

A Guide to the Walks on Glenlivet Estate

Andrew Wells
2005



THE CROWN
ESTATE

INTRODUCTION

This guide book has been produced to provide more detailed descriptions for walkers using the Glenlivet Estate trails. All the waymarked walks on the Estate are shown in the 'Explore Glenlivet' leaflet, which is available free from the Estate Information Centre or the Tomintoul Tourist Information Centre. This booklet is intended to be used as a supplement to this leaflet, providing an additional source of reference for walkers using the waymarked trails and some of the other paths and trails to be found in the area.



The Crown Estate has developed a variety of facilities and services for visitors to the Glenlivet Estate and welcomes people who wish to explore and enjoy the countryside of Glenlivet. Please remember however that this is a working estate with a community that relies on farming, forestry and sporting activities to earn a living. It is also an area of countryside with a rich natural heritage.

To avoid disturbance to wildlife and other activities please abide by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code at all times and take special notice of any signs or information boards you see. If you have any comments or questions about the walks and trails, please contact staff at the Estate Office and Information Centre in Tomintoul, who will be pleased to speak to you.

Waymarking

All the walks are waymarked using a small blue 'G' together with a walk number and a direction arrow where appropriate. Care is taken to ensure that waymarking is checked regularly, but markers can sometimes become dislodged by cattle and sheep and the descriptions included here are intended to provide more detail about the routes and to allow easier route planning. Most of the walks are circular and can be walked in either direction. The descriptions provided here follow the recommended route.



Walk 1

A network of waymarked mountain biking trails has also been established on the Estate and these are marked with a cycling symbol and route number. Some of the cycling and walking routes overlap, and where this occurs waymarkers include both walk numbers and the cycling symbol. Further information about the cycling trails can be found in a separate leaflet, which is available at the Tomintoul TIC and Estate Information Centre.

G Glenlivet Estate Ranger staff can be contacted at the Estate Office and Information
Ranger Service Centre at the south end of Tomintoul. The Centre houses displays about the countryside of Glenlivet and how it is managed, and is open (free) most weekdays throughout the year when staff are present. Visitors are always welcome. If you would like to know more about walks, places of interest, wildlife, access and visitor facilities, please call at the Centre. Ranger staff can be contacted on Tel 01807 580283 or email: info@glenlivetestate.co.uk

Notes and Information about Access Before setting out on your walk please read this information

Most of the paths and tracks used for the walks are shown on the 1:50 000 scale OS map for the area (Sheet 36 and part of Sheet 37), and these will prove useful, particularly if you are extending the walks or making use of other tracks and paths that are not waymarked. Place names used in the text can be found on either the estate map in the "Explore Glenlivet" leaflet or on the 1:50,000 OS maps.

The Crown Estate welcomes visitors who wish to explore the Glenlivet Estate trails for walking, cycling and informal recreation. However, please remember this is a working estate with a community that relies on farming, forestry and sporting activities to earn a living. It is also an area

of countryside with a rich natural heritage, supporting a range of birds and animals that can be vulnerable to disturbance, particularly during the breeding season. We therefore ask that you try to minimize any disturbance to land management activities while exploring the countryside.



Certain management activities, such as deer stalking or forest harvesting activities may affect trails from time to time. Livestock are also present in many areas. Information signs are also erected at the start of walks during relevant management seasons, or when access may be affected by other activities. Please observe any signs you see and take care to act accordingly. Stiles are provided where fences have to be crossed. Please use these even if there is a gate close by. Where gates have to be opened, please ensure they are left shut and securely fastened.

The Crown Estate welcomes visitors who wish to explore the Glenlivet Estate trails for walking, cycling and informal recreation. However, please remember this is a working estate with a community that relies on farming, forestry and sporting activities to earn a living. It is also an area of countryside with a rich natural heritage, supporting a range of birds and animals that can be vulnerable to disturbance, particularly during the breeding season. We therefore ask that you follow Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) at all times –see www.outdooraccess-scotland.com for further information on the code.

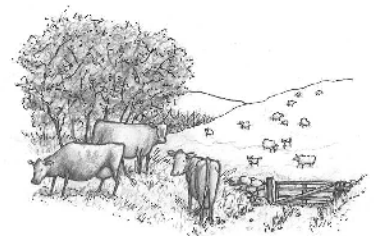
Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Sheet No 36 and parts of sheet 37 will be helpful and show most of the roads, paths and tracks in the area. Certain management activities, such as deer stalking or forest harvesting activities may affect trails from time to time. Information signs are also erected during relevant management seasons, or when other management activities are taking place. **As these activities may affect your safety, please observe any warning or information signs you see and take care to act accordingly.**

Deer Control (May, June and July / October, November)

It is essential to reduce deer numbers by shooting to prevent damage to woodlands and farmland and keep numbers in balance with their habitat. Roe deer stalking mainly takes place in woodland areas in the evening and early morning during May, June and July. Users of the trails at this time are asked to take particular care to be aware that deer stalking may be taking place and to avoid causing disruption to shooting activities. Limited red deer stalking also takes place in the daytime during October and November on certain hill areas, particularly in the Ladder Hills. Please email info@glenlivetestate.co.uk for further information about access at these times.

Grouse Shooting (August and September)

This takes place on the moorland areas of the estate from 12th August - mid October (except Sundays). Visitors using tracks through hill and moorland areas at this time of the year are asked to keep to the main hill paths and to avoid walking through shooting activities. If you encounter shooting activities, please wait until it is safe to continue or divert your route and find an alternative way to your destination. Grouse shooting does not take place on Sundays and access to all hill areas is unaffected when shooting is not in progress. All moorland birds are also particularly vulnerable to disturbance from walkers and cyclists with dogs during the breeding season (April, May and June) and we ask that care is also taken to ensure dogs are kept on a lead at all times when on open hill ground at this time of year.



Farm Livestock

Almost all of the waymarked trails and other tracks pass through fields containing farm livestock. Please take great care not to disturb sheep and cattle when using the trails, particularly before and during the lambing and calving seasons, (March, April, May, September and October). You may occasionally encounter young cattle and bulls on some of the waymarked walks, which at

times can be curious and may approach you. While it is unusual for these animals to present any threat, they may be a cause for concern. Please take care not to provoke or annoy cattle and ensure dogs are kept on leads at all times when passing through livestock (see below). If cattle react aggressively and move towards you, keep calm, let the dog go and take the shortest safest route out of the field.

Dogs

Visitors with dogs are welcome but please ensure they are kept under close control at all times. Livestock can be found on almost all areas of open land. Uncontrolled dogs can cause death, injury and abortions among valuable animals and can disturb, injure or kill roe deer and ground nesting birds. Many waders and moorland birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance from unrestricted dogs during April, May and June. Please ensure that dogs are kept on a lead at all times in areas where livestock are present and when on open ground during the nesting season. (see information regarding livestock above).

Litter

Litter bins are not generally provided outside village areas and we ask your cooperation in taking your litter to a place where it can be properly disposed of.



Disabled Access /Motorised Access

Vehicular access to viewpoints/trails for elderly or disabled visitors can be arranged to certain areas. Please contact the information centre for further information about these routes and for information about trails and forest roads suitable for wheelchairs/disabled access. Unauthorised motor vehicles of any type are not permitted on the trails.

Thank you for reading this information and for your co-operation. We hope you enjoy exploring the estate. If you would like any further details, please contact the Estate Information Centre Tel 01807 580 283 or email info@glenlivetestate.co.uk

Enjoy your walk..... take nothing but photographs.....leave nothing but footprints !



Welcome to Glenlivet

Lying between the Ladder and Cromdale Hills in the Cairngorms National Park, the two broad straths of the rivers Avon and Livet form the 58,000 acre (23,000 hectare) Glenlivet Estate, part of The Crown Estate. Here amidst open expanses of heather covered hills, clear rushing burns and rivers, sheltered straths, glens and woodlands you will find some of the finest scenery in the Grampian Highlands.

Within this varied landscape you can enjoy excellent walking, cycling, horse riding and skiing on an extensive network of waymarked trails, but above all you can find solitude and a wonderful sense of peace, quiet and open space.

A wealth of fascinating historic sites bear witness to past events that have shaped the landscape and the community that live here, while the mixed countryside supports a wide variety of interesting wildlife. Glenlivet welcomes you to explore its tracks and byways. We hope you will enjoy your time in Glenlivet and look forward to your return.



About Glenlivet Estate

The Glenlivet Estate consists of the lower reaches of the River Avon (pronounced "a'an") together with its main tributary, the Livet, which rises to the east in the Ladder Hills. This is high country, as nowhere in Glenlivet is lower than 600 feet, and winter snow can last late into the spring. But the high Cairngorms to the southwest intercept much of the rain and the area is surprisingly drier than many other parts of Scotland.

Acquired by the Crown Estate in 1937, Glenlivet is a highly integrated multiple-use upland estate. Managed to provide opportunities for sustained employment in agriculture, forestry, sporting, and tourism, a high priority is given to the long-term development of the estate's community, its recreational, educational and other resources. This is balanced with the need to protect, enhance and conserve the rich natural and cultural heritage of this fascinating area, while preserving the special qualities and characteristics of the countryside, which combine to produce the remarkable Glenlivet landscape.

Today farming is still the major industry although the need to remain viable now means the estate's tenanted farms are fewer, larger and more efficient. Livestock is the main product, with an emphasis on cattle breeding and rearing. While altitude and exposure restrict agricultural activities, the soils of the area are generally fertile and the quality of stock is highly regarded.

The rolling heather covered Cromdale and Ladder Hills, encircle the estate. A particular feature of the area, especially in the late summer and autumn when the purple flowers come into bloom, these moorlands support populations of red grouse, together with other characteristic upland birds and animals. The moors are carefully maintained by controlled burning to increase the numbers of grouse that live on them - an activity that helps to conserve this special habitat. Grouse shooting takes place in August and September but other activities including deerstalking, rough shooting and salmon fishing allow the operation of year round sporting activities on the estate.

Afforestation in the 1950's and 1960's resulted in the establishment of the pine and spruce woods that dissect the countryside. Managed by The Crown Estate, a restructuring programme of thinning, clearance and replanting is now in progress. The aim is to produce a continuous crop of timber for the future and long term employment in the area, while maintaining and improving the benefits for shelter, diversity for wildlife and facilities for recreation.

Native broad-leaved trees account for a high percentage of newly planted areas and there are several stands of semi-natural woods of birch and alder, which add greatly to the natural heritage of the area. Birch woods support a rich and varied mix of plants and animals, but they have suffered a severe decline over the years as grazing animals hinder regeneration. Steps are being taken to manage, protect and extend areas of birchwood, through farm-based woodland management schemes. Grazing pressure is reduced and natural regeneration encouraged, helping to conserve these attractive woods and the wildlife they support.

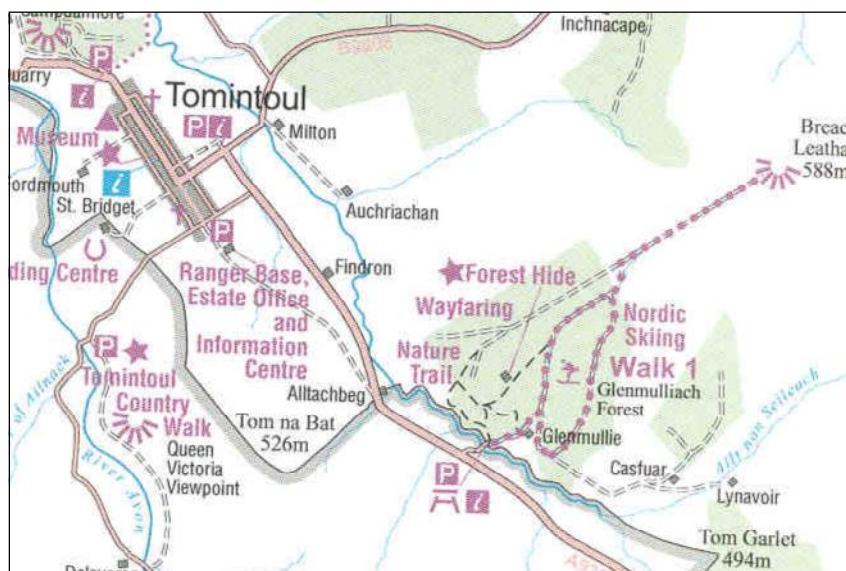
The varied nature of the countryside provides good opportunities for enjoying birdwatching or viewing other upland animals. Crossbills, siskins, redpolls, goldcrest and long-tailed tits can be seen in many of the woodland areas, where you may also spot the occasional red squirrel darting amongst the trees. Areas of Juniper scrub, heather heath, rough grassland and adjoining woodlands provide good habitat for black grouse and short eared owls, while bogs, blanket peat and rough grassland allow many waders, including snipe, redshank, curlew and golden plover to breed. Mountain hares are frequently seen on the hills, particularly in the spring when still wearing their white, winter coat, while red and roe deer browse over both the high and low ground. The wooded banks of the rivers Avon and Livet are particularly attractive and it is not unusual to see goosanders along these stretches of water during the summer. Dippers are commonly seen flitting amongst the rocky burns and noisy oystercatchers nest among pebble banks in the spring. This mixed countryside and open moorland provides good habitat for a variety of different birds of prey including kestrel, sparrowhawk, hen harrier and merlin while buzzards are frequently observed soaring in the sky.

Within this working landscape, new uses of the land have appeared to complement traditional activities. The skiing area at the Lecht offers easily accessible slopes especially for beginners and intermediates and the numerous woodland trails throughout the Estate provide a wide choice of cross-country skiing routes. The extensive network of waymarked walking and cycling trails provides access to many quiet, attractive and remote parts of the estate, while the progressive development of new facilities and services for visitors is an important element of estate management.

Indeed visitors are welcome to share this peaceful countryside, and we hope that you will enjoy exploring Glenlivet.



Walk 1: Glenmulliach Forest.



Distance: 3 miles (5km) to viewpoint and back.

Start: GR 193168. Glenmulliach car park and picnic site, just off the A939 Lecht road near Tomintoul.

Route: Forest road leading to a prominent viewpoint overlooking Tomintoul. A nature trail leading to a forest hide can be followed as an alternative or to extend the walk.

Allow 1-2 hours

Access information: During May, June and July roe deer stalking activities may be taking place in this woodland in the evenings and early mornings.

The walk starts at the Glenmulliach picnic site and follows the forest road to a viewpoint providing panoramic views of the Estate and the high tops of the Eastern Cairngorms. From the car park follow the forest road up a slight slope, through a gate, to a junction in the woods. Continue straight on, taking the left fork, following the road gradually uphill through the stands of spruce and pine planted here in 1953. The trees alongside the Alt 'a Mulliach burn on the left, then right of the road have recently been cleared to open up the burn sides to help improve the woodland for animals and plants by letting in more sunlight, thereby encouraging a more diverse bankside vegetation. A number of deciduous trees have also been planted here many of them by children from local schools. You may well see or hear wrens while they flit in amongst the brash and woodland edges, while it is not uncommon to see siskins, redpoll and crossbills active in the treetops.

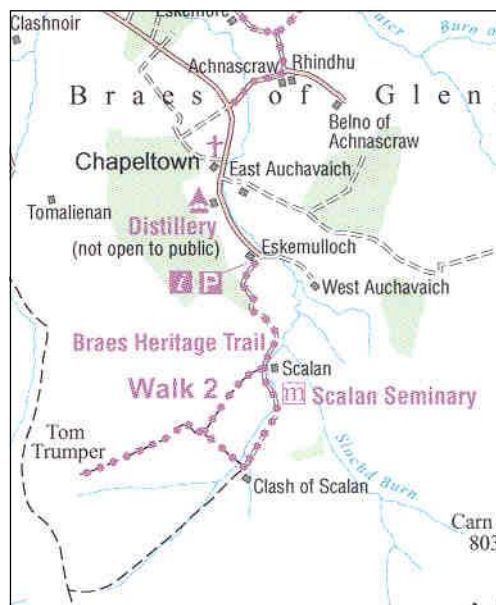
About 500m from the junction, a short diversion to the walk can be made by following a track to the left, at the top of a short steep section of the road. At the point where the road levels out, the track heads up into the trees and can be followed for about 100m to a secluded glade which is occupied by two ruined cottages. Prior to afforestation the land here was cultivated and these houses were probably sheilings (dwellings occupied during the summer by farming families making use of higher pastures) which date back several centuries. A further 300m along this track, a forest hide overlooking the tree tops, provides a sheltered spot for enjoying bird watching and sometimes it is possible to view red squirrels in the tree tops, or roe deer which occasionally browse in the juniper shrub below the hide.

From the point where the track to the hide joins the forest road continue straight on along the road, (the Alt a Mulliach burn is now at the bottom of a fairly steep bank on the right), to another junction. Here go straight on, past a small reservoir, built for use by helicopters during forest fires. Continue through the gate at the boundary of the forest, then turn right at the junction (north east) following the road towards the communications mast which is now visible ahead.

Approximately 800m from the junction, a small plaque mounted on a stone plinth, illustrates the hills that can be seen from this expansive viewpoint, which on a clear day provides some wonderful views of the Cairngorms. Next to the viewpoint, exposed pine stumps, remnants of the once expansive Caledonian Forest lie partially buried in the peat, which has helped to preserve their remains for the past 3000 years or so.

The walk can be extended slightly by continuing up to the mast, where the road ends, but to return from the viewpoint indicator, head back down the road to the junction near the helicopter fire dam, then turn left following the road which loops round to rejoin the route of ascent near the entrance to the forest. This loop road passes through an area where recent forest operations have resulted in the clearance of trees blown over in a gale in February 1989. The site has been restocked with a mixture of broadleaves and conifers which will eventually create a more diverse and attractive woodland. As the loop road turns right at a sharp bend above Glenmulliach house, another road to the left leads to two adjacent forest blocks, providing a further extension to the walk if time permits.

Walk 2: Braes Heritage Trail. Scalán and Tom Trumper



Distance: 4 miles (6.6km) to summit and back.

Start: GR 245204. Eskemulloch car park, Braes of Glenlivet.

Route: Level track to Scalán. Rougher beyond and may be muddy. Steady climb to the top of Tom Trumper which affords excellent views of the Braes of Glenlivet and the Cairngorms

Allow 2 hours.

Access information: A guide to the Heritage Trail is available from the Estate Information Centre. Grouse shooting activities may affect the upper section of this walk during August and September. The circular route is not affected by grouse shooting activities. Livestock may be present for most of the route at any time of the year.

One of the best ways to savour the Braes of Glenlivet is to follow this walk to the top of Tom Trumper (570m), which affords fine views of the Ladder Hills and the steep corrie of the Slochd burn (from the Gaelic *sloc*, *sluic*, meaning pit or hollow). The walk can also be linked up with the old right-of-way over Carn Dulack to the Well of the Lecht, (once a 'whisky road' used by smugglers) but this is only recommended in fine weather as the path is indistinct and it can be difficult to navigate over the featureless moorland if visibility is poor.

A further booklet describing this enjoyable walk- 'Water of Life and a Breath of Fresh Air'- is available at the Estate Office and Information Centre and the Tomintoul Tourist Information

Centre. The text of the booklet is based on information gathered from long standing residents of the Braes of Glenlivet and describes the landscape through the eyes of the people who have lived there.

Follow the rough track from Eskemulloch car park for about 1km to the old College of Scalán (from the Gaelic *sgalan*, meaning turf roof) . This secluded building, was once a Seminary and was one of the few places Scotland where the Catholic faith was kept alive during the troubled times of the Eighteenth Century. The Scalán is open all year for visitors to savour how with courage and dogged perseverance the Catholic faith survived and a detour to explore the building is thoroughly recommended. Established in 1717, the College withstood repeated attacks from Hanovarian soldiers and was completely destroyed in 1746 after Culloden. Relocated across the Crombie water on its present site, the College survived as the seat of Catholic teaching in Scotland, until the pressure of persecution was relaxed during the Napoleonic wars and it was transferred to a new and more commodious house at Aquorties near Inverourie in 1799. The foundations of the original building can still be seen near the bridge, and just below, the Bishops well is tucked into the bank beside the burn - a welcome source of clear spring water on a hot day.

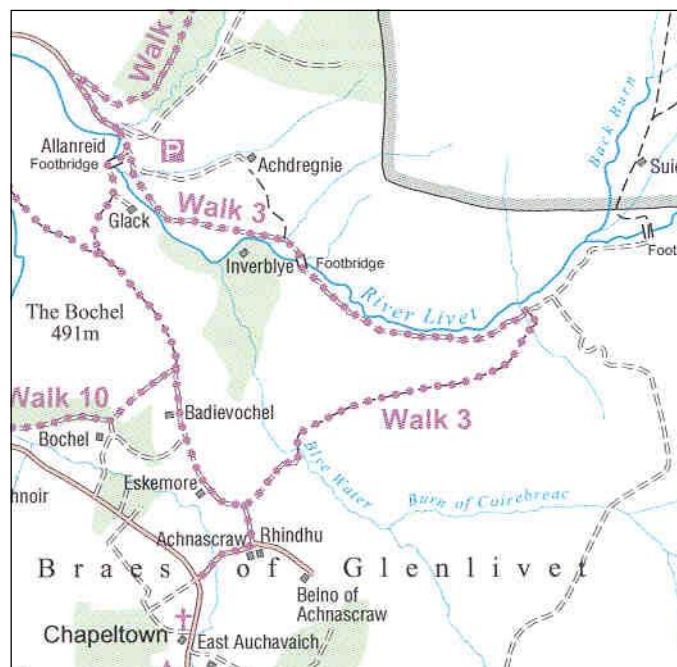
Leaving the Scalán take the track at the bridge which heads southwards towards the hills. This hill track continues up the Crombie water to the remote ruins of the Clash of Scalán (from the Gaelic - - *clais*, meaning furrow, narrow, shallow valley). From this point, the right-of-way, continues straight on up the narrowing glen along a now indistinct path to cross the shoulder of Carn Dulack before descending to the Lecht mine, a fine extension to the walk if time and weather permits.

To continue to Tom Trumper turn westwards at the Clash of Scalán and follow the path across a narrow stone bridge over the Crombie water. The route then follows an old stone dyke which peters out just below a fence. Cross the fence at the stile, then continue south westwards up the hill through a line of grouse butts to the rounded summit of Tom Trumper. A cairn lies just below the actual top and it is worth continuing a little further on the track to enjoy the views westwards to the Cairngorms. The view from the top is well worth the climb and on a clear day Ben Avon and Ben a'Bhuird dominate the horizon in the southwest. To the north beyond the distillery is the rounded shape of the Bochel an isolated hill at the head of the Braes of Glenlivet, while eastwards the Ladder hills stretch into the distance towards the expansive bowl of the Suie, completing what is a truly memorable panorama. (The section of the path from the stile to the top of Tom Trumper, may be affected by shooting activities during the Grouse season. Any shooting should be easily seen or heard on the start of the ascent up Tom Trumper from the stile. If shooting is in progress, please wait until it is safe to continue or find an alternative route to the summit)

To return to the car park from the summit, drop back down to the stile then head north eastwards downhill alongside the fence, to rejoin the Scalán road near the corner of the Eskemulloch plantation.



Walk 3 The Livet Path



Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5km) circuit.

Start: GR 235 249. Allanreid car park, Tombae road.

Route: Attractive low level walk along the banks of the river Livet. Returning across moorland and farmland, through the Braes. Exposed in bad weather and can be muddy in places.

Allow 3-4 hours

Access information: Grouse shooting activities may affect the section of this walk between the River Livet and the Blye Water during August and September. An alternative longer route, following the hill track from the river Livet to East Auchavaich via Ladderfoot (follow cycle route 5) adds a further 3.5 miles (6 km) to the walk. This can be used to complete the circuit to avoid shooting activities or at other times if required. Livestock may be present on some sections at any time of the year.

This track follows the river Livet into wild, remote and lonely countryside to an area which in the past was the haunt of whisky smugglers, secretly manufacturing their spirit in well disguised "Sma' stills", tucked away next to bubbling springs, in the remote recesses of the Ladder hills. Sure footed Highland ponies once trod the well developed hill tracks, burdened by their illicit loads, on arduous journeys to the markets in the south and east. The open bowl of the Suidhe (pron. "sue-ee) and the wide expanse of the Gordon flats, which once afforded the smuggler a clear view of approaching officials is today prime grouse shooting country, and comes alive with the activity of breeding moorland birds in the Spring and early Summer.

From the Allanreid car park cross the road bridge and continue past a small memorial cairn onto the Achdregnie farm road. After a short distance, leave this road and head towards the footbridge over the river Livet. Turn left before the bridge and head south eastwards along the north bank of the river.

After passing through a newly planted shelter belt, the trail turns eastwards leaving the river for a short section before rejoining it at the ford near Inverblye, where another bridge provides a route across the river. Cross the bridge and follow the track through a gate. Continue along the well defined track on the south bank of the river for about 1.5 km until the path meets another gate. Not far past the small cottage near the ford about 100m to the west of the track, traces of an ancient Neolithic farm settlement can be found amongst the heather. This dates back to about 3000 years ago and is the largest surviving example of its kind in this area.

The walk from the Inverblye ford alongside the river, though fairly remote and exposed in bad weather is one of the most enjoyable on the Estate. This area is rich in birdlife, especially during the spring and summer when the breeding migrants arrive. The resident grouse and snipe are joined by curlews, oystercatchers, lapwings and sandpipers which come to nest here in the spring. Dippers can be seen flitting up and down the river throughout the year while goosanders and teal can occasionally be observed in the summer flying above the tumbling water. Swifts and swallows, swell the population of wheatears, skylarks and meadow pipits here in their search for the summer bounty of insects, themselves on occasion, falling prey to kestrels and merlins.

During the summer splashes of pink wild thyme decorate the rocky banks of the Livet, its distinctive smell enriching the air. Underfoot, the rock is granite the only place on Glenlivet Estate that this hard igneous rock (which forms the high ground of Ben Rinnes in the north and the Cairngorms to the southwest) is found. With the backdrop of the Ladder Hills, (name derived from the Gaelic: leitir, leitreach meaning slope, side of a hill), the walk passes through expansive moorland □ for a long time the hunting grounds of the Dukes of Richmond and Gordon. It is here, on the lower slopes at the northern end of the Ladder Hills that you can occasionally pick out the distant shapes of red deer, browsing amongst the heather.

To continue along Walk 3, cross the stile at the second gate and turn right leaving the main track. (The main track continues eastwards to the Suie where the red roofed cottage of Knochkan marks the boundary of Glenlivet Estate with Glenfiddich Estate. This route can be used to extend the walk or to link up with rights-of-way which continue north eastwards beyond Suie house through the Blackwater Forest to Cabrach and through Glen Suie to Glenfiddich).

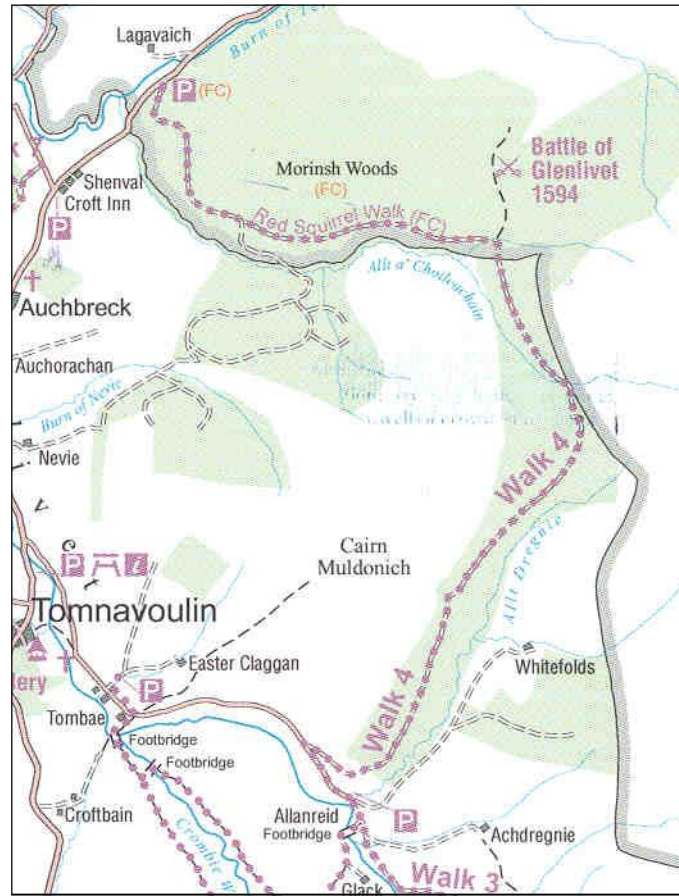
Follow the fence southwards, away from the river for about 200m to another small gate. Turn right through the gate and follow the track (which at first is fairly indistinct in places) westwards through the heather. The track soon becomes more obvious and crosses the open moor to reach the Blye water at the Burnside of Thain. In bad weather with the wind to the west, the path across the moor is exposed. However the views onto the Bochel and the Braes of Glenlivet, compensate for the effort and there is always the thought of ghostly smugglers to hasten your step.

The section of the route which crosses the moor may be affected by shooting activities during the Grouse shooting season (August and September). Shooting activities should be easily visible while walking along the riverside path. If you see or hear any sign of shooting, please wait until it is safe to proceed or divert your route around the shooting area.

At the Blye Water, continue across the burn and along the farm track (muddy when wet) to join another farm road near Achnascrew farm. At this point the walk can be extended slightly by turning left (south) and walking along the farm road towards the farmhouse, then turning right onto the tarmac road that leads into Chapeltown.

Avoiding this extension, cross the stile at the gate and continue straight on for about 50m then turn right (northwards) and walk through the field, alongside the fence, following the track which heads towards the Bochel, a prominent hill which marks the entrance to the Braes from the north. Continue along the farm track past Eskmore and Badievochel to the point where walk 3 joins walk 10. At this junction, continue northwards following the sheep □ walks which skirt the base of the Bochel, keeping to the topside of the fence, away from the track running parallel to the right. At the north □ eastern side of the hill above the Glack cottage, walk 3 diverges from walk 10 and heads downhill, through the field, to join another track which continues northwards over the Livet footbridge, rejoining the starting route near Allanreid.

Walk 4 Allanreid to Morinsh



Distance: 5.4 miles, 9 km to Morinsh. 3.5 miles, 6 km to the site of the Battle of Glenlivet.

Start: GR 235 249. Allanreid car park, Tombae road.

Route: Forest road. A steady ascent through sheltered plantations providing access to the site of the Battle of Glenlivet. Can be made into a circuit by including an ascent of Cairn Muldonich then returning along the track which descends to the Tombae road near Easter Claggan.

Allow 4-5 hours to Morinsh and back , 5-6hrs if returning via Cairn Muldonich

Access information: During May, June and July roe deer stalking activities, may be taking place in these woodlands during the evenings and early mornings.

A well sheltered walk along remote forest roads which includes some enjoyable views and provides access to the site of the battle of Glenlivet (1594). From the Allanreid car park, walk back along the public road towards Tombae for about 200m, then turn right and follow the forest road which climbs north eastwards through the Carn Muldonich plantation.

After about 2.5 km the new forest road ends at a turning circle but the walk continues straight on along an old forest road which climbs gradually uphill before turning northwards to cross the shoulder between Carn Muldonich and Carn Dregnie. The road then descends quickly to a small ford where it crosses the Allt a'Choileachain burn. After the ford, follow the road alongside the north east bank of the burn, for about 1 km, to a bend in the road next to the Allt Cullach, a tributary of the Allt a'Choileachain burn. At this point the road leaves The Crown Estate woodlands and enters Forestry Commission plantations, but the walk can be continued following the red squirrel waymarkers which lead to the Morinsh car park on the B9009 Glenlivet to Dufftown road (a further 3.5 Km).

As the road crosses the Allt Cullach and turns westwards, another track heads northwards, uphill through the trees. This is part of a complex network of old drovers' roads which once crossed

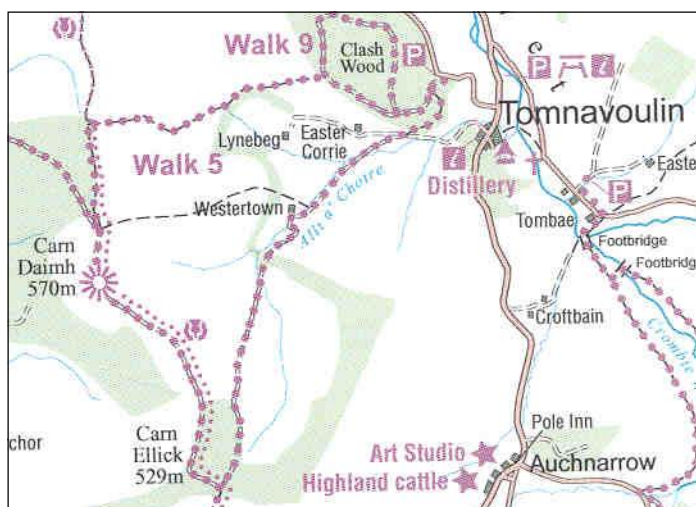
these hills linking Glenrinnis and Glenlivet and which now forms one of the many forestry access roads. It was on this road near the point that it reaches the saddle between Carn Tighearn and Tom Culloch that the Battle of Glenlivet (or Battle of Alt a'Choilachain as it is sometimes called), was fought in 1594. As part of the 400th anniversary of the Battle, the Forest Enterprise have opened up the site, which can be reached by following this track for about 0.5 km through the woodland. From the Battle site or from Morinsh the return route to the car park at Allanreid is via the same road back through the Carn Muldonich plantation. A more interesting return route however involves an ascent of Cairn Muldonich before descending to the Tombae road. This route over Cairn Muldonich is exposed and not waymarked, so please take care if visibility is poor.

To follow this alternative, return along the forest road to the Allt a Choileachan ford. Continue along the road back up the steep brae to the point where the road starts to level out on the shoulder near Carn Dregnie. At the highest point of the road, before it starts to descend back through the trees leave the track and head south westwards along one of the forest rides which lead uphill towards the summit of Cairn Muldonich. Cross the hill fence at the edge of the wood and continue across the open hill to the top. The broad summit provides some wonderful views onto the surrounding hills and you may be fortunate enough to hear the piping call of well disguised golden plover in the short lichen rich heather. It is also worth keeping an eye open for red deer which can occasionally be seen in herds browsing on the steep slopes Carn Dregnie and the Cadha Dubh.

From the top follow the rounded south west ridge descending to pick up the hill path which leads down to Tombae house. At Tombae the path meets the public road. Turn left onto the road and head eastwards back to Allanreid car park.



Walk 5: Carn Daimh from Tomnavoulin.



Distance: 5 miles (8.5 km) circuit

Start: GR 208265. Clash Wood car park, Tomnavoulin

Route: A steady ascent along farm, forest and hill tracks to an outstanding viewpoint (570m). Return across moorland. Exposed most of the way especially at the top. Can be extended to make a much longer walk by linking up with route 6 or by following the Speyside Way to Blairfindy, returning along the Gallowhill road.

Allow 3-4 hours

Access information: Livestock may be present on some sections of this walk at any time of the year.

An excellent hill walk through some of the finest countryside on the Estate, providing some wonderful views of the surrounding landscape.

Follow the forest road from the car park for a short distance (50m), then turn left and take the waymarked path which heads along a path through the trees. (Walk 9 continues ahead). Follow the path along the forest boundary fence to a stile. Leave the plantation and continue straight on in a south easterly direction along the Westertown farm road, ignoring the right track which leads to Easter Corrie farmhouse.

Continue along the farm road which follows the Alt a'Choire burn past Westertown, then through a narrow belt of conifers to the ruins of Craighead. As you emerge from the plantation, leave the burn and head almost due south, uphill through the field. Join the track which leads up to the plantation ahead, cross the stile into the forest then follow the road through the trees to the point where route 5 joins the Speyside Way (a signpost marks the junction of several paths here). The track continues straight on and eventually leads to Tomintoul - in fact this was the old road between Tomintoul and Tomnavoulin many years ago. At the signpost turn right (westwards towards Ballindalloch), and follow the Speyside Way, firstly along a peaty path which meanders through the trees, but which later emerges from the forest and continues to the summit of Carn Daimh (pronounced Cairn Dye) 570m, 1866 ft. The summit view is outstanding and on a clear day the panorama is magnificent. To the west and south the Cairngorms and hills of Strathspey dominate the scene, while eastwards the rounded shapes of the Ladder Hills fill the horizon. The remote glens of Glenfiddich and Blackwater Forest can be picked out beyond the wide open bowl of the Suie, through which the river Livet meanders on its journey down Glenlivet to Strathavon. Tomnavoulin and the starting point of the walk can be seen way below, while the prominent conical shape of Ben Rinn completes what is certainly a very memorable sight.

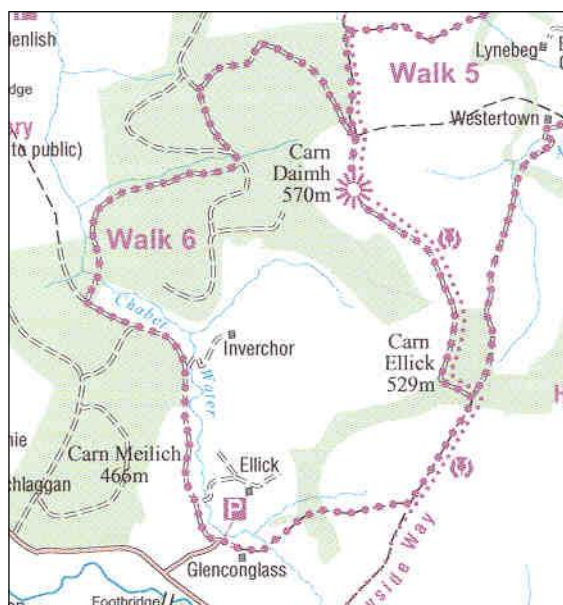
Leaving the summit, head northwards along the Speyside Way keeping to the eastern edge of the forest plantation. Not far from the top, a track (marked by a signpost) heads due east down

across the hillside to rejoin the route of ascent near Westertown farmhouse. This can be used as a quicker return route if time is short.

To follow route 5, continue northwards straight on past the signpost, to the NE corner of the Carn Daimh plantation. Turn right at the corner and follow the fence eastwards through the heather. About 50m from the edge of the wood, the Speyside Way continues northwards. Leave the Speyside Way and continue alongside the fence following it over the flat shoulder of Carn Liath. The path gradually becomes more distinct and at the high point of the shoulder passes some solitary pine trees. Continue alongside the fence as it drops down the other side of the hill until you reach an old gate. (In thick mist take care to stay alongside the fence which continues eastwards over the shoulder, avoiding the fence which heads northwards uphill towards the top of Carn Liath).

At the old gate, head diagonally down the hill along the indistinct track which continues eastwards to the gap in the plantation encircling Lynebeg farmhouse. From here follow the farm track which skirts the northern edge of the woods, before crossing an open field to join the forest road in the Clash wood, which leads downhill back to the car park and starting point.

Walk 6: Glenconglass to Carn Daimh



Distance: 7.3 miles (12 km) circuit.

Start: GR 172 223. Glenconglass car park

Route: A more sheltered alternative to route 5, climbing steadily along forest roads to the summit of Carn Daimh (570m). Return route crosses more exposed moorland and may be wet underfoot. Can be extended using route 5 if time permits. (The circuit can be walked in either direction, but to enjoy the best of the views it is recommended to follow the route described here).

Allow 4 hours

Access information: During May, June and July, roe deer stalking activities may be taking place during the evenings and early mornings. Livestock may be present on some sections at any time of the year.

An interesting walk which provides good opportunities for seeing forest and moorland wildlife and includes some expansive views of the Estate and the Eastern Cairngorms. A steady ascent through sheltered plantations leads to the exposed summit of Carn Daimh (pronounced Cairn Dye, 570m, 1866 ft.) before returning across open heather moorland to the starting point at Glenconglass farm.

From Glenconglass car park, follow the road across the cattle grid, northwards keeping left along the forestry track where the road forks. Continue straight on through 2 metal gates following the road as it runs parallel with the Chabet water on the right. Beside this stretch of road there are several wetland areas which are rich with wild flowers during the summer. Ragged robin, heath spotted and early purple orchids, buttercups, monkey flower, celandines, forget-me-nots and cuckoo flower are in abundance and on a warm Summer day it is worth stopping a while to watch the butterflies flitting among the flower heads.

At the second gate the road enters the Cairn Daimh forest and continues past the ruined farmhouse of Inverchor which sits among several trees on the adjacent hillside. Continue straight along the forest road, past the recently cleared and replanted area near Cairn Meilich until you reach a junction where the road turns to the right. You may see some inquisitive pigs here in the field beside the road. These are wild boar which are kept by one of the tenants on the estate. Take care not to stray into the enclosure! Take the right turn at the junction and follow the road down a short brae to a bridge which crosses the Chabet. Cross the bridge, and follow the road as it winds its way steadily up through the Carn Daimh plantation. About 1.5 km from the Chabet bridge the road turns sharply to the left, before passing a quarry in Coire na Fuarraig. This is used to supply material for building forestry roads and the orange coloured, hard, quartzite rock □ a metamorphic rock formed over 500 million years ago from sedimentary sandstones □ forms much of the high ground in the area. Continue past the quarry taking the right fork and climb steadily upwards to the next junction, turning right again, along the much rougher track which heads north eastwards, then south eastwards, emerging from the trees just below the summit of Carn Daimh. Cross the boundary fence at the stile and complete the short distance to the summit cairn where a viewpoint indicator describes the panorama of hills that can be seen on a clear day, some of which are a good 60 - 70 miles away (see Walk 5).

From the summit the walk can be extended if time allows, by following the Speyside Way northwards for about 200m then turning right, taking the track which is signposted to Tomnavoulin which heads eastwards down across the hillside to the plantation above Westertown farmhouse. The path then turns southwards to join the route of walk 5 near the ruins of Craighead, and can then be followed back uphill to rejoin route 6 at the junction in the Carn Ellick plantation. (This route is not shown on the above sketch map but is marked on the OS 1:50,000 scale Landranger map, sheet 36)

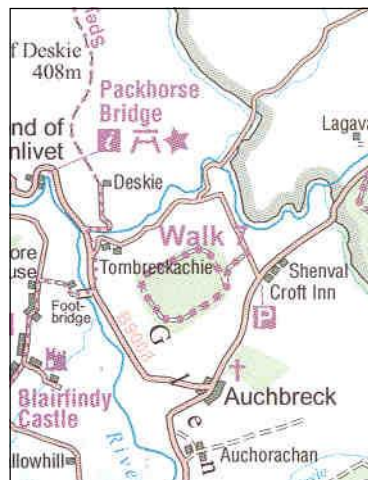


Avoiding the diversion, to continue Walk 6 from the top of Carn Daimh, follow the Speyside Way southeastwards from the summit, along the track which leads alongside the Carn Ellick plantation. Cross the stile where the track enters the woods and continue straight on until you reach a signpost at the junction of several paths. (This is the point where Walk 5 meets Walk 6 as described above). Turn right here, following the Speyside Way (signposted to Tomintoul). Head southwards, leaving the woods to follow the track which descends gradually across the open heather moorland, overlooking the Feith Musach.

This return route provides some excellent views onto the remote summits of Ben Avon, Beinn a Bhuid and the north eastern Cairngorms. The peat workings beside the B9008 Tomintoul - Tomnavoulin road are visible in the distance and it is not unusual to see short-eared owls or even hen harriers patrolling the moors in search of prey. Where rough grassland is mixed with the heather, in Spring and Summer you will almost certainly hear or see meadow pipits, lapwings, skylarks, and curlews whose vocal calls often fill the air.

About 1 km after leaving the shelter of the Cairn Ellick woods, leave the Speyside Way and head almost due west along the waymarked track (indistinct in places), which descends through the heather, alongside the Allt Ellick burn. The path eventually joins a track in the plantation above Glenconglass farm. Near where the burn enters the trees, cross the stile, and continue along the track which leads down to the farm. Cross the Chabet at the footbridge near the farm, then head through the farmyard to return to the car park.

Walk 7: Tom Dubh Wood walk



Distance: 1.5 miles, (3.3 km) circuit.

Start: GR 214294. Croft Inn on the B9009 Dufftown road

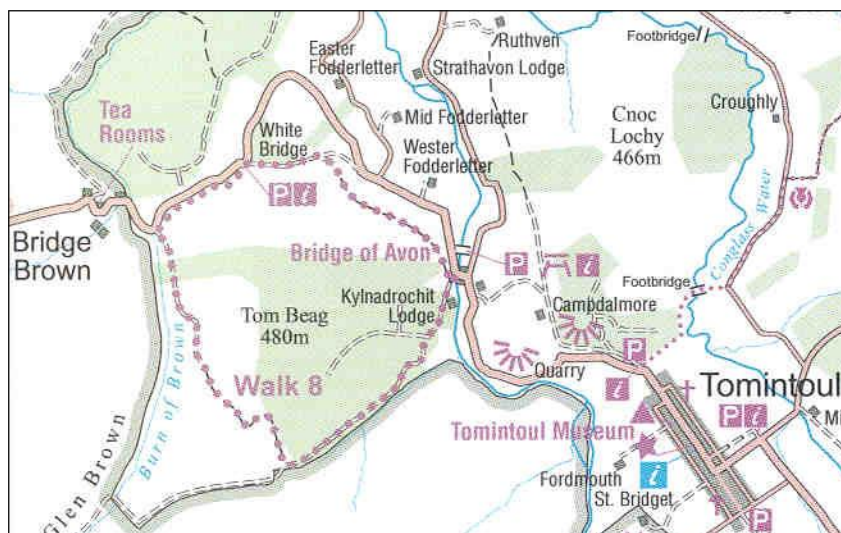
Route: Easy, level walk on farm and forest roads around the periphery of the wood, with fine views overlooking Glenlivet and Ben Rinnes. May be wet due to long grass.

Allow 30 mins - 1 hour

This attractive short walk follows easy farm and forest tracks, circling the Tom Dubh wood. The path runs around the periphery of the wood providing some very attractive views of Glenlivet, the Cromdale hills and Ben Rinnes.

From the Croft Inn take the unclassified road which cuts off the B9009 just opposite the Inn car park and walk about 100m to join a farm road which heads off to the left. Follow this track through the fields to the forest gate, then cross over the fence at the stile. The forest road can then be followed in either direction around the edge of the wood. Return to the car park via the same route.

Walk 8 Glenbrown and Kynadrochit



Distance: 4 miles (6.75 km) circuit

Start: GR 133 209. White Bridge car park, on A939 near Bridge of Brown.

Route: A relatively low level walk along a mixture of forest, farm and hill tracks with some fine views of the surrounding countryside. (The circuit can be walked in either direction, depending on whether you wish to start or finish with the short main road section. The route described here follows the walk in a clockwise direction).

Allow 2-3 hours

Access information: During May, June and July, roe deer stalking activities may be taking place during the evenings and early mornings. Livestock may be present on some sections at any time of the year.

This is an excellent circuit through varied and interesting countryside with fine views down Strath Avon and up Glen Brown (Bruin in old documents).

Take the track heading eastwards from the White Bridge car park along the edge of the Tom nam Marbh plantation. About 750m from the car park, cross a stile at a gate then continue a short distance downhill to a sharp bend where the track turns to the left and descends to rejoin the main road above Fodderletter Farm. Leave the track at the bend and head southwards, following the indistinct, waymarked path across the hillside beneath the overhead power cables.

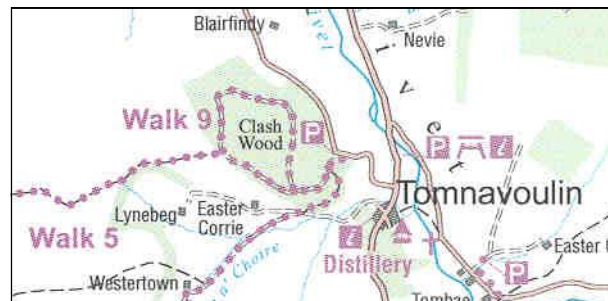
Soon after passing beneath the power lines, turn eastwards again, following the waymarkers down hill to the Allt fuar burn. Cross the burn and pick up the sheep walk which meanders through the Juniper scrub, continuing south-eastwards along the path as it skirts the hillside. As you reach the edge of a birch woodland, take the path which leads downhill to a gate in the trees. Stay in the woods and continue south-eastwards following the topside of the fence, to the point where you reach the Kynadrochit plantation. Enter the plantation at the stile, then head immediately downhill to pick up the well defined path which leads through the trees to the forest road.

Turn right onto the forest road and continue southwards passing Kynadrochit lodge, (Caol na drochit - the narrows of the bridge) which is on the left. This is one of two Victorian sporting lodges on the Estate, built originally by a locally born minister and later acquired by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon as a replacement for the Lecht Lodge which was destroyed by fire in 1915. It is now part of the Crown Estate and is occupied by the estate's sporting tenant. Follow the forest road past the lodge and around the right bend past the private house at the Torrains. After the bend take the left fork of the road, continuing south-westwards, parallel to the unseen Allt na Cluaine burn, which is hidden from view in the trees. After about 2.5 km the forest road

emerges from the plantation at Stronachavie. Here, leave the main track and turn northwards following the forest fence, uphill, then slightly downhill, to an old gate where the track diverges. (From Stronachavie the main track continues straight on crossing the Burn of Brown and joining a hill track which eventually leads to Dorback Lodge near Nethy Bridge).

At the old gate, take the left fork of the track (the right fork continues alongside the forest fence to the top of Tom Beag) and head westwards, then north-westwards across the hillside overlooking Glen Brown. Keep an eye open for black grouse which can sometimes be seen in the fields down by the river and among the juniper scrub on the hillsides. As you enter a field, the track disappears, then reappears close to the ruins of Tombreck, one of many deserted farmhouses scattered here. At the ruins, pick up the rough farm track again and head northwards, continuing through the narrow strip of the Tom Mor plantation. Follow the track to the hairpin bend on the Tomintoul-Grantown road near the Bridge of Brown, then turn right, uphill and climb the short but steep section of the main road which leads back to the White Bridge car park.

Walk 9 Clash Wood



Distance: 2 miles (3.3 km) circuit.

Start: GR 208 265. Clash Wood car park, Tomnavoulin.

Route: A short, enjoyable forest walk with expansive views over Glenlivet and surrounding countryside.

Allow 1 hour

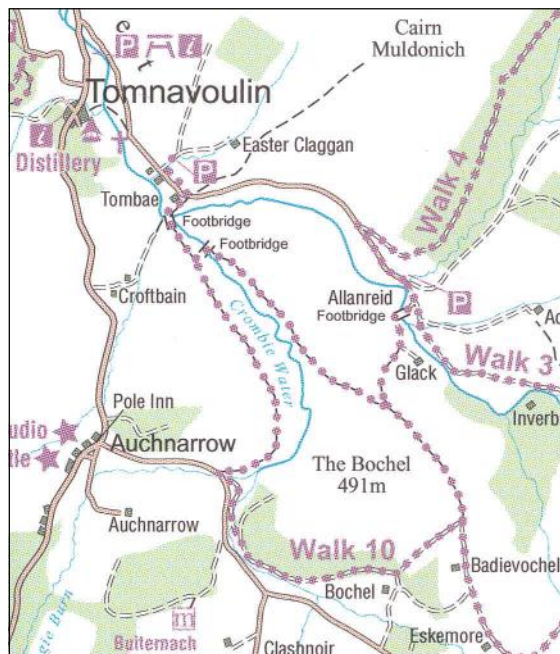
Access information: During May, June and July, roe deer stalking activities may be taking place during the evenings and early mornings.

This is a short, enjoyable forest walk which circles the Clash Wood, providing expansive views over Glenlivet and the surrounding countryside.

Take the forest road from the car park, straight on past the point where Walk 5 turns off to the left. Continue uphill, straight on at the first junction, then right at the next, following the road which loops around the periphery of the plantation. Soon after the second junction the road enters an enclosed restock site, where the forest has been felled and replanted as part of the ongoing programme of forest restructuring on the estate. Continue along the road through the restock site, then back to the first junction overlooking Easter Corrie farmhouse. Turn left here and return back down the road to the car park.



Walk 10: Bochel Circuit.



Distance: 6.2 miles (10 km)

Start: GR 219 258. Tombae Quarry car park, near Tomnavoulin

Route: Excellent varied walk with attractive views of the surrounding hills. Mostly farm, hill and forest tracks which can wet and muddy in places. Exposed in sections. Can be extended by including an ascent of the Bochel or by linking with walk 3 to make a much longer 13 mile, 22 km walk.

Allow 3-4 hrs (for the Bochel circuit)

Access information: Livestock may be present on some sections at any time of the year.

An excellent walk, through farmland, ancient birch woods, moorland and forest, which provides good opportunities for seeing a variety of wildlife. The route can also include an ascent of the Bochel (from the Gaelic 'Bauchaille' meaning shepherd or guardian), a prominent hill which marks the entrance to the Braes of Glenlivet from the north, the summit of which provides some outstanding views of the Braes and the surrounding hills.

From the quarry and car park, follow the public road south eastwards to Tombae house. Leave the road and cross the stile at the gate, following the farm track which heads downhill through the trees, before crossing the River Livet at a metal bridge. Just after the bridge, turn westwards and cross the Crombie water at a less substantial wooden bridge. Continue south eastwards at the edge of the farm fields, following the southeast bank of the Crombie, to another footbridge over the river, south of the Tullich. This bridge marks the junction of the paths which circle the Bochel and from here the circuit can be completed in either direction. The following description is of the clockwise route. (If you are extending the walk, linking it with Walk 3 it is recommended to use the anticlockwise route around the Bochel, joining Walk 3 at Badievochel, then following it in reverse, past Achnasraw to the Burnside of Thain. From here cross the open moor, using the track that eventually joins the Livet path by the river. When you reach the river Livet turn left onto the path returning downstream to Allanreid along riverside track. At Allanreid (see Walks 3 and 4) follow the public road back to Tombae quarry car park or alternatively cross the footbridge across the Livet near the car park and head uphill through the field past the Glack, to pick up walk 10 again, turning northwards and completing the anticlockwise circuit of the Bochel).

To continue the Bochel circuit from the Bridge over the Crombie, cross the footbridge and head up through the birch trees to join the track in the woods. Follow this track south eastwards until

you emerge from the birch trees, then continue in the same direction across the open heather moor at the base of the steep north side of the Bochel. Here the route looks onto the steep north face of the Bochel sometimes used by a local paragliding club when conditions are suitable. Around the base of the hill the slopes are clad with remnants of the once more expansive birch and mixed deciduous woodlands that once covered much of the countryside. Many of these semi-natural woodlands that have survived forest clearance are now protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and support a rich and diverse flora and fauna. Much effort is now being put into the management of areas like this to ensure that they are protected and allowed to extend their range, so providing habitat for many upland plants and animals.



Cross the shoulder between Carn Tullich and the Bochel, then continue south eastwards alongside a hill fence to the point where route 10 merges with Walk 3 above the Glack farmhouse. Here the view opens up into the Braes of Glenlivet, an area as steeped in history as in stories of whisky smuggling which gave the area such notoriety, (see Walk 3).

Upstream from the lower reaches or "strath" of many Highland rivers lies the steeper slopes and hill pastures often called the "braes". Though high lying, remote and surrounded by hills the Braes of Glenlivet once supported a much larger population, originally attracted here by the fertile upland pastures used as "sheilings" to fatten cattle during summer months. The seclusion of the Braes and the variety of routes onto the hills subsequently made the area as attractive to whisky smugglers as to the catholics who struggled to survive here during the Reformation (see Walk 2). You may well see the overgrown remains of "sheals" or sheilings ("sgalan" or "bothan" in the Gaelic), which can be found near the path. These crude, turf roofed dwellings built as summer residences by cattle herdsman and their families are now reduced to low circular piles of stones. The earliest of these sheiling remains which are scattered throughout the Braes, date back to medieval times, but some of them were still in use during the eighteenth century.

The remains of once busy households can be seen scattered in the landscape, a testament to the many families who at one time made their living in this now depopulated area. There were no forceful clearances here. Economic and social changes have caused a gradual emigration over the last few centuries. Today there are still many difficulties facing the families who still live here

- not least the long, cold, snowy and frequently bitter winter weather.

To include an ascent of the Bochel head southwest from the point where Walk 10 meets Walk 3, up the fairly uniform slope to the summit (491m). To rejoin route 10, head south eastwards from the top, downhill to the corner of the fold in the Bochel wood plantation, then continue westwards along the track through the trees.

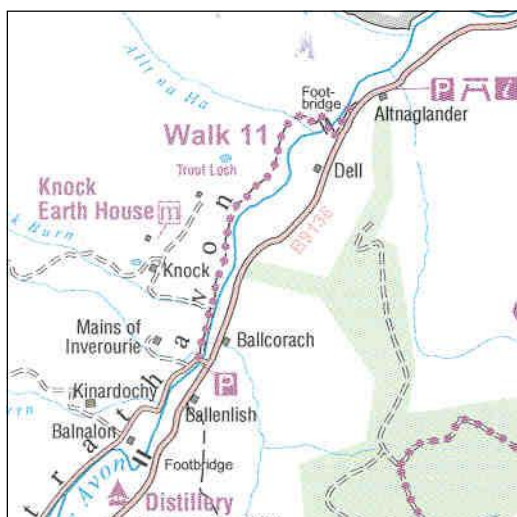
Avoiding this ascent, continue southwards along the track which merges with numerous sheep walks as it skirts the base of the hill, the views from here are almost as expansive as they are from the top. Though open and exposed this is sheep and cattle country, encompassed by the heather clad slopes of the Ladder Hills, themselves backed by the wild and remote landscapes of the Glenfiddich and Blackwater deer forests, and the Donside Glens of Glenbuchat, Glennochty and Glenernan.

Just before the cottage of Badievochel, at the junction of several farm tracks, turn westwards and follow the track which leads to the Bochel wood plantation. Follow the path westward, through the plantation turning northwards to join the Braes road after crossing the Crombie Water. Just where the forest road joins the main road a large stone sits on top of a plinth. A close look at the stone will reveal the initials 'W. G.' and the date '1710' scratched into the rock. This was reputedly done by a William Gordon former tenant of Nether Auchnarrow a nearby farm, who seems to have been an early graffiti artist! Turn right onto the main road and continue past the Kirkie, a small cottage at the apex of a sharp bend of the road. This small building was originally built as a

place of worship for the Protestant residents of the Braes. As the road crosses a bridge just the other side of the bend, turn right at a gate, leaving the road, to follow the farm track, which passes Refreish (an old millers cottage), before turning northwards, to run parallel with the track followed at the start of the walk on the opposite side of the glen.

Continue along this path through two gates until you reach a third metal gate about 250m before the track reaches the ruins of Delhandy. Turn right before the metal gate, leave the track and head downhill towards the Crombie, following the marked path which leads back to the footbridge near the Tullich, completing the circuit. Return to the car park along the path through the fields along the south west bank of the Crombie Water to Tombae farmhouse, then back along the road to the quarry.

Walk 11: West Avonside Walk



Distance: 4 miles (6.75 km) return.

Start: Balcorach (GR 154 265) or Altnaglander (GR169 286) car parks, Strathavon.

Route: An enjoyable riverside and woodland amble along level farm tracks, passing close to the Knock Earth House. The diversion to the Earth House adds a further 1.3 miles (2km) to the walk. The description below starts at the Balcorach car park, but the walk can just as easily be started at the Altnaglander end.

Allow 2-3 hrs (for return journey)

Access information: Livestock may be present on some sections at any time of the year.

An enjoyable riverside and woodland amble, through sheltered and attractive countryside, passing close to the Knock Earth House, which at one time is thought to have been used as a secret whisky still.

From the car park at Balcorach follow the track northwards to a gate and stile. The waymarked path continues straight on following the river bank but if you wish to visit the Knock Earth House turn left (westwards) here, and walk away from the river, along the track (not waymarked) which heads towards the Knock farmhouse ahead. Follow the track past the house and straight on to where it crosses the Knock burn. At the small stone bridge, head uphill towards a small cottage which sits adjacent to the site of the earth house. This stone lined, underground cavity, discovered in 1962 is thought to be an old illicit whisky still, which has possibly been adapted from a late Bronze age food store or soutteraine. The pit is thought to have been used as a corn drying kiln which was used to disguise the still. The entrance to the still lies at the bottom of the pit but please do not try to clamber into the chamber, or to remove the stones at the top. The site is protected as an ancient monument and could easily be badly damaged by interference.

Return to the waymarked walk via the same route.

Avoiding this diversion or to continue the walk, head northwards from the stile near the car park, along the west bank of the Avon. The track passes through several fields, before entering a small copse of alder trees, where a small footbridge adjacent to a ford can be used to cross a small burn which winds its way through the trees. Continue northwards along the track as it passes through attractive birch and rowan woodland overlooking the river Avon. Not far from the burn next to the track through the woods, stands a solitary gravestone, with no markings. The stone is deceptive, as no grave lies beneath it. In fact, it was left lying here by a local man who cut gravestones from the hillside above many years ago. This one was never used for its intended purpose but has been lifted and erected where it now stands, as a memorial to its maker.

Near the cottage of Alltnaha, the track emerges from the trees before fording the Allt na Ha burn near the Lyne. Cross the burn, then at the Lyne turn eastwards and head downhill alongside the Allt na Ha to reach the suspension bridge which spans the Avon at the Dell. Cross the bridge then take the path downstream along the east bank of the river, climbing the steps which lead up to the main road. A short section of road remains before reaching the picnic site at Alltglander which marks the turn around point of the walk.

Return to Balcorach via the same route or alternatively take the public road back to the silver bridge but please take care on the narrow sections of road.

Other Walks on the Estate

Community Walks

Tomintoul Country Walk.

This is a pleasant walk of about 3 miles on easy roads starting on the outskirts of the village. Start at the car park on the Delavorar road at the south end of Tomintoul, (GR 165 176). The walk passes 'The Queen's View' overlooking Glenavon.

Tomintoul Circular Walk

This attractive 2.5 mile (4 km) circular walk starts and finishes in Tomintoul Square and follows a route through the countryside around the village providing some outstanding views onto the surrounding hills. It also links with the Speyside Way Spur (see below) and other longer distance routes to the Bridge of Avon and Walk 8. The walk can be joined at the Campdalmore car park to the north of the village (GR 164 195) and the Estate Information Point car park at the junction of the A939/B9008 (GR 173 189).

All Abilities Trail

A 500m network of trails (also suitable for wheelchairs) provides access to the woodland area next to the Estate Information Centre in Tomintoul. A variety of native trees, flowers, birds and animals along with several wooden sculptures can generally be seen on the trails.

Drumin Circular Walk

A very enjoyable 2 mile (3 km) walk close to Drumin, alongside this highly attractive section of the River Livet. The walk can be started at the car park next to the junction of the B9008/B9136 near Bridgend Cemetery (GR 195 299) or from a car park next to the bridge on the short link road close to Drumin Castle (GR 185 304).

Tomnavoulin Circular Walk

A short 0.5 mile (1 km) walk through woodland around the village of Tomnavoulin. The path also links with Walk 5 (via Easter Corrie/Westertown farm road) and Walk 10 (via a path through the distillery to the Tombae road). Start and finish at the village green.

Chapelton, Braes of Glenlivet

Several farm tracks and other paths provide short walks close to Chapelton and links to other waymarked trails, including Walk 3, Walk 2, and the Ladder Pass (see below).

Longer Distance Routes

The Speyside Way: Tomintoul Spur.

This extension to one of Scotland's most attractive Long Distance Footpaths runs from Ballindalloch Station to Tomintoul. Access and links to and from the Spur can be gained from Walks 5 & 6, the Blairfindy car park (near Glenlivet Distillery), Deskie Farm road and the terminus (Campdlamore car park - GR 164 195) at the north end of Tomintoul. Walkers reaching Tomintoul, who want to rejoin the main route further west, can follow the right of way / hill track from Tomintoul to Dorback Lodge (via the Bridge of Avon and Glen Brown), then via quiet public roads to Nethybridge (see OS sheet 36 and further details given in the next section of this booklet). Please note that this link route is not waymarked (see section on Hill Tracks/Rights of Way below). Further information can be obtained from the Estate Ranger, the Tomintoul Tourist Information Centre or from the Moray Council Countryside Ranger at the Speyside Way Visitor Centre, Craigellachie. Tel. 01340 881266. Livestock may be present on some sections of the Spur and the link route to Dorback (see information notes above).

Other Rights of Way, Hill Tracks and 'Whisky Roads'

Several old routes and rights-of-way radiate out across the hills from Glenlivet. These include the route up the River Avon by Inchrory and Glengairn to Deeside (starting as the Tomintoul Country Walk), the Ladder Path from the Braes of Glenlivet to Donside, the track from Scalan to the Lecht mine, the 'Steplar Road' from upper Glenlivet to Cabrach, the old 'Peat Track' over the Cromdales and the route from Tomintoul to Dorback Lodge (see Speyside Way above). Whisky smugglers and 'reivers' (cattle thieves) formally used many of these routes during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. All these routes are marked by fingerpost signs at the principal access points/car parks but they are not waymarked along their length. Some pass through high, remote and very exposed hill areas, where the route may be indistinct in places. Walkers are advised to ensure they are properly equipped and are able to use a map and compass when following these paths. Additional details of these routes are shown below but further details can be found in the Scottish Rights of Way Society guide to Hill Tracks available from most bookshops.



Route Descriptions for the Hill Tracks, Whisky Roads and Rights of Way that radiate from Glenlivet Estate to neighbouring areas.

Important Notes:

Several of these routes pass through remote, high and exposed mountain areas and walkers are advised to ensure they are adequately clothed and prepared, when following these paths. While most of these routes are identified by Scottish Rights of Way Society (SROWS) signposts where they leave public roads on the Glenlivet Estate (i.e. at the start points listed below), they are not waymarked throughout their length and several of these paths are indistinct where they cross high, mountain passes. Navigation over some of these routes can sometimes be difficult, particularly in poor weather and in winter. Walkers are therefore advised to use the OS 1:50,000 scale Landranger maps together with these route descriptions, and to ensure they are able to use map and compass if required. Please also note that these routes are not circular and the distance between the start and finish points can sometimes be considerable. Walkers will therefore need to consider transport arrangements when following these routes. The majority of these walks also cross land which is not part of the Glenlivet Estate and may be subject to different management activities. While the routes described here are generally well used public walks, it may be advisable to contact the respective Estates to obtain up-to-date access information, particularly if you are part of a large walking group or require specific details of stalking or other activities. Contact details for these Estates can be obtained from Glenlivet Ranger staff.

1. TOMINTOUL TO NETHY BRIDGE VIA DORBACK

20km/12.5 miles. OS Sheet 36. Start 166 190. Finish 001 206

From the north end of Tomintoul at the Campdalmore car park, follow the forest road northwest, parallel to the public road. Continue straight on at a junction to reach Campdalmore Farm. Pass the farmhouse cross the stile and follow the Old Military Road downhill to reach the junction of the A939 with the B9136 at Urlamore. Cross the River Avon at the old bridge and picnic site, then follow the track on the opposite side of the A939, which leads to Kynadrochit Lodge. Continue on the right fork, past Kynadrochit Lodge to the Torrains. Take the left fork at the junction beyond the Torrains and follow the forest road (part of Walk 8-see above) to reach the gate at the exit of the forest, near the Stronachavie ruins. Continue straight on through the gate and follow the track downhill to the Burn of Brown. At the burn turn left (upstream) crossing the burn at a shallow ford. Follow the burn upstream for about 1km then pick up another track which continues westwards to Letteraitten and then to Dorback Lodge. Pass the Lodge on the north side and follow the track to reach the public road. Head northwest along the public road taking the left fork at the junction (after 4 km) and continue to Nethy Bridge.

As an alternative route from Dorback Lodge, avoiding the public road, take the track southwards from the Lodge to Upper Dell. From Upper Dell head southwest across the hill to a narrow pass, the Eag Mhor. Once through the pass head westwards downhill to Loch a Chnuic, where a track is joined, which flanks the southern edge of Carn a Chnuic before turning north to go past Forest Lodge, Dell Lodge and into Nethy Bridge.

2. BRIDGE OF BROWN TO DORBACK

7km/5miles OS Sheet 36 Start 126 205. Finish 080 169.

From the hairpin bend on the road 300m east of the Bridge of Brown follow a SROWS signpost south along the east bank of the Burn of Brown for 2km to Tombreck. Continue alongside the burn heading south until a track is joined near the plantation. Follow this track down to the burn and continue upstream to cross over a shallow ford. The track now continues westwards to Letteraitten and then to Dorback Lodge (see route above).

3. BRIDGE OF BROWN TO TOMINTOUL

6km/4miles OS Sheet 36 Start 126 205. Finish 169 186

From the hairpin bend on the road 300m east of the Bridge of Brown, follow an SROWS signpost south along the east bank of the Burn of Brown for 2km to Tombreck. From the disused farmhouse go east uphill to the plantation then south beside the trees to join a track at Stronachavie. Cross into the plantation and follow the track downhill through the trees for 2km to come out on A939 by Kynadrochit. Cross the road and the Old Bridge of Avon following the SROWS signs up the steps to the house at Urlarmore. Cross the fields, following the Old Military Road to Campdalmore Farm then turn south to follow the track which leads to Tomintoul.

4. TOMINTOUL TO INVERCAULD (BRAEMAR) VIA INCHRORY

32km/20miles OS Sheets 36 and 43. Start 166 190. Finish 187 913

From the south end of Tomintoul take the small road heading southwest to pass Delnabo Lodge, turning south to cross the River Avon at Delavorar. The tarmac road continues south following the River Avon upstream to Inchrory. From Inchrory continue south up Glen Builg to Loch Builg. Pass Loch Builg on the east side to join the track by the River Gairn. Continue south along the track, uphill to the Bealach Dearg or take the footpath on the northside of the river to cross the footbridge after 2.5km and continue steeply up the Allt Na Clais Moire to the Bealach Dearg. From the shelter the track heads due south towards Invercauld House. Turn left at the junction with SROWS signpost and head southeast to Keiloch and then to Invercauld Bridge.

As an alternative, at the bridge of the River Gairn 1 kilometre south of Loch Builg, take the old track heading east then south by Tom a'Chuir to pass Culardoch on its eastern flank. Follow the track southeast, then south to Ratlich. From Ratlich follow the path, crossing the Fearder Burn to Balmore and then to Balnoe. Just south of Balnoe, turn left then right and follow the track southwest for 2km to Felagie and then to Keiloch.

5. TOMINTOUL TO COCK BRIDGE(DONSID) BY INCHRORY

21km/13miles OS Sheets 36 and 37. Start 169 186. Finish 257 092

From the south end of Tomintoul take the small road heading southwest to pass Delnabo Lodge, turning south to cross the River Avon at Delavorar. The tarmac road continues south next to the River Avon to Inchrory. 100 metres south of Inchrory Lodge a rough track leads steeply uphill to the east over a pass by the source of the Don. Continue along this track past Delnadamp Lodge on the south side of the Don and then to Cockbridge.

6. THE BRAES OF GLENLIVET TO BELLABEG (DONSID) BY THE LADDER ROAD

16km(10miles) OS Sheets 36 and 37 Start 243 209 . Finish 354 131

At the SROWS signpost next to the church in Chapelton, follow the track east to Ladderfoot. Cross the burn and continue along the track east from Ladderfoot towards the hills, (the track soon becomes a footpath) and follow the path on the north side of the Ladder Burn leading steeply east then south to the summit of the Ladder Road, at the col just northeast of Dun Muir (754 m). From this point, an indistinct path leads southeast to Finlate Hill before joining a track. At the col on the east side of Finlate Hill, where the track turns east, follow the footpath heading southeast for 1.5km downhill to Duffdefiance. Cross the burn into the forest and follow the track east past Aldachuie to join the tarmac road after 3km. Turn right and head south into Bellabeg.

7. GLENLIVET TO CABRACH BY THE STEPLAR

18km/11mils OS Sheets 36 and 37. Start 235 250. Finish 388 270

From Allanreid Car park at the head of the Tombae Road follow the track leading southeast towards the steel span footbridge. Avoid crossing the footbridge and follow the track southwards next to the River Livet. This leads to another footbridge after 2km near Inverblye. Cross this footbridge and continue upstream on the south side of the Livet to the deserted shooting lodge at the Suie. About 300 metres beyond Suie take the right fork, following the rougher cart track. After approx 3km the track meets a newer track which leads E to the ford across the Black Water. Continue eastwards along the indistinct path to the deer fence near the top of the Dead Wife's Hillock. Join the tractor track leading E from the deer fence down to Aldivalloch (supposed scene

of the song *Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch*), and continue along the road to Cabrach.

8. GLENLIVET TO GLENFIDDICH BY THE RIVER FIDDICH

19km/12miles OS Sheets 28, 36 and 37. Start 232 250. Finish 323 399

Follow the route above (No. 7) to the first fork in the track just north of the deserted Suie Lodge. Follow the left fork and continue NE up Glen Suie along the track to reach a second fork where Morton's Way branches NW to the top of Corryhabbie Hill. Continue NE following the lower track, alongside the River Fiddich to cross a bridge near Glenfiddich Lodge. Go past the lodge down the left bank of the river to Bridgehaugh. To reach Dufftown avoiding the 5km walk along the A941 road, head NNW from Bridgehaugh to Smithstown, following paths and farm roads round the east side of Goodman's Knowe.

9. TOMINTOUL TO KNOCKANDO AND ELGIN

54km/34mile OS Sheets 28 and 36. Start 166 190. Finish 220 622

The southern part of this route from Tomintoul to Knockando is probably best done by following the Speyside Way, which is well waymarked and is shown on the most recent editions of the OS Landranger maps. Much of route, in particular the straths of the Spey, Avon and Livet, are indelibly associated with the Scotch whisky industry, and the several well known distilleries passed between Tomintoul and Knockando will no doubt add interest to the walk.

Leave Tomintoul at the north end of the village and go N to cross the Conglass Water by a footbridge and head along the road towards Croughly. After 0.5km a Speyside Way signpost points to the right uphill. Follow this footpath up to and through the trees by a cutting, following the route waymarkers. Continue NNE across an expanse of peat bog known as the Feith Musach where a map and compass may be needed in bad weather, then pass just to the east of Cairn Ellick and bear NW to Carn Daimh, the highest point of the route. Continue due N on the west side of Carn Liath and descend to Blairfindy Lodge and The Glenlivet Distillery. Cross the River Livet and go N by Deskie and a path over Hill of Deskie to descend again to Auldich Farm and the A95 road above the River Avon. Go along the A95 and B9137 roads to Cragganmore, cross the River Spey by the old railway bridge and continue along the left bank of the river to Knockando (30km/19miles).

To continue to Elgin, head N by road passing to the east of Upper Knockando then past Mannoeh Cottage. Continue N along the edge of Elchies Forest on the east side of Carn na Cailliche and just west of Pikey Hill and keep going due N along a narrow road to reach Shougle. Finally, continue to Elgin along a minor road.

10. STRATHAVON TO CROMDALE BY THE HILLS OF CROMDALE

11km/8mile OS Sheet 36. Start 156 266. Finish 075 286

From Balcorach Car Park on the west side of the River Avon follow the track north for 0.5km to an SROWS signpost at a cattle grid. Turn left, and follow the track uphill towards Knock Farmhouse. From the Farmhouse a short diversion can be made to see the Knock Earth House (believed to be an illicit whisky still) which is signposted 300m north of the Farmhouse. Returning to the Knock Farmhouse head west through the farm steadings following the track which leads uphill, past a small pond, and out onto the open hill. The track eventually peters out to become a footpath zig zagging steeply uphill to the summit ridge of the Cromdales. At the summit the path disappears among peat bogs and is difficult to pick out. Continue west over the ridge (compass bearing may be required) and descend north westwards to reach the start of the track at GR 14 282 which then zig zags northwest to join the road at Wester Rynaballoch. Turn left and follow the public road towards Cromdale for 4km. (To avoid the stretch of tarmac continue on the track south towards Clach nam Piobair and then around Claggersnich Wood on the south side to head north directly into Cromdale village).

11. LECHT MINE TO CHAPELTOWN VIA SCALAN

6km/4mile OS Sheet 36 Start 235 153 Finish 242 209

From the picnic site at the Well of the Lecht on the A939 road, follow the track north beside the

burn towards the old mine buildings. About 300m before the buildings, a faint path leads diagonally uphill on the left heading due north. Follow this path to the top of the ridge and then descend steeply, again heading due north for 1km. As the ground starts to rise again towards Tom Trumper, turn right and follow the burn downhill, northeast to Clash of Scalán. From here, a track leads to the old Catholic Seminary of Scalán and then to Eskmulloch car park, where the tarmac road continues to Chapeltown.

12. CHAPELTOWN TO THE LECHT MINE VIA SCALÁN

5.5km/3.5mile OS Sheet 36 Start 245 204 Finish 235 153

From the Eskmulloch car park at the end of the Braes of Glenlivet public road, follow the SROWS signpost along a farm track to the Scalán Seminary. This was a college for Catholic priests from 1717 to 1799. From Scalán the track (Walk 2) follows the burn upstream to the ruins of Clash of Scalán. Leave Walk 2 and continue upstream (southwest) alongside the burn, following the path through the juniper bushes, to reach a col. From the col, a faint path heads south, steeply uphill to the long ridge of Carn Dulack. Follow the path across the lowest point of the ridge continuing south, diagonally downhill to the old Lecht mine building. From the building take the track which leads downstream to the picnic site at the Well of the Lecht.



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For further details contact Glenlivet Estate Office and Information Centre, Main Street, Tomintoul, AB37 9EX.
Tel: 01807 580283 Fax: 01807 580319