

# The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

## Cullen-Lintmill-Crannoch Wood Circuit (Moray)

### Route Summary

This is a very enjoyable circular route from the interesting and attractive Moray village of Cullen. The walk is undemanding, and provides an enjoyable combination of mixed woodland, scenic open countryside, expansive coastal views, and historical interest.

Duration: 2.75 hours.



### Route Overview

**Duration:** 2.75 hours.

**Transport/Parking:** Stagecoach buses from Aberdeen and Elgin pass through Cullen. Check timetables. Free public car-park at start/finish of walk.

**Length:** 8.25 km / 5.13 mi. **Height Gain/Loss:** 155 meter.

**Max Height:** 104 meter. **Min Height:** 22 meter.

**Surface:** Moderate. A mix of tarred roads, hard-surfaced paths and rough roads, and soft woodland paths. The circuit is not suitable for off-road mobility scooters due to fallen trees across the path at various points in Crannoch Wood. A shorter there and back route is possible, returning at Lintmill (Waypoint 7).

**Difficulty:** Easy.

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

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

**Refreshments:** Options in Cullen.



### Description

This is a very pleasant rural ramble in the countryside around Cullen, on the Old Banffshire coast, which enjoys a relatively mild and dry micro-climate. The route starts and finishes in the impressive Square, surrounded by fine Georgian and Victorian buildings. Very soon, the route enters the landscaped woodland of the Seafield Estate, then skirts the walled policies before diverting to the Old Kirk of Cullen, founded in the 13thC, and with glimpses of Cullen House, a private residence dating from 1543. The turning point on the route is the charming hamlet of Lintmill, on the way to Deskford, and sitting on the banks of the Water of Cullen burn. Crossing farmland on a very quiet minor road, the route then leads over the busy A98 main road to the wooded hillside of Crannoch, passing the delightful Crannoch lochan upon reaching the summit area. The final section enjoys wide-open views over fields, and the rooftops of Cullen, to the Moray Firth, and to the Portknockie headland in the middle distance. Further away, depending on visibility, you may be able identify the Caithness hills across the Firth. Cullen is an attractive large village. It has a long history, having been made a royal burgh around the end of the 12thC. The old village, which ran downhill from Cullen House is long gone. Nowadays, there is a clear distinction between picturesque and colourful Seatown of Cullen, the fishing quarter, nestled into the broad bay, and "New Cullen", rising uphill and inland. Although very different, both were planned settlements, built in the 1820's, as was the fine harbour, built by Thomas Telford to take advantage of the opportunities for trade and the booming herring industry at the time.



## Waypoints

### (1) Start walk in Cullen Square

<https://w3w.co/recitals.plodding.condensed> NJ5124967117

With your back to the "Welcome to Cullen" information board on the east side of Cullen Square, next to the bus-stop enclosure, cross the main A98 road with care and walk up the square to join Grant Street. Carry on up Grant Street, passing the Co-op Supermarket. Go through the entrance pillars onto the access road to the Seafield Estate.



### (2) Go left onto path signed for Lintmill

In 590 m, go left to take the hard-surfaced path through the trees signed for the Auld Kirk and Lintmill. The path soon runs alongside the edge of an open field on your left side, with a wall, with woodland behind, on your right side. In just over 200 m, the path meets a minor tarred road. Keep going straight ahead on the tarred road. (590 m)



### (3) Divert right for Cullen Old Kirk

In 370 m from the previous waypoint, divert right and gently downhill on the access road\* to Cullen Old Kirk. (970 m)

*\*Note: the impressive "country house" on your right, over a high garden wall, is Old Cullen House, which has an interesting history, linking it to the original Old Cullen village. See <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/6287139> and*

*<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?tab =main&refno=NJ56NW0360>*



#### (4) Cullen Old Kirk

In 110 m, you will have arrived at Cullen Old Kirk\*. Enter the gates and take some time to check out the interesting church building with many very gravestones around in the churchyard. When you are ready to move on, re-trace your steps back up the gently sloping access road to Waypoint 3, where you turn right and, after passing through a hard-surfaced car-park area, carry on walking along the path with the Seafield Estate wall on your right side. (1.07 km)

*\*Note: At first sight, this appears to be a typical 18th century Scottish country kirk, but it has a much longer history. The church was founded in the 13th-century church, dedicated to St Mary the Virgin. See:*

<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/cullen/oldkirk/index.html>



#### (5) Veer 2nd right - signed for Lintmill

In 650 m, at a junction, veer 2nd right to take the signed route, on a rough road, for Lintmill. (1.72 km)



#### (6) Go left onto access road at Lintmill Lodge

In 510 m, arriving at Lintmill Lodge on your left side, go left up the access road, towards Lintmill, ignoring a road across from you with a bridge over the Water of Cullen burn. (2.23 km)



#### (7) Carry straight on at Lintmill x-roads

In 540 m, passing through the little hamlet of Lintmill, and now walking on a narrow tarred road, with the Water of Cullen on your right side, at a x-roads, go straight ahead, taking the quiet minor road signed for Crannoch Wood. (2.76 km)



**(8) Go left at Tochieneal Farm**

In 440 m, just after passing abandoned old mill buildings on your right side, and approaching the farm buildings at Tochieneal Farm, go left at the road junction. (3.21 km)



**(9) Cross A98 road and go left**

In 560 m, just after crossing the old railway line bridge, at the junction with the A98 main road, cross this busy road (with vehicles travelling at speed!) with extreme care. At the walks signpost take the path along the wide verge signed for Crannoch Wood. In just over 50 m, turn right through the pedestrian gate into Crannoch Wood. (3.76 km)



**(10) Sharp right and uphill at large tree**

Once clear of the gate into Crannoch Wood, follow the narrow grassy path veering left through the wood. In about 70 m, or so, from the gate at a clearing in the wood, where the path becomes indistinct, turn fairly sharply to your right, to pass a large beech tree on your left side (you are now about 160 m from the signpost on the A 98 road at Waypoint 9) as you head up a fairly steep slope to a level area where to you go right (east) to follow the narrow path which is now quite distinct again. Looking down to your right you can see some buildings just above the A98 road). Keep going on the path through the trees until you drop down to a junction with a forest road. (3.92 km)



**(11) Go left up forest road**

In 270 m, where the track you are on meets a forest road, go left up the rough road. Keep going until just before the road arrives at a field. Here, you veer left off the road to follow a winding path uphill through the trees. (4.19 km)



**(12) Go right at walks post**

After 1.18 km, the path descends a short slope to arrive at a green waymarking post. Go right here, In about 80 m, you may wish to divert a few meters to your right to check out the charming little Crannoch Lochan. Then, carry on, with views opening up to the Bin Hill on your left side. (5.37 km)



**(13) Go right signed for Cullen Square**

In 400 m from Waypoint 12, dropping down a slope to a t-junction, go right, signed for Cullen Square. Keep going on this grassy road. In about 450 m, pass through a pedestrian gate and carry straight on, ignoring a rough road on your right side. (5.77 km)



**(14) Veer left at field roads junction**

In 820 m from Waypoint 13, the rough road you are on meets another rough field access road at an angled t-junction. Downhill, to your right, a short distance away, are the ruins of Logie Cottage/Farm\*. Go left at this junction, walking west, in the direction of Cullen, with open views on your right side over fields to the Moray Firth, and over the rooftops of Cullen, to Portknockie, in the distance. (6.59 km)

*\*Note: The 19th Century map shows the buildings as 'Logie Cottage'. The Valuation Rolls for the period indicate both a 'Logie Farm' and 'Logie Cottage', owned by the Earl of Seafield within his Findlater Estate, in Fordyce Parish. The last record of a Logie Cottage (and gardens) in the Valuation Roll is in 1895, occupied by a Georgina Gordon, who was aged 76 at the time (from the 1891 Census). On that basis, we think it is fair to assume that the buildings have been unused (and become derelict) for over 100 years.*



**(15) Take right fork at Seafield Farm**

In 1.09 km. after crossing a bridge and, at a junction, facing the buildings of Seafield Farm above and ahead of you, take the right fork which winds its way around the farm buildings, passing houses on your right side. Soon, you will arrive at a junction with the A98 road on the outskirts of Cullen. Turn right here to follow the pavement down Seafield Street into the centre of Cullen, where you finish the walk back at the Square. (7.68 km)



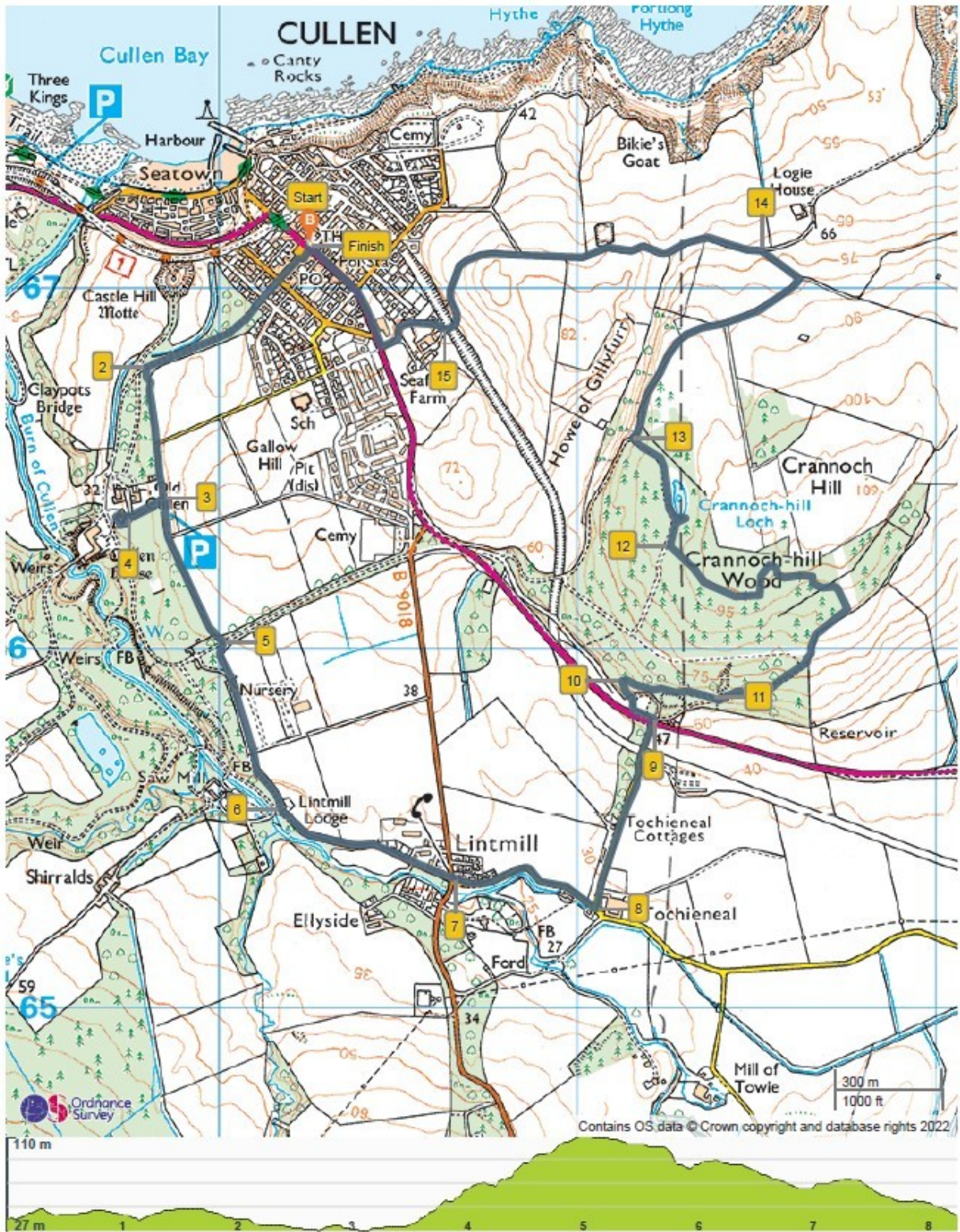
**(16) Finish walk back at Cullen Square**

In 570 m, you will have arrived back at your start-point in Cullen Square. (8.25 km)

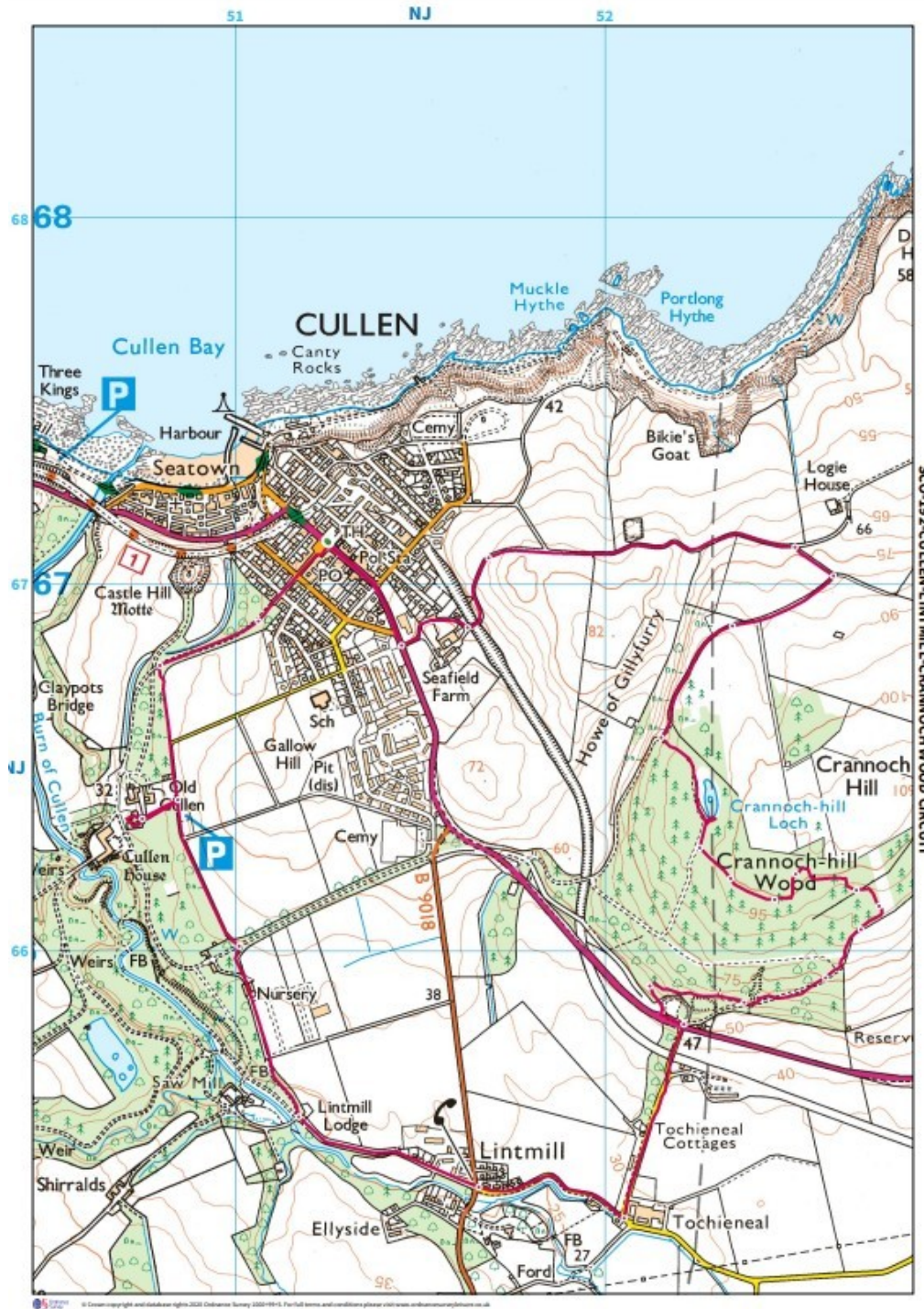


# Route Map (with waypoints)

## 192-Cullen-Lintmill-Crannoch Wood 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](#)