

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Torphins-The Avenue-Old Railway Line Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

This is an enjoyable rural walk in the scenic countryside around Torphins, a quiet and attractive mid-Deeside village. The route is entirely on hard surfaces, making it an good choice after extremely wet weather.

Duration: 1.75 hrs.



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: 6.27 km / 3.9 mi. **Height Gain/Loss:** 82 meter.

Max Height: 172 meter. **Min Height:** 130 meter.

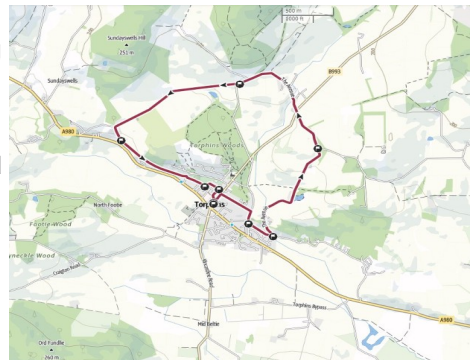
Surface: Predominantly tarred surfaces. Hard surfaced path on Old Railway Line Walk section, near the end. Suitable for off-road mobility scooters if the path ascending to the Old Railway Line at Waypoint 6 can be undertaken. If not, return from there to the centre of Torphins on the pavement on the nearby A980 road.

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 Torphins, Banchory and Aboyne. We can recommend the Platform 22 cafe, and the Learney Arms indian restaurant, in Torphins.



Description

After days of heavy rain, when many countryside paths were sodden and muddy, we devised, and walked, this pleasant and scenic route, with the virtue of being entirely on hard surfaces, mostly on very quiet tarred-road country lanes (these connecting roads are named on OpenStreetMap as "The Avenue"). The final section on the hard-surfaced Old Railway Line Walk path in Torphins was, thankfully, also mostly clear of muddy puddles. On the walk there are some fine views up to the Hill of Fare, to the faraway distinctive tor of Clachnaben, and sweeping vistas over the mid-Deeside countryside in general. In the later months of the year, there are some stunning views of surrounding woodland and roadside trees with their Autumn leaves in multi-hued splendour. Our walking route is in the form of a circuit through the rolling farmland on the northern side of the village, passing the impressive entrance gate to the former policies of Craigmyle House, built in 1676 by Alexander Farquharson of Monaltrie. The House was extended in the early 20th C but, after lying empty for years, it was later demolished. 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 19th C. Much of the lower land in this area would have been mossy bog and marsh before being "improved" at that time.



Waypoints

(1) Start walk at the Victoria Memorial on the Square

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The walk starts at the Victoria Memorial in the Square in Torphins, at the car-park behind the Learney Arms hotel. Facing the front of the Memorial, go left up the pavement on the B993 St Marnan Road. In about 120 m, turn right down William Street. In another 340 m, at the end of William Street, turn right to walk along Woodside Road for about 130 m, where there is a staggered x-roads.



(2) Left along Craigmyle Road

In 600 m from the start, cross Woodside Road and go left along Craigmyle Road. (600 m)



(3) Left up the The Avenue road

In 280 m, go sharp left and gently uphill on The Avenue Road, where the public road soon passes by a haulier's yard (on both sides). Continue on this minor road as it slowly ascends, passing houses and fields. In about 750 m you will pass the West Lodge and ornamental gates for the former Craigmyle House*, on your right side. Keep going uphill on the minor public road you are on. (880 m)

**Note: the original Craigmyle House is no longer standing. See the Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Record: '...a 17th Century house built by Alexander Farquharson of Monaltrie, with extensions and additions by Sir Robert Lorimer in 1904. It was owned for many years by the Shaw family and was sold in 1938. After lying empty for a few years it was blown up by explosives in 1958. Now only quadrangular offices and walled garden survive ...'. See: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=NJ60SW0020>*



(4) Veer left at angled t-junction

In 1.29 km from the previous waypoint, veer left at an angled t-junction, continuing to walk on the minor public road. In about 470 m, the road you are on descends to cross the B993 road at a x-roads. Carry straight on, passing the Pitmedden Smiddy on your left side before ascending past the Learney Mill (now a private house) on your right side, and the Mill of Learney Farm on your left side. Keep going, over the shoulder of the hill, eventually passing a gatehouse lodge for Learney House on your right side in about 675 m from the x-roads with the B993. (2.17 km)



(5) Straight on - taking right fork at y-junction

In 1.3 km from Waypoint 4, take the right fork, going straight on, at a y-junction where another minor road on your left descends back towards Torphins. Keep going, passing the occasional house, and eventually passing the Torphins Golf course clubhouse on your left side in 1.1 km. Soon after, follow the road as it bends sharp left and downhill at Wester Beltie Farm. (3.47 km)



(6) Left up embankment path to Old Railway Line Walk

In 1.47 km from the previous Waypoint 5, go left up the steepish access path that takes you on to the former railway line (now a public footpath). Veer left at the top of the access path to follow the Old Railway Line Walk path back in the direction of the centre of Torphins, crossing over a minor road (Innermarkie Wynd) in about 760 . Carry on taking the Old Railway Line Walk path, now passing the Torphins Park on your left side. Look out for a pedestrian gate on your left side at the end of the park. (4.94 km)



(7) Veer left for gate to leave Railway Line path

In 970 m from joining the Old Railway Line Walk path, veer left to go through a pedestrian gate into a car-parking area. Walk across the car-park in a diagonal direction to join the Bridge Crescent lane. Walk along the lane, looking for a hard-surfaced footpath on your right side. (5.91 km)



(8) Right down footpath for Station Road

In 160 m from the pedestrian gate, go right off Bridge Crescent onto a hard-surfaced footpath that soon becomes a pavement on Station Road. Soon, you will arrive at the B993 road in the centre of Torphins. (6.07 km)



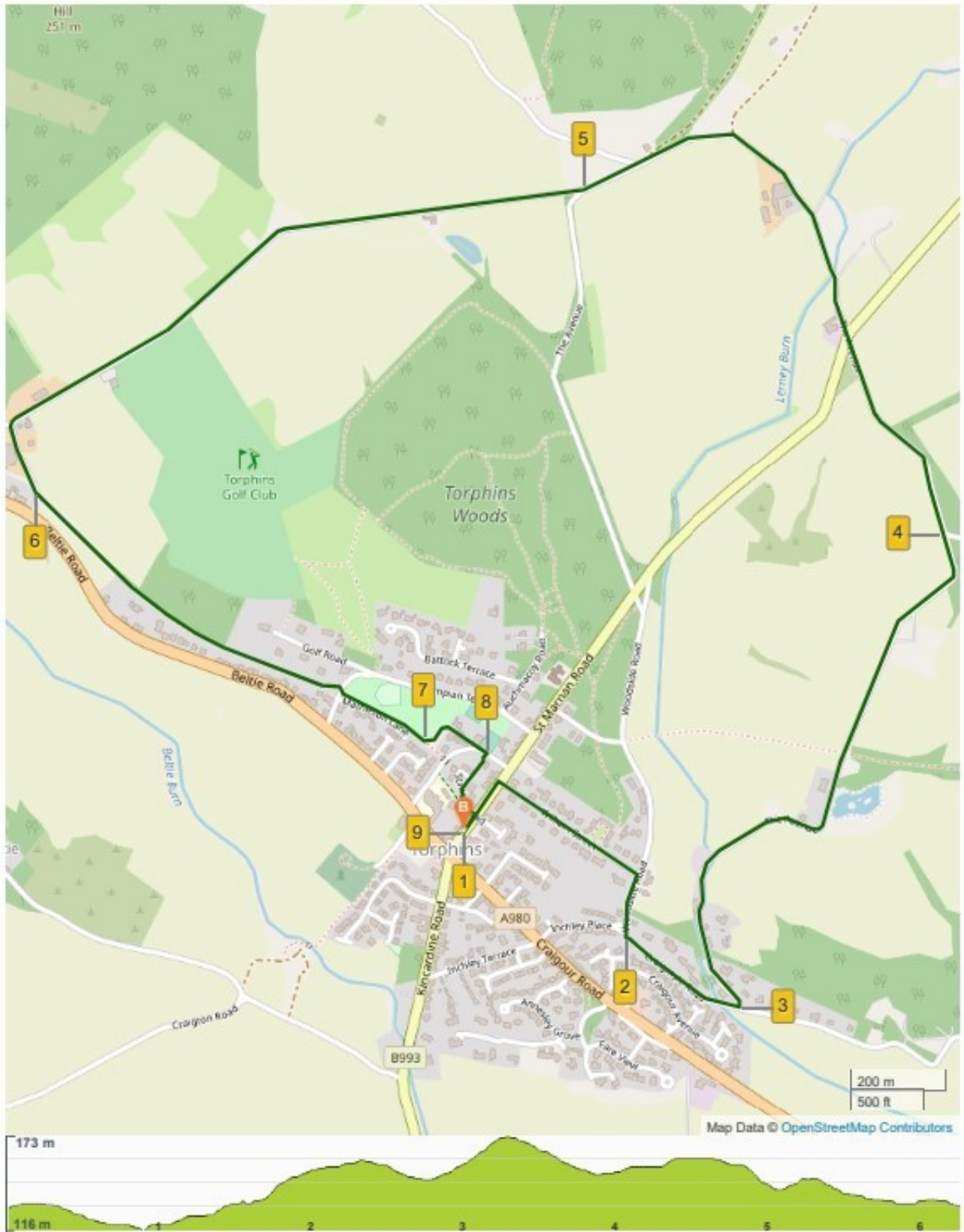
(9) Finish walk back at the Victoria Memorial

In 200 m, you will have crossed the B993 road at The Square to finish the walk at the Victoria Memorial where you started the walk. (6.27 km)

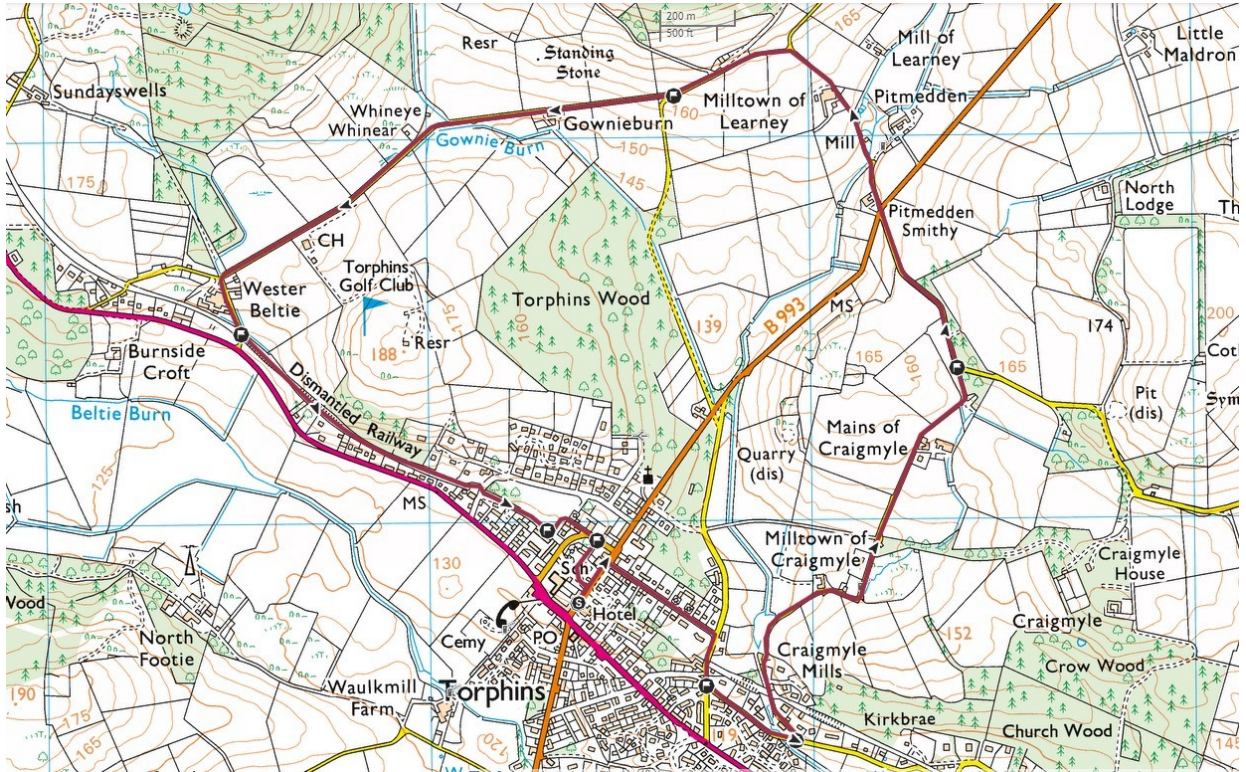


Route Map (with waypoints)

210-Torphins-The Avenue-Old Railway Line 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](#)

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