

ABERDEEN AND ROYAL DEESIDE

Outstanding Circular Walks







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SCALE 1:25000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM



Glen Tanar's Old Pines

Start	Glen Tanar walks car park	GPS waypoints <div><div> NO 479 965</div><div> NO 480 960</div><div> NO 479 952</div><div> NO 465 937</div><div> NO 460 941</div><div> NO 478 953</div></div>
Distance	5½ miles (9km). Shorter version 2 miles (3.2km)	
Height gain	605 feet (185m)	
Approximate time	2½ hours (1 hour for shorter walk)	
Parking	Car park (Pay and Display) 2 miles from B976 South Deeside Road	
Route terrain	Peaceful paths and tracks through woods and meadows	
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 37 (Strathdon & Alford), Explorer OL54 (Glen Esk & Glen Tanar)	

Deeside has magnificent Scots pine forests, including in Glen Tanar a remnant of the great Caledonian Forest that once covered much of the Highlands. Here you can walk under enormous, spreading ‘granny pines’ that provide ideal habitat for the rare capercaillie, a large woodland grouse.

 Walk diagonally across the road and go over an arched stone bridge then through a kissing-gate. The walk goes to the right, but it is worth first visiting Braeloine Visitor Centre on the left. Follow the fenced path that curves past

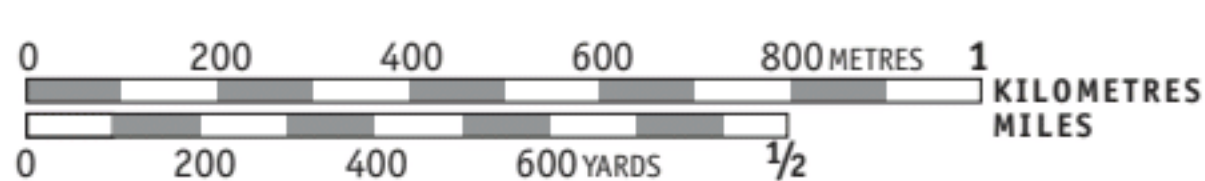
Water of Tanar

the old Chapel of St Lesmo.
Come to a junction , beyond a cattle-grid and turn right. Soon fork left uphill then go straight over a crossroads and through a gate into tall trees.
When the view opens up, turn right to the Knockie Viewpoint , the fenced area just below the track. From here





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the attractive, cobbled High Street of Old Aberdeen. The buildings of King's College are to the right – the splendid crown spire of the chapel dates from around 1500. Old Aberdeen is based around the cathedral and King's College, the oldest part of Aberdeen University, both of which are near the mouth of the River Don. The 'New Town' grew up around the mouth of the River Dee and has become the main focus of the present city.

Where High Street divides in front of a handsome 18th-century building, formerly the town house, take the left fork. Cross a main road and keep ahead along The Chanonry, lined by fine 18th-

and 19th-century granite houses, to St Machar's Cathedral. The present church, which dates mainly from the 15th and early 16th centuries, only comprises the nave and west front; the choir and transepts were destroyed when the central tower fell down in 1688.

Pass to the left of St Machar's Cathedral then bear right through a gate into Seaton Park. At the three-way fork immediately ahead, take the left-hand path which heads downhill towards the river. At the next fork, turn right to walk beside the wooded banks of the Don, ignoring two turns to the right.

At the foot of a wooded slope **F**, fork right on an uphill path through trees and follow the river round a right bend. Here, the Don flows through a wooded gorge. Leave the park by a gate



The remains of Elgin Cathedral

over the next footbridge. Turn right on the other side, follow the path to a road **B** and turn right to pass the Old Mills. These were formerly known as the King's Mills and are the oldest mills on the river. The road bends right, crossing the 17th-century Bow Bridge, the oldest bridge over the Lossie, to reach a T-junction. Turn left along Morriston Road, take the first turning on the right and turn left to head uphill along Brumley Brae.

Just before a set of ancient stone steps **C** at the side of the road a footpath enters the woods. Veer left onto this. At a junction turn left heading between two trees and follow the footpath downhill. Keep to the main, contouring path ignoring any turn offs. Eventually the path swings to the right, passing under power lines.

At the next crossroads **D**, turn right uphill. Soon fork right then, at a T-junction, turn left onto a well-surfaced path. Turn first right at a crossroads in a dip. Walk uphill to a T-junction with a

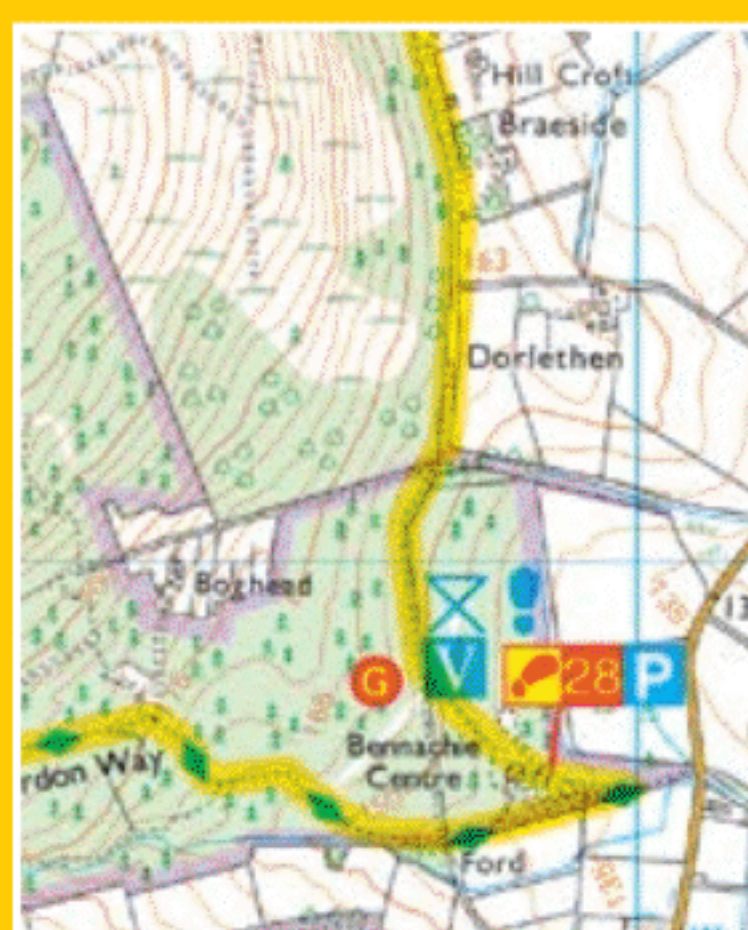
larger path and go left along it. Turn first right, as the path curves left. Soon go right again at a small crossroads, following the main path, which then curves left and gently ascends. At a T-junction, turn right and walk beside the quarry to a crossroads where a plaque tells you about fossilised animals found in the sandstone quarried here.

Turn right then right again at the next junction **E**, heading downhill to a bench with a view eastwards over fields and woods to Elgin. Continue down the edge of the wood and keep straight ahead at a junction when the fields on the left end. Farther on, go straight over a crossroads with another larger path and keep downhill until reaching a junction within sight of houses. Here turn left, back along your outward path. Retrace your steps through the wood, down Brumley Brae and back via the Old Mills (*or take a shortcut to **A** by going left before Bow Bridge and following the marked cycle route*). Return from **A** along the riverside path to Cooper Park.

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