



# CENTRAL REGION

# THE TROSSACHS

**4,600 HECTARES**

## **EXTENT OF AREA**

The area extends from Ben Venue to the Menteith Hills and centres upon Loch Achray and the east end of Loch Katrine.

The limits of the area run with the boundary of the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park from Glen Finglas reservoir to the vicinity of Lochan-nan-Ni, whence they descend west-south-west to Glasahoile on the south shore of Loch Katrine. The Allt Glasahoile (eastern tributary) is followed to Creag Tharsuinn, skirting the western flank of Ben Venue (730m) where the Forest Park boundary is rejoined as far as Creag Innich. From there the limits assume the ridge over which the Duke's Pass crosses, and continue to Meall Ear and the summit ridge of the Menteith Hills which is followed to the shore of Loch Vennachar. From that loch the eastern boundary of the Forest Park is again followed, as far as Glen Finglas reservoir.

## **DESCRIPTION**

The highland scenery of the Trossachs is particularly striking in comparison with the adjacent lowland. The terrain is extremely broken and, although coniferous plantations cover many hillsides, there is a large amount of deciduous woodland, and broadleaved trees fringe most of the roads, rivers and lochs. A superb blend of mountain, wood and loch, seen at its best in rocky Ben Venue, overlooking the wooded shores of Loch Katrine with its islands, bays and promontories, the area is one of the most celebrated literary beauty spots in Britain, associated with Scott and Ruskin. In 1974 Fiona Leney wrote: 'Although the terrain is extremely broken, the tree cover and quiet water bring a gentleness to the rugged landscape. Compared with the adjacent lowlands, the area is wild and rugged, yet compared with the northern Highlands its small scale and dense tree cover reduce its grandeur, though contributing to variety and beauty. For many people the scenery . . . epitomises the landscape of Scotland.'

## **OTHER NATIONAL INTERESTS**

The Forestry Commission's Queen Elizabeth Forest Park (Achray Forest) covers a large part of this area, which also lies within the confines of the existing National Park Direction Area. There is a Site of Special Scientific Interest at Achray Forest.