

WALK TITLE: Fochabers - Bellie Churchyard and Speyside.
DISTANCE: 7 miles or (6 miles doing medium walk)
OS GRID REFERENCE: NJ350584
OS LANDRANGER /EXPLORER SHEET: 28 / 424
<p>BRIEF DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>A fairly level walk with only slight inclines and on good tracks to Bellie Churchyard but the part along the Spey has tree roots and uneven parts on the paths.</p>
<p>GETTING THERE:</p> <p>An hourly bus service from Elgin and Aberdeen. No official parking but usually spaces in side streets nearer the centre of Fochabers.</p>

<p>DETAILED DESCRIPTION: Fochabers – Bellie Churchyard and Speyside.</p> <p>The walk starts directly opposite Christies Garden Centre where there is a footpath leading to the Winding Walks and passing in front of a new housing development. Follow this footpath, going through the underpass and into the wood and through a wooden gate. Keep on footpath until you reach a T junction. Turn left towards Castle Farm and lorry depot. As you pass lorry depot you will see a track on your right which says Gated Road. Turn right along this track and as you proceed you should note the avenue of trees coming from Gordon Castle on your left. This was the route used by the carriages to take ladies from the Castle to have afternoon tea in the Quarry Gardens. When your track splits in 3 take the right hand one and soon you will come to the remains of the Quarry Gardens. Have a look round! Return to your track passing in front of lodge and go through metal gate.</p> <p>At next fork keep left passing in front of 2 modern houses to reach an old farm where you turn left on to minor farm road. Proceed on this road and soon you will reach Bellie Historic Cemetery. This is worth exploring and those who want to avoid the uneven walking should return by the same route.</p> <p>From the cemetery continue down road passing 2 cottages on your left to come to a lodge and triangular junction. Go left, cross the road and walk in single file for 0.2 mile to reach small lay by with gate leading into the woods. Follow this track until you come to a T junction turn right. Walk 100yards to next junction turn left you will see the Spey. Turn left again passing 2 fishing huts. At next fork keep slightly left until you reach a corner and then follow a narrow footpath on your left which becomes very uneven with stones. When you reach a rusty barrier take footpath on your right. Follow this footpath until you come to another metal barrier on your left. Turn right to take the more scenic way along the edge of the Spey. At next junction take right hand path and you will see the back of Baxters. Follow the path to the bridge and veer left as you go under first bridge and then pass under 2nd bridge. From now follow the Speyside Way markers to the Fochabers Memorial Garden. After exploring the Garden follow the road until you see the footbridge over the Fochabers burn, turn left walking up the side of the burn. Go straight across the first street and the 2nd street you come to is George Street turn left and this will take you back up to Fochabers Square. Proceed right along High Street to your starting point at Christie’s Nurseries.</p>
<p>The above suggested walking route is offered with the proviso it does not negate the walk leaders responsibility to complete a recce prior to the group walk.</p>