

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

## Lumsden-Sculpture Walk-Clova Estate Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

### Route Summary

This is an enjoyable and interesting walk that combines art in a rural setting with easy walking in mixed farmland, and on the wooded periphery of a landed estate.

Duration: 2 hrs.



### Route Overview

**Duration:** 2 hours.

**Transport/Parking:** Limited bus service from Alford. Check timetables. Free parking at the walk start/end point.

**Length:** 6.43 km / 3.4 mi. **Height Gain/Loss:** 70 meter.

**Max Height:** 229 meter. **Min Height:** 217 meter.

**Surface:** Mixed. Tarred surfaces, rough roads and paths. Not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to steps, and a rough, very steep and narrow path up an embankment at Waypoint 4. A shorter route is possible by missing out the first section of the Sculpture Walk due to steps, reversing the route to Waypoint 6 (the pond), and returning the same way.

**Difficulty:** Easy.

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

**Dog Friendly:** Yes, but keep dogs on lead on or near public roads.

**Refreshments:** Options in Kildrummy, Alford, and Huntly.



### Description

This is a very pleasant rural walk in the Upper Donside countryside that surrounds the little village of Lumsden. The village of Lumsden, founded in 1825 by Mr Leith Lumsden of Clova, was described as a "new town on barren moor", reflecting its rather out-of-the-way location. For many years, the village has been the base for the Scottish Sculpture Workshop, who are responsible for the unusual Sculpture Walk which we have incorporated into the initial and final sections of the route. To complement the sculpture trail, an impressive large sculpture comprised of steel-plate discs sits at the nearby roadside on the southern entry to the village. Soon after, the next section of the route turns down Queenie Brae to leave the settlement and enter an environment of mixed farmland, with fine views of the surrounding hills. The "queenie" of Queenie Brae refers to Elizabeth de Burgh (the second wife of Robert the Bruce). Local tradition has it that Elizabeth, and her party, hid under a bridge at the foot of the brae in 1306 after escaping the overthrow of Kildrummy Castle by Edward I of England. She was eventually captured and spent 8 years imprisoned in England before being re-united with her husband. The mid-section of the route joins an old access drive (no longer used for that purpose), through mature woodland, to Clova House. At the return point, a short diversion is taken to a pretty pond, with wildfowl and an old boathouse. The 18thC Clova House mansion (not on the route) is a private residence associated with the Lumsden family, long established lairds in these parts, who also had links to Jamaica. After turning back towards the village on another old drive through trees, the next section veers away from a minor public road to pass the northern edge of the extensive Lumsden Moss, an important and recognized bog habitat. In the final section of the route we pass through the village, pausing to admire the village green and read an information board which conveys interesting facts about the history of the area, notable places nearby, and a large map showing local walking routes.



## Waypoints

### (1) Start walk from car-park near Lumsden School

<https://w3w.co/generated.little.solution> NJ4734821392

Start the walk from the car-park, on the left off the A97 road (travelling from the Mossat junction), just south of Lumsden, and about 130 m south of Lumsden Primary School. At the north end of the car-park (nearest the school) go left down a grassy field access road for a few meters, then turn right to join a path through the belt of tree. This is the first section of the Sculpture Walk, walking from the south end. In about 120 m, after climbing the steps where the belt of trees ends, pass the front of the school and the house next-door. looking to re-join a path through trees on your left side.



### (2) After passing school follow path down into belt of trees

In 170 m, after passing the school and a house, go left onto a path which then bends right through the belt of trees, parallel with the main road on your right side. There are a number of sculptures\* in this section. (170 m)

*\* Note: before turning onto the path you will notice the large metal sculpture just ahead of you, by the roadside. All the sculptures are associated with the Scottish Sculpture Workshop, which is located in the village of Lumsden. See: <https://www.ssw.org.uk/about/> and <https://bit.ly/3rzZYWk>.*



### (3) Left down Queenie Brae

In 180 m, emerging from the trees and the Sculpture Walk at the side of the A97 road, immediately turn left down the quiet minor road, signposted as Queenie Brae\*. Keep following this road, initially passing some houses before passing through open farmland, with fine views of the hills on all sides. Your next waypoint is just after passing under a bridge in just over 1 km. (350 m)

*\* Note: It is believed that Elizabeth de Burgh ( second wife of Robert the Bruce) and her party hid under a bridge at the foot of the brae in 1306 after escaping the overthrow of Kildrummy Castle by Edward I of England. See the following for background: <https://historytheinterestingbits.com/2015/04/24/elizabeth-captive-queen-of-scots/>*



### (4) Sharp left and up embankment after bridge

In 1.17 km, immediately after passing under a bridge, turn sharp left and step up the rough embankment path to quickly reach an old access driveway for Clova House. Turn left to follow this driveway (now unused, apparently?) over the bridge and through woodland. (1.52 km)



### (5) Left for path to pond

In 1.62 km, a rough x-roads in the estate/farm roads (and before arriving at a y-junction in 60 m, where there is a "Private" sign for Clova House\*), turn left and follow the grassy path, with a field on your right side. Soon, you will arrive at a large pond where there is an old boathouse. (3.14 km)

\* Note: The 18thC Clova House mansion is a private residence associated with the Lumsden family. See: <https://bit.ly/46v0R1e> and <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146658901>



### (6) Pond

In 90 m, or so, you will arrive at a large pond/small loch on your left side, where there is an old boathouse. Carry on for another 80 m, or so, to take in another view of the pond before re-tracing your steps to the x-roads at Waypoint 5. Cross straight over the old access drive onto a rough road, then turn right to follow another old access drive for Clova House, returning now in the direction of Lumsden village. (3.23 km)



### (7) Sharp right at bench - before gates

In 1.56 km, as you approach an entryway to the drive you are walking on, and a junction with a public road, go sharp right by a bench on your right side. Now follow the path through the trees, ignoring any paths to left or right. The Lumsden Moss is now on your right side. In about another 250m, you will emerge at a small tarred turning point for vehicles, with the Lumsden wastewater (Sludge) plant on your right side. Now follow the narrow tarred access road back in the direction of Lumsden, eventually passing houses on either side before reaching a t-junction with the A97 main road in the centre of Lumsden village where you should cross the road and turn right along the pavement, with the grassy play-park in the square at Lumsden on your left side. (4.79 km)



### (8) Lumsden Tales and Trails information board

In just over 1 km from Waypoint 7, after passing the Lumsden War Memorial, you will arrive at an information board entitled "Lumsden Tales and Trails" on your left side, in the green recreational area/square at the centre of the village. The board conveys interesting information about the history of the area, notable places nearby, and a large map showing walking routes. When you are ready, carry on walking along the pavement back in the direction of your start-point. When you reach the opening for Queenie Brae (Waypoint 3 on your outward route, we suggest crossing the main road and re-tracing your steps along the Sculpture Walk (both sections) until you arrive back at your start-point in the car-park. (5.81 km)



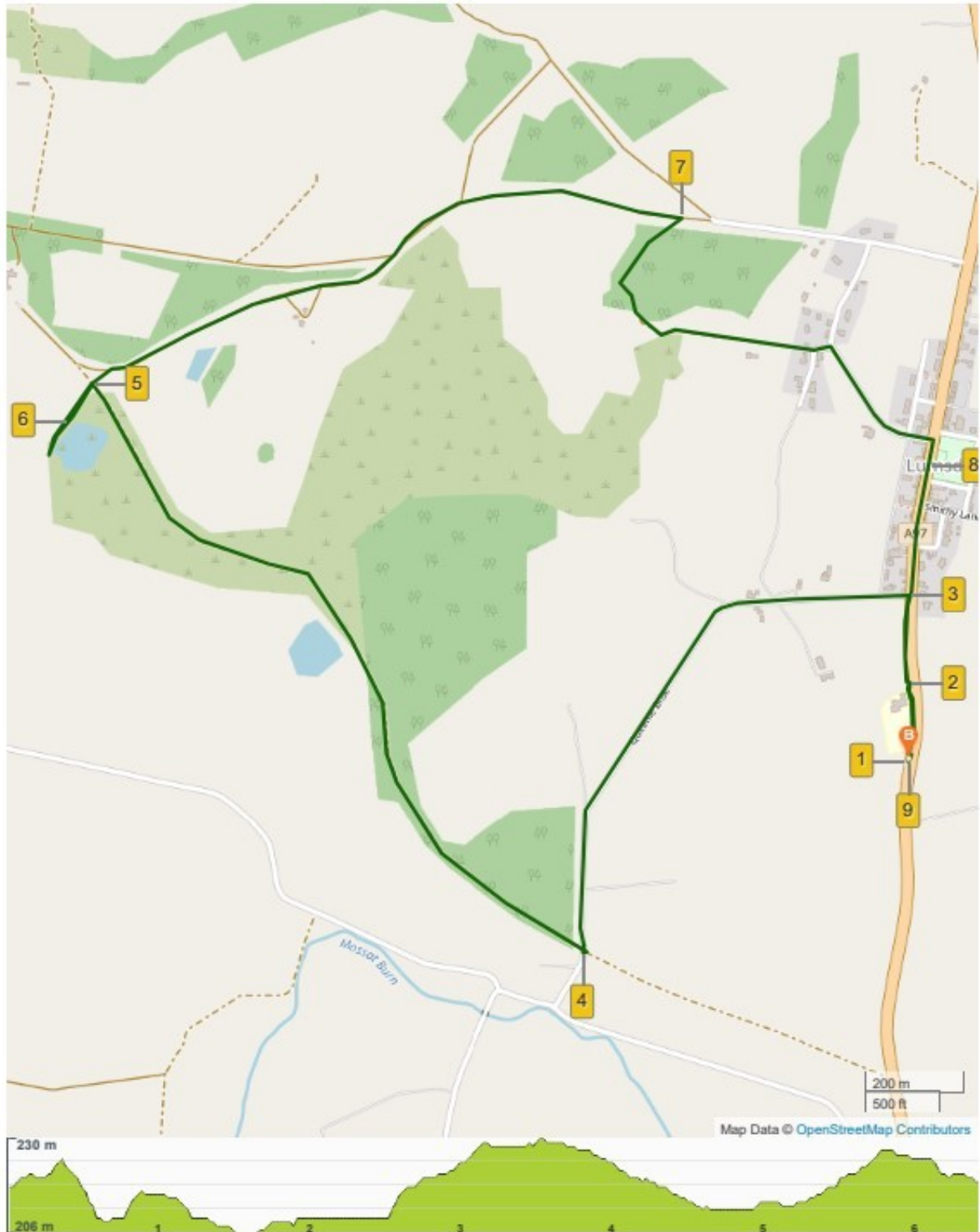
**(9) Finish walk back at car-park**

In 620 m, you will have arrived back at your start-point in the car-park just south of Lumsden Primary School. (6.43 km)

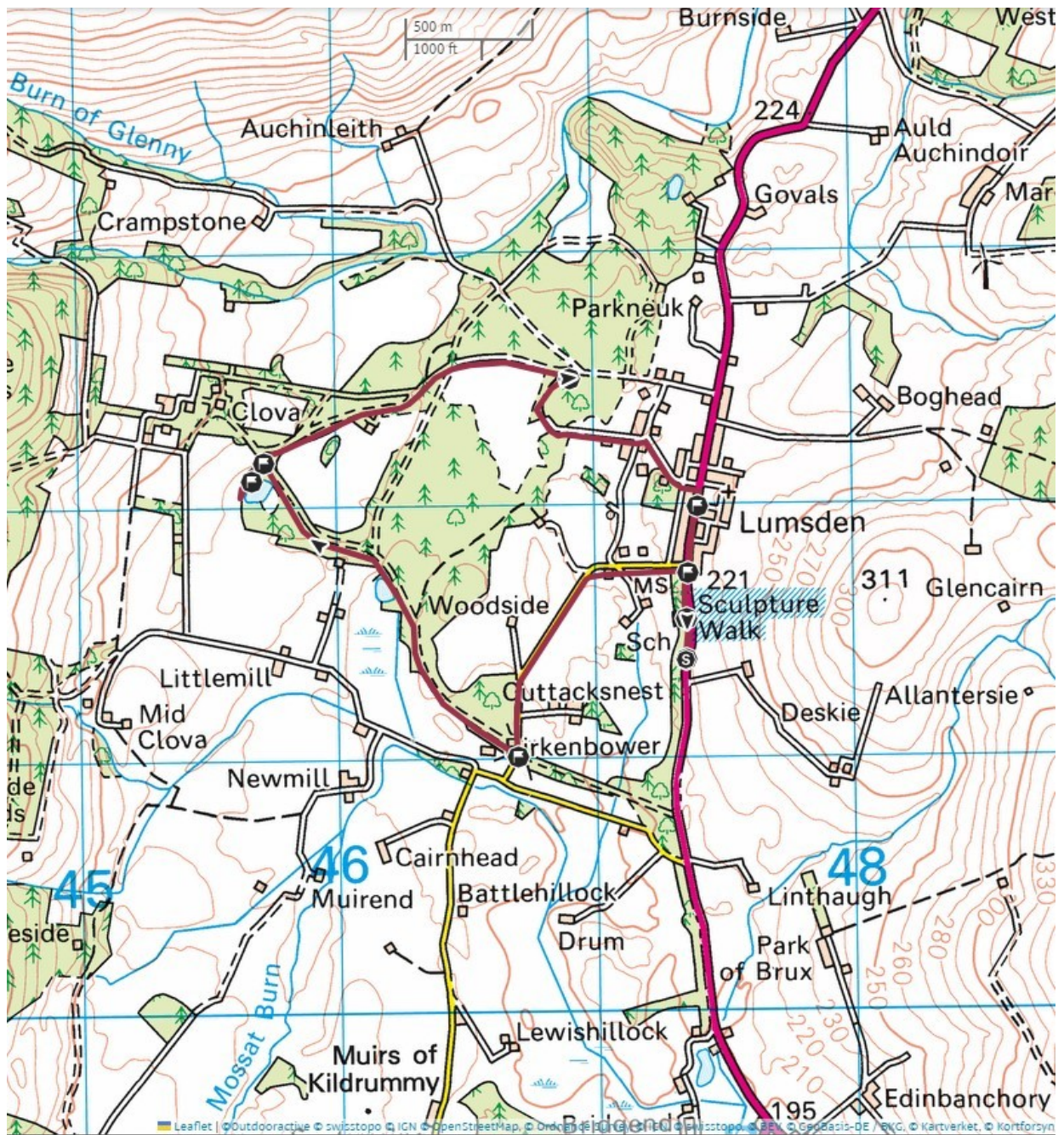


# Route Map (with waypoints)

## 209-Lumsden-Sculpture Walk-Clova Estate 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](#)