

CRIEFF & STRATHEARN DROVERS' TRYST

Thank you for booking to take part in a Drovers' Tryst walk. Information about the walk is as follows:

WALK: Aberuchill Castle Circular Nature Walk

DATE: Saturday, 16th May, 2026

TRANSPORT: Own transport required

WALK START TIME: 8:30 am For **'own transport required'** walks, this is the time you must meet the walk leader and others at the walk start place.

WALK LEADER: Andrea Hudspeth

WALK GRADE: Easy

WALK DISTANCE: 10.5 km

WALK START PLACE – Dalchonzie parking area. NN 739 230 You must be prepared to make your own way to the walk start place, usually requiring a car. Please ensure that you are there a few minutes before the published start time of the walk (8:30 am). At the start point, you will meet your Walk Leader – and your fellow walkers. On completion of the walk, we anticipate getting back to the cars at approx – 1:30 pm.

The walk will start at the Dalchonzie parking area which is at the start of the back road to Comrie at the eastern end. From there, we will walk towards Aberuchill Castle following the back road and stopping to look at points of interest along the way which will be just off the road. This section is completely flat, but there are stiles to go over to look at points off the road, such as the River Earn where there will be the chance of seeing dippers, kingfishers and goosanders, as well as signs of beavers.

Arriving at the middle entrance to Aberuchill Castle, we will follow the track to meet Castle Drive. From here we will be able to look at an Osprey nest and hope to see one of the adult ospreys. Red Kites and Common Buzzards should also be plentiful and there's also the chance of seeing Goshawk. There are many very mature and beautiful trees to admire whilst walking within the estate grounds, along with fungi and lichens.

Once at the back of the castle, we will head into the walled garden for a sheltered tea-break. We will then make a short ascent (this is the steepest part of the walk) up a field across the grass so that we can look down on the impressive waterfalls.

Meeting another track, we will head back downhill with fabulous views over the Dunira Estate opposite, as well as Monument Wood. We will then re-meet Castle Drive and follow that to the main estate entrance with more chances to see raptors, woodland birds and some more amazing trees.

Walking down to The Ross, we will cut back to Dalchonzie Road via a footpath which passes Earthquake House where we'll have a chance to look-in.

We will follow the road back to the parking area, retracing some of our steps for the last 1km. There's a good chance of seeing Red Squirrels and more woodland birds this stretch.

What we see will depend on many factors, but this route is always filled with lots of wildlife gems, whenever we visit, so there should be plenty to admire and inspire!

WALK FINISH TIMES

Please note that finish times are all approximate. The duration of any walk can vary significantly, depending on the group, the weather and a number of other factors, **so return times are not guaranteed, and we advise that you plan accordingly.**

SAFETY NOTES:

None specified.

GEAR NOTES:

Stout walking shoes/boots, full waterproofs and packed lunch.

Please bring any personal medication and an “In Case of Emergency” number. You may also wish to bring binoculars and a camera.

CANCELLATION OR DELAY:

Cancellations can be made free of charge up to 14 days after booking. For cancellations outwith that period a charge of £2 per walk place will be made until two weeks before the walk date. **AFTER THAT DATE THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS** because we cannot be sure of re-selling cancelled places at such short notice. We would be grateful if you could let us know if you are unable to take part in a walk for which you have booked – that lets us know who to expect or not on the day. Please do so in the following way:

- Prior to 6pm on the Thursday evening before the start of the Festival Weekend on the Friday, please email us at: droverstryst@gmail.com.
- If cancelling after 6pm on the Thursday evening please email us at: droverstryst@gmail.com **AND contact the Tryst Co-ordinator on 07522 841673.**
- If you cannot take part or are delayed for any reason on the actual walk day, **please contact the Tryst Co-ordinator on 07522 841673.** Although we try to reach group members who have not turned up on the day, it is really helpful if you can contact us first.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- The organisers of the Crieff and Strathearn Drovers’ Tryst recognise that hill walking is an activity with the danger of personal injury. Participants in Drovers’ Tryst walks should be aware of, and accept this risk, and take responsibility for their own actions. It is recommended that individuals provide their own accident insurance cover.
- The walks are led by experienced leaders on a voluntary basis. Walks may be cancelled due to weather conditions or circumstances beyond the organisers’ control, and alternative walks will be offered wherever possible.
- Children are welcome on Easy and Medium walks but must be accompanied by a responsible adult and be capable of completing the walk. Minimum age for Medium walks is twelve and minimum age for Hard and Extra Hard walks is sixteen.
- The Tryst reserves the right not to accept participants on a walk if they are not appropriately dressed/kitted out for the level of walk they have signed up for.
- Extra hard walks are not suitable for inexperienced hillwalkers and hard walks do require a reasonable level of walking fitness.
- Dogs are not allowed on Tryst walks, except for guide-dogs.
- The walk fees now include all costs associated with travelling to the start point and for returning back to Crieff, whether by minibuss or private car.