

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

## Lumphanan-Tullochvenus Circular (Aberdeenshire)

### Route Summary

After an initial section largely enclosed in mixed woodland, most of the route is characterised by wide open views, near and far. The 200 m+ ascent over Glenshalg Hill is gradual, with no steep slopes to negotiate. All told, a very scenic and enjoyable little hike.

Duration: 2.75 hours.



### Route Overview

**Duration:** 2.75 hours.

**Transport/Parking:** The Stagecoach 202 service from Banchory stops at Lumphanan. Check Timetables. Free public parking in Station Square at the walk start/end point.

**Length:** 8.410 km / 5.26 mi

**Height Gain:** 212 meter. **Height Loss:** 212 meter.

**Max Height:** 362 meter. **Min Height:** 171 meter.

**Surface:** Moderate. Mostly on fairly good paths or landrover tracks. May be muddy in places. There is a 900m section on the B9119 road - take extreme care! Not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to stile by locked gate at Waypoint 5.

**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.

**Refreshments:** The Macbeth Arms (limited day-time hours). We can recommend the Meet Again Tea Shop on Perkhill Road.



### Description

This walk offers some fantastic views from Glenshalg Hill, overlooking the Deeside village of Lumphanan. On a good day you will pick out The Hill of Fare, Clachnaben, Mount Keen, Lochnagar and Morven, amongst others. The walk leaves Lumphanan, heading north on a section of the Old Military Road that ran from Fochabers to Fettercairn, completed under the direction of General Wade's deputy, Major William Caulfeild, in 1761. This part of the old road was not incorporated into the modern public roads network. Initially it is now a path through mixed woodland, becoming a field and farm access track as it climbs over the shoulder of Glenshalg Hill. After a short section along the B9119 road, passing the little community of houses around 18thC Tullochvenus House, the return route at first ascends over the heather and grass summit of Glenshalg, with the imposing Benaquhallie Hill at your back. Then, the best panoramic views are to be had as you descend towards Lumphanan on the heather-clad hillside, with a final section through rolling farmland before re-entering the village close to the start point in Station Square. The village of Lumphanan is famously associated with King Macbeth of Scotland (or Alba). The Battle of Lumphanan was fought on 15 August 1057, between Macbeth and the future King Malcolm III. According to traditional sources, Macbeth was killed at Lumphanan, having led his retreating forces north to make a final stand. There is a well close to the village where Macbeth is believed to have taken his last drink in the heat of battle and, nearby, "Macbeth's Stone" is said to be the stone upon which Macbeth was beheaded before his body was buried under a cairn. Needless to say, there are alternative versions of Macbeth's eventual death after the battle, with his demise allegedly days later in Scone, and burial on Iona. After the walk, consider visiting the interesting "[Peel Ring of Lumphanan](#)", the site of a 13thC motte, now managed by Historic Environment Scotland. The Lumphanan Paths Group are doing a great job in way-marking and maintaining walking routes in the area. See: <https://bit.ly/3nuTz8J>



## Waypoints

### (1) Start the walk at Station Square

(57.12761; -2.68833) <https://w3w.co/gone.stun.volcano>

Start the walk at Station Square, walking up the A982 Perkhill Road, with the gable end of the Macbeth Arms hotel on your right side.



### (2) Veer right up Glen Road

(57.12898; -2.68854) <https://w3w.co/headless.redefined.nappy>  
In about 150 m, veer right to walk up Glen Road on the pavement. (153 m)



### (3) Go up old military road on left of church

(57.13178; -2.69041) <https://w3w.co/detonated.observes.moving>  
In 350 m, at a y-junction, with the church on your right, veer slightly left up a rough road. You are on a section of the Old Military Road (from Fochabers to Fettercairn!). The rough road soon become a path through mixed woodland. Eventually the woodland is left behind as you gradually ascend to walk in farmland, with fields on either side, and rising over the shoulder of the hill, with marvellous views now to the NW. (491 m)



### (4) Right onto verge of B9119 road

(57.15423; -2.69204) <https://w3w.co/legs.tempting.distilled>  
After 2.8 km, you will descend to the B9119 road, where you turn right and walk along the verge (for 900 m). Watch out for the old hand water pump on your right! Take care to walk on the right side of the road, facing oncoming traffic, and step up onto the verge when vehicles are approaching. Part way along this section you pass 18th C Tullochvenus House in trees on your left. (3.3 km)



### (5) Right off B9119 road passing quarry on left

(57.15470; -2.67664) <https://w3w.co/surround.decoding.roof>  
After 900 m walking along the B9119 road, turn right to cross a stile at a gate. Pass the small quarry on your left and walk uphill on the landrover track. (4.2 km)



### (6) Veer right at y-junction - under tree

(57.15058; -2.67416) <https://w3w.co/discount.conducted.plunge>  
After walking uphill for 500 m, veer right at a y-junction, passing under the branches of a large tree. Continue walking gently uphill. (4.7 km)



### (7) Again veer right at y-junction

(57.14881; -2.67423) <https://w3w.co/firewall.fidgeting.store>  
In 300 m, arriving at another y-junction of landrover tracks, again veer right to take the track slowly descending in a SW direction. Keep following this track as it dips towards a field then rises again, with wonderful southerly views opening up. Eventually, the track starts to descend through the heather towards some isolated houses on the outskirts of Lumphanan. (5.0 km)



### (8) Right onto minor road

(57.14036; -2.67181) <https://w3w.co/invite.having.cookie>  
In 1.2 km, after negotiating a closed gate, and passing a house on your right side, turn right onto the tarred minor road, walking towards Lumphanan. (6.2 km)





### (9) Left and downhill off minor road

(57.13511; -2.68160) <https://w3w.co/pouch.resonates.entry>  
In 900 m, go left onto a rough road going downhill towards farm buildings. (7.1 km)



### (10) Veer left and downhill at junction on farm roads

(57.13397; -2.68168) <https://w3w.co/trail.save.functions>  
In about 100 m, as you pass farm buildings on your right, take the rough road veering left and downhill (don't take the immediately prior field access road going sharp left!). Carry on taking this rough road as it gently progresses downhill. (7.2 km)



### (11) Right over bridge

(57.12840; -2.67990) <https://w3w.co/strutting.monitors.jazz>  
In 700 m, go right over a wooden footbridge to follow the path referred to as 'Lovers Laine' on the OpenStreetMap. There is a small burn on your left side. The path eventually emerges amongst houses near Station Square. Keep going straight ahead to return to your start-point in the Square. (7.9 km)

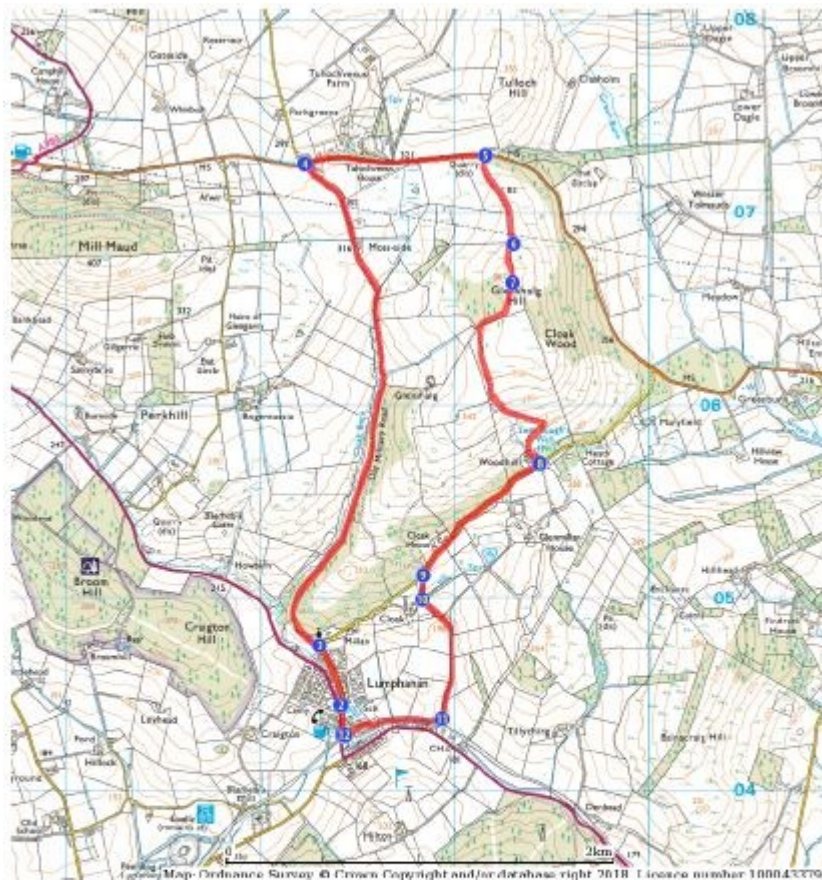


### (12) End walk back at Station Square

(57.12762; -2.68820) <https://w3w.co/midwinter.playing.down>  
In 500 m from the footbridge you will have returned to your start-point in Station Square. (8.4 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](#)