

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Strichen Loch-Stone Circle Ramble (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

A very short and easy walk around the loch and woods at Strichen Community Park. The route includes a visit to the impressive Strichen Stone Circle, with good views all around, and where the ruins of the Georgian stately mansion, Strichen House, are also clearly seen.

*****DUE TO OVERGROWN PATHS NEAR THE STONE CIRCLE WE SUGGEST ONLY CONSIDERING THE COMPLETE CIRCUIT IN WINTER, WHEN THE GRASS HAS DIED DOWN*****

Duration: 1.75 hours.



Route Overview

Duration: 1.75 hours.

Transport/Parking: Frequent Stagecoach #68 from Mintlaw or Fraserburgh. Check timetable. Easy parking outside The Lodge cafe and nearby Strichen Loch by the walk start-point.

Length: 3.690 km / 2.31 mi

Height Gain: 48 meter **Height Loss:** 48 meter

Max Height: 82 meter **Min Height:** 58 meter

Surface: Moderate. Mostly good, surfaced paths. However, near the stone circle, a considerable section is very rough and overgrown. **WE THEREFORE SUGGEST ONLY CONSIDERING THE COMPLETE CIRCUIT IN WINTER, WHEN THE GRASS HAS DIED DOWN.** May be muddy in places after wet weather. Not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to kissing gates and very rough paths near the stone circle. There are, however, many accessible paths closer to the Loch and Lodge cafe.

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

Difficulty: Easy.

Dog Friendly: Yes, but keep dogs on lead near to livestock, and on public access roads near Strichen Loch.

Refreshments: Fine coffee and cakes, and more, at the The Lodge cafe near the walk start/end point.



Description

This gentle little ramble is a good opportunity to become acquainted with the pretty loch and woodland walks at Strichen Community Park, which is a community owned charity, run solely by volunteers. There are also good open countryside views along the way and some interesting historical features. The main focal point on the route is Strichen Stone Circle, a Megalithic ruin which may be 4 to 5 thousand years old. Interestingly, it was visited in 1773 by James Boswell and Samuel Johnson on their tour of Scotland. Disappointed, they found only the recumbent stone with its flankers, and one other stone. This arrangement was completely destroyed around 1830, and again, after reconstruction, in 1960. During excavation in 1982, the complete circle was re-erected as faithfully as possible. From the Circle there is a good view of the ruined shell of Strichen House, the remains of a mansion house, built in 1821 for 'Mormond Tam' Fraser, eventually the 12th Lord Lovat. It was a large elegant house in the Grecian style, and replaced the 17th Century palace of Strichen which had formerly occupied the site. In the mid 19th century the estate came into the possession of the Baird family, of the Gartsherrie Iron Works. After a failed attempt to run it as a Hydro, it housed troops during the 2nd World War. Closer to the Circle are what remains of a doo-cot and a walled garden. The large Buchan village of Strichen lies on the east bank of the North Ugie Water in a sheltered valley. The combination of water power from the river, a booming local linen industry, and the potential for improved agriculture, led to the development of Strichen as a planned village in 1764.



Waypoints

(1) Start outside The Lodge cafe

(57.58480; -2.09502)

Start the walk from the car-park at the Lodge cafe in Strichen and head along the road with the loch on your left side.



(2) Take path alongside the loch

(57.58403; -2.09462)

In 100 m, go left into an open parking area by the loch and then go through the gate to follow the path along the side of the loch. (98 m)



(3) Take footpath into trees at end of loch-side path

(57.58276; -2.09448)

In another 150 m, veer slightly right, away from the loch to follow a clearly marked footpath into the woods. (247 m)



(4) Keep going into wood veering left

(57.58096; -2.09361)

In another 250 m, or so, veer slightly left at a fork in the path. (496 m)



(5) Take path with fields on left

(57.57917; -2.09482)

In 225 m, take the path that heads along the edge of a field on your left. (722 m)



(6) Across road and veer left along burn-side path

(57.58129; -2.09626)

In 250 m, as you cross a farm access road, go across the road and take the path veering left along the burn-side. (976 m)



(7) Veer right through trees past Footpath sign

(57.58342; -2.10373)

After 625 m, leave the path running alongside the field on you left and veer right onto the path that goes into the trees. Very soon you will pass a 'Footpath' sign pinned to a tree on your left. When the path arrives at a junction with the old railway line path, turn left onto that path for a short distance. (1.6 km)



(8) Down past outbuildings and left under bridge

(57.58382; -2.10524)

In 100 m, go right off the old railway line path and head downhill on an access road towards some outbuildings. Avoiding the entrance to a private house on your right, follow the access road as it bends left under the old railway bridge. Cross the burn and follow the marked path for the Stone Circle uphill between fields. (1.7 km)



(9) Stone Circle

(57.58046; -2.10746)

In 500 m, having passed through a couple of pedestrian gates you will have arrived at the Strichen Stone Circle. The recumbent stone circle is in an open area with excellent all-around views. In addition there is a good view down to the ruins of Strichen House. When you are ready, head across the field, gently downhill in an easterly direction (to the left of the recumbent stone, facing the ruins of Strichen House). At the corner of the field there is a pedestrian gate. (2.2 km)

DUE TO OVERGROWN PATHS NEAR THE STONE CIRCLE WE SUGGEST ONLY CONSIDERING THE COMPLETE CIRCUIT AS FOLLOWS BELOW IN WINTER, WHEN THE GRASS HAS DIED DOWN



(10) Through gate and down path

(57.57999; -2.10556)

In about 100 m, in an easterly direction from the Stone Circle, go through the pedestrian gate and follow the path downhill towards the walls of the former walled garden for Strichen House. Follow the path as it goes left around the side of the old walled garden, eventually passing the derelict gardener's cottage on your right. (2.3 km)



(11) Left along farm road

(57.57799; -2.10260)

In 300 m, when the path around the old walled garden meets the farm access road, go left along the road which will take you back into the woods, heading towards the loch area where you started the walk. (2.6 km)



(12) Left onto path around park

(57.58263; -2.09525)

After 700 m, the access road takes you back to the open area near the loch. Immediately go left to follow the path around the little park and picnic area, turning right at the first corner to continue walking along the side of the park. (3.3 km)



(13) Veer left up path into trees

(57.58415; -2.09653)

In 300 m, at the far left corner of the park, take the path going uphill on your left side. This path immediately turns right, with a ditch on your left. Very soon, go left over a little bridge and follow the path at the back of The Lodge cafe back to the car-park. (3.6 km)



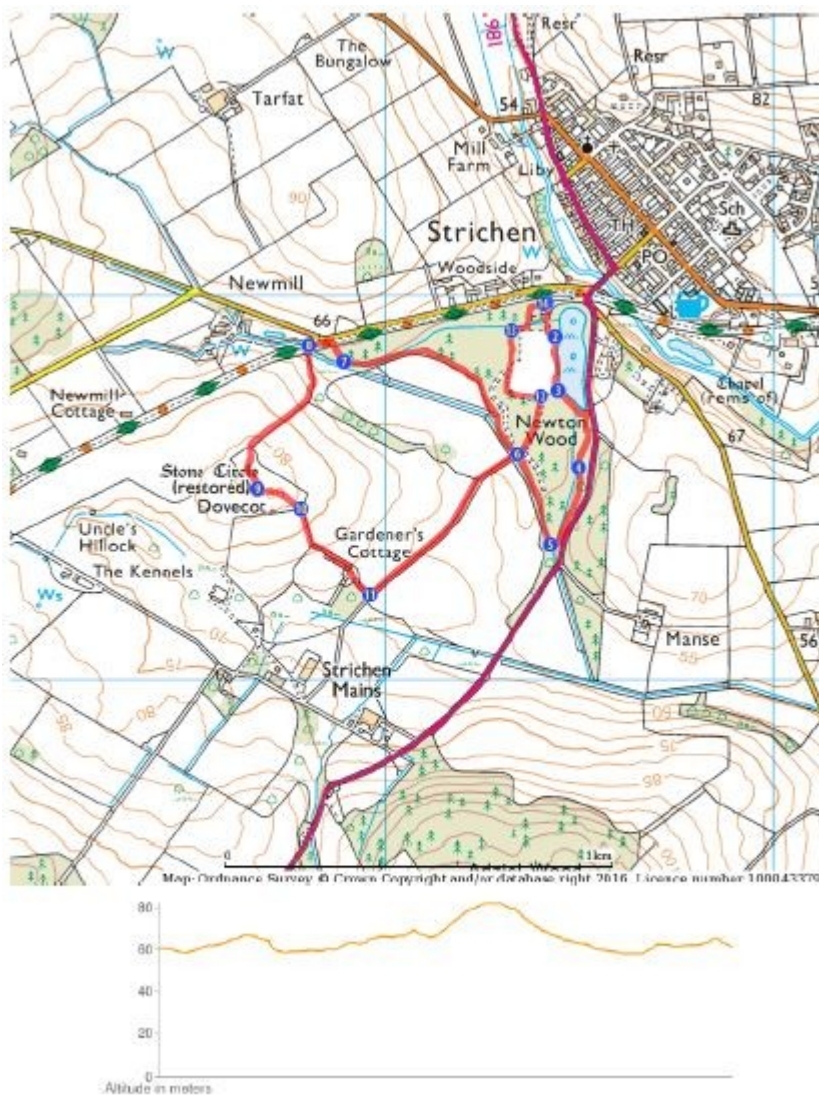
(14) End of walk back at The Lodge car-park

(57.58479; -2.09513)

In 100 m, you are back at the The Lodge cafe car-park where you started the walk. (3.7 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](#)