

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Torphins Wood-Craigmyle Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

A very pleasant ramble in the Mid-Deeside countryside, characterised by rolling fertile farmland, with upland pine forests and heather hilltops in the middle distance. The route is clear and the ascents are gradual. There are wonderful views at numerous points on the walk.

Duration: 2.5 hours.



Route Overview

Duration: 2.75 hours.

Transport/Parking: The Stagecoach 202 service from Banchory stops at Torphins. Check Timetables. Free on and off street parking near the walk start/end point.

Length: 7.130 km / 4.46 mi

Height Gain: 132 meter. **Height Loss:** 132 meter.

Max Height: 176 meter. **Min Height:** 119 meter.

Surface: Moderate. More than half the route is on very quiet single-track tarred roads. Otherwise, the paths are good. Not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to a kissing gate at Waypoint 5 and a locked steel gate at Waypoint 12 (pedestrians can clamber through a gap in the gate).

Difficulty: Easy.

Child Friendly: Yes, if children are used to walks of this distance and overall ascent.

Dog Friendly: Yes, keep dogs on lead near to farm animals.

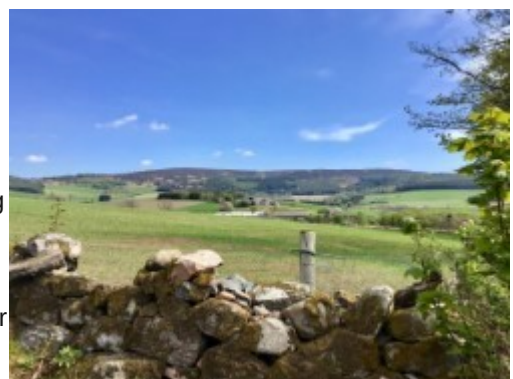
Refreshments: We can recommend Platform 22 Cafe. Also, the Learney Arms Indian Restaurant is open evenings.



Description

This is an enjoyable rural walk in the scenic countryside around Torphins, an attractive Deeside village. Although there is ample evidence that our Neolithic ancestors settled in this area, the village of Torphins essentially grew out of the arrival of the Deeside railway line in the 1850's, in support of the huge changes in agriculture, and the development of the rural weaving industry, before and after the mid 19th C. Much of the lower land in this area would have been mossy bog and marsh before that time. Our walking route is in the form of two loops. The first loop heads NW out of the village to follow a path around the perimeter of Torphins Wood and touching on a section of the golf course.

There are a variety of native trees in this delightful open woodland, and, if your luck is in, you may spot a red squirrel or a roe deer. Returning to the outskirts of the village, the second loop heads SW to circle the former policies of Craigmyle House. At first, the route ascends on quiet single track roads, through rolling farmland, before passing the site of Craigmyle House and descending through Crow Wood and Church Wood to the valley floor, before heading back to Torphins on a quiet road. Craigmyle House was built in 1676 by Alexander Farquharson of Monaltrie. It was extended in the early 20th C but, after lying empty for years, it was demolished in 1958. On this walk there are great views up to the Hill of Fare, to the distinctive tor of Clachnaben, and sweeping vistas over mid-Deeside in general. Thanks to the Torphins Paths Group for the idea for this route. For further walks around and about Torphins, see: <https://www.torphinspathsgroup.org/>



Waypoints

(1) Start the walk at The Square

(57.10558; -2.62231)

<https://w3w.co/tinkle.brotherly.sector> NJ6240501799

Start the walk from the Victoria Memorial at The Square in Torphins, beside The Learney Arms Hotel. With your back to the hotel, turn right and walk up The Square/St Marnan Road, in a NE direction, soon passing the Platform 22 cafe/shop, health centre, and war memorial on your right side.



(2) Left up Grampian Terrace

(57.10739; -2.62024) <https://w3w.co/guests.fall.owls>

In just over 200 m, cross the road and go left up Grampian Terrace for a very short distance. (257 m)



(3) Right up Auchmacoy Road

(57.10779; -2.62128) <https://w3w.co/defender.file.evoke>

In less than 100 m, turn right up Auchmacoy Road. (335 m)



(4) Through gate into Torphins Wood

(57.10932; -2.61991) <https://w3w.co/already.grad.mirror>

In 200 m, go through the pedestrian gate into Torphins Wood and follow the path veering slightly to your left, going gently uphill. Follow this path as it passes the golf course on your left. Keep following the path as it eventually turns right and downhill, initially still with the golf course on your left. (531 m)



(5) Turn right down minor road

(57.11404; -2.61950) <https://w3w.co/bookings.endings.figure>
After walking around the wood for 1.3 km, take the right fork to turn right onto a minor road heading gently downhill back in the direction of Torphins. (1.8 km)



(6) Straight ahead after crossing B993 road - then right along Woodside Road

(57.11000; -2.61677) <https://w3w.co/lifted.latitudes.question>
After walking down the tree-lined narrow road for 500 m, go straight ahead after crossing the B993 road - then right along Woodside Road*. (2.3 km)

**Note: soon after crossing the B933 road there is an option to take a path through the wood that runs roughly parallel with Woodside Road. If you take this trail you will emerge onto Monboddo Road. Turn left there and you will almost immediately arrive at Waypoint 7.*



(7) Left onto path and over bridge

(57.10722; -2.61713) <https://w3w.co/altering.masterpiece.oatmeal>
In 300 m, leave Woodside Road to go left onto a path heading over a bridge on the Learney Burn and gently uphill towards the gates to the old entrance drive to Craigmyle House. (2.6 km)



(8) Turn left up minor road at Craigmyle Lodge

(57.10701; -2.60966) <https://w3w.co/outfitter.journals.alleyway>
After 400 m, the path meets a minor road opposite the gates to the old entrance to Craigmyle House, by the lodge house. Turn left here to follow the quiet single track road as it heads uphill. (3.0 km)



(9) Right at y-junction

(57.11102; -2.60615) <https://w3w.co/overlaid.frantic.grumbles>
In 600 m you will arrive at a junction. Go right here. (3.6 km)



(10) Right at entrance to Craigmyle House

(57.10820; -2.59850) <https://w3w.co/long.outfitter.indulgent>
In 500 m, or so, at a sign for Craigmyle House*, veer right off the tarred road to walk up the access drive for a short distance. (4.1 km)

**Note: the original Craigmyle House is no longer standing. See the Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Record: '...a 17th Century house built by Alexander Farquharson of Monaltrie, with extensions and additions by Sir Robert Lorimer in 1904. It was owned for many years by the Shaw family and was sold in 1938. After lying empty for a few years it was blown up by explosives in 1958. Now only quadrangular offices and walled garden survive ...'*

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NJ60SW0020>



(11) Take left fork along rough road

(57.10741; -2.59875) <https://w3w.co/sweep.gullible.drawn>
In less than 200 m, at a y-junction, take the left fork along a rough road. (4.3 km)



(12) Left off rough access road and through gate

(57.10522; -2.59851) <https://w3w.co/downturn.regal.many>
In another 200 m, where the rough access road sweeps right to a house, veer left to go through a metal gate (there is a gap in the gate that allows easy access). Now follow the path downhill, very soon taking the left fork at a paths y-junction. Follow the path along the perimeter of Crow Wood, with fields on your left side, then through Church Wood, where there is an open wood yard. There are fine views towards the Hill of Fare and Clachnaben at various points. (4.5 km)



(13) Right onto Craigmyle Road - back to Torphins

(57.09981; -2.59920) <https://w3w.co/sprains.path.directive>

In 800 m, after passing a house on your left you will emerge onto Craigmyle Road. Turn right here to walk back along the quiet minor road to Torphins. (5.3 km)



(14) Right up Woodside Road

(57.10362; -2.61698) <https://w3w.co/devoured.tempting.rugs>

In 1.3 km, at the end of Craigmyle Road, turn right to walk up Woodside Road for a short distance. (6.6 km)



(15) Left down William Street

(57.10476; -2.61666) <https://w3w.co/headliner.allows.scrubbing>

In about 100 m, turn left off Woodside Road onto William Street. Follow this street until it meets the main B993 road where you turn left to walk a short distance back to your start-point in The Square. (6.7 km)



(16) End the walk back at The Square

(57.10564; -2.62225) <https://w3w.co/blurs.climber.trifling>

In 500 m, you will have arrived back at your start-point in The Square. (7.2 km)



Route Map



Links:

[Photos from walk](#)

[Download Route Guide](#) (PDF with illustrated Waypoints)

[Download GPX file](#) (GPS Exchange Format)

[Access Walk on OutdoorActive](#)

[Access Walk on OSMaps](#)

[Access Walk on Alltrails](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)