

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Pitmedden House-Udny Green Circular (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

This is a very pleasant walk in a mixed rural landscape. The terrain is generally flat with no steep inclines. The route passes the tower house known as Udny Castle and the picturesque village of Udny Green. The gardens and museum at Pitmedden House are well worth a visit.

Duration: 2 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: There is an infrequent Stagecoach bus service from Ellon to Pitmedden. Check timetables. Pitmedden House NTS car-park (charges apply for non-members).

Length: 6.340 km / 3.96 mi

Height Gain: 73 meter **Height Loss:** 73 meter

Max Height: 64 meter **Min Height:** 92 meter

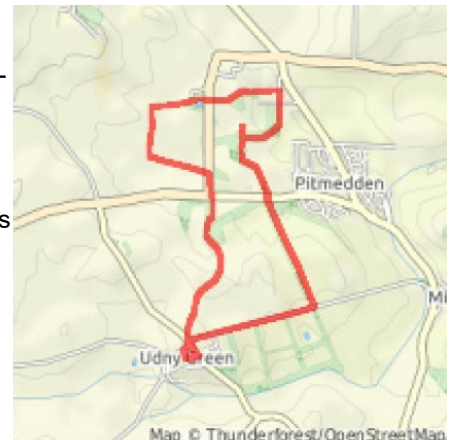
Surface: Moderate. Generally good walking surfaces but some sections may be muddy after wet weather.

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

Difficulty: Easy.

Dog Friendly: Yes. Under close control at all times and on lead on public roads. Pick up, bag and remove any mess!

Refreshments: Excellent cafe in Pitmedden House. A fine dining experience at Eat on the Green in Udny Green.



Description

This is a fine example of a rural walk in NE Scotland. The route alternates between mature broadleaf woodland and open farmland. In the mid-section of the walk we pass Udny Castle, in the familiar style of a Scottish tower house. Its exact construction date is unknown, but its foundations probably date from the late 14th or early 15th century. The castle is popularly associated with Jamie Fleeman (1713–1778), known as "the Laird of Udny's Fool".

Although described as a fool, he had a reputation for his witticisms and there are many, possibly, anecdotal tales about him. He was probably the last family jester in Scotland. The turning point on the walk is the charming and picturesque village square at Udny Green, with its fine church (with Mott House), old cottages, renowned restaurant "Eat On The Green", and, of course, the eponymous village green. On the return section, and especially when following a belt of mature trees towards Pitmedden there are some fine views of open countryside. At the end of the walk there is the option to take in the gardens and museum of farming life at Pitmedden House. The formal gardens are recreated in the formal 18th Century Renaissance style. In summer, the floral borders and fruit gardens are also a delight, whilst the museum is an interesting and important record of agricultural life in former times. This is a National Trust for Scotland location, so the usual charges apply if you are not a member.



Waypoints

(1) Start at Pitmedden House car-park

(57.34195; -2.19387) <https://w3w.co/clinking.jeeps.human>
Start the walk at the Pitmedden House car-park*, heading south, away from the house and gardens towards the trees.

***Note:** there is a charge for car-parking if you are not a National Trust member.



(2) Take yellow arrow path into woods

(57.34171; -2.19394) <https://w3w.co/pavilions.beaker.masking>
In 30 m, or so, depending on where you started in the car-park, take the yellow arrow marked path into the woods. (30 m)



(3) Across rough road and follow yellow arrow left

(57.34132; -2.19397) <https://w3w.co/timer.flinches.mainland>
In just 40 m, or so, from entering the woods, having crossed an estate road, follow the yellow arrow marked sign left on a narrow path through the woods, with a field on your right. (70 m)



(4) Veer left towards pond and rough road

(57.34205; -2.18959) <https://w3w.co/shepherds.snack.bluffing>
In 300 m, at a fork in the narrow path, veer left towards the end of the pond on your left, and join the rough estate road again. Keep following it starts to turn left. (368 m)



(5) Left off road down path at yellow arrow marker

(57.34420; -2.18948) <https://w3w.co/topic.year.bounding>

In about 230 m, passing a small field on your left, turn sharp left at the yellow arrow marker off the estate road down a path passing between the fields. (608 m)



(6) Veer right at yellow arrow marker

(57.34412; -2.19314) <https://w3w.co/lows.mills.fault>

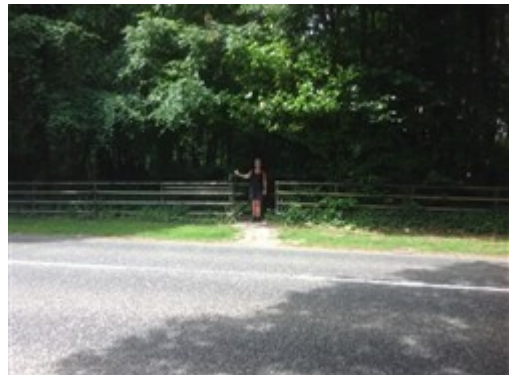
In another 220 m, or so, at a fork in the path, veer right to follow the yellow arrow marker. (828 m)



(7) Cross A920 road and follow yellow arrow path

(57.34364; -2.19773) <https://w3w.co/thrashed.refusals.ignoring>

In around 270 m, upon meeting the main A920 road, cross over and enter the woods again. following the yellow arrow marked path. (1.1 km)



(8) Straight on to leave yellow arrow path for Fishers path

(57.34367; -2.19936) <https://w3w.co/repeating.relies.booster>

In 100 m, or so, go straight on, leaving the yellow arrow path to take the Fishers path. Soon, there is a large field on your left. (1.2 km)



(9) Left to leave Fishers path for Countryside path

(57.34322; -2.20461) <https://w3w.co/twice.saddens.bribing>

In 300 m, go left to leave the Fishers path for the Countryside path. Follow it through a belt of trees as it goes past and around a couple of fields. (1.5 km)



(10) Cross A920 road and go right passing football ground

(57.33899; -2.19802) <https://w3w.co/raven.adopters.toward>

After 800 m, cross the main A920 road and go right passing the Formartine F.C. football ground on your left. Head towards the t-junction ahead of you with the gates to Udney Castle estate beyond the junction. (2.3 km)



(11) Cross road and go left for new path

(57.33761; -2.19774) <https://w3w.co/salaried.belts.rainy>

In 200 m, cross the busy road junction with care opposite the gates for Udney Castle North Lodge, then go left along the verge for 20 m to access a new hard-surfaced path on your right*. Follow the path for about 160 m, then turn right for a short distance at a t-junction, then go left along the access road through the trees. (2.5 km)

*Note: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GO THROUGH THE GATES AT THE NORTH LODGE. *The people who live there have a right to their privacy under the terms of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and walkers have a consequent responsibility to 'Respect people's privacy and peace of mind.'*



(12) Pass access drive Udney Castle and take road straight ahead to avoid it

(57.33202; -2.19776) <https://w3w.co/quaking.lawful.bunkers>

In 600 m, or so, you will arrive at a branch junction in the estate roads, with Udney Castle* some distance away on your left side. Continue taking the estate road going straight on and veering away from the castle, as advised by the Aberdeenshire Council access sign. DO NOT TAKE THE ACCESS DRIVE TO YOUR LEFT THAT LEADS UP TO THE CASTLE AND PARKING AREA. Continue to follow the estate road into the trees as it heads towards the entrance/exit at Udney Green. (3.2 km)

**Note: Please take account of the fact that the castle is a private residence. Do not, under any circumstances, approach the castle. The people who live there have a right to their privacy under the terms of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and walkers have a consequent responsibility to 'Respect people's privacy and peace of mind.'*



(13) Walk around the square at Udney Green

(57.32820; -2.20015) <https://w3w.co/genetics.geese.sample>

In 500 m, after exiting from the gates of the Udney Estate at the South Lodge, enter the area of the square and village green at Udney Green. You will want to walk around the green and take in the picturesque scene. (3.7 km)



(14) Go right onto minor road towards B999 road

(57.32852; -2.20018) <https://w3w.co/hometown.subplot.witless>

From the little street on the square with the well-known and popular 'Eat on the Green' restaurant return back uphill in the direction of the Udney South Lodge. Now go right onto the minor road that eventually connects with the B999 Pitmedden road. Carry on down this road, at first on a pavement, passing a new housing estate, then on the verge between fields and trees. (4.0 km)



(15) Left through gap in wall

(57.33060; -2.18540) <https://w3w.co/funky.ensemble.zinc>

In 900 m, look out for a gap in the wall on your left. Turn into that gap and follow the narrow path along a belt of mature trees, with fields on either side. (4.9 km)



(16) Across B9000 road and veer left towards sign

(57.33740; -2.19107) <https://w3w.co/serenade.gear.appear>
In another 900 m you will arrive at the B900 leaving Pitmedden in the Old Meldrum direction. Cross this road with care into the Pitmedden Woods. Veer towards the Pitmedden House sign just ahead of you and keep following the track back towards Pitmedden House and the car-park where you started the walk. (5.8 km)

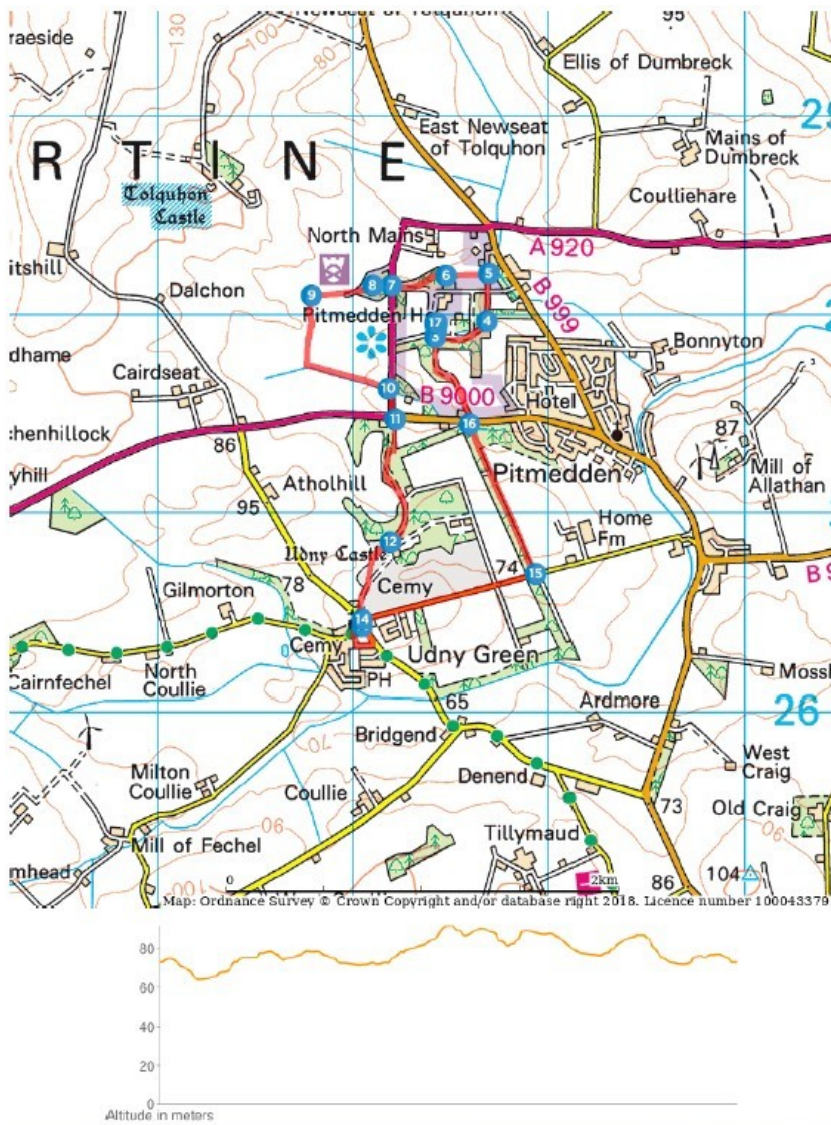


(17) Finish walk back at Pitmedden House car-park

(57.34196; -2.19399) <https://w3w.co/clinking.jeeps.human>
In 600 m, or so, you are back at your start-point in Pitmedden House car-park. (6.34 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](#)