

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Scone-Murrayshall Hill Circular (Perthshire)

Route Summary

At just under 10 km, and 300 m overall ascent, this is an invigorating and enjoyable hike through a variety of rural environments, with impressive panoramic views from Murrayshall Hill rewarding the effort involved. There are interesting historical focal points along the way.

Duration: 3 hours



Route Overview

Duration: 2.75 hours.

Transport/Parking: Frequent Stagecoach services from Perth (#7a/b). Check timetable. Park in the Scone Old Parish Church car-park at the start/end of walk.

Length: 9.560 km / 5.98 mi

Height Gain: 267 meter

Height Loss: 267 meter

Max Height: 267 meter

Min Height: 33 meter

Surface: Moderate. Paved surfaces, grassy paths, and rough roads.

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

Difficulty: Medium.

Dog Friendly: Yes, on lead on public roads and near farm animals.

Refreshments: Options in Scone and, of course, nearby Perth. We can recommend The Scone Arms.



Description

This is a fine low hill-walk in the area of Perthshire known as “The Gowrie”. The rural scene is dominated by woods and farmland, and the views from Murrayshall Hill itself are wide-ranging, with a particularly fine perspective of Perth, sitting in the valley of the River Tay. There are a number of points of historical interest along the route. In the Old Parish Church graveyard at the start/end of the walk there is an impressive memorial and information board for locally born David Douglas (1799-1834), a renowned botanist who brought the Douglas Fir and Sitka Spruce trees to northern Europe. On a

flank of Murrayshall Hill, the route passes the MacDuff Monument, a notable landmark on the skyline. This now ruined folly was erected in the 18th C by the MacDuff family, landowners at nearby Bonhard House. Climbing higher, at the summit, is the impressive Lynedoch Obelisk, which commemorates the life of local landowner, General Thomas Graham, 1st Baron Lynedoch (1748- 1843), who was an important military figure during the Napoleonic Wars. Descending to the Murrayshall golf courses, the route passes Murrayshall House. Originally built in 1664, it was initially owned by a Sir Andrew Murray. Murrays and Graham-Murrays (the Lord Lynedoch Obelisk connection) occupied the house for almost 300 years. The house was modernised in the 18th C and again in 1864. In 1927 the Murrayshall estate passed into the ownership of Francis Norrie-Millar, a local businessman who created the global insurance business of General Accident. The Scone area played a central role in the early history of Scotland: kings were crowned there; royal courts met, and parliaments were convened there. Around the royal site also developed the town of Perth. The medieval village of Scone, which grew up around a monastery and royal residence, was abandoned in the early 19th C when the residents were removed to “New Scone” as it was then called, and the current Scone Palace was built on the site. For more information, see:

<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/perth/scone/index.html>



Waypoints

(1) Start at Scone Old Parish Church

(56.41409; -3.40859)

Start the walk from the car-park at Scone Old Parish Church. You may wish to divert to the graveyard to check out the impressive stone memorial (and information board) for locally born David Douglas, a renowned botanist who, amongst other achievements, brought the Douglas Fir tree to Scotland and northern Europe. When ready, head away from the church along the Burnside road, veering right towards the Annaty Burn, then turning right, then left, to walk up the A94 Perth Road towards the village centre, looking out for a road going off on your right in just over 400 m from the church.



(2) Turn right up Den Road

(56.41628; -3.40382)

In around 430 m from the church car-park, cross the A94 Perth Road and turn right into the unsurfaced Den Road. Follow the road into the trees past houses, and with the Annaty Burn on your right side. (428 m)



(3) Right off Den Road to cross bridge

(56.41492; -3.39295)

In just under 700 m, go right off the Den Road to cross a wooden pedestrian bridge. Continue following the path through the trees, eventually emerging onto a minor tarred road. Continue uphill on that road. (1.1 km)



(4) Right through gate before Bonhard House

(56.41456; -3.38519)

In 600 m, just before the gates of Bonhard House, go right off the tarred road to pass through a gate to take a path signposted for MacDuff's Monument. In 300 m, the path meets another minor tarred road, where you turn left to continue uphill on the road. (1.7 km)



(5) Right and uphill off minor tarred road

(56.41526; -3.37165)

After 1 km on the tarred road, turn right to pass through a pedestrian gate signposted for MacDuff's Monument. Follow the rough road uphill, through another gate, then continue following the rough road as it winds uphill through trees, arriving at an enclosed water reservoir. The rough road ends here. Now carry on past the reservoir on a well-used path, ignoring a less well-used path on your left. (2.7 km)



(6) MacDuff's Monument

(56.41184; -3.36548)

After a 600 m climb from the tarred minor road you will have arrived at MacDuff's Monument* on a flank of Murrayshall Hill. After taking in the marvellous views, take the path uphill and veering slightly left, heading towards the obvious Lynedoch Obelisk on the summit of Murrayshall Hill ahead of you, soon running alongside a boundary fence and then downhill for a short distance to a gate. Go through the gate and follow the path uphill toward the Lynedoch Obelisk. (3.3 km)

**Note: this ruined MacDuff Monument (or folly) was erected by the MacDuff family, landowners at Bonhard House which is situated below Murrayshall Hill. Believed to have been erected in the 18thC.*



(7) Veer left and downhill from Lynedoch Obelisk

(56.41304; -3.35541)

In 700 m from MacDuff's Monument you will have arrived at the Lynedoch Obelisk*. After taking the panoramic views, including glimpse of the Newburgh area on the Tay Estuary, looking at the modern metal information plaque on the obelisk, veer left and follow the path downhill in a northerly direction at first. Soon, the path veers to the left and takes a more north-westerly direction, descending all the time towards the Lynedoch and Murrayshall golf courses. (4.0 km)

**Note: The Lynedoch Obelisk commemorates the life of local landowner, General Thomas Graham, 1st Baron Lynedoch (19 October 1748 – 18 December 1843). He was a politician and British Army officer. After his education at Oxford, he inherited a substantial estate in Scotland was married and settled down to a quiet career as a landowning gentleman. However, with the death of his wife, when he was aged 42, he immersed himself in a military (and later political) career, during the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars. [from Wikipedia]*



(8) Follow golf course track downhill

(56.41481; -3.36021)

After a 500 m descent, and soon after passing a memorial bench to a local firefighter, you arrive at the golf course where you follow a golf course rough road downhill through the trees for a short distance, looking out for a narrow path through the trees on your left. (4.5 km)



(9) Veer left off track onto path

(56.41528; -3.36162)

In 100 m, or so, veer left off the golf course road, into the trees, to follow a narrow path downhill. In about 150 m, the path meets a golf course road where you turn left onto the road and continue walking gently downhill. (4.6 km)



(10) Left down minor road

(56.41681; -3.36456)

In 300 m, veer right off the golf course road to pass through a gate onto a minor tarred road where you go left and gently downhill. The signpost indicates the direction as 'Balgavie'. (4.9 km)



(11) Right and downhill onto golf course

(56.41623; -3.36701)

In just over 100 m, just before a group of houses, go right off the road onto the golf course, walking downhill to pass behind a golf green just ahead of you. (5.0 km)



(12) Follow grassy track at edge of trees

(56.41699; -3.36799)

In 200 m, or so, after passing behind the golf green, veer slightly right to take the grassy track gently downhill, with a line of trees on your right, and a section of golf course fairway/rough on your left. (5.2 km)



(13) Right onto golf course path

(56.41803; -3.37143)

In 200 m, before you arrive at the next golf course green ahead of you and slightly to your left, go right onto a surfaced golf course path taking you into the trees beside another golf green. Follow this surfaced path as it twists downhill towards the access road for Murrayshall House* (and Murrayshall Country House Hotel and Golf Club). When you meet the tarred road, go left down the access drive (you may wish to divert briefly to your right to check out the Murrayshall House historic building). (5.4 km)



**Note: Originally built in 1664, Murrayshall House was initially owned by Sir Andrew Murray (son of the first Lord Balvaird). Murrays and Graham-Murrays (the Lord Lynedoch Obelisk connection) occupied the house for over 260 years. The house was modernised in the 18th century and again in 1864. When the Graham Murrays sold Murrayshall House estate in 1927, it passed into the ownership of Francis Norrie-Millar, the local businessman who created the global business of General Accident (now Aviva).*

(14) Right along road at Murrayshall entrance

(56.41971; -3.37601)

In 400 m, at the entrance to the access drive for the Murrayshall Country House Hotel and Golf Club, go right (away from the direction for Scone) to walk along the verge of the tarred road. (5.8 km)



(15) Left off tarred road then sharp left through gate

(56.42221; -3.37234)

In 400 m, go left off the tarred road at a bend, then sharp left to pass through a gate onto a rough field access road. Follow this road for 1.4 km. (6.2 km)



(16) Right at farm entrance for Scone

(56.42320; -3.39094)

In 1.4 km, as you pass a cottage on your right, go right at the access drive for Balgarvie Farm, to walk away from the farm towards the outskirts of Scone. Do not deviate and carry on across the A94 Angus Road onto Highfield Road ahead of you. (7.6 km)



(17) Left down Lovers Lane

(56.42534; -3.39694)

In just over 400 m, turn left down the street called Lovers Lane. At the end of Lovers Lane, where it meets Murray Road, cross over and take the footpath that continues in the same direction, going gently downhill. When the path ends where it meets Stormont Road, go right along the pavement for a short distance looking for the Abbey Road junction across the road on your left. (8.0 km)



(18) Left off Stormont Rd onto Abbey Road

(56.42227; -3.40138)

In 500 m from turning down Lovers Lane, go left off Stormont Road onto Abbey Road. Keep going down Abbey Road for 1.1 km, ignoring the y-junction option to veer left for Cross Street near the end. At the end of Abbey Road you turn right onto Burnside to return to the Scone Old Parish church car-park where you started the walk. (8.5 km)



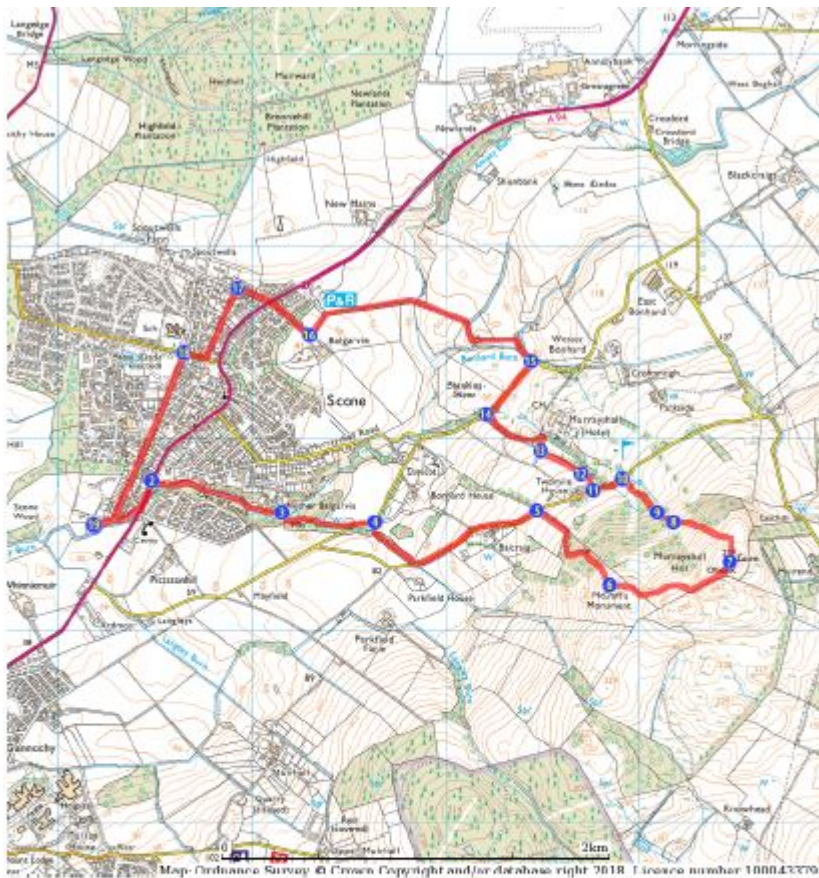
(19) Finish walk back at Scone Old Parish Church

(56.41414; -3.40866)

In 1.1 km, having turned right onto the Burnside road you will have arrived at the Scone Old Parish church car-park where you started the walk. (9.6 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](#)