

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Finzean Circular Walk (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

This is a very pleasant walk in an area renowned for its scenic beauty. The limited overall ascent to a vantage point by the local school is gradual, with rewarding views over the Feughside valley.

Duration: 2.5 hrs.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: The walk start-point is in the free car-park for Finzean Hall, across the B976 South Deeside Road from the Hall, at the east end of Finzean village.

Length: 8.79 km / 5.46 mi. **Height Gain/Loss:** 86 meter.

Max Height: 182 meter. **Min Height:** 103 meter.

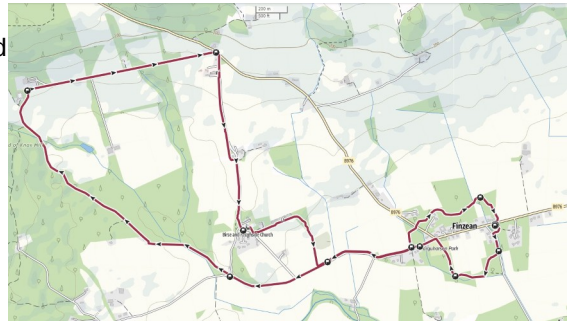
Surface: Moderate. A mix of surfaced paths, rough and tarred roads. The circuit is suitable for off-road mobility scooters.

Difficulty: Easy.

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

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

Refreshments: The Finzean Estate Farm Shop and Cafe (on route). Options in Potarch, Banchory and Aboyne.



Description

This is a very enjoyable and accessible walk in the valley of the Water of Feugh in the dispersed community of Finzean, with sweeping views over open farmland and of the surrounding hills. The walk starts and finishes in attractive community woodland surrounding the little village of Finzean (pronounced "Fingin") before exploring the neighbouring countryside comprising a mix of mature forest and farmland. At the return point on the circuit, the route passes the attractive Finzean House. The original mansion house was built in 1686, but much of it was burnt down in 1954 and has been almost completely replaced, with the south façade rebuilt to its pre-fire design. The C-listed walled garden was built in the late 19th century. Finzean House was the family home of Joseph Farquharson, the Victorian landscape painter who was known as the "Painting Laird", and the garden was the backdrop for several of his paintings. The garden has lovely views over the historic holly hedge towards Clachnaben. Finzean, on the banks of the fast-flowing River Feugh, is set in a wide valley comprised of a patchwork of fields and small woodlands, with scattered houses, farms and hamlets. A ridge of low hills, with their highest point at Tom's Cairn (310 m), delineate the valley to the north, separating it from the River Dee. To the south and west, Finzean is sheltered by higher hills. Especially prominent in the views towards this aspect are the distinctive granite tor of Clachnaben (589 m) and the towering bulk of Peter Hill (617 m). The Birse Community Trust (BCT) is a local charity that promotes the common good of the inhabitants of Birse Parish and wider public benefits. For more information see: <https://www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk/>. Thanks to Darren Moody for recommending this walking route, from the Visit Banchory website: <https://www.visitbanchory.com/things-to-do/banchory-the-place-to-be-outdoors-and-active/walking/>



Waypoints

(1) Start the walk at the Finzean Community Hall car-park

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Start the walk from the car-park for Finzean Hall, which is just across the B976 South Deeside Road, at the eastern end of the village. Take the path into the trees marked by a post at the SE rear of the car-park, by recycling bins (don't take the other path to the left of this, as you face the correct path). Soon, you will cross a footbridge and turn left down a minor tarred road.



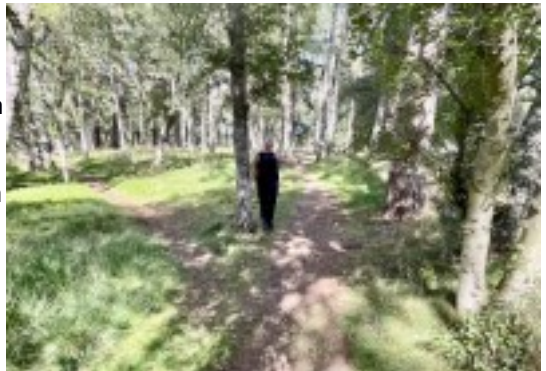
(2) Go right off the road onto a woodland path

In 200 m, go right off the tarred road onto a woodland path. (200 m)



(3) Take the right fork at a y-junction

In 380 m, take the right fork at a paths y-junction in the woodland. In about 145 m you will arrive at the Farquharson Park in Finzean. Cross the park, veering a little left, in a diagonal direction towards the entrance to the park, at the main road. Upon leaving the park, go left and almost immediately leave the B976 South Deeside Road to take the minor road going straight ahead at a y-junction, signposted for the Finzean Farm Shop & Cafe. (580 m)



(4) Go right off the road onto a path

In 380 m from the last waypoint, in the woodland, and about 120 m from leaving Finzean Park, go right off the tarred road onto a path running parallel with the road. Soon the path cuts right for a few meters, where you then go left, before the path straightens out again, running parallel with the public road, fairly close on your left side. Keep going, with fields now on your right side. (0.96 km)



(5) Go left off the path onto the public road

In 620 m, at a gap in the rough hedging on your left, go left off the path onto the public road, and turn right to walk along the verge. In 220 m, ignore the public road going right for the Finzean Farm Shop, and keep going, ignoring another tarred road going right in another 175 m. (1.58 km)



(6) Veer right off the road onto the South Lodge access drive

In 660 m, veer right off the tarred public road onto the South Lodge access drive, passing between two low stone pillars . Keep going on this rough Finzean Estate road for almost 2 km, ignoring any roads going off to left or right. (2.24 km)



(7) Pass Finzean House

In 1.92 km, just after passing the fine looking Finzean Home Farm steading building on your left, you will pass Finzean House* on your left as you turn right to follow another access drive, now heading in a broadly NE direction, towards the B976 South Deeside Road. (4.16 km)

** Note: The original mansion house was built in 1686, but much of it was burnt down in 1954 and has been almost completely replaced. The C-listed walled garden was built in the late 19th century. The south façade of the mansion was completely rebuilt to its original design and a new ballroom was added in circa 2010. Finzean House was the family home of Joseph Farquharson, the Victorian landscape painter, and the garden was the backdrop for several of his paintings. The garden has lovely views over the historic holly hedge to the front of Clachnaben.*



(8) Right at the end of the access drive

In 1.2 km. go right to briefly walk along the verge of the B976 South Deeside Road, before turning right and downhill, passing Finzean Primary School on your right, before joining a hard-surfaced footpath that runs parallel, and close to the public road, on your left side. There are a couple of interesting information boards about the history of the school and links to the slave trade, as you progress. In about 500 m from the School, you have to option to divert left, crossing the public road, to check out the excellent Finzean Farm Shop & Cafe. Otherwise, or after your visit, continue taking the path gently downhill, with the road on your left side. In about 300 m from the Shop/Cafe, the path enters a small area of community woodland. Keep following the path as it soon exits the woodland by a wooden arch. Now follow the roadside downhill until you are opposite the Birse and Feughside Church on your left side. (5.36 km)



(9) Left and across the road to the church

In 1.17 km from the last waypoint, go left and across the public road to the Birse and Feughside Church, passing in front of the front door of the church, before turning right at a post (you may also just cut across the grass, diagonally) to follow a path which soon turn left, signposted for the graveyard. At the entrance to the graveyard (about 200 m from Waypoint 8, crossing the road), follow the path as it bends around the corner of the graveyard. Keep going, with the graveyard close by on your left side, before the path turns right and heads in the direction of the minor public road you walked on earlier, after Waypoint 5. The path then turns left, parallel with the public road, close by on your right side. Soon after, you will be retracing your earlier steps on this pathway, between Waypoints 4 and 5. (6.53 km)



(10) Left at a junction - into the woodland

In 1.37 km from Waypoint 9, go left at the paths junction you encountered earlier - to follow a path into the Finzean Community Woodland. In about 150 m, you will cross the B976 South Deeside Road, then continue onto a woodland path on the other side of the road. (7.9 km)



(11) Take the right fork at a y-junction

In 660 m from Waypoint 10, and about 500 m after crossing the public road, take the right fork at a y-junction in the woodland paths. Soon you will pass the little play-park at the rear of the Finzean Hall, before crossing the B976 road again to finish the walk back at your start-point in the Hall car-park. (8.56 km)



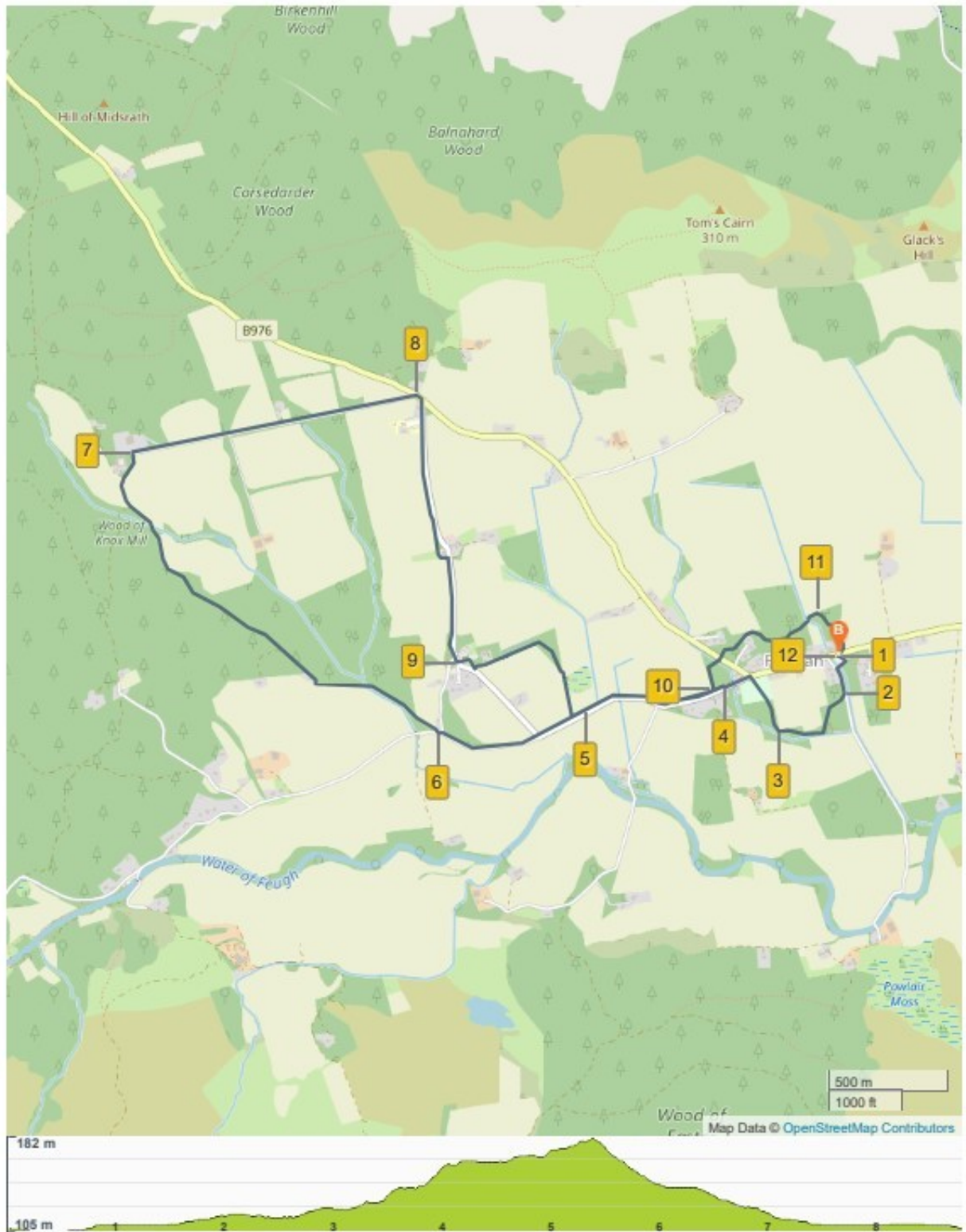
(12) Finish the walk back at the Hall car-park

In 230 m, you will have returned to your start-point in the Finzean Hall car-park. (8.79 km)

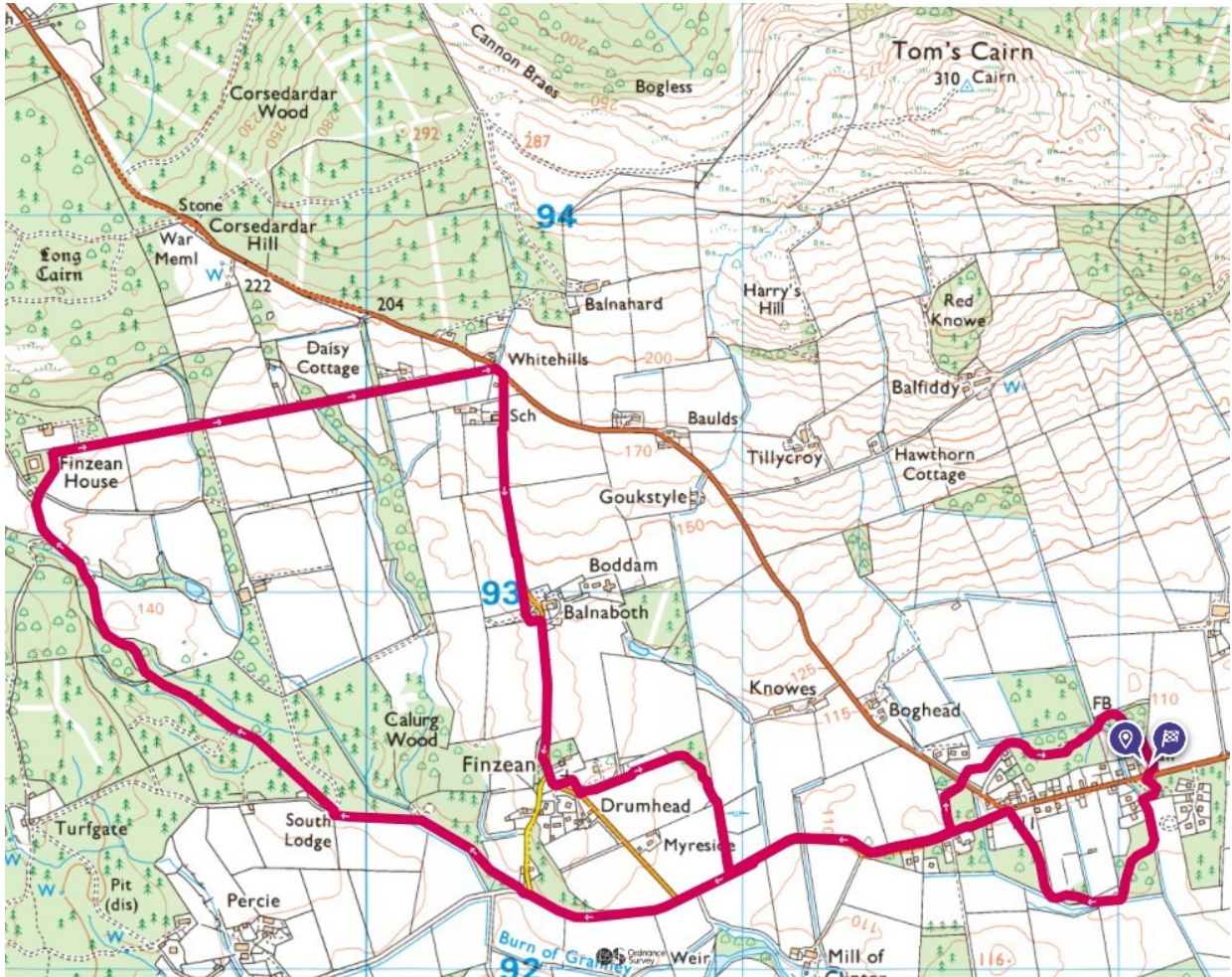


Route Map (with waypoints)

206-Finzean Circular Walk



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](#)