

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Belwade Farm Ramble (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

A varied and interesting walk that will be especially suitable for anyone looking for a short but invigorating country ramble in the scenic natural environment of Deeside. Belwade Farm have provided information boards about horse welfare at various points on the route.

Duration: 1.5 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Stagecoach run regular bus services to Aboyne. Check timetables. To walk to the Belwade Visitor Centre from the A93 adds 1.7 km (3.4 km return). Free parking outside the Belwade Visitor Centre.

Length: 5.19 km / 3.23 mi

Height Gain: 80 meter. **Height Loss:** 80 meter.

Max Height: 175 meter. **Min Height:** 149 meter.

Surface: Moderate. Mostly on grassy farm roads or woodland paths, mostly but not all, hard surfaced. Softer paths may be muddy. Not suitable for offroad mobility scooters due to steps at Waypoint 7. A shortened route (approx half the distance) is possible by returning to the start along farm roads from Waypoint 5.

Difficulty: Easy.

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

Dog Friendly: Yes. On lead on public roads and near horses/farm animals.

Refreshments: Excellent cafe in the Belwade Visitors Centre (not open Mon or Tue). Otherwise, options in Aboyne.



Description

This is a delightful short walk in the pleasingly scenic mid-Deeside countryside, with the added bonus of being surrounded by a wonderful array of rescue horses who are cared for and/or rehabilitated by the World Horse Welfare Belwade Farm. Our described route combines the way-marked Viewpoint and Riverside routes, passing through fenced pastures to an open vantage point where views of the Deeside hills and countryside can be enjoyed to the full, before descending to savour a stroll through the mature pines of Bell Wood, on the outskirts of Aboyne. The final section meanders along a farm track by the banks of the Tarland Burn and River Dee before returning to the Belwade stables, where the informative Visitor Centre houses an excellent bistro/café. From TripAdvisor: “Belwade Farm , the



Scottish Home for World Horse Welfare. Rehabilitating Horses/Ponies and Donkeys from all over the UK, who have needed to come into our care. Come and see the work that we do to help them to find their forever homes. Apart from this, we are in possibly the most beautiful part of Royal Deeside and there are plenty of walks with your dogs. Enjoy a lovely lunch or coffee in our scenic Bistro. Or maybe celebrate your special occasion within our Stone Circle, or use our conference facilities. Belwade has so much to offer everyone ... not forgetting our Fairy Garden for the kids young and old .Come and see for yourself. Open Weds through to Sunday 11am - 4.00pm, other times by arrangement. Please see our website for up and coming events at Belwade Farm.”

See: <https://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/visit-us/belwade-farm>

Waypoints

(1) Start walk at Belwade Farm Visitor Centre

(57.07498; -2.72948) <https://w3w.co/caused.command.eclipses>
Start the walk outside the World Horse Welfare Belwade Farm Visitor Centre. From outside the Centre doors, walk up onto the car-park exit road.



(2) Left at t-junction leaving car-park

(57.07625; -2.72968) <https://w3w.co/purified.nagging.aviation>
In less than 150 m, having walked out of the car-park onto the exit road, go left at the angled t-junction. Follow the road past the Oldtown Steading, passing the entrance to the Belwade Farm base, and the isolation stables, all on your right side. (142 m)



(3) Right up farm road after isolation stables

(57.07550; -2.73181) <https://w3w.co/fury.storming.trouser>
In another 180 m, having just passed the isolation stables block on your right side, take the farm road going gently uphill on your right. Follow this grassy road as it bends right and left, passing fields on both sides and a tree plantation (on your left side). As you reach the top of the low hill, with fine views all around (and especially ahead of you towards Morven), keep following the grassy road as it now gently descends in a westerly direction. (322 m)



(4) Left and down towards trees

(57.07832; -2.74566) <https://w3w.co/slick.miracles.airfields>
After 1.1 km, at the corner of the last field on your left, follow the grassy road left and gently downhill towards trees. When you reach the trees, go through the gate, closing it behind you and join the obvious path as it starts to bend in an easterly direction, back towards Belwade Farm. Soon the path joins a farm road, where you keep going back towards the Farm. (1.4 km)



(5) Right down path at edge of wood

(57.07466; -2.73469) <https://w3w.co/incensed.idea.media>

After 900 m, at the corner of the wood (and about 100 m away from the first of the Belwade Farm buildings), go sharp right to follow a path into the trees, with a field now on your left side, close to the edge of the wood. Soon, the path bends right to take you a little deeper into the wood. (2.3 km)



(6) Left at t-junction by Bell Wood sign

(57.07312; -2.73819) <https://w3w.co/verifying.distilled.awaited>

After 250 m, or so, in the trees at a paths t-junction, and facing a 'Bell Wood' information board, go left and keep following this path through the pine wood. (2.56 km)



(7) Left off path towards picnic bench - then veer left

(57.07153; -2.74356) <https://w3w.co/double.budding.shepherdess>

In 700 m, at a small clearing where the path you are on bends right, go left past a picnic bench on your right side and then immediately veer left on a narrow path towards a gap in the boundary fence in about 35m. Go through the gap, veering left to pass a Belwade Farm sign on your right side. Soon you will arrive at a set of steps which you descend, walking towards a farm road, with a fenced field now on your left side. (3.26 km)



(8) Left along farm road by Tarland Burn

(57.07099; -2.74408) <https://w3w.co/zaps.according.suave>
In 120 m, upon reaching the farm road, go left along the road, heading back broadly in the direction of Belwade Farm. The Tarland Burn runs parallel to the road on your right side, with a field on your left side. Keep following this farm road. (3.38 km)



(9) Right down steps towards river

(57.07098; -2.73163) <https://w3w.co/stated.reservoir.mimic>
In 700 m, go right onto a path into the trees which immediately leads to rough steps. Follow the steps down to a point just before the Tarland Burn meets the River Dee. Once you have taken in the scene, go back up the steps onto the farm road and turn right to follow the road as it soon bends sharp left to return towards Belwade Farm. Keep following this road as it passes the original Belwade farm-house on your right and (now extended) farm steading on your left. Keep following this road back to the Visitor Centre car-park where you started the walk. (4.08 km)



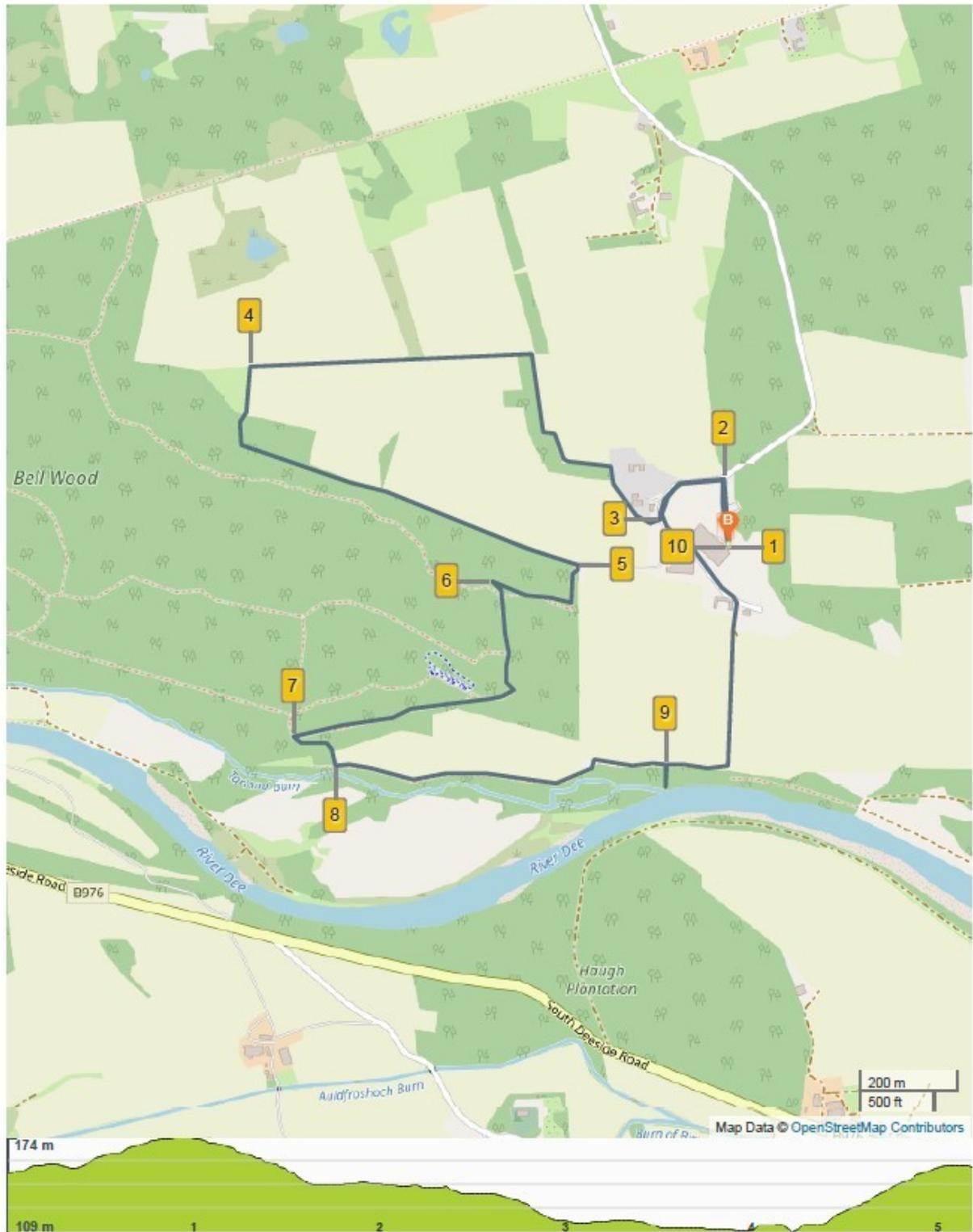
(10) Finish walk back at Belwade Farm Visitor Centre

(57.07498; -2.72955) <https://w3w.co/caused.command.eclipses>
After 1.1 km you will have arrived back at the doors of the Belwade Farm Visitor Centre where you started the walk. (5.19 km)



Route Map (with waypoint numbers)

101-Belwade Farm 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](#)