

WALK TITLE: Auchnagatt to Aden

DISTANCE: 9 miles

OS GRID REFERENCE: NJ930417OS

LANDRANGER /EXPLORER SHEET: 427



BRIEF DESCRIPTION: This is a flat and easily travelled walk along the former Dyce to Peterhead and Fraserburgh railway line. It is a one way walk and you would need to organise transport home from Aden. Busses are frequent from Mintlaw into Aberdeen.

GETTING THERE: There is a bus stop on the A948 at Auchnagatt on the Ellon to New Leeds route, and parking at the community hall off the B9030.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION: From the community hall follow the old railway line towards Maud. You are quickly out into open countryside on this section of the Formartine and Buchan Way. The route passes the farm at Cairncummer and under a minor road and crosses a couple of muddy farm tracks and makes a long, very gentle curve to the right. At one point it passes an old concrete linesmen's hut, and then a tiny whitewashed cottage. The Formartine and Buchan Way continues ahead, passing under another bridge and eventually into the former Maud Station. The platforms and track bed are still there and in the summer months the small rail museum in one of the station building is open. You leave the station heading down to the B9029 slightly further east. From here the Formartine and Buchan Way divides, with one section (slightly left on the road) to Strichen and then Fraserburgh, and the other (directly ahead) for Mintlaw and Peterhead. Take the route to Peterhead, signed as a cycle path for Mintlaw. It soon passes through open, rich farmland, crosses a tarred lane, runs alongside a plantation and over a couple of bridges. After around 4km the route crosses the minor road at Bridgend near to the ruins of Deer Abbey. The route next passes under the B9030, and the surface becomes somewhat muddy at times. It then comes alongside and meets the busy A950. Take the path off to the right into Aden Country Park, and follow it to the Aden Agricultural Museum housed in the semi circular former stables block of the Aden Estate. As well as the museum there are toilets, a cafe and craft shop within the complex of buildings. If you still have the energy there are many enjoyable paths you can follow through the county park.