

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

## Craibstone-Elrick and Brimmond Hills Circular (Aberdeen)

### Route Summary

This is a walk of two halves. The first section is through a variety of woodland types, with some open views. The second half is mostly through an open landscape with great countryside views as far as the eye can see. The view from Brimmond Hill over Aberdeen is impressive.

Duration: 3.5 hours.

**\*\*\* Note: at July 2023, there are fallen trees to negotiate at various points. The path at Waypoint 28 is badly overgrown with gorse. We suggest returning downhill on the tarred road from Waypoint 26 to re-start the route at Waypoint 29.\*\*\***



### Route Overview

**Duration:** 3.5 hours.

**Transport/Parking:** No public transport links within easy walking distance. The Brimmond Hill car-park is a small car-park at the start/finish of the walk. It is just off a minor road mid-way between Forrit Brae and the Borrowstone Road to Westhill.

**Length:** 9.090 km / 5.68 mi

**Height Gain:** 277 meter **Height Loss:** 277 meter

**Max Height:** 263 meter **Min Height:** 107 meter

**Surface:** Moderate. Mostly forest paths and access roads. Not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to fallen trees, steps and stiles. To the summit of Brimmond Hill from the car-park, and back, **is suitable** (about 1.5 km).

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

**Dog Friendly:** Yes. On lead on public roads and near to any farm livestock, especially between Waypoints 22 and 23.

**Refreshments:** Craibstone Golf Club bistro is open to non-members. Otherwise, Aberdeen or Westhill.



### Description

Despite being within the administrative boundary of Aberdeen City Council this walk has many attractive rural characteristics. In fact, only the impressive easterly view from the top of Brimmond Hill over the city and down to the sea reveals how close you are to the busy urban world that is Europe's oil industry capital. The walk starts from a small car-park overlooking a section of Craibstone golf course. Heading downhill through mixed woodland, the route then skirts the edge of some golf fairways before going deeper into the woods.

The upcoming loop section in Green Wood is through mixed age conifers. The route then swings back towards the main Tyrebagger Forest, passing the Green Burn and fields separated by dry-stone dykes. The name "Tyrebagger" is derived from Gaelic, meaning "hill of the fox". The forest contains a variety of tree types. As the Forestry Commission observe – "...there are some truly impressive trees at Tyrebagger. In the east of the forest you'll walk under superb Douglas firs, towering above you like cathedral pillars, shading a carpet of ferns and wood sorrel. In other parts of this old forest you'll find fine beech trees as well as lofty Scots pine and larch ...". The walk then takes a leisurely route around the western flank of Elrick Hill where the terrain is particularly natural-looking open pine forest, birch trees and heather. There is a very good view of Brimmond Hill, with its imposing communications mast, as the path swings east, highlighting your route to the summit through green pasture-land where you are likely to encounter farm livestock, probably sheep. The summit of Brimmond Hill is 266 m, the highest point within the Aberdeen City council area. As well as providing a marvellous view of the city itself, there are good views down to Kingswells, Westhill, Blackburn and Dyce.



## Waypoints

### (1) Start walk at Brimmond Hill car-park

(57.18185; -2.23340)

The walk starts from the Brimmond Hill car-park, just off the minor road between Forrit Brae and the Borrowstone Road (to Westhill), just above Craibstone golf course. From the car-park, walk down to the minor road, turn right and walk along the verge for a short distance. The road can be busier than you might think. Take great care!



### (2) Cross road and follow walk sign into woods

(57.18198; -2.23265)

In 50 m, or so, from the car-park, cross the road with great care and follow the signposted path down into the woods. (50 m)



### (3) Take path on left passing golf course building

(57.18330; -2.23156)

In 160 m from the road, the path descends to a golf course road, with a wooden golf course building on your left. Turn left here to pass the building on your left as you take a path with trees on your right and the golf course on your left. (212 m)



### (4) Carry on downhill at bridge junction

(57.18601; -2.24056)

In 665 m, the path has turned down and into the woods where there is a walks signpost on your right and a wooden bridge on your left. Carry straight on downhill here. (877 m)



### (5) Go right at this junction

(57.18696; -2.24086)

In 110 m, at a green post, turn right onto another forest path. (986 m)



### (6) Right onto indistinct path by pipeline marker

(57.18722; -2.23973)

In about 75 m, watch out for an indistinct path on your right by a short concrete pipeline marker. Follow this, at first, indistinct path as it soon bends slightly left and uphill. You will pass more concrete pipeline markers as you ascend up the hillside. You are walking on the line of an oil/gas pipeline. (1.1 km)



### (7) Go left off pipeline route

(57.18631; -2.23969)

In 100 m, or so, you arrive at a t-junction with a more clearly defined path. Go left here. (1.2 km)



### (8) Straight through here

(57.18758; -2.23585)

In 300 m, at a clearing, carry straight on. (1.5 km)



### (9) Carry straight on here

(57.18751; -2.23447)

In 80 m, or so, where paths cross, carry straight on. (1.6 km)



### (10) Left and down

(57.18731; -2.23265)

In just over 100 m, in a clearing, take the grassy forest road on your left, going downhill. (1.7 km)



### (11) Right along forest road

(57.18875; -2.23179)

In 100 m, upon meeting a wider forest road, go right. (1.8 km)



### (12) Left to follow path towards fields

(57.19012; -2.22822)

In 300 m, at a walks signpost, turn left off the forest road through the trees. You will see fields appearing ahead of you. Soon, the path turns left to follow the Green Burn on your right, with fields over the burn, on your right-hand side. (2.1 km)



### (13) Right and cross little stone bridge

(57.18700; -2.24093)

After 900 m, you will arrive back at the paths junction with the green post (see Waypoint 5). Turn right here and immediately over a little stone bridge. Keep following this path as it bends right, then left through the trees, with the end of a field visible on your right. (2.0 km)



### (14) Up onto forest road then pass gate

(57.18824; -2.24146)

In 200 m, or so, follow a path up to a forest road with a metal gate. Pass by the gate on your right and follow this road into the trees. (3.2 km)



### (15) Off road to right up steep path

(57.18757; -2.24551)

In 300 m, look out for a narrow path going uphill. Go right, off the forest road, to take this path. (3.5 km)



### (16) Right down forest road

(57.18913; -2.24639)

In 200 m, the path meets a forest road. Go right and gently downhill on this road. (3.7 km)



### (17) Take Elrick Hill path at Tyrebagger car-park

(57.19083; -2.24758)

In 300 m, the forest road has swung around to one of the Tyrebagger car-parks. Walk to the large information board to check it out. Then, take the path into the trees to the immediate right of the info board. (4.0 km)



### (18) Left and uphill at next car-park

(57.18964; -2.25329)

In 400 m, the path arrives at a point just above another Tyrebagger car-park. Go left and uphill on the forest road. (4.4 km)



### (19) Right to cross bridge on Elrick Hill path

(57.18764; -2.25271)

In 300 m, at a signpost on your right, take the path on your right signed for Elrick Hill, passing through an area with picnic benches. (4.7 km)



### (20) Take right-hand Circular Path

(57.18566; -2.25246)

In another 300 m, at a walk signpost on your left, take the path on your right signed as (Elrick Hill) Circular Path. This path will take you around the western slope of Elrick Hill for about 1 km. Great views open up on your right side as you make progress. (5.0 km)



## (21) Right and down from Elrick Hill

(57.18181; -2.24937)

After 1.1 km on the Elrick Hill circular path, at a green walks post, turn right and downhill in the direction of Brimmond Hill. Follow steps down to an access road. Go up the narrow access road, with a field on your right and the end of golf course on your left. (6.1 km)



## (22) Cross road and up steps

(57.17874; -2.24644)

In 400 m, at a t-junction, cross the minor tarred road with great care, and follow the steps into the trees, before crossing over a stile. Now walk up through the trees and gorse bushes onto the open hillside. There is no set path. Keep climbing up the hillside, looking for a stile over a fence ahead of you. Be aware, there is likely to be farm livestock grazing on this hillside! (6.5 km)



## (23) Over stile and up tarred access road

(57.17648; -2.24164)

After a 400 m ascent, cross the stile and then walk up the tarred access road for Brimmond Hill, crossing over another, larger stile at a locked gate. Keep walking up the tarred access road. (6.9 km)



## (24) Take right fork towards hilltop

(57.17365; -2.23892)

In 400 m, at a fork in the road, go right and uphill towards the hilltop and main Brimmond Hill mast. At a walks signpost on the summit area, veer left and over towards the large cairn, flagpole and trig point at the summit of the hill. (7.3 km)



## (25) From hilltop head back towards signpost

(57.17232; -2.23828)

In 200 m you have arrived at the cairn and trig point at the summit of Brimmond Hill. After taking in the impressive views all around, and especially down to the city of Aberdeen, re-trace your steps back towards the walks signpost, cross over the access road and go gently uphill towards a low stone construction you can see ahead of you. (7.5 km)



## (26) War memorial viewfinder

(57.17294; -2.23952)

In 100 m from the cairn, you have arrived at a hills viewfinder and war memorial, protected by a chained steel cover. Take off the cover to unveil the viewfinder dial that will help you to identify hilltops near and far. When you have finished, replace the chained steel cover. Walk down the narrow path towards the access road, veering to your right past a picnic bench on your right, towards the fenced main mast.\* (7.6 km)

**\* Note: The path at Waypoint 28 is badly overgrown with gorse. We suggest returning downhill on the tarred road from Waypoint 26 to re-start the route at Waypoint 29.**



## (27) Downhill past hilltop mast

(57.17260; -2.24020)

In less than 100 m, at the northern corner of the fenced-in mast, take the path going west and downhill. (7.7 km)



## (28) Right along path by fenced field

(57.17242; -2.24230)

In another 100 m, close to a walks post, take the path on the right. Soon, you will have a fence and a field on your left as the path starts to go downhill. (7.8 km)

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### (29) Veer slightly left off tarred access road

(57.17641; -2.24145)

In 500 m, the path having joined the tarred access road, and after passing the locked gate on the road, veer slightly left off the tarred access road to follow a narrow grassy path downhill. The path stays fairly close and parallel to the tarred road, separated by gorse bushes. (8.3 km)

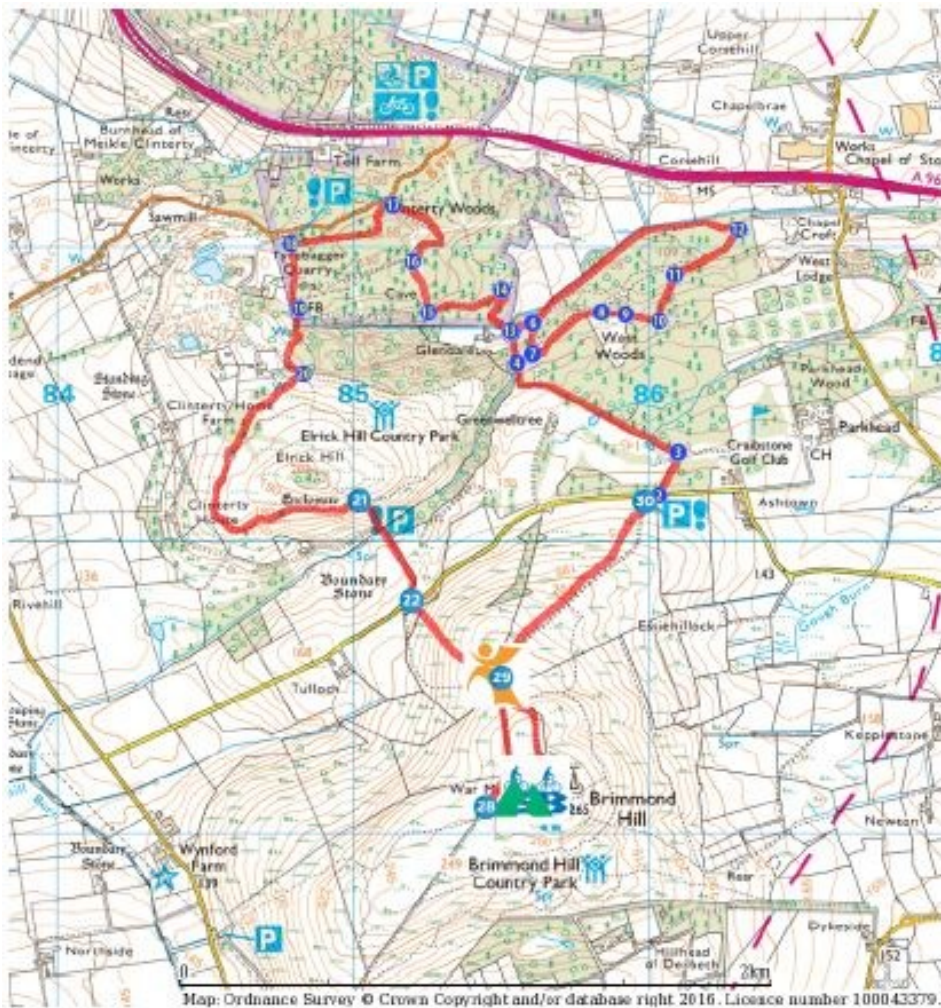


### (30) Finish walk back at Brimmond Hill car-park

(57.18182; -2.23346)

After almost 800 m, the grassy path eventually veers right to re-join the tarred access road, where you pass through the pedestrian gate. Very soon you have arrived at the Brimmond Hill car-park, where you started the walk. (9.1 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](#)