

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Aboyne Ramble (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

This is an easy walk, suitable for walkers of all abilities. The varied route mixes village scenes with good riverbank views; mature pine woodland sections; open parkland with a fine aspect towards Aboyne Castle; and, a captivating outlook over Aboyne Loch from the golf course.

Duration: 2 hours.



Route Overview

Duration: 2 hours.

Transport/Parking: Stagecoach run regular bus services to Aboyne. Check timetables. There is a large car-park opposite the walk start/end point.

Length: 7.8 km / 4.85 mi

Height Gain: 33 meter. **Height Loss:** 33 meter.

Max Height: 136 meter. **Min Height:** 125 meter.

Surface: Moderate. A mix of hard surfaced paths, rough roads and tarred surfaces. Not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to unavoidable steps and a stile.

Difficulty: Easy.

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

Dog Friendly: See Aboyne Golf Club link, below. Keep dogs on a short lead on the golf course and on public roads.

Refreshments: Options in Aboyne.



Description

This is an enjoyable ramble around and about the large Deeside village of Aboyne, offering many opportunities to enjoy views of the pleasant Strathdee countryside. With its large open "green" at the centre, and well-preserved and re-vitalised railway station square, the settlement has a very relaxed ambience, making it particularly popular with summer visitors. After passing the expansive Charlestown Green, the walk heads for the banks of the River Dee, taking a path under the impressive concrete bridge before passing a couple of very scenic "islands in the stream". Pine woodland and village sections then follow before entering open parkland in the immediate environs of Aboyne Castle. The castle originates from the 13thC when its position provided strategic advantage for the "Mounth" crossings of the Grampian Mountains, particularly important for military purposes and for drovers herding upland "black cattle" to markets in the south of Scotland. The building has been extended and rebuilt at various times, most recently by the current Marquis of Huntly, whose family has owned it since the early 15thC. The walk then crosses the attractive undulating fairways of Aboyne golf course*, before hugging the western bank of the beautiful Loch of Aboyne. A stone and earth dam wall was constructed here around 1834 to retain the loch. At that time it also served as a reservoir for a nearby mill. The loch is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest owing to its aquatic flora and fauna and rich reed-bed and fen vegetation. It is also an important site for butterflies. It provides a valuable habitat for waterfowl, including widgeon, goosander and whooper swans, with osprey regularly seen fishing. Finally, after a section on the old Deeside railway line, now part of the Deeside Way, the route returns to the centre of Aboyne, passing through the old station square.



***Note:** Aboyne Golf Club have asked us to emphasise the following "...this is an active golf course and warning signs are situated warning of the dangers...". More details here: <https://t.ly/0LZqG>. See also the Scottish Outdoor Access Code guide to walking on golf courses: <https://t.ly/KlwYp>

Waypoints

(1) Start the walk at the info board by the A93-Charlestown Road junction

(57.07570; -2.78035) <https://w3w.co/thatched.unscrew.float>

Start the walk at the information board by the A93 North Deeside Road junction with Charlestown Road, in the centre of Aboyne. With the Charlestown Green park on your right side, pass the fountain and park gates before crossing the road and walking along the pavement on Charlestown Road in a southerly direction.



(2) Left off Charlestown Road down steps to riverside path

(57.07071; -2.78658) <https://w3w.co/ample.reflector.loaded>

In about 730 m, just after passing the Boat Inn on your right side, go left off Charlestown Road down steps to the riverside path. Turn right at the foot of the steps and walk along the riverside path, with the river on your left side. Follow the path under the Dee bridge and continue taking the riverside path. (730 m)



(3) Right onto woodland path

(57.06727; -2.79672) <https://w3w.co/darting.shuffles.moss>

In another 760 m, or so, after passing an old iron fence post, turn sharp right into the wood. (1.49 km)



(4) Veer right at paths y-junction in woods

(57.06847; -2.79750) <https://w3w.co/loved.unite.limo>

In 140 m, at a fork in the path, carry on taking the main path, veering slightly right. (1.63 km)



(5) Right along Rhu-na-Haven Road

(57.07037; -2.79840) <https://w3w.co/cemented.campfires.skipped>

In 220 m, you will emerge from the woodland onto Rhu-na-Haven Road. Turn right and walk down the pavement to the end of the road. (1.85 km)



(6) Left up Bridgeview Road

(57.07188; -2.78940) <https://w3w.co/shin.graph.excavated>

In 570 m, at the end of Rhu-na-Haven Road, go left up Bridgeview Road. In 200 m, where the road splits, veer right up the Old Tollhouse Road (note there is no pavement on this section). At the end of Old Tollhouse Road, go straight across the A93 North Deeside Road to walk along a short section of the B9094 road, looking for a path on your right just after crossing the old railway bridge. (2.42 km)



(7) Right off B9094 road onto Deeside Way path

(57.07675; -2.79221) <https://w3w.co/rocked.handlebar.misted>

In 580 m from the last waypoint, turn right off the pavement on the B9094 road through a signposted gate to descend to the Deeside Way path. Turn immediately left to take the woodland path on your left (1 of 3 possible paths), running parallel with the wall along the B9094. Walk along this path with the wall fairly close on your left side, ignoring any paths to your right until you approach the end of the wood.. (3.0 km)



(8) Turn sharp right into wood

In about 380 m, approaching the perimeter of the woodland and an open field, take the path going right, with a small burn/ditch fairly close on your left side. Follow this woodland path going in an easterly direction as it eventually bends to your right, still following the ditch/burn. (3.38 km)



(9) Left across footbridge

In 340 m, or so, go sharp left across a footbridge and continue following the footpath which soon passes the Aboyne Stone Circle*. Soon after passing the circle, take the left fork at a y-junction, heading towards a rough access road. (3.72 km)

** Note: The Circle is unusually small and some doubts have been raised as to its authenticity in that it may have been created as a landscape feature, associated with nearby Aboyne Castle. See: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/35277/image-wood>*



(10) Out of wood and sharp left along rough road

In 190 m from the footbridge, the woodland path meets a rough access road for the Aboyne Castle estate at the perimeter of the woodland. Go left here. (3.91 km)



(11) Right along tarred access road

(57.08161; -2.78529) <https://w3w.co/trapdoor.done.oils>
In 220 m, where the rough road meets a tarred estate road, go right. (4.13 km)



(12) Straight through x-roads onto rough woodland road

(57.08167; -2.78126) <https://w3w.co/haunt.yesterday.goat>
In 250 m, after passing a good view of Aboyne Castle over open ground on your left side, you will arrive at a x-roads. Go straight through the x-roads onto a rough woodland road. Keep following this rough road as it eventually become more like a path, with a field on your left side. When it meets an access road for a row of houses, turn left and head for the junction with Golf Road. (4.38 km)



(13) Left at Golf Road junction - then quickly veer left up Golf Club access road

(57.08359; -2.77319) <https://w3w.co/boil.guideline.strapped>
In 620 m, turn left at the junction with Golf Road, then quickly veer left up the narrow Aboyne Golf Club access road. (5.0 km)



(14) Veer left at y-junction by golf club car-park

(57.08359; -2.77224) <https://w3w.co/finishers.encoded.saddens>
In 430 m, veer left at a y-junction by the entrance to the golf club car-park. Follow this rough road into the golf course area*. (5.43 km)

**Note: Please beware of flying golf balls on the golf course. Take care to observe golfing activity. Look left and right and give way to golfers taking their shots. Do not speak loudly if close to golfers playing their shots. Aboyne Golf Club have asked us to emphasise that - "...their course is an active golf course and warning signs are situated at all entry points warning of the dangers of being hit by a ball. We will not be liable for any accidents and our safety notices reflect that. When crossing the golf course, stick rigidly to the pathway and be aware you are in an active golfing area where golfers are hitting 'blind shots' so may be unaware of your presence. Do not stop till you reach the Loch side...". More details here: <https://t.ly/0LZqG> . See also the Scottish Outdoor Access Code guide to walking on golf courses: <https://t.ly/KlwYp>*



(15) Go right to cross golf course fairways

(57.08578; -2.77129) <https://w3w.co/scornful.subsystem.speeding>
In 250 m, go right to cross the golf course fairways*, heading towards the Loch of Aboyne (take care, and defer to golfers playing their shots). (5.68 km)

**Note: Take care, and defer to golfers playing their shots. See guidance given for Waypoint 14.*



(16) Go right to leave golf course road - then cross bridge

(57.08646; -2.76960) <https://w3w.co/internal.irritable.motivations>
In just over 130 m, go right and gently downhill to leave the golf course road you are on, then cross the footbridge just ahead of you at the dam on the Loch of Aboyne. Follow the path as it skirts the edge of the golf course, with the loch on your left side (take care, and defer to golfers playing their shots). Eventually, the path leads you around the loch to a belt of trees where there is a stile to leave the golf course area. (5.81 km)



(17) Over stile to leave golf course - then right along Deeside Way path

(57.08413; -2.76494) <https://w3w.co/mash.faster.crinkled>

After 450 m, following a path around the edge of the loch, you will arrive at a stile, behind a golf teeing ground. Cross over the stile to leave the golf course, then go right along the Deeside Way path, heading back towards Aboyne. Eventually the path crosses over an open area then passes a modern house where a wooden fence on your left side separates you from the access drive to the house. After passing under an old railway bridge you soon arrive at the main A93 North Deeside Road where you turn right onto the pavement and walk back in the direction of the centre of Aboyne for about 100 m, looking out for the access to Low Road on your left, across the main road. (6.26 km)



(18) Left to cross A93 North Deeside Road onto Low Road

(57.07770; -2.77150) <https://w3w.co/careless.diverged.above>

After 840 m from the golf course stile, go left to cross the A93 North Deeside Road onto Low Road. Do not follow the dead-end access road as it bends left, but instead, go straight ahead onto the pedestrian walkway that descends to a footbridge over the Tarland Burn. Follow the path right, after the bridge, towards Aboyne centre, as it soon joins the continuation of Low Road. From here, make your way back to the start-point at the entrance to Charlestown Green park in the centre of Aboyne. (7.15 km)



(19) Finish walk back at the fountain and gates by Charlestown Green park

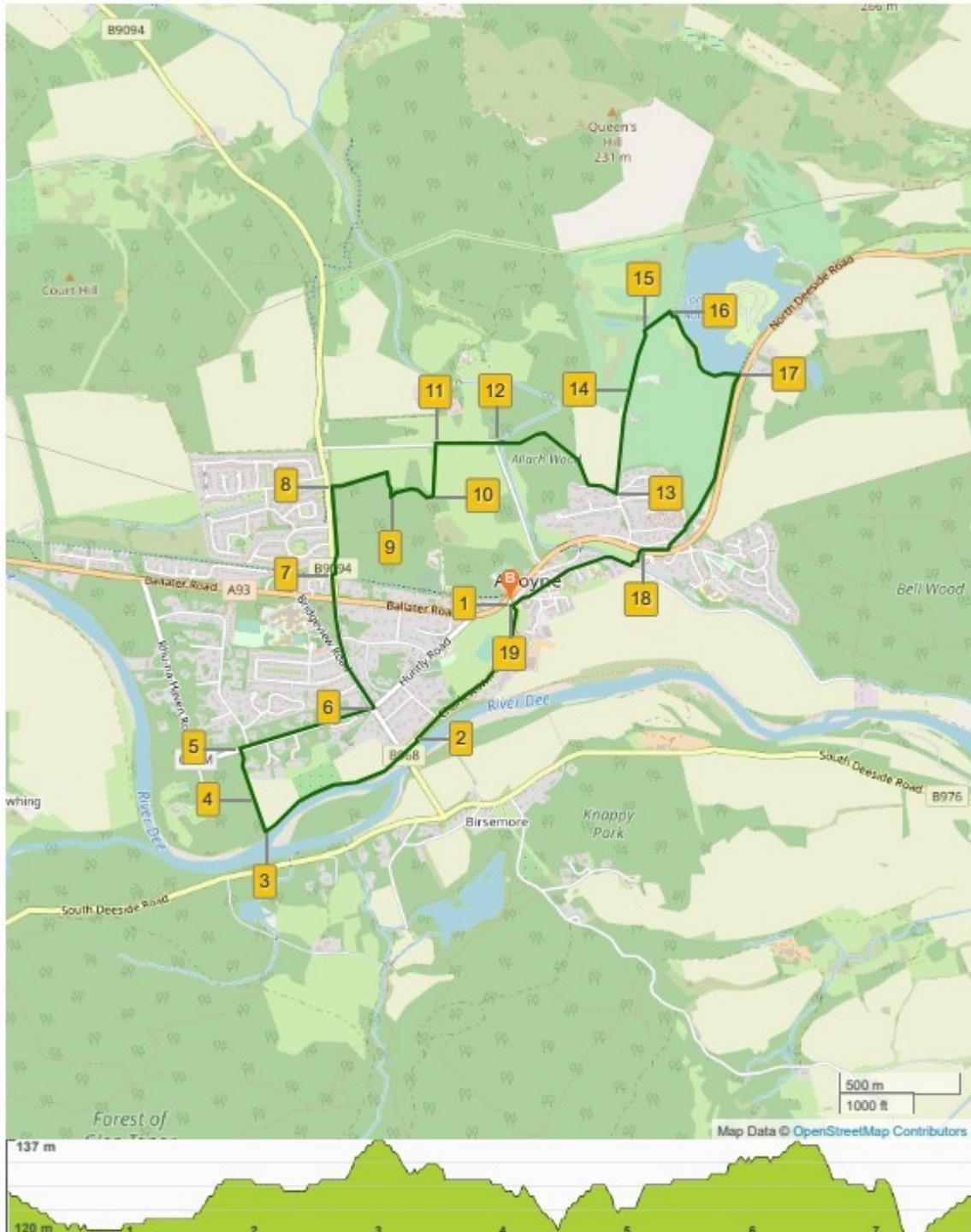
(57.07571; -2.78029) <https://w3w.co/thatched.unscrew.float>

In 650 m, you will have arrived back at your start-point at the fountain and gates by Charlestown Green park, near to the A93 North Deeside Road. (7.80 km)

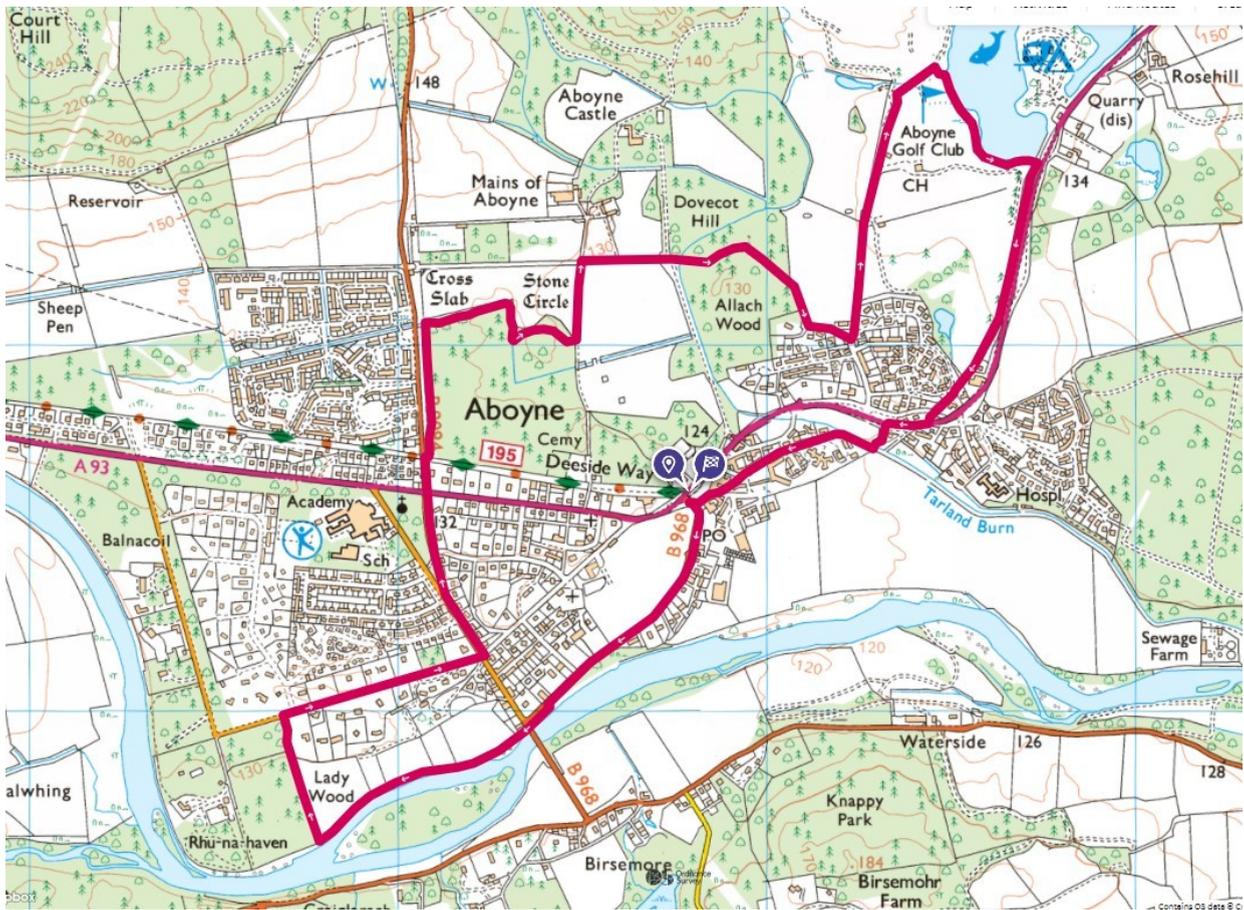


Route Map (with Waypoint markers)

109-Aboyne Ramble



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](#)