

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Tillypronie-Baderonoch-Reinacharn Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

A short and relatively easy hill-walk in mixed countryside, near Tarland, to a low moor-land hill-top where panoramic views can be enjoyed. There are 3 man-made commemorative stone features on the route that provide further interest and stimulation.

Duration: 1.5 hours.



Route Overview

Duration: 1.5 hours.

Transport/Parking: No public transport nearby. A small area of hard-standing by the roadside at the walk start point. See Waypoint 1 for guidance on getting there.

Length: 5.130 km / 3.21 mi

Height Gain: 186 meter. **Height Loss:** 186 meter.

Max Height: 467 meter. **Min Height:** 308 meter.

Surface: Moderate. All on grassy land-rover tracks and rough forest/access roads.

Difficulty: Medium.

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

Dog Friendly: Yes, dogs on lead on public roads and near farm animals (evidence of sheep being grazed on Baderonoch Hill).

Refreshments: Options in Tarland.



Description

This short walk to a relatively low heathery hilltop nevertheless provides a pleasing mix of environments, stunning viewpoints of the Howe of Cromar at numerous points along the route, and a wonderful long-distance 360° panorama from the summit of Baderonoch Hill. Unusually, the route, all on Tillypronie Estate land, incorporates three man-made stone creations along the way: a verse-inscribed stone; a monumental sculpture of human heads; and, a conical stone-built summit cairn. We understand that all three were put there by the long-time (but no longer) owners of the estate, the Astor family. See <http://bit.ly/3vEGX2E>.



In the early part of the ascent to Overlook Loch, sitting above the grand mansion of Tillypronie House (not visible), look out for an inscribed stone sitting amongst the bracken and grass under a cover of mature conifers. The inscription shows the evocative last verse of the song, 'Joy of Living', by Ewan MacColl, and starts with the lines – "Take me to some high place of heather, rock and ling, Scatter my dust and ashes, feed me to the wind". A little further on, by the side of little Overlook Loch, sits an astonishing bulk of sculpted grey granite, representing four monumental portrait heads. It was created by the celebrated Scottish artist, Ronald Rae, as a lament for the people of St. Kilda who became dispossessed of their ancestral home when they could no longer survive on their remote island off the west coast of Scotland. The views from the loch-side over the Howe of Cromar are impressive, but become increasingly breathtaking on the short but steep ascent to the top of Baderonoch Hill. On the summit there is a well-constructed cairn in memory of Gavin Astor, one of the former owners of Tillypronie and, on the scenic descent, there is a nice little detour to the highest of the Lazy Well lochans.

Waypoints

(1) Start walk at t-junction near Little Corrie cottage

(57.16185; -2.93026) <https://w3w.co/belief.pocketed.sponsors>

Start the walk at a t-junction in minor roads near Little Corrie*, which is on the right side of the t-junction, on the access road to Reinacharn Lodge. The road on the other side of the t-junction goes past Tillypronie House. From the t-junction, go right, walking gently uphill and almost immediately passing Little Corrie cottage on your right side.

**Note: instructions from Tarland to reach the t-junction at the start of the walk follow. Leave Tarland on the minor road going west towards Logie Coldstone. In about 1.75 km, take the turning on your right for Migvie. In about 2.5 km, at a x-roads, turn right onto a tarred single track road on a broadly northerly direction. If you arrive in the hamlet of Migvie, you have gone too far and need to return to the x-roads! Keep following this road for 2.3 km, as it eventually rises up to the t-junction where the walk starts. There is an area of hard-standing just short of the t-junction where you can park.*



(2) Veer left and up onto woodland road

(57.16216; -2.92733) <https://w3w.co/wooden.outsmart.shapes>

In about 180 m, veer left off the access road onto a rough road going gently uphill into trees ahead of you. (182 m)



(3) Carry straight at junction - then go sharp left and uphill

(57.16237; -2.92477) <https://w3w.co/mixes.speared.pound>

In another 170 m, where a road bends to your left (to a quarry), keep going ahead for a very short distance, then follow the road as it bends sharp left and continue uphill through the trees. Soon, you will emerge out of the trees into more open hillside, with broom bushes, heather and bracken. (354 m)



(4) Check out inscribed stone

(57.16499; -2.93005) <https://w3w.co/refrained.tightest.celebrate>

In just short of 500 m gentle ascent, at a left bend on the track, look out for an inscribed stone on your right, at the edge of the track. When you are ready, carry on taking the grassy land-rover track as it continues gently uphill across the open hillside. (824 m)

**Note: the inscription is the last verse of the song, 'Joy of Living', by Ewan MacColl. See:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sseyUtOvetA>



(5) St Kilda's Wake sculpture and Overlook Loch

(57.16379; -2.93949) <https://w3w.co/responded.spinning.blending>

In 600 m, you will have arrived at the eastern end of the small Overlook Loch where there is an impressive stone sculpture, and a fine view over the Howe of Cromar. After checking out the sculpture and the loch, re-trace your steps about 150 m back to a junction, where a rough land-rover track goes uphill, on your left. (1.4 km)

**Note: from the sculptor's website: 'This sculpture of four monumental portrait heads stands as a memorial to the people of St. Kilda who became dispossessed when they could no longer survive on their remote island off the west coast of Scotland. The head of the elderly man was based on Rae's grandfather.' See:*

<https://www.ronaldrae.co.uk/sculptures/st-kilda-wake>



(6) Go left and uphill on rough road

(57.16401; -2.93703) <https://w3w.co/unframed.bulbs.trading>

Retrace your steps from the sculpture, back along the rough road, for 150 m. Go left and uphill on the land-rover track that ascends to the summit of Baderonoch Hill. There are marvellous views of the surrounding Howe of Cromar countryside, with Morven Hill particularly prominent, close by on your left side, and Mount Keen, in the distance, behind you, to the South. When the road reaches the summit area, with a gate ahead of you, follow the road as it bends right towards the obvious cairn and trig point a short distance away. (1.6 km)



(7) Summit cairn and trig point

(57.16730; -2.93574) <https://w3w.co/notifying.anchors.dispose>
In 500 m, you will have arrived at the cairn* and trig point at the summit of Baderonoch Hill. There are tremendous panoramic views, dominated by the massive bulk of Morven, close by to the south-west. When you are ready, carry on along the land rover track you were on as it gently winds its way, in an easterly direction, down the hillside, passing grouse butts at various points. The bulk of the Pressendye range now dominates your immediate perspective: looking East - Molly Watt's Hill, Broom Hill, then Pressendye itself, the highest summit, with the wooded hilltop of Pittenderich just below, on the right. (2.1 km)

**Note: this well-constructed cairn in memory of Gavin Astor, former owner of the Tillypronie Estate.*



(8) Left up rough road to Lazy Well

(57.16622; -2.92366) <https://w3w.co/riddle.shackles.dreaming>
After descending from the summit cairn for 900 m, the grassy land-rover track meets a hard-surfaced rough road at a t-junction. Go left and uphill here to check out the top Lazy Well lochan. (3 km)



(9) Lazy Well Lochan

(57.16732; -2.92396) <https://w3w.co/asteroid.dizziness.impose>
In 100 m, after passing an unusual circular gamekeepers' hut, you will have a good view of the topmost Lazy Well lochan in a scenic location. There are three further lochans, descending the hillside from here in a northerly direction towards Towie, some of which are used for game duck shooting. When you are ready, turn and start re-tracing your steps downhill on the rough road, looking for a road shortly veering off to your left. (3.1 km)



(10) Veer left onto grassy track at side of woodland

(57.16664; -2.92379) <https://w3w.co/reefs.ordering.nipping>
In less than 100 m, veer left onto a grassy track going downhill, with trees on your right side and open hillside on your left side. (3.2 km)



(11) Sharp right along top of field

(57.16451; -2.91376) <https://w3w.co/homelands.fell.pencil>

After descending for 700 m, at a y-junction, go sharp right to reverse your direction along the top of a pasture field, on a grassy track, with trees still on your right, and the grassy hillside dropping away below you on your left side. In about 150 m, go through a field gate, carefully closing it behind you. Continue to walk gently downhill, through trees at first, before views open up on your left side, including in the foreground, Reinacharn Lodge and associated farm buildings. (3.9 km)



(12) Pass Reinacharn Lodge

(57.16263; -2.92300) <https://w3w.co/soak.reissued.hurls>

In 700 m, after passing a house on your right side, go through the farm buildings at Reinacharn Lodge before passing the house itself. Carry on walking along the access road, with fine views of the Howe of Cromar on your left side, which will soon take you back to your start point. (4.6 km)



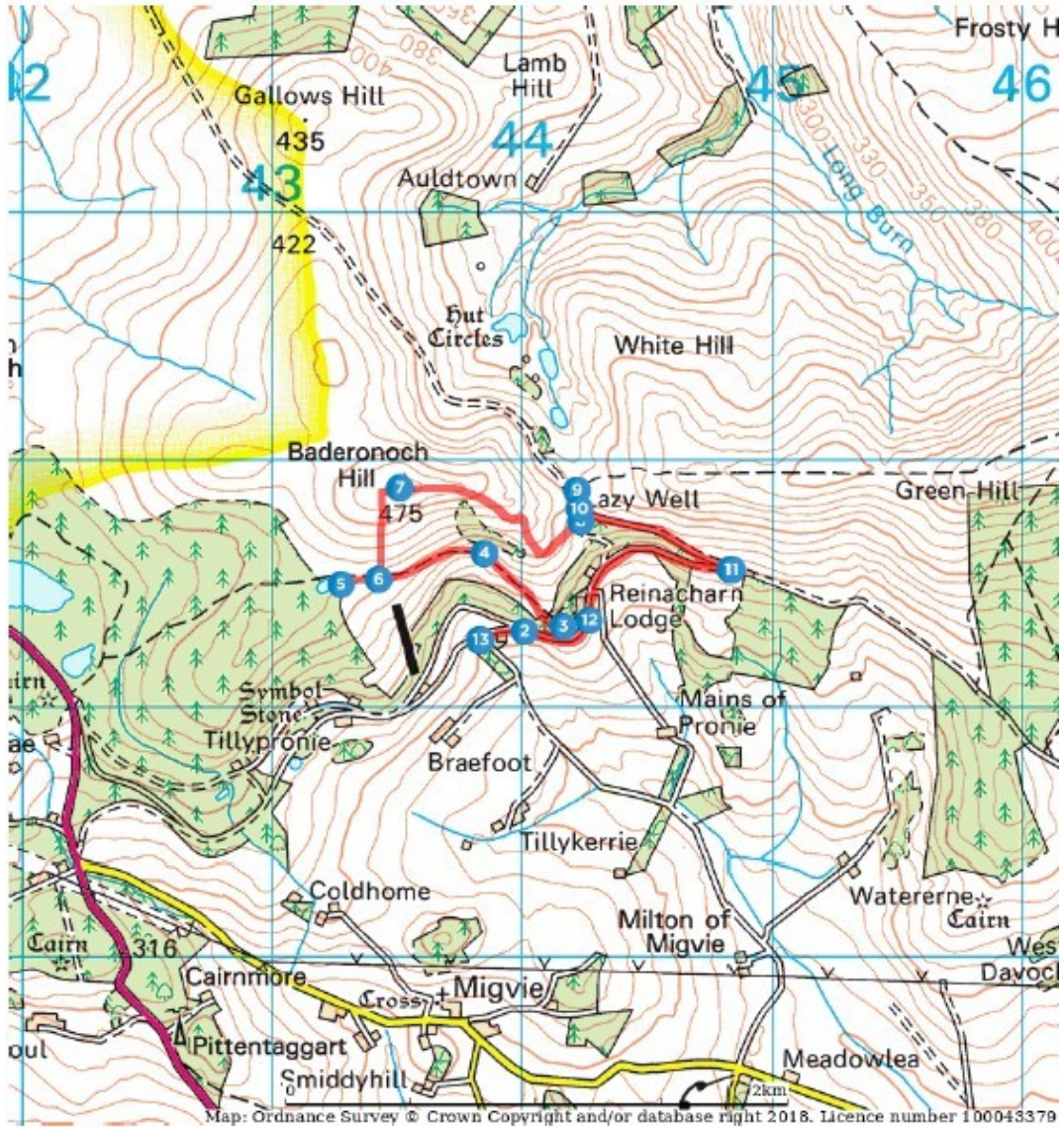
(13) Finish walk back at t-junction start-point

(57.16182; -2.93020) <https://w3w.co/belief.pocketed.sponsors>

In 500 m from Reinacharn Lodge, you will have arrived back at your walk start point. (5.1 km)



Route Map



Links:

[Photos from Walk](#)

[Download Route Guide](#) (PDF with illustrated Waypoints)

[Download GPX file](#) (GPS Exchange Format)

[Access Walk on Viewranger](#)

[Access the Walk on OutdoorActive](#)

[Access Walk on OSMaps](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)