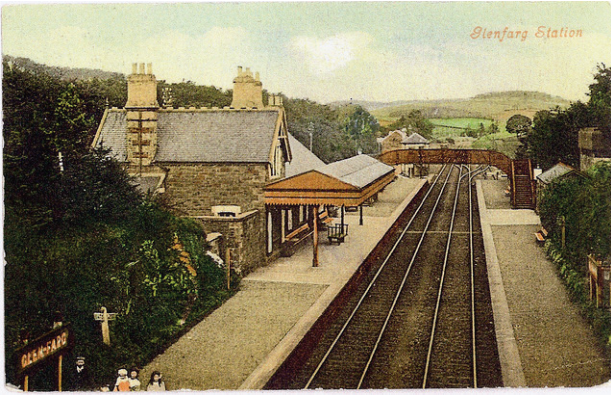
It survived the Beeching cuts of 1966 but was closed in 1970 to allow its bed to be used as part of the M90 motorway route. From 1977 to 1980 the motorway finished just before Glenhead Cottage, now called "House of the Bell Falcon". The final stretch to link with the Friarton Bridge opening in 1980.



Out of the southern portal and over the viaduct



The Goods Yard and Arngask Primary School



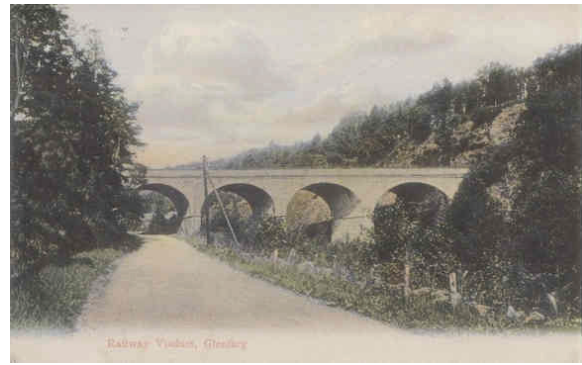
Glenfarg Station



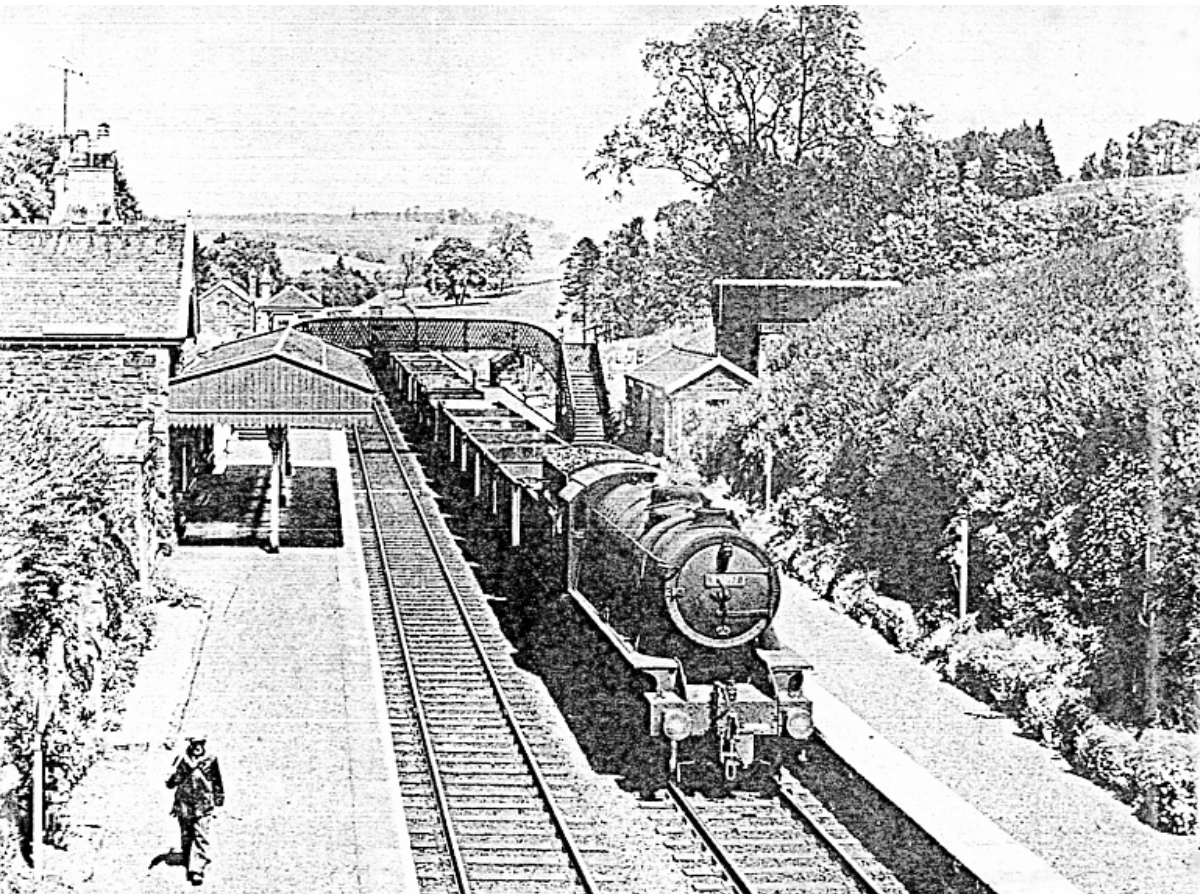
The northern viaduct being built



Glenfarg Station



The Glen viaduct



The last steam train in Glenfarg Station

The Road

The road running by, now the B996 and the A912, was the scene of the death of the local Minister during World War 2. Rev. Jack had walked down to Dron to discuss with the Dron Minister the drinking habits of the Arngask School Mistress who was known to take a sherry! On the way back, at night in his dark clothing and in the blackout, he was hit by a lorry running on restricted lights and killed. The stained glass window in the Arngask Church was erected in his memory.



From the Annals of Arngask

“In the Log-book of Arngask School

July 11, 1890 - On the invitation of Mrs. Kirkland of Fordel, and with the permission of the School Board, the scholars from the second standard upwards and the teachers, paid a visit this day to the Edinburgh Exhibition by the new railway. All were most handsomely entertained by Mrs. Kirkland, who, with Miss Kirkland. Senr., Miss Sybil Kirkland, Miss Barlett, Miss Corbett of Arngask, and Mrs. Riddell Webster of Duncricvie, accompanied the party, both going and returning, and throughout the day.”

The name of Glenfarg changed from Damhead to Glenfarg with the opening of the railway line. It is said in the Riddell-Webster family that the name was changed at the behest of Mrs. Riddell-Webster as she didn't like living near a place with such an industrial sounding name as “Damhead”.

From Stuart Smith (Glenfarg resident for 80 years)

Railway lines used to be tested manually on a schedule. Testing consisted of a man walking along by the rail hitting it with a hammer and hearing it ring, and testing the nuts on the joins. The line tester walked through the tunnel one day and came across a dead tramp with both his legs missing. He had obviously been asleep with his legs on the line when the night train came through.

From a 1920s (?) tourist guide:

“Another road from Milnathort is that which passes through the beautiful pass of Glen Farg. A tributary of the Earn, the Farg rises among the Ochil Hills, 800 feet above sea level. It is a good trouting stream, and the deep, narrow, wooded glen which it traverses has given delight to many visitors. The L.N.E.R. route between Edinburgh and Perth runs through the glen. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert drove down the glen in 1842, and the Queen's verdict was, " it is really lovely." On emerging from the glen at the north end the traveller finds the Tay valley spread out in front of him. Perth may be reached by way of Bridge of Earn. Turning to the east Abernethy with its ancient Round Tower may be visited.”

We have been told that Queen Victoria came through to look at Fordel when she was looking to buy a highland home. She ended up with Balmoral.

GLENFARG HOTEL



Glenfarg Hotel. This is a First-Class Family and Tourist Hotel, situated on the Great North Road between Edinburgh and Perth, at the top of the famous "Glen," 500 feet above sea level. Ideal health resort. Golf. Motoring. Tennis. Electric Light. Garage. 'Phone No. 5. **Apply Manager**

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