

WALK TITLE: Hill of Elrick and West Woods

DISTANCE: 5 mls

OS GRID REFERENCE: NJ851111

OS LANDRANGER /EXPLORER SHEET: 406



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** This is a combination walk through woodland trails, around and over a small hill and past several outdoor sculptures. Sadly the sculptures are a little old and unloved.

**GETTING THERE:** By bus between Aberdeen and Inverurie or by car. Take the B979 road off the A96 – signed for Tyrebagger Sculpture. Park in the first car parks signed on the left.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION:** Begin the walk along the path beside the information board that has a map of the marked trails; the route follows the yellow trail. When the path reaches a clear fork keep left (the right hand branch leads down into the second car park) follow this till it reaches a fork at a sculpture of aluminium waves on the ground, take the right branch. Look out for a path on the right that heads down a slope to a double bridge with a bench. Cross over and up the slope on the other side. The trail surface soon improves as the route climbs clear of the trees and passes a copse. Keep left on the main trail at a marked junction, but at a second junction turn right onto a rougher path – there is a yellow marker in both cases. The path now leads past one of the more obvious sculptures, Sky Lines which consists of a row of larch tree trunks through which the wind whistles. Follow the track to the next sculpture on the left. Titled Modern Nature, it has six aluminium posts with solar panels. Continue to a cross-paths just past a picnic bench. At this point the yellow route continues ahead, whilst the path to the right leads down to the minor road between Elrick Hill and Brimmond Hill. Head down the main trail on the yellow route. The path now heads round the eastern flank of the hill. After 500m it reaches a marker post; bear right here and then ahead to gain the made-up path, following this to the right. It crosses a footbridge over a burn – turn right and almost immediately left to climb over some stonework to a path that leads to Brimmond Hill. Follow this path uphill through the woods beside the golf course and you eventually reach a fork, the right leads to Brimmond hill. Take the left through a very muddy section which curve left and up.

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The path then dips down to wooden walkways over a very wet section, take care here as the walkways are slippery. Follow the path up then down through conifers to the bottom of the hill. There are a few paths to your left and right as you go down the hill, ignore these. At the bottom of the hill take the path to the right and you will soon have to climb over a fallen tree trunk. Follow the path till you reach a small off-road parking area which is sadly used for fly tipping. You will see a path sign post on the left follow this into the West woods and soon you will be on a lovely glade path through the trees. Stay on this path till you reach a signposted junction, the left leads to Brimmond Hill the right to Tyrebagger Woods. Take the right, cross the bridge and follow the trail up to a the next fork, taking the right. Look out for the mirror sculpture in the trees over to the left. Finally keep left at another fork and follow the path which climbs and curves left back the car park.