

WALK TITLE: Pitfour Lake and Aden Park

DISTANCE: 6 miles

OS GRID REFERENCE: 001484

LANDRANGER /EXPLORER SHEET: 30/427

Public transport Parking Available. Route partly way marked Toilet. Picnic Areas. Moderate walk

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: This is a gentle estate walk on well laid out paths through some lovely parkland.

GETTING THERE: There is a bus service to Mintlaw on an hourly basis from Aberdeen.

Pitfour Lake and Aden Park

The walk begins in the Car park by the Happy Plant Garden centre in Mintlaw. Cross the main road from the car park on to the Formantine way and follow the path till you reach the bastions of a bridge over the path. The path forks here, take the right fork, pass a small car parking area, cross the road and enter the Pitfour Estate through the gate in the wall. Follow the path up till you reach the lake and take the anti clockwise route around the lake.

When you get to the end of the lake take the left path across the small bridge left again and then the left grassy path around the lake to the fishing hut and ruined temple building. From here follow the right hand path which drops down among the trees, curves right then rises up to a junction. At the junction take the left hand track down to the Saplinbrae hotel and out to the main road. Take care on this road as it can be quite busy. Head up the road to the left for about 40M then cross over at the bridge across the burn and go through the gate into the small woodland area.

From here you follow the path through the copse then cross the small meadow to the Formantine way. Climb up onto the former railway line turn right, cross the bridge and then take the left hand path down off the track onto a path that leads into Old Deer. When the path reaches the lane turn right and head up to the old school building, turn left and walk through the village past the hall to the church by the bridge. In the wall to the left of the church is an opening which takes you into Aden Park. Cross the road, go through the opening and take the path up to the ruins of Aden House. From here the path goes to the right of the house, past some picnic benches to the main buildings of Aden Park. There are toilets, a cafe, a shop and a museum here all of which provide a well earned pause in your walk.

The walk continues out of the building complex up the stairs toward the car park. Follow the road past the walled garden and another car park which are on your left,

around the right hand curve and then along the straight towards a small car park for the dog walking area. From this carpark there is a path which follows the roadway to main gate of the park. Just at the gate the path goes off right through the trees, across a new road and on to Mintlaw Academy. Pass the Academy, cross the road by Macduff Shellfish and pass the small row of cottages till you reach the trees. There is a path on you left through the trees that passes a small duckpond then leads you back to the Formantine way. Turn right at the Formantine way and make you way back to the car park at the Happy Plant.