

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Fyvie-Den Wood Circular (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

This is an energetic walk in a variety of woodland habitats in the Den of Rothie, at Fyvie, in rural Aberdeenshire. It is fairly long at over 8km, with an appreciable overall ascent of over 200m. In season, there are numerous opportunities to identify fungi along the way.

Duration: 2.5 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: There are frequent Stagecoach #35 bus services from Aberdeen. See timetables. Free parking at walk start/end point.

Length: 8.230 km / 5.14 mi

Height Gain: 213 meter. **Height Loss:** 213 meter.

Max Height: 172 meter. **Min Height:** 48 meter.

Surface: Moderate. Mostly good forest roads and tracks. One gate to climb after Waypoint 3.

Difficulty: Medium.

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

Dog Friendly: Yes. Den Wood is part of Fyvie Castle Estate. They request that dogs be on lead. On lead on public roads.

Refreshments: Fyvie Castle Tea Room. Vale Hotel. Sheiling Tor chip shop, after 4 pm.



Description

***** We have recently received a report that forestry operations have made route-finding between Waypoint 8 and Waypoint 11 tricky and confusing. Please bear this in mind before undertaking the walk. We intend to re-visit and update the instructions. We advise, in the meantime, it would be best if you can follow the route on a mobile device using Viewranger, Outdooractive, or another system to which you have downloaded our GPX file. It may also help to go directly from Waypoint 8 to Waypoint 11, missing out the section that includes Waypoints 9 and 10. To do this, go left, not right, at Waypoint 8. In a short distance (50 m, or so) you will arrive at Waypoint 11. *****



If you enjoy woodland walks this is an excellent and enjoyable example of the type. The first half of the route, in the Den of Rothie, accompanies the tumbling Fordoun Burn in fairly open mixed mature woodland, including some large North American conifers. This section of the forest policies was first planted in the late 18thC as part of a much wider programme of Fyvie Castle Estate improvements that continued well into the 19thC. After crossing the Fordoun Burn at Waulkmill Wood, the return point on the route, the environment begins to change to more commercial conifer plantations as we ascend onto the flanks of the Hill of Petty and the Cairn Hill. The age, spacing, and types of trees in the plantations varies, however, and, occasionally, there are tantalising glimpses of the wider Formartine countryside. In the final section of the walk there is a gentle descent along a field edge to the outskirts of Fyvie. Throughout the walk, in season, there are numerous opportunities to identify mushrooms and other fungi. After completing the walk we recommend that you visit Fyvie Castle – with its impressive 18thC designed landscape and artificial lake surrounding the much older castle. For more information, see:

<http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/GDL00184>

Waypoints

(1) Start the walk from the car-park opposite the Co-op

(57.42932; -2.39528) <https://w3w.co/golf.thud.baffle>

Start the walk from the public car-park across from the Co-op shop off the B9005/Main Street into Fyvie village from the A947 road. From the car-park, turn left to walk over the Ythan River bridge then, take care crossing the busy A947 road. Walk towards the Fyvie Pharmacy then turn right to follow the minor road that runs parallel with the main A947 road for a short distance.



(2) Left up minor road

(57.42824; -2.39861) <https://w3w.co/important.serenade.seatbelt>

In just over 400 m from the start, facing a house on the corner, turn left up a minor road leaving Fyvie in a westerly direction, away from the main road. (416 m)



(3) Left down rough road

(57.42807; -2.40135) <https://w3w.co/scrabble.decay.reserved>

In just over 150 m, as you pass a house on your left, go left down a rough road. Soon you will pass a gamekeeper's cottage* on your right. Straight ahead of you is a vehicular gate, with a pedestrian gate. Unfortunately, when we did this walk, both gates were locked. In which case, climb over the main gate and continue taking the rough road through the trees for almost 3 km, with the Fordoun Burn below you on your left at all times. Do not take any roads or paths to the right or left during this section. (582 km)

**Note: Den Wood is part of the Fyvie Castle estate. Signs at this gate indicate that dogs should be on leads. You can phone a provided telephone number to check for shooting/stalking operations.*



(4) Left at y-junction

(57.42219; -2.43566) <https://w3w.co/swept.flux.cherubs>

In 2.8 km, arriving at a y-junction, do not take the rough road going right and uphill. Instead, veer left to follow the road over a bridge over the Fordoun Burn. (3.4 km)



(5) Left and gently uphill

(57.42211; -2.43669) <https://w3w.co/splits.challenge.roadshow>
Very soon, in less than 100 m, take the rough road going left and gently uphill. (3.5 km)



(6) Sharp right and up into trees

(57.42098; -2.43584) <https://w3w.co/sardine.grad.punctured>
In just over 100 m, go sharp right, back on yourself, to follow a rough road uphill for a very short distance before joining another rough forest road. Go left here. (3.6 km)



(7) Veer right and uphill

(57.41880; -2.43573) <https://w3w.co/flat.artichoke.freezing>
After 900 m, at a junction, take the rough road veering right and uphill. Carry on taking this road for 1.7 km, ignoring any option to right or left (4.5 km)



(8) Right and uphill at x-roads

(57.42308; -2.41413) <https://w3w.co/resemble.grumbles.issue>
After 1.7 km, at a x-roads, go right and uphill.* (6.2 km)

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(9) Left and down grassy forest track

(57.42248; -2.41379)

<https://w3w.co/sideburns.choice.chestnuts>

In about 100 m, go left and gently downhill on a grassy forest track. (6.3 km)



(10) Left and gently downhill

(57.42275; -2.41096) <https://w3w.co/boils.unfair.retained>

In about 200 m, at a junction, go left and gently downhill. (6.5 km)



(11) Right and downhill

(57.42345; -2.41408) <https://w3w.co/delighted.recitals.silver>

After about 200 m, at a t-junction, go right and downhill on the forest road. (6.7 km)



(12) Veer right and uphill

(57.42371; -2.40962) <https://w3w.co/rebel.quantity.ideas>

After 300 m, at a junction, veer right and uphill. Follow this rough road until it peters out, then walk straight out of the wood along a short section of indistinct grassy path to the corner of a field. (7.0 km)



(13) Left along field edge

(57.42435; -2.40209) <https://w3w.co/baths.remainer.wants>
After 500 m, at the corner of an arable field, go left and gently downhill along the field edge for about 300 m (there is no clear path here) towards mature trees ahead of you at the bottom corner of the field. (7.5 km)



(14) Left and down into woodland

(57.42691; -2.39850) <https://w3w.co/thundered.handicaps.others>
In 300 m, at the bottom corner of the field, find an indistinct path into the trees. Soon you will come upon a garden building where you turn left to follow a grassy path that soon winds down to pass the Fyvie Pharmacy. From there, make for the A947 road ahead of you and cross this busy road with care, heading for a pedestrian fence into a small park, off the pavement on the northern side of the main road, to the left of the B9005/Main Street junction. (7.8 km)



(15) Cross main A947 road and through gate

(57.42825; -2.39695) <https://w3w.co/needed.optimally.cuts>
In 300 m from Waypoint 14, after crossing the main A947 road, go through the wooden pedestrian gate into a small public park, with the Fordoun Burn on your left. In a short distance, follow the path out of the park on your right side then walk along the pavement on the B9005/Main Street over the River Ythan bridge and past the Co-op shop to return to your start-point at the car-park. (8.1 km)



(16) Cross Ythan River bridge to return to car-park

(57.42923; -2.39509) <https://w3w.co/wedge.revolts.derailed>
In just over 100 m, you will have arrived back at your start-point in the car-park off the B9005/Main Street. (8.2 km)



Route Map



Links:

[Photos from walk](#)

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

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

[Access Walk on Viewranger](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)