

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Turriff-Wrae Pond Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

An enjoyable country ramble with barely noticeable gentle ascents and descents. There are some fine views of rolling farmland at various points along the way, and the Wrae Pond, at the turning point on the route, is a sheltered and peaceful scenic delight.

Duration: 3 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: There is a frequent Stagecoach bus service from Aberdeen. Check timetables. There is free parking at the walk start/end point in Haughs Park, Turriff.

Length: 10.9 km / 6.77 mi **Height Gain/Loss:** 142 meter.

Max Height: 76 meter. **Min Height:** 28 meter.

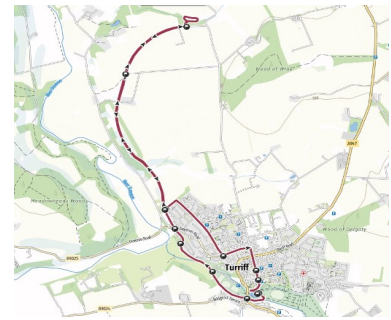
Surface: Moderate. Mostly good paths (and tarred surfaces within Turriff). Suitable for an off-road mobility scooter by taking a 1.45 km diversion through the streets of Turriff due to accessibility problems at Waypoints 2 and 4. See note at Waypoint 2.

Difficulty: Easy/Medium.

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

Dog Friendly: Yes, but keep dogs on lead on public roads and near farm animals.

Refreshments: There are options in Turriff. We can also recommend Delgatie Castle Tearoom.



Description

This is a very pleasant rural walk to and from the farming town of Turriff, mostly surrounded by fields and woodland amongst the gentle rolling hills that characterise this part of the so-called "Buchan Plain". The name "Turriff" is derived from the Gaelic "Torraibh" (place of round hills), and local people still use something close to the Gaelic pronunciation in referring to their town as "Turra". Most of the route follows the former track of the Turriff – Macduff railway line. The turning point is at the very scenic Wrae Pond (or Lake), set in a large hollow surrounded by trees and bushes. It is a delightful spot and, although man-made within living memory, has become a very well-established haven for wildlife. It



was built, in the latter half of the 20thC, by local farmer, George Norrie, and his son, Sandy, by damming the Luncarty Burn. George, now deceased, was well recognised throughout the farming community for his agricultural and environmental achievements. The walk starts, however, in the centre of Turriff at the Haughs park where one of Scotland's best-known annual agricultural shows is held, attracting crowds of 40,000. The route then takes a relaxing amble along the banks of the Turriff Burn, also passing the local football and sports ground, before skirting the edge of Turriff's verdant parkland golf course. There and back, the former railway line main section of the walk is around 7 km. The Turriff – Macduff railway line never quite made it to Banff, as originally intended, stopping instead at Banff Bridge, on the outskirts of Macduff. The rise of motorised transport in the first half of the 20thC undermined the economic case for the rail service, and the line was closed in 1951. The final section of the route takes a stroll from the north-western outskirts, to the centre of Turriff, passing many older buildings constructed of an appealing red sandstone. A highlight, along the way, is the attractive "Turra Coo" sculpture, commemorating an emotional anti-tax protest involving the emblematic cow, by local farmers and their workers in 1913.

Waypoints

(1) Start walk at the Haughs car-park in Turriff

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The walk starts at the Haughs car-park*, by the boating pond, and adjoining the Turriff Show Ground. From the car-park, with your back to the pond, go right to follow the internal park road heading towards the Turriff Burn. At the t-junction, before the Burn, turn right, and with the Burn on your left, follow the internal park road leading to a barrier-protected junction with the A947, Queen's Road.

** Note: the signposted access is from the A947 Queen's Road, close to the centre of Turriff. The access road is first right after crossing the Turriff Bridge, from the Aberdeen direction, first left after the Turriff Swimming Pool, coming from the centre of Turriff.*



(2) Cross Queen's Road (A947)

Cross the busy A947 (Queen's Road) with care and go down the steps* to join a path initially veering left, then running parallel with the Turriff Burn, on your left side. (320 m)

**Note: off-road mobility scooter users are affected by these steps, and also by a steep narrow path at Waypoint 4. We suggest a (lengthy) diversion through the streets of Turriff, as follows: go right up Queen's Road; turn left onto Castle Street at the large roundabout, and then up Castlehill road; go left down Deveron Street before Castlehill road becomes Knockie Road; follow Deveron Street as it becomes Deveron Road; re-join the route at Waypoint 5. The total length of this alternative route is 1.45 km. It misses out a pleasant pathway by the Turriff Burn and Turriff Golf Course.*



(3) Go left

In 590 m, under tree cover, now, with a waste water pump station on your right side, go left to follow a path that soon meets the edge of Turriff Golf Course. Keep going, with the golf course on your left side and houses above you on your right side. (910 m)



(4) Right up steep path

In 570 m, in a wooded area, go sharp right to ascend a fairly steep narrow path. A rope fixed to fence posts assists with the short climb to the grassy verge on Deveronside Drive. Go left here to follow the access road to the Deveronside houses, heading for a t-junction with Deveron Road. (1.48 km)



(5) Cross Deveron Road (B9025)

In 260 m, you will have arrived at the t-junction with the B9025 Deveron Road. Cross the road with care to take the access road directly across from you where there is a signpost for the Macduff Railway path. (1.73 km)



(6) Take left fork at y-junction

In 290 m from the junction with Deveron Road, the access road ends and becomes a footpath. Almost immediately there is a y-junction*, with a path on the right going uphill. You will take the left fork, essentially continuing straight ahead. Very soon, this path leads you down and onto the old Turriff-Macduff railway line**. Keep going on this path. (2.02 km)

**Note: you will return to this point, taking the uphill path, at Waypoint 9.*

***Note: the Turriff-Macduff railway line never quite made it to Banff, as originally intended, stopping instead at Banff Bridge, on the outskirts of Macduff. The rise of motorised transport in the first half of the 20thC undermined the economic case for the rail service, and the line was closed in 1951. See:*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banff,_Macduff_and_Turriff_Junction_Railway#:~:text=The%20Banff%2C%20Macduff%20and%20Turriff,opened%20its%20line%20in%201857



(7) Carry straight on

In 2.02 km, ignore the rough road going off to your right. Instead, carry straight on here. (4.03 km)



(8) Sharp left and down narrow path to pond

In 1.04 km, look out for a narrow path on your left (easily missed!) going gently downhill through trees to Wraes Pond*. Once down to the pond, go left to follow the path going around the pond. At the east end of the pond ignore a rough road veering left away from the pond. Instead, carry on walking around the pond until you reach the access path to the pond. Go left here to leave the pond area and retrace your steps (3 km) back to the paths junction you passed at Waypoint 6. (5.07 km)

**Note: Wraes Pond is set in a large hollow surrounded by trees and bushes. It is a delightful spot and, although man-made within living memory, has become a very well-established haven for wildlife. It was built, in the latter half of the 20thC, by local farmer, George Norrie, and his son, Sandy, by damming the Luncarty Burn. George, now deceased, was well recognised throughout the farming community for his agricultural and environmental achievements. See: https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/business/farming/3645507/g_eorge-norrie-former-turriff-farmer-and-conservationist-dies-aged-94/*



(9) Left and uphill before houses

After 3.59 km from Waypoint 8, you will arrive back at the paths junction you encountered at Waypoint 6. Go left and uphill through the belt of trees here, with houses now on your right side. After ascending for about 190 m, follow the path as it bends right to join a hard-surfaced pedestrian footpath through the housing development. In about 400 m, the path joins with Knockie Road. Keep going for another 500 m, or so, until Knockie Road meets Deveron Street/Gladstone Terrace. (8.66 km)



(10) Left along Deveron Street-Gladstone Terrace

After 1.1 km, at a t-junction where Knockie Road meets Deveron Street/Gladstone Terrace, go left along Gladstone Terrace, which soon becomes Church Street. In 340 m, where Church Street meets Market Street, go right and downhill, soon passing the Fife Arms hotel on your left side. Then, cross the main A947 road with care (Duff Street) and carry on down Main Street with shops on either side, until you reach the junction with the High Street. (9.76 km)



(11) The Turra Coo

In 650 m, where Main Street meets the High Street, there is a small pedestrianised area on your right which houses the "Turra Coo" sculpture and an information board. When you are ready to move on, cross the High Street with care and proceed down the continuation of Main Street, called School Hill. (10.42 km)

**Note: the attractive "Turra Coo" sculpture commemorates an emotional anti-tax protest involving the emblematic cow, by local farmers and their workers in 1913. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turra_Coo*

[thanks to Bill Harrison, [Geographs](#), for the image]



(12) Cross Victoria Terrace

In 190 m, where School Hill meets Victoria Terrace, cross the road with care on down the School Hill lane signposted for "Park and Picnic Area - The Den". Keep following this walkway as it veers right and descends to the Haughs park and pond area. Turn left at the bottom of the slope to return to the Haughs car-park where you started the walk. (10.61 km)



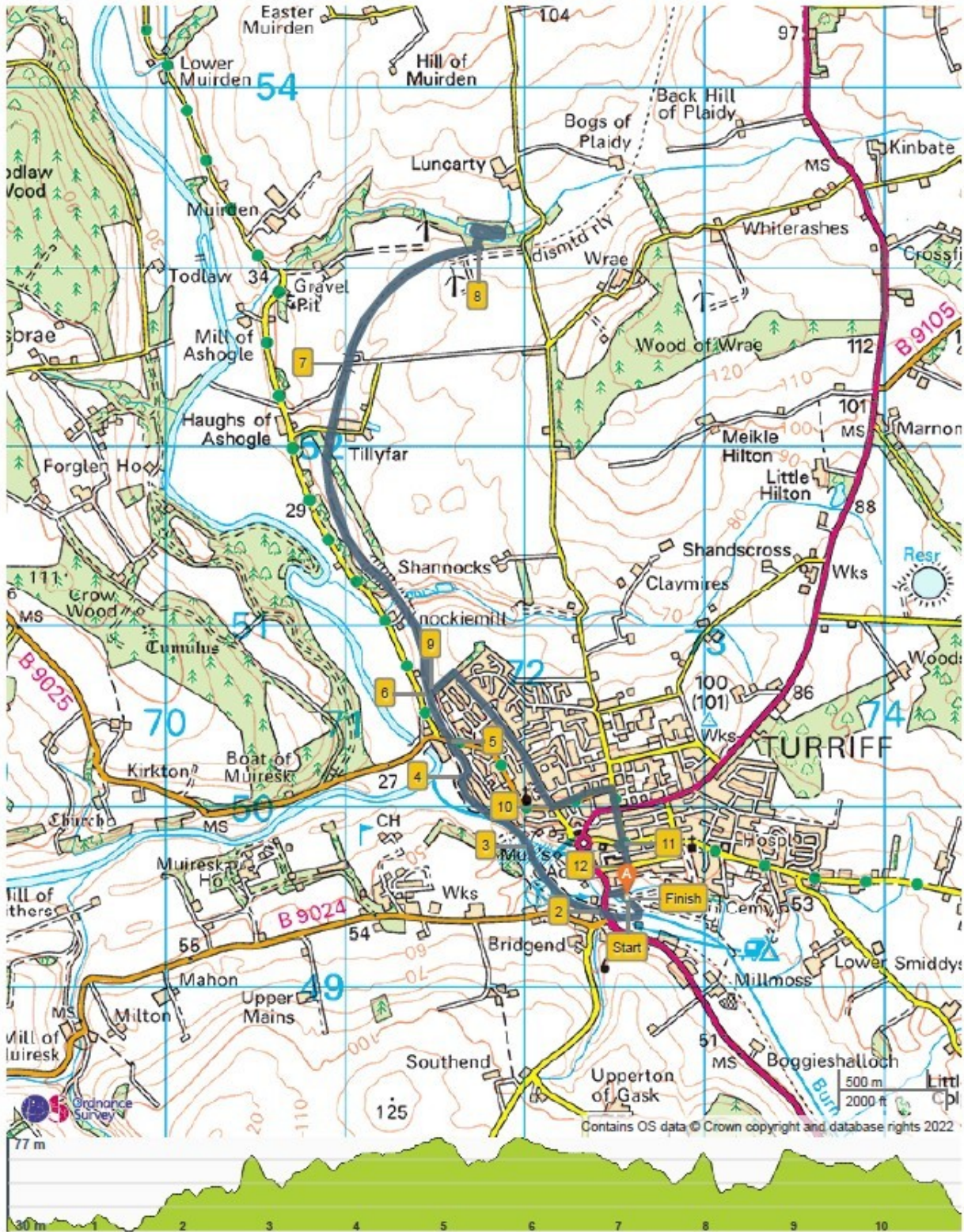
(13) Finish walk back at the Haughs car-park

In 320 m, you will have returned to your start-point at the Haughs car-park, by the boating pond. (10.92 km)



Route Map (with waypoints)

182-Turriff-Wrae Pond 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](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)