

# The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

## Aden Country Park Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

### Route Summary

This is a short walk around the attractive landscaped grounds of Aden Country Park. The route passes the striking remains of an old mansion house before diverting to the ruins of a medieval church in Old Deer. We also recommend a trip to nearby Aikey Brae Stone Circle.

Duration: 1.5 hours.



### Route Overview

**Duration:** 1.5 hours.

**Transport/Parking:** Stagecoach services to Mintlaw (e.g. #60, Aberdeen to Ellon, then #67/#68, Ellon to Mintlaw). Check timetables. It is approx. 2.4 km to walk from the roundabout in Mintlaw to the walk start-point near the Farming Museum complex. There is ample parking near the start of the walk and the Farming Museum complex.

**Length:** 4.460 km / 2.79 mi

**Height Gain:** 63 meter **Height Loss:** 63 meter

**Max Height:** 45 meter **Min Height:** 69 meter

**Surface:** Smooth. Good paths and country park roads. Sections may be muddy after wet weather. Suitable for off-road mobility scooters.

**Child Friendly:** Yes, if used to walks of this distance. **Difficulty:** Easy.

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

**Refreshments:** Country Park Inn, Simpsons Garden Centre, Macbi Community Hub.



### Description

This route facilitates a gentle stroll around the periphery of Aden Country Park. The Park occupies 230 acres of mixed woodland and parkland near Mintlaw. The Park is home to the [Aberdeenshire Farming Museum](#), a ruined country house, numerous forest walks, a large pond, and a meandering section of the South Ugie Water. The Museum occupies part of a beautifully restored early 19thC semi-circular farm steading, and features the "Weel Vrocht Grun" (well worked ground) collection, with displays and implements relating to the region's farming history, and developments in agriculture over the last two centuries.

The Hareshowe farmhouse was moved to Aden Country Park in the early 1990s. The interior of the farmhouse has been restored to a 1950s appearance. The now roofless, but still striking, grey granite Aden mansion house formerly belonged to the Russell family who acquired the Aden estate in 1758. Close by, the walk passes through an attractive Victorian arboretum, where the route makes a short diversion to the village of Old Deer to check out the interesting ruins of the 15thC Old Kirk. In the online album of photos for this walk we have also included images we recorded at the nearby Aikey Brae Stone Circle which can be accessed up a signposted minor road about 1 km west of Old Deer on the B9029 road to Maud. It is the most complete recumbent stone circle in northern Aberdeenshire and is located on a lonely hilltop with an open southerly aspect. The circle comprises ten stones and covers an area of 14.4m in diameter. The large recumbent stone weighs over 21 tonnes and is made of whinstone that must have been transported, by means unknown, from some distance away. It is well worth a visit! Some useful links:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086914704551>

<https://www.britainexpress.com/scotland/Grampian/churches/old-deer.htm>

<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/deer/aikeybrae/index.html>



## Waypoints

### (1) Start walk at map info board

<https://w3w.co/flagpole.clincher.area> NJ9835347886

(57.52128; -2.02922)

Start the walk at the Aden Country Park map board, at the bottom end of the outer Farming Museum complex car-park (first main car-park encountered when driving into the Park). From here, walk downhill towards the Farming Museum complex buildings.



### (2) Turn right before buildings - signed for Play Park

(57.52155; -2.03212)

In about 180 m, approaching the Farming Museum buildings, turn right up a path signposted for the Play Park. In about 20 m, instead of veering right and gently uphill for the Play Park, turn left and down towards Farming Museum buildings, looking out, almost immediately, for the opening onto an estate road on your right. (178 m)



### (3) Right past barrier down rough road

(57.52187; -2.03236)

In 45 m, or so, before reaching the Museum out-buildings, turn right past the rusted white metal barrier (it is probably open) onto a rough road, between trees. (227 m)



### (4) Right past pond at x-roads

(57.52272; -2.03260)

In 100 m, or so, at a x-roads, go right to pass the pond on your left. Keep going on this rough road as it passes the pond, with more open views opening up on your right side. (324 m)



### (5) Left before main road

(57.52574; -2.02676)

In 500 m, at a x-roads before the rough road meets the A950 main road, turn left to follow a path into the trees. (826 m)



### (6) Right onto path for Formartine & Buchan Way

(57.52500; -2.03010)

After about 275 m, turn right onto a path signed for the Formartine & Buchan Way. Quite soon, veer left over a bridge at a fork in the path. Continue along this path through the trees as it crosses further wooden bridges. (1.1 km)



### (7) Right onto path around open grassy area

(57.52261; -2.03486)

In 500 m, emerging from the trees, the path meets a t-junction. Turn right here, onto the hard-surfaced path, with an open grassy area on your left side. There are views of the Farming Museum buildings and Old Mansion House across the parkland. (1.6 km)



### (8) Right on approach to ruined mansion house

(57.52043; -2.03504)

In 300 m, as you approach the ruined mansion house, turn right. (1.9 km)





### (9) Right onto path signed for Old Deer

(57.52002; -2.03506)

Very soon, in less than 50 m, turn right to take the path marked for Old Deer and the Aboretum. There is a very short diversion to your right very soon to view the old Ice House. After that, carry on, crossing the bridge over the South Ugie Water. (1.95 km)



### (10) Right onto path for Old Deer

(57.51951; -2.03600)

In less than 100 m, after crossing the bridge, go right onto the narrow path to Old Deer where you turn left onto the pavement beside the Deer Parish Church. (2.0 km)



### (11) Old Deer Parish Church and Old Kirk

(57.51927; -2.03718)

In 100 m, or so, enter the graveyard for the Deer Parish Church, noting the plaque for the Book of Deer on the church wall. Behind the Parish Church lies the ruins of the Old Kirk of Deer, with some interesting memorials for the Russel and Ferguson families, landowners of the Aden and Pitfour estates. When you are ready, re-trace your steps to Waypoint 10, in the trees, near the bridge. (2.1 km)



### (12) Back towards bridge then right along riverbank

(57.51954; -2.03609)

After visiting the Old Kirk of Deer, returning to the bridge over the South Ugie Water, go right onto the path along the river bank, with the river on your left side. Continue following the river before crossing another bridge and following the rough road uphill. (2.4 km)



### (13) Right at path x-roads

(57.51793; -2.03347)

In 500 m, reaching a x-roads, turn right along the rough road. (2.9 km)



### (14) Left at y-junction

(57.51659; -2.03379)

In 200 m, at a y-junction, take the left fork into the trees. Now follow this hard-surfaced main path for about 1 km until it reaches the tarred access road for the Park where you turn left and head back towards the car-park where you started the walk. (3.1 km)



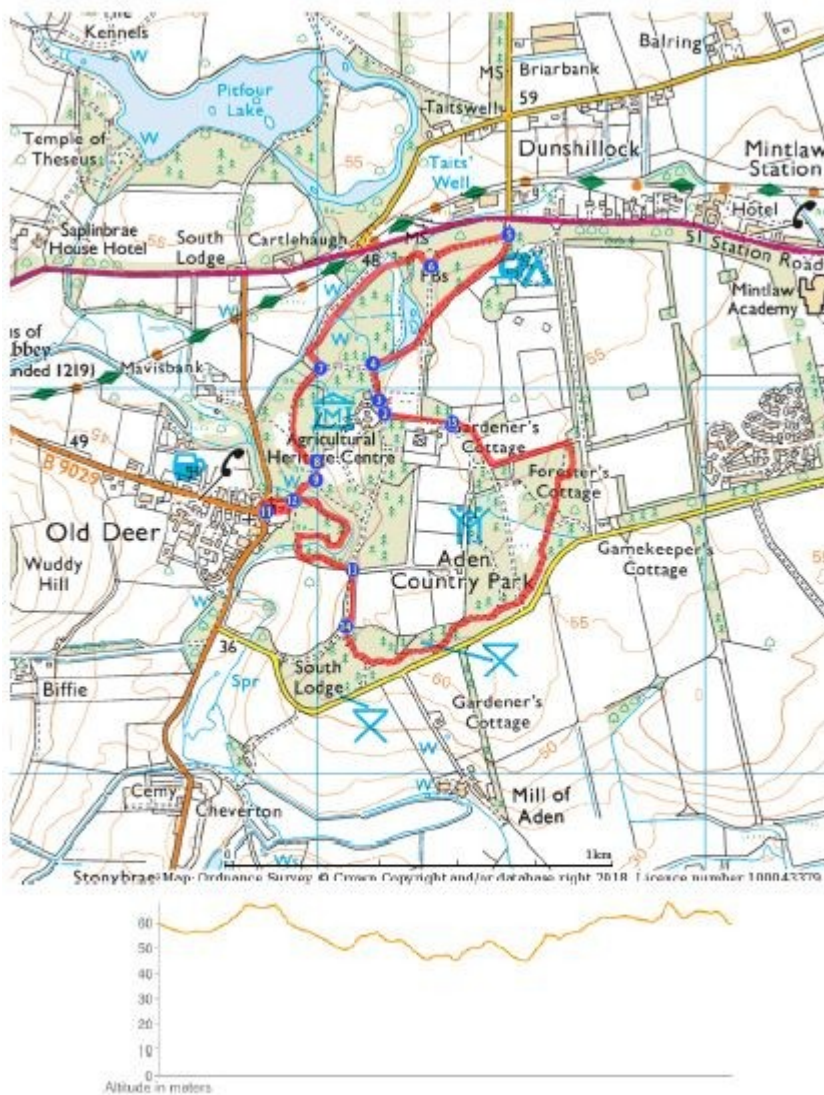
### (15) Finish walk back at car-park

(57.52135; -2.02917)

In 1.4 km you will have arrived back at the Aden Country Park map board at the car-park, where you started the walk. It is likely that you will want to head down to the Farming Museum complex to check out the museum, Hareshowe House, cafe, shop, information boards, etc. There are also toilets here. (4.5 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](#)