

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

## Dinnet Oak Wood-Tillycairn-Wicebe Road Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

### Route Summary

This is a relatively easy walk with a gentle incline, overlooking the River Dee near Dinnet. A special oak wood environment is traversed before achieving fine open views of surrounding hills and countryside. An inscribed well in the mid-section is linked to the history of the Glen Tanar estate.

Duration: 2 hrs.



### Route Overview

**Duration:** 2 hours.

**Transport/Parking:** There are frequent Stagecoach bus services along the Deeside Road. Check timetables. Cairngorm National Park car-park (charges apply).

**Length:** 5.84 km / 3.63 mi. **Height Gain/Loss:** 93 meter.

**Max Height:** 234 meter. **Min Height:** 154 meter.

**Surface:** Moderate. A mix of tarred roads, a woodland path, and rough estate roads. The circuit is suitable for off-road mobility scooters.

**Difficulty:** Easy.

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

**Dog Friendly:** Yes, but keep dogs on lead on public roads and near to farm animals.

**Refreshments:** Options in Aboyne and Ballater.



### Description

This is a very agreeable short walk in the north-facing valley of the River Dee, overlooking the Dinnet area. The pleasant walking environment is a mix of mature woodland and open farmland. There are wonderful views towards Culblean Hill, Morven and Pressendye, with glimpses of Tap o-Noth and the Buck of Cabrach along the way. Starting in Dinnet, we cross the Dee at the Dinnet Bridge, where there are particularly fine views both up and down stream. After crossing the South Deeside Road, we take a track through the Dinnet Oakwood, a Site of Special Scientific Interest managed by Nature Scot. The area retains the character of a relatively undisturbed semi-natural northern upland oak wood. The flora and fauna of Dinnet Oakwood is very diverse, and the fungi are also of note because there are several very rare varieties associated with oak woodlands. Leaving the oak wood, the route rises gently through trees and farmland on a Deeside-facing section of the Glen Tanar estate, passing the former Tillycairn Farm and cottages. Mid-way on the route, a sharp turn is taken to the west onto a rough road where an inscribed stone on the dry-stone wall indicates you are on "Wicebe Road". It transpires that "Wicebe" is an acronym based on the name of Sir William Cunliffe Brooks who was associated with the Glen Tanar estate during the later part of the 19thC. The English banker and MP spent a great deal of money on the Glen Tanar infrastructure, building a large house, new farm buildings (examples are seen on this walk), cottages for estate workers, a school, stables and kennels. He also installed numerous carved stones and memorials in the surrounding countryside, many of which make playful references to his name or celebrate the virtues of drinking water rather than alcohol. Appropriately, a well with the inscription "*Well to Know when you are Well off*" is soon passed before the return route then descends back to the South Deeside Road, before returning to the Cairngorm National Park car-park in Dinnet.



## Waypoints

### (1) Start walk at car-park in Dinnet

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Leave the Cairngorms National Park car-park (charges apply) and cross the busy A93 main road with care at the x-roads. Now walk along the verge of the B9185 road in a southerly direction, soon passing the entrance to Dinnet House on your right. In about 600 m you will cross the Dinnet Bridge over the River Dee, heading for a t-junction with the B976 South Deeside Road.



### (2) Cross South Deeside Road and through gate

In 650 m, cross the busy B976 South Deeside Road with care at the t-junction after crossing the bridge. Go through the pedestrian gate and follow the path through the Dinnet Oak Wood\*. (650 m)

*\* Note: Dinnet Oakwood is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is made up of almost 20 hectares of broad-leaf deciduous woodland. Although it is believed oaks were planted in the early 19thC, the area retains the character of a relatively undisturbed semi-natural northern upland oak wood. The flora and fauna of Dinnet Oakwood is very diverse, and the fungi are also of note because there are several very rare varieties associated with oak woodlands, making it a site of national importance.*



### (3) Right onto rough road

In 690 m, where the woodland path emerges onto a rough estate road, turn right and follow the road as it proceeds gently uphill. (1.35 km)



### (4) Carry straight on at Tillycairn houses sign

In 640 m, carry straight on, passing an entrance on your right to the former Tillycairn Farm, where there is a signpost for holiday (?) cottages. (1.99 km)





### (5) Turn right onto Wicebe Road

In 360 m, at a junction, turn right onto another rough road. As you enter the road, you will notice a top stone on the dry-stone wall on your left has a (difficult to decipher) inscription - "Wicebe Road"\*. Keep going on this rough road between fields, passing an entrance on your right to one of the Tillycairn cottages in about 500 m. (2.35 km)

*\* Note: For context, this section of the route is on the Glen Tanar estate and "Wicebe" is an acronym based on the name of Sir William Cunliffe Brooks (1819 –1900) who was associated with the estate during the later part of the 19th C. He was an English barrister, banker and Conservative*



*politician who sat in the House of Commons between 1869 and 1892. After the marriage of his elder daughter to Charles Gordon, 11th Marquess of Huntly, he leased Glen Tanar estate from Charles, before buying the estate in 1890. Brooks spent a great deal of money on Glen Tanar infrastructure, building a large house, new farm buildings (examples are seen on this walk), cottages for estate workers, a school, stables and kennels. He also installed numerous carved stones and memorials in the surrounding countryside, many of which make playful references to his name or celebrate the virtues of drinking water rather than alcohol.*



### (6) Well with inscription

In 1.05 km, you will arrive at a well on the left side of the rough road, with a stone basin inscribed as follows: "Well to Know when you are Well off"\*. When you are ready, carry on taking the rough road as before, which soon passes West Newton cottage and Newton farmhouse, both on your right, before bending right and going gently downhill, eventually passing the Netherton farm buildings on your right just before the next waypoint. (3.4 km)

*\* Note: Sir William Cunliffe Brooks owned Glen Tanar in the 19th C and he installed numerous carved stones and memorials in the surrounding countryside, many of which make playful references to his name or celebrate the virtues of drinking water rather than alcohol. See Waypoint 5 for more background information.*



### (7) Right at t-junction

In 960 m from the well at Waypoint 6, at a t-junction, turn right, soon passing Netherton farm-house on your right. In about 470 m, the rough road you are on, meets the B976 South Deeside Road. Turn right here and walk along the edge of the road as it gently descends to the junction you encountered early on the walk, at Waypoint 2. Turn left to cross the Dinnet Bridge and make your way back to the walk start-point in the car-park in Dinnet. (4.36 km)



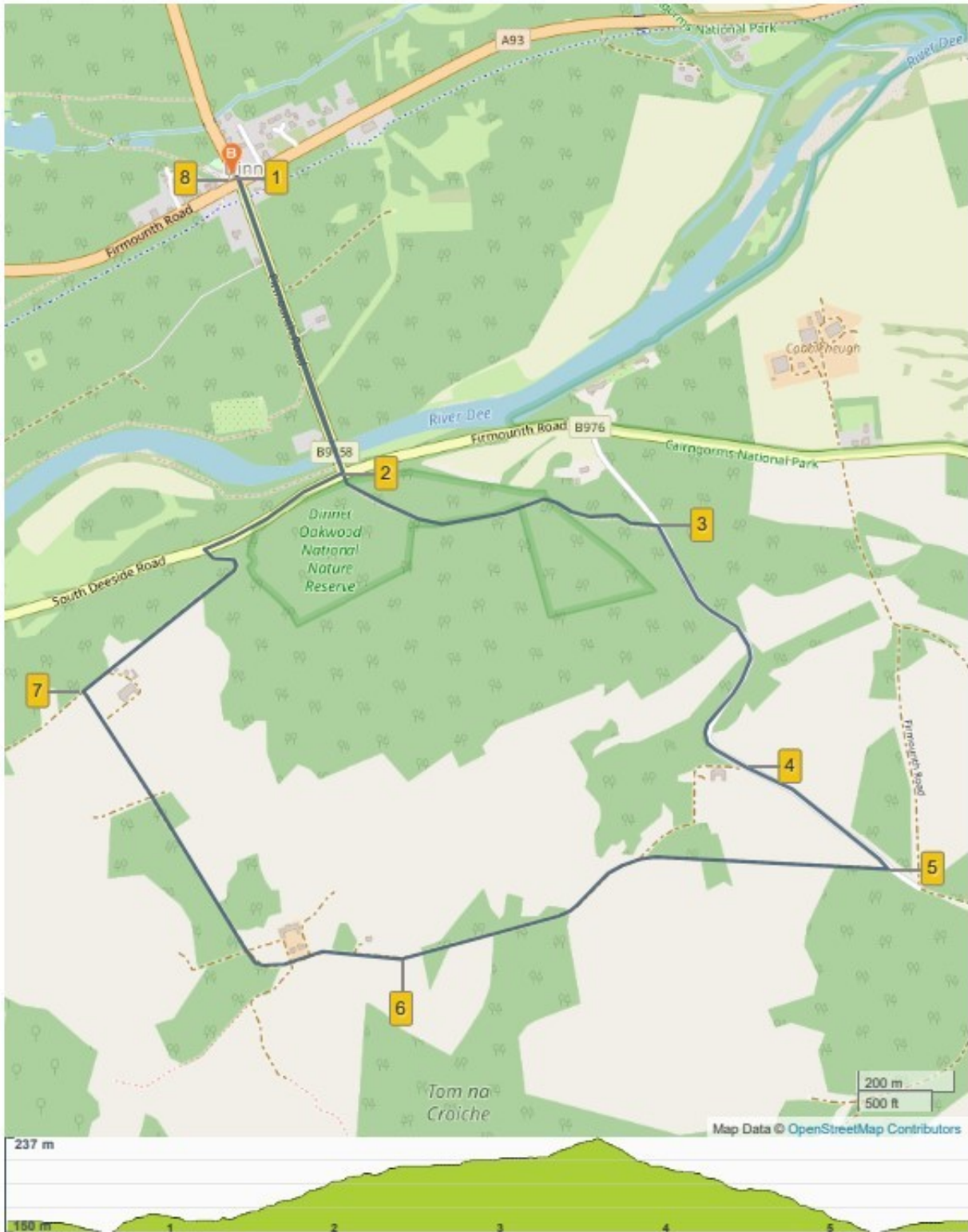
**(8) Finish walk back in Dinnet**

In 1.48 km, you will have arrived back at your start-point in the Cairngorms National Park car-park in Dinnet. (5.84 km)



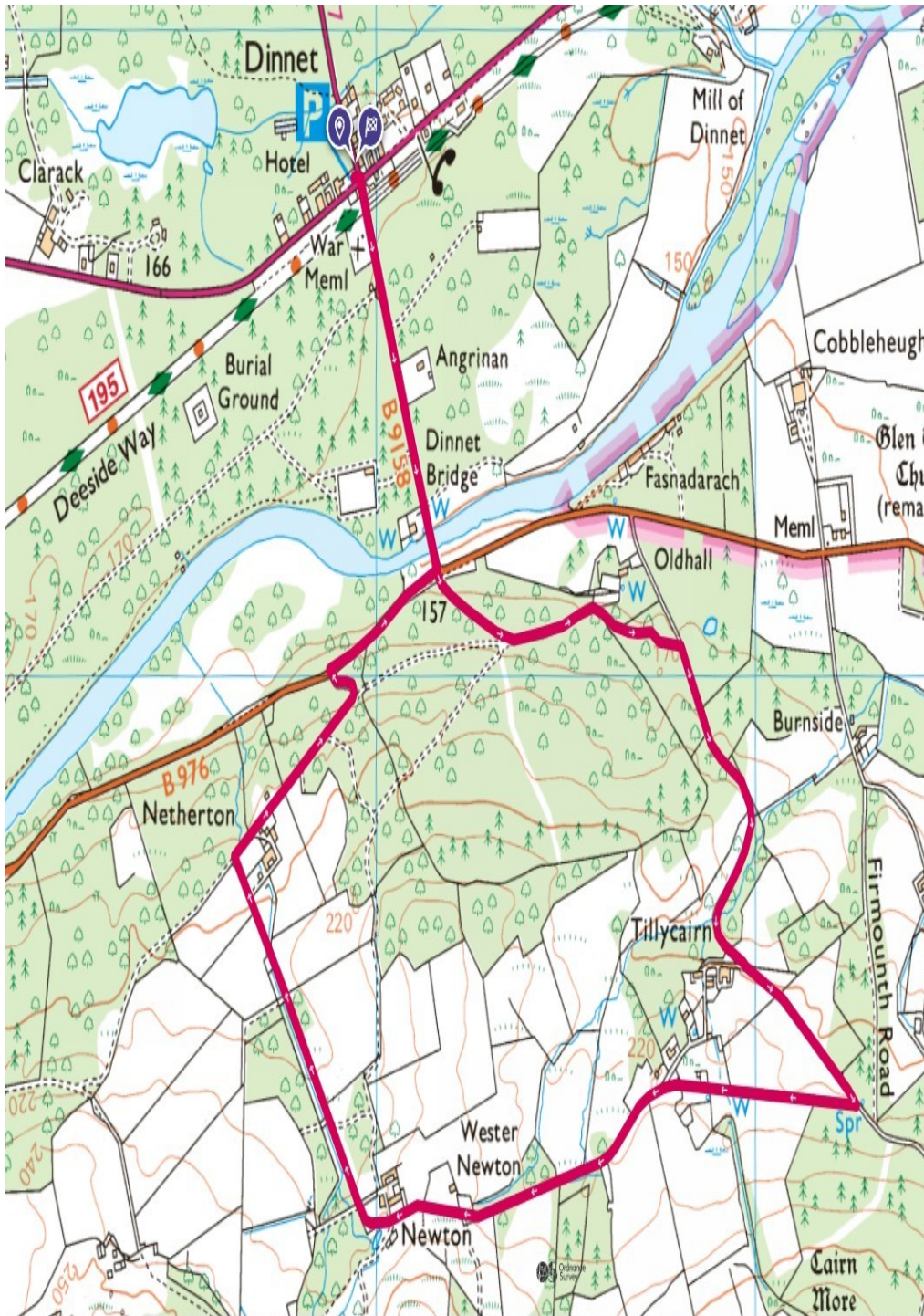
# Route Map (with waypoints)

## SCO-204-Dinnet Oak Wood-Tillycairn-Wicebe Road





## 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 OSM](#)

[Access Walk on Alltrails](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)