

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

## Dinnet-River Dee-Clarack Loch Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

### Route Summary

An enjoyable short walk with very limited overall ascent. The route takes in open mature woodland, and scenic walking by the River Dee and Loch Clarack, on the Dinnet Estate.

Duration: 1.75 hrs.



### Route Overview

**Duration:** 1.75 hours.

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

**Length:** 4.93 km / 3.06 mi. **Height Gain/Loss:** 20 meter.

**Max Height:** 173 meter. **Min Height:** 155 meter.

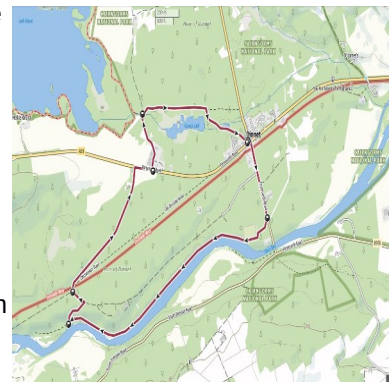
**Surface:** Moderate. A mix of tarred roads, woodland paths, and rough estate roads. The circuit is not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to sections of narrow path with large stones and high tree roots .

**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 gentle excursion in the mixed woodland and farmland of the Dinnet Estate surrounding the Deeside hamlet of the same name.

There is an extended but very pleasant section walking close by the River Dee, and a return route that takes in an attractive outlook over Clarack Loch, close to Loch Kinord. The walk starts and finishes in the Cairngorm National Park car-park in the centre of Dinnet before heading south on the verge of the B9158 Firmouth Road towards the Dinnet Bridge. After passing the eye-catching Old Kirk of Dinnet and the main entrance to Dinnet House, but before reaching the Dee bridge, the route heads into the mature and fairly open forest, at first passing the large walled garden for Dinnet House, apparently now no longer in use. Soon after, a little burn is crossed on a footbridge, where an attractive little waterfall tumbles down to the river. Here, there is also an intriguing abandoned building to which water was clearly diverted at some point. Whether this was some kind of mill, or early form of electricity generation, or had some other water-related purpose, is not clear. This mid-section of the route runs along a high bank above the River Dee, and, in places, there are some fine views over the fast-flowing waters of the river, and towards heather-clad hills to the West. Towards the end of the riverbank path, Dinnet House can be glimpsed through the trees, at a higher level. The Dinnet House mansion and outbuildings were designed by Marshall Mackenzie in 1890, with later additions and alterations. The house was used as a convalescent home during World War II but is currently a private residence. After leaving the riverside path, the route joins the estate access road that meets the A93 main road at North Lodge. After a short section on the verge of this busy road, the route then heads through the Clarack public car-park to join a path that connects Loch Kinord with Dinnet. Here, we go east to pass around the scenic banks of Clarack Loch in order to return to the start-point.



## Waypoints

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

<https://w3w.co/wound.fans.applause> NO4593698762

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 Dinnet Old Kirk and, in about 175 m, the entrance to Dinnet House on your right\*. In about 450 m, as you approach the River Dee and the Dinnet Bridge ahead of you, look out for a rough grassy road opening on your right into the forest (there may be a vehicle chain across the opening).

*\* Note: do NOT go right into the entrance drive for Dinnet House. Dinnet House is a private residence, and rights of access do NOT apply.*



### (2) Go right onto rough woodland road

In 450 m, about 135 m before the Dinnet Bridge over the River Dee, go right onto a rough grassy woodland road, passing around the vehicle chain, if in place. In about 120 m you will arrive at a walled garden (now no longer in use). Follow the path left then right here to pass the walled garden, with the River Dee a short distance away, below you on your left side. Keep following this path high above the river for almost 1.9 km, passing a waterfall where there is a disused waterside building. Eventually, you will pass through an old iron gate before glimpsing the rooftops of Dinnet House\* some distance away. The building itself is obscured by a thick belt of trees. Do NOT attempt to approach the House. It is a private residence and access rights do NOT apply. Continue along the riverbank path then, pass through another old iron gate. In about 175 m, after passing a modern bench at a viewpoint overlooking the river, you will arrive at a clearing where the path meets a rough road. (450 m)



*\* Note: The Dinnet House mansion was designed by Marshall Mackenzie in 1890, with later additions and alterations. The house was used as a convalescent home during World War II. There are associated stables to the south-west. It is a private residence and rights of access do NOT apply. For more information, see: <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB50736>*

### (3) Go right at t-junction with rough road

In a clearing, 1.88 km from leaving the public road at Waypoint 2, the path meets a rough estate road. Go right here and follow the rough grassy road as it ascends to another level above the river. In about 190 m, where the rough road meets a wider, hard-surfaced estate road, go left and follow this road until it meets the signposted Deeside Way in about 130 m. (2.33 km)



**(4) Cross the Deeside Way and carry on**

In about 310 m from leaving the riverside path at Waypoint 3, veer right to cross the signposted Deeside Way and carry on taking the estate road. Eventually, in about 865 m, the estate road passes the North Lodge on your left side, and meets the A93 main road. Take care, and turn right here to walk along the verge of this busy main road, facing the oncoming traffic, for about 150m, until you reach the opening to the Clarack car-park, across the road from you. (2.64 km)



**(5) Cross the road and enter the Clarack Car-park**

In just over 1 km from Waypoint 4, at the Deeside Way intersection, cross the A93 main road with care and enter the Dinnet Estate Clarack Car-park. Towards the back of this large car-park, veer left to pass an information board on your right and a car-parking meter on your left. Go gently downhill, passing through a pedestrian gate, and following the rough road for about 200 m. (3.65 km)



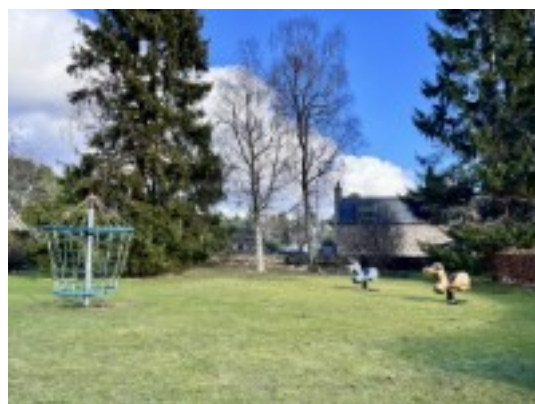
**(6) Go right through pedestrian gate**

In 340 m from crossing the A93 main road, at a closed farm gate, leave the rough road you are on to turn right through a pedestrian gate (the gate on your left side leads to Loch Kinord on the Muir of Dinnet NNR). Keep going on this rough narrow path as it passes Clarack Loch on your right side, eventually reaching a viewpoint platform for the loch, before passing the Dinnet Curling Pond on your left side and reaching the Cairngorms National Park car-park where you started the walk. (3.99 km)



**(7) Finish walk back at the Cairngorm National Park car-park**

In about 940 m, you will have returned to the Cairngorm National Park car-park, where the walk ends. (4.93 km)



# Route Map (with waypoints)

## 213-Dinnet-River Dee-Clarack Loch Circuit



## 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](#)