

6. Little Assynt Estate

Leitir Easaidh All-Abilities Path (2.7km there and back)
(additional option: path linking to the Loch an t-Sabhail path)

A Path for all abilities

A super quality, newly built path suitable for everyone including prams and wheelchairs was completed in 2005. It enables visitors of all ability to enjoy the Assynt landscape as it winds its way past two beautiful lochs to reach a viewpoint of the surrounding Assynt landscape with super picnic opportunities along the way. The award winning path has two jetties, compost toilets, shelters from the rain and a specially adapted boat for disabled anglers.

And if you want to make your walk longer you can now leave the Leitir Easaidh path at the view point and carry on westwards and this will link you with the Loch an t-Sabhail path. It will take you back to the main road at the Little Assynt Field car park where you can retrace your route back to start.

There is a good car park at the start of the Leitir Easaidh walk. It is on the A837 Lochinver to Ullapool road, 10km from Lochinver at the western end of Loch Assynt.

Little Assynt has been a community owned estate since November 2000. The estate is over 2,900 acres and most of it is planted with native trees. As you walk round listen for the haunting call of the black-throated divers and keep scanning the magnificent skyline of Quinag for soaring golden eagles. Although we hope you will not see any deer within the tree planting area, otters are known to frequent the loch and the many ditches in Little Assynt are still a stronghold for the water vole.

The Loch an t-Sabhail path (4.5km round trip)

This circular path was completed in 2010 and starts at the Assynt field car park which is on the A837, 8km out of Lochinver. This path has a good surface all the way round. It was built by local trainees from Culag Enterprises. There are several viewpoints with spectacular views in all directions and a picnic table and shelter half way round.

The path will take you past the deserted township of Loch Beannach near to Loch an t-Sabhail (loch of the barn). The ruined township dates around 1774 and includes several structures which are the remains of the small tenants' houses. The low footings or foundations are all that is left of their stone and turf walls. The ruins of a small horizontal mill lie on the side of the burn running out of Loch an t-Sabhail which was dammed to provide a good supply of water.

There is a path linking both Leitir Easaidh path and the Loch an t-Sabhail path.

