

3 INVERURIE & BENNACHIE

The Garioch Area of Aberdeenshire council in the "Heart of Aberdeenshire" is best known for its rich archaeological heritage. There are many sites of interest which are very accessible. In contrast to the hills, woodlands and Iron and Stone Age sites, small villages sit quietly on the banks of the Rivers Don and Urie. Its proximity to Aberdeen makes it a popular place to live and also a very accessible place for Aberdonians for day visits. The Bennachie Range is the focal point of the area. Mither Tap is one of its many summits and includes the remains of an Iron Age fort.

Most of the cycle routes described in this leaflet have been designed to cater for all ages and abilities and where possible, off-road, family and commuter routes have been selected. Some routes require more effort than others.

The routes in this leaflet show distance, effort required and tourist attractions. Most routes use the quieter roads but may involve short stretches of main 'A' roads to continue the route. Great care should be taken at all times whilst cycling, particularly on these busy stretches of road. Please let large vehicles pass and remember you may encounter forestry operations off-road. Please keep well clear and observe signs and diversions for your safety.

We advise that you also take an O.S map with you. While the routes featured follow quiet roads and key features have been identified, an O.S map will guide you further in the area. LandRanger 1:50,000 Nos 29, 37, 38 and 43.

To plan any journeys using public transport visit www.travelinescotland.com or call 0871 200 22 33.

Area covered by this map



For information on the health benefits of cycling and safety advice please visit: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/cycling

If you require further copies of our cycling maps or would like to give any feedback please contact:

The Travel Planning Officer
Aberdeenshire Council
Infrastructure Services
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeenshire
AB16 5GB
Tel: 01224 664773
Email: transportation@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/transportation

Tourist information

For up-to-date information on Aberdeen City & Shire, contact the Visitor Information Centre in Aberdeen at:

23 Union Street
Aberdeen
AB11 5BP
Tel: 01224 288828
Email: aberdeen.information@visitscotland.com
www.aberdeen-grampian.com

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CYCLING ABERDEENSHIRE 1 2 3 4 5 6

3 INVERURIE & BENNACHIE








I

INSCH TO OYNE

(19 miles full circuit, 6 miles Inch/Picardy Stone, 4 miles Oyne)

Easy to Moderate




-  Featured route on-road
-  Start point indicating direction
-  Point of interest
-  Take care
-  Railway with station



Excellent family route with a number of options allowing you to explore the many ancient sites located around the Garioch area.

Start point: Insch town centre.

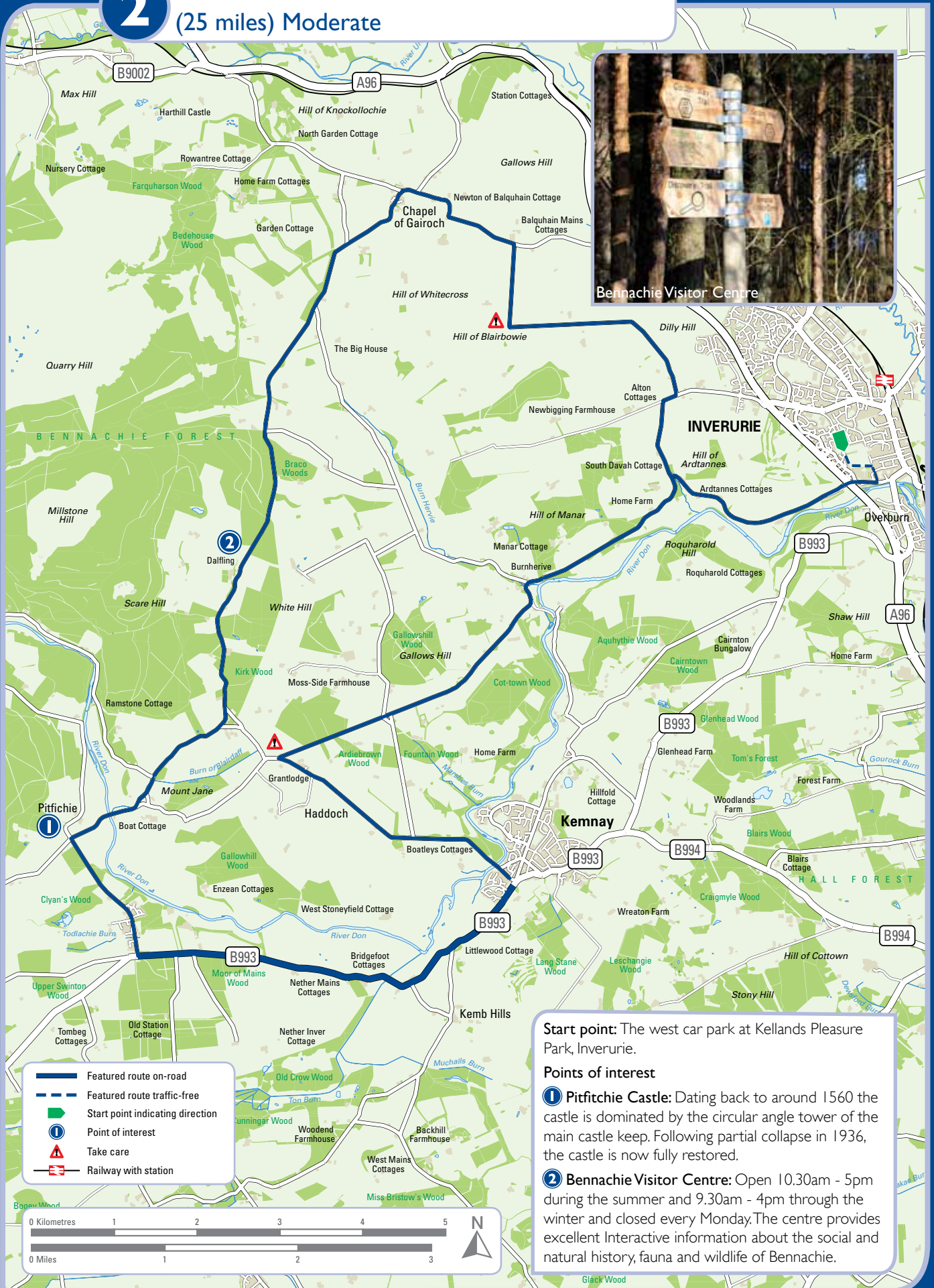
Points of interest

-  **Picardy Stone:** Thought to date from a period between the 4th and 9th centuries the stone is incised with the double disc and Z-rod, serpent and Z-rod and mirror symbols.

2

THE "GREAT INVERURIE BIKE RIDE"

(25 miles) Moderate



Bennachie Visitor Centre

Start point: The west car park at Kellands Pleasure Park, Inverurie.

Points of interest

① **Pitfichie Castle:** Dating back to around 1560 the castle is dominated by the circular angle tower of the main castle keep. Following partial collapse in 1936, the castle is now fully restored.

② **Bennachie Visitor Centre:** Open 10.30am - 5pm during the summer and 9.30am - 4pm through the winter and closed every Monday. The centre provides excellent Interactive information about the social and natural history, fauna and wildlife of Bennachie.

3

OLDMELDRUM TO OLD RAYNE

(26 miles) Easy to Moderate

A circular route linking the villages of Oldmeldrum and Old Rayne. Some uphill sections, mainly on quiet roads.

Start point: The Post Office, Oldmeldrum.

Points of interest

- 1 **Glen Garioch Distillery:** Established as early as 1794 and located within one of the finest barley growing areas of Scotland this is one of the oldest operating distilleries in Scotland.
- 2 **Loanhead of Daviot:** A large stone circle of 10 stones and recumbent set in a 19.5m diameter circle with cup marks present on the eastern flanking stone.



Loanhead of Daviot

4

WESTHILL – “THE DRUM CASTLE ROUND”

(20 miles) Easy to Moderate



Loch of Skene (Kayaking)

An ideal route close to Aberdeen. Within minutes you can enjoy the magnificent scenery of Aberdeenshire, views of Loch of Skene, the Grampians and Bennachie. Start point: Westhill shopping centre.

Points of interest

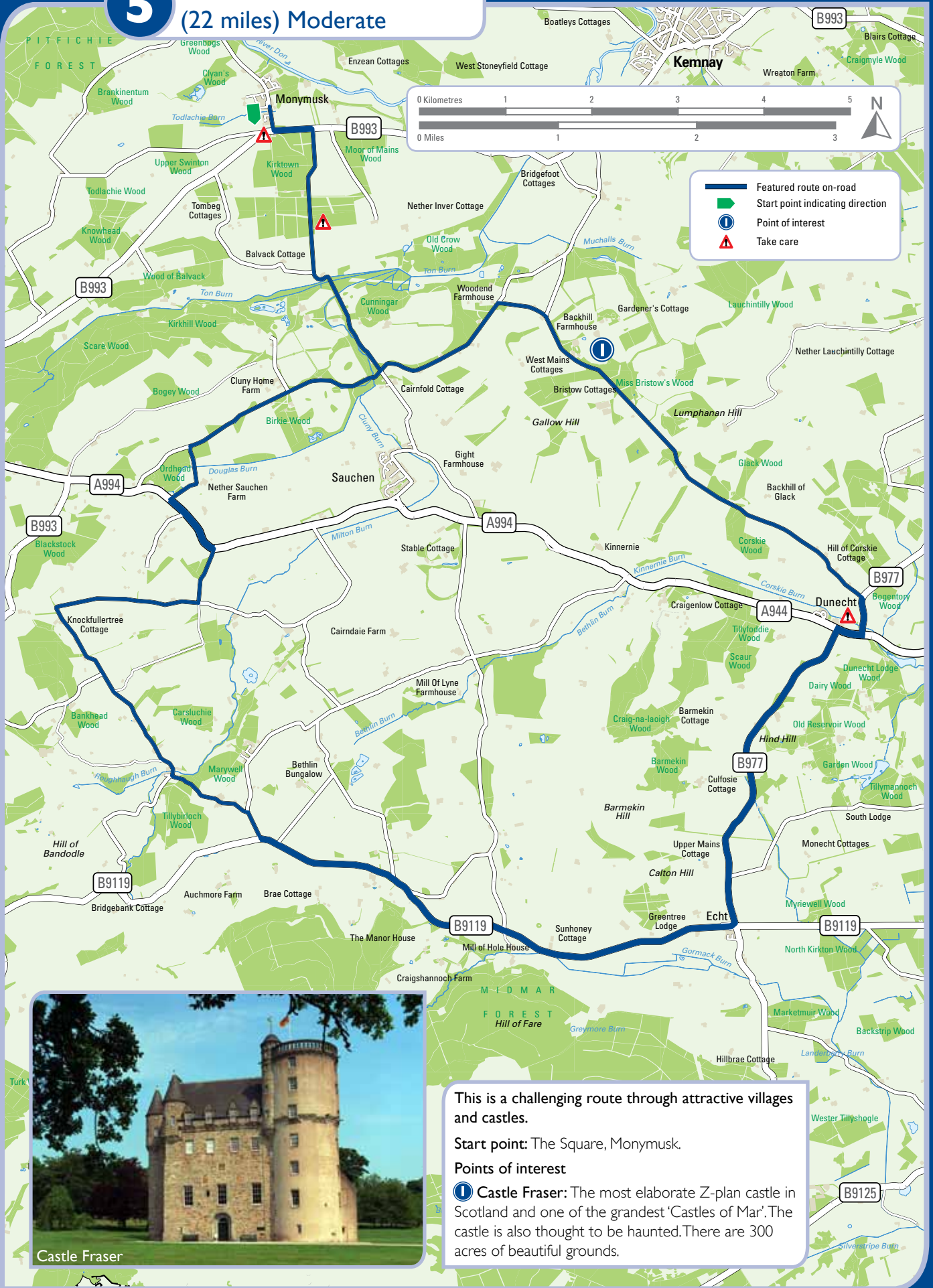
- ① **Loch of Skene:** An extensive, shallow loch home to a wide range of birds, especially geese in autumn and winter.
- ② **Drum Castle:** Cited as the oldest intact building in the care of the National Trust for Scotland, the Keep is one of the three oldest surviving tower houses in Scotland. Occupied from 1323, the castle was the home of the Irvine family for 650 years until 1975 when it became a trust property.

- Featured route on-road
- National Cycle Network route number
- Start point indicating direction
- Point of interest
- Take care

5

MIDMAR – DUNECHT

(22 miles) Moderate



This is a challenging route through attractive villages and castles.

Start point: The Square, Monymusk.

Points of interest

📍 **Castle Fraser:** The most elaborate Z-plan castle in Scotland and one of the grandest 'Castles of Mar'. The castle is also thought to be haunted. There are 300 acres of beautiful grounds.



Castle Fraser