



frequent target of marauding cattle reivers (thieves).

always been associated with cattle rearing and was for many centuries the is a huge basin in the hills with an equally ancient origin. Historically it has lay much nearer the equator. In the other direction, the fertile Howe of Cromar the Hill o' Fare, an ancient remnant of a land-surface formed when Scotland the cairn on top towards Aberdeen is blocked by the long smooth summit of pleasant sheltered pathways between the smooth grey trunks. The view from unusual shelter belts known locally as the double beeches. These provide Among the varied landscape features encountered on this route are the to finish. Two gates.

grass. A short grass section on the descent can be quite muddy. 2km of tarmac the Howe of Cromar. A long (3km) fairly steep climb mostly on firm gravel or A circular route to a large cairn high above Tarland with panoramic views over

Pittenderich (red)

17.5km. Allow 3 hours.

heather growth for grouse to feed on.

heather is the result of regular burning carried out to ensure plenty of young grouse moors that stretch away to the north. The broad striped pattern in the of the route is along Land-Rover tracks used to access the well-maintained which cattle were driven south annually to market in Falkirk. Nowadays, most of Donside to the north. The ascent follows part of an old droving road along forest and heather moorland over Deeside to the south and the richer farmland The high part of this route follows a major watershed with views of mostly gravel or grass with some rough sections and 3km of tarmac. Several gates.

fairly steep climb, with an additional 400m moderate climb later on. Mostly over the Howe of Cromar and towards the Cairngorm mountains. A long (4km) A circular walk taking you right to the top of Pressendye, with fantastic views

Tarland Skyline (blue)

15.5km. Allow 5 hours.

strenuous

This pleasant walk through woodland and farmland passes several locations of interest. After passing St Moluag's Church, the path winds through the woods behind Alastrean House, built in 1905 as a country retreat by Lord & Lady Aberdeen and then home to Lady MacRobert and her three ill-fated sons. The route then emerges to climb steadily up a beech avenue between fields to arrive at the 'Sun Seat', a welcome spot for a breather to take in the splendid panoramic view of the Howe looking towards Lochnagar. The remains of a suspected stone circle lie to the left in the woods beyond, followed by Oldtown and the community orchard. The long descent back to Tarland takes you past a bird hide, curling pond and the excellent nine-hole golf course, designed by Tom Morris in 1908 and still showing remnants of earlier rig and furrow cultivation.

A pleasant walk exploring the countryside to the east of Tarland. Good for observing wildlife. Gentle except for one 250m long moderate climb. Mostly on tarmac or firm gravel with a grassy section that can get wet after rain.

Alastrean Woods (green)

5km. Allow 1 1/2 hours.

easy

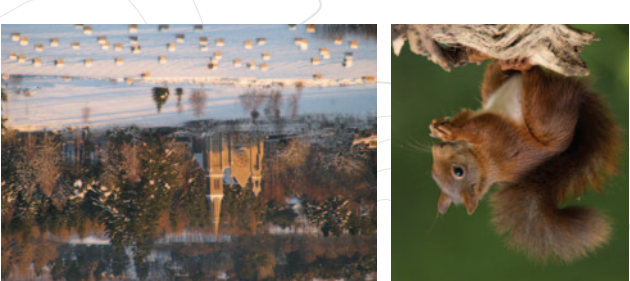
The main part of the route takes you up through Drummy Woods and back down past the policies of Corrachree House. It is a circular route with the option of an additional spur that takes you to Knockargaty Hill. On the last part of the ascent of this hill, you may be able to spot the ditch and embankment that extends round three sides of the hill. It is the only evidence of an Iron Age hill fort that once occupied the site, although it may never have been completed and is now quite difficult to discern. The large dry valley to the SE of the summit may once have contained a river that pre-dated the present River Dee and once flowed through the Howe.

Can be very wet and muddy after rain. One gate. Mostly gentle but with one 250m long fairly steep climb. One narrow section. A low-level route around Drummy Muir with a spur to Knockargaty hill, the site of an ancient hill fortification with panoramic views over the Dee valley.

Corrachree (yellow)

6km. Allow 2 hours.

moderate



This route combines parts of other walks with a long climb from the heart of the Howe right up to the high slopes of Pittenderich. Part of this route was an old drove road once used for moving livestock between Cushnie and the Howe. As well as taking you near to the Culish Earth House and the site of the Hillhead Stone circle, this varied route takes you through the Jubilee Wood, planted to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Several gates. A walk around the eastern side of the village, visiting Tomanavrie stone circle and following an old drove road to a viewpoint high above the Howe. Includes parts of the brown and blue routes. A long (1500m) moderate climb with a shorter (300m) fairly steep climb. Mostly gravel or grass with a field to cross.

The Old Drove Road (black)

12km. Allow 3 hours.

strenuous

The location of the House of Cromar (now Alastrean House). This was the view that persuaded Lord & Lady Aberdeen to choose the broad landscape spread out in front of you as you overlook the golf in different seasons to take in the changing appearance of the woods and This is a delightful loop within Alastrean Woods that repays repeated visits south over the Howe of Cromar. A flat walk on a smooth gravel path.

All-abilities Trail (orange)

1.2km. Allow 30 minutes.

easy

A pleasant walk through the woods around Alastrean House, with good views significance to them within the boundaries of their local landscape. and built it as one of at least six similar structures that were clearly of special testament to the creative energy of the farming community that designed that surround the Howe. Constructed over 4000 years ago, it stands special atmosphere and its wonderful setting amid the hills and mountains every visitor to the recumbent stone circle at Tomanavrie remarks on its season, you can enjoy the variety of vistas and natural habitats. Nearly little community with the evocative name of Scrapahard. Whatever the and returns via Drummy Woods past the ruins of what was once a busy you out of the village to archaeologically celebrated Tomanavrie Stone Circle This circular walk in the centre of the Howe is a local favourite that leads paths with several narrow sections and several gates and stiles.

An interesting ramble out to Tomanavrie stone circle with views over the Howe of Cromar and to Lochnagar, returning through Drummy Wood. Mostly gentle or moderate slopes with one short fairly steep climb. Mainly grass and earth

Drummy Woods & Stone Circle (brown)

4km. Allow 1 hour.

moderate

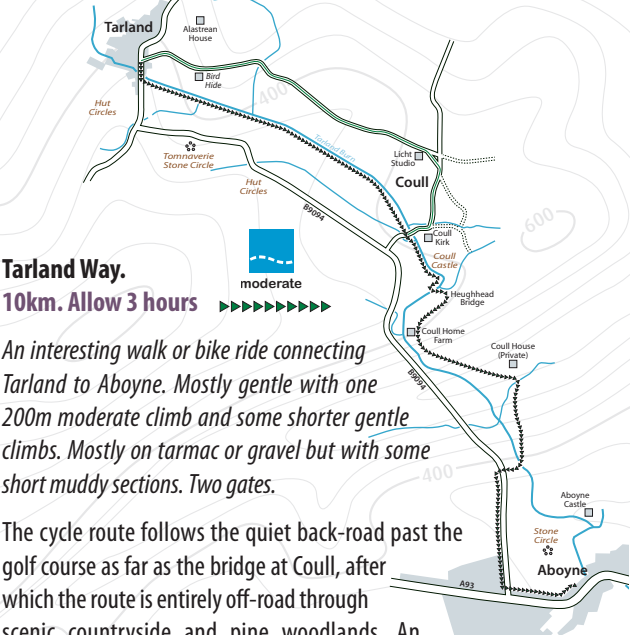
Drummy Woods Walks.

Up to 5km. Allow 1 hour.

moderate

There are several paths through the woods on the south side of the village. A good place to watch out for birds and red squirrels. Gentle or moderate slopes but can be muddy. Uneven with tree roots in places.

As you follow the network of paths in the lower parts of Drummy Woods, you are passing through the fields of what was once a large agricultural settlement that occupied the site for over 1500 years until medieval times. Look out for ruins of double dykes about two metres apart crossing the paths at various points. These were lanes for livestock to move from field to field. Hidden in the broom at the top of the woods, there are at least six large hut circles, a kiln and several cairns. Two stone querns for grinding grain were found recently buried in the grass on the adjacent muirland. In more recent times, a series of crofts with cultivated fields were spread along the far side of the ridge, homes to many families still represented in the Tarland community.



Tarland Way.

10km. Allow 3 hours

An interesting walk or bike ride connecting Tarland to Aboyne. Mostly gentle with one 200m moderate climb and some shorter gentle climbs. Mostly on tarmac or gravel but with some short muddy sections. Two gates.

The cycle route follows the quiet back-road past the golf course as far as the bridge at Coull, after which the route is entirely off-road through scenic countryside and pine woodlands. An alternative footpath follows the south bank of the Tarland Burn for five km from the road bridge at Tarland to Coull. This footpath takes you right through Bog More, once a large area of "moss, mire and lake" that was drained in 1830 to create 140 acres of the fertile arable land seen today on either side of the now straightened Tarland Burn. There are still areas of wetland where many different kinds of birds can be spotted and, in the right season, the route is ablaze with wild flowers.

If you find any problems with the paths please report them to tarlandpaths@gmail.com



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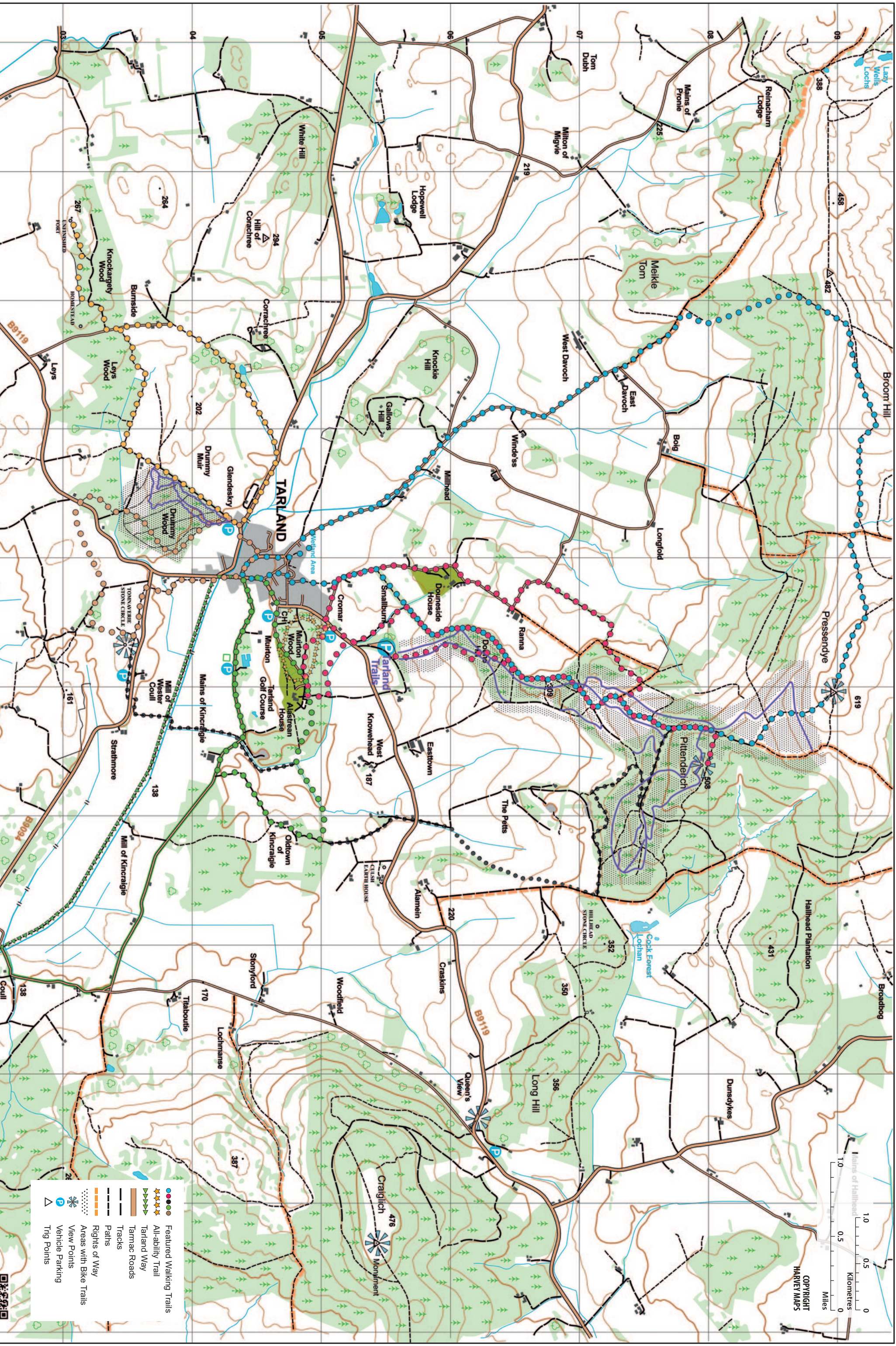
The creation of the waymarked paths came about with the co-operation and support of The MacRobert Trust Estate, Sandy Dalgarno, Tillypronie Estate and Corrachree.

The path network and this guide are just two of several projects initiated and managed by the Tarland Development Group.

Visit www.facebook.com/TarlandDevelopmentGroup for up-to-date news on all the Group's activities.



www.tarland.org.uk



Please keep dogs under close control at all times to protect game birds and wildlife, and clean up after them because dog faeces can cause disease in farm animals. If parking for longer periods of time please consider parking in alternative car parks rather than The Square. All the marked car parks except Tarland Trails have no charge but please consider donating via the QR code to help us maintain the paths around Tarland.

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