

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Torphins - "Netherlands" Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

An enjoyable country ramble in Mid-Deeside, characterised by rolling fertile farmland, upland pine forests and heather hilltops. The route is clear, apart from a short section on an overgrown old road, and the ascents are gradual. There are wonderful views throughout the walk.

Duration: 3.25 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: The Stagecoach 202 service from Banchory stops at Torphins. Check Timetables. Free on and off street parking near the walk start/end point.

Length: 9.650 km / 6.03 mi

Height Gain: 190 meter.

Height Loss: 190 meter.

Max Height: 236 meter.

Min Height: 134 meter.

Surface: Moderate. The route is clear, mostly on tarred minor roads and hard-surfaced estate tracks. Not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to fallen trees between Waypoints 10 and 11. You may achieve Waypoint 12 by returning on the rough road from Waypoint 10 (or 9).

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: We can recommend the Platform 22 cafe. Also, the Learney Arms Indian Restaurant is open evenings.



Description

This is a very pleasant rural walk in the scenic countryside around Torphins, an attractive Deeside village. Although there is ample evidence that our Neolithic ancestors settled in this area, the village of Torphins essentially grew out of the arrival of the Deeside railway line in the 1850's, in support of the huge changes in agriculture, and the development of the rural weaving industry, before and after the mid 19thC. Much of the lower land in this area would have been mossy bog and marsh before that time. Most of the route is within the bounds of the Learney Estate, and Learney House, a south-facing country mansion built in 1747 on a commanding position on Learney Hill, can be glimpsed on the route. The old farmstead called "Netherlands", sitting below the head of the Learney valley marks the route's return point on an unusual figure of eight loop that takes in pine and broadleaf woodland, arable farmland, and a section of the disused old railway track. There are great views up to the Hill of Fare, to the distinctive tor of Clachnaben, and sweeping vistas over mid-Deeside in general. Thanks to the Torphins Path Group for this route. For further walks around and about Torphins, see: <https://www.torphinspathsgroup.org/>



Waypoints

(1) Start the walk at The Square

(57.10564; -2.62220) <https://w3w.co/blurs.climber.trifling>

Start the walk from the Victoria Memorial at The Square in Torphins, beside The Learney Arms Hotel. With your back to the hotel, turn right and walk up The Square/St Marnan Road, in a NE direction, soon passing the Platform 22 cafe, health centre, and war memorial on your right side.



(2) Left up Grampian Terrace

(57.10736; -2.62011) <https://w3w.co/guests.fall.owls>

In just over 200 m, cross the road and go left up Grampian Terrace for a very short distance. (212 m)



(3) Right up Auchmacoy Road

(57.10783; -2.62119) <https://w3w.co/defender.file.evoke>

In less than 100 m, turn right up Auchmacoy Road. (295 m)



(4) Through gate into Torphins Wood

(57.10937; -2.61988) <https://w3w.co/already.grad.mirror>

In 200 m, go through the pedestrian gate into Torphins Wood and follow the path veering slightly to your left, going gently uphill. Follow this path as it passes the golf course on your left. Keep following the path as it eventually turns right and downhill, initially still with the golf course on your left. (493 m)



(5) Left at minor road

(57.11404; -2.61951) <https://w3w.co/desk.bakers.incorrect>
After 1.2 km, leave the path through the wood at a rough parking area and turn left to follow a minor tarred road gently uphill. (1.7 km)



(6) Carry on uphill at y-junction

(57.11741; -2.61834) <https://w3w.co/remission.gown.merely>
In 500 m, at the y-junction, veer slightly right to carry on uphill on the minor tarred road. In 150 m, ignore the road going left for West Learney and the road veering left past a cottage for Learney House. Keep going, as the tarred public road now starts to go downhill, bending slightly right. Look out for an unsigned rough access road on your left side. (2.2 km)



(7) Left onto rough road

(57.11842; -2.61327) <https://w3w.co/boat.senders.changed>
In 300 m, turn left off the tarred road onto a rough access road. Keep walking on this road between fields for about 1.2 km, passing some houses on your left, along the way. (2.5 km)



(8) Left and uphill

(57.12748; -2.60198) <https://w3w.co/gosh.informal.stockpile>
In 1.2 km, passing Pond Cottage on your right, veer slightly left and uphill through an avenue of mature trees. (3.7 km)



(9) Turn right

(57.12884; -2.60279) <https://w3w.co/eaten.vowel.jiggle>
In 200 m, take the road on your right. Keep following this tarred access road as it eventually swings right and downhill. (3.9 km)



(10) Turn right into trees

(57.12833; -2.59387) <https://w3w.co/animals.slant.craftsman>
In 600 m, turn right off the tarred access road onto a path through the trees. Keep following the path going SW into the wood, soon passing a track going off left to the old Netherlands farm steading buildings on your left. Don't take that track - carry on! Eventually you will pass an overgrown old mill pond on your right as the woodland path crosses over a small burn and swings right, heading in a NW direction now. (4.5 km)



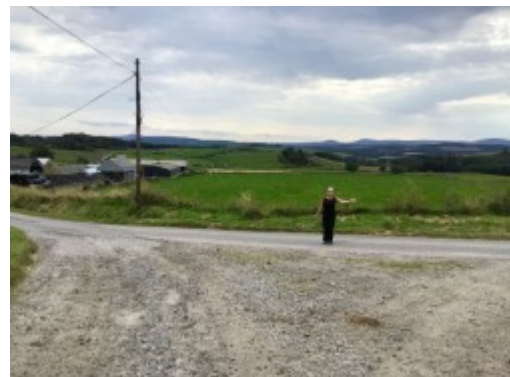
(11) Veer left out of trees along old grassy road

(57.12414; -2.60404) <https://w3w.co/fuzzy.stick.cubic>
In about 1 km, as the indistinct path reaches a corner of the wood, veer left out of the trees to follow a rough grassy road with open fields on either side of you. In just under 200 m you will have emerged onto the hard-surfaced estate road you were walking on earlier on the outward section. Upon reaching that road, turn left and re-trace your steps back to the tarred road you left at Waypoint 7. (5.5 km)



(12) Right at tarred road

(57.11846; -2.61338) <https://w3w.co/display.regarding.political>
In 1 km, turn right off the estate road onto the minor tarred road you were on much earlier in the walk. (6.5 km)



(13) Carry on here

(57.11743; -2.61859) <https://w3w.co/balanced.wizards.clashing>
In 300 m, at the y-junction you met earlier, take the right fork, ignoring the possible left turn. (6.8 km)



(14) Turn left to continue downhill

(57.11310; -2.63797) <https://w3w.co/outpost.headliner.provide>
In 1.4 km, not long after passing the Torphins Golf Club buildings on your left side, keep following the tarred road as it swings left and downhill. (8.2 km)



(15) Left and up to old railway line

(57.11180; -2.63709) <https://w3w.co/modules.buzzards.airbase>
In about 100 m, at the remains of an old railway bridge, turn left off the tarred road onto a path that takes you up onto the old railway line. Turn left to follow the path along the old railway line into the village of Torphins. (8.3 km)



(16) Left off old railway line into village

(57.10718; -2.62393) <https://w3w.co/sweetener.owned.recliner>
In 1 km, after passing a play park on your left side, go left off the railway line path to go through a pedestrian gate into a car-parking area. Cross the car-park diagonally and proceed right, down Bridge Crescent, turning right onto St Marnan Road to head back the short distance to your start-point at The Square. (9.3 km)



(17) Finish the walk back at The Square

(57.10560; -2.62232) <https://w3w.co/stunning.sand.haircuts>
In 300 m, or so, you will have returned to your start-point at the memorial in The Square. (9.6 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](#)