

BRAD CHAPPELL



River Findhorn at Broom of Moy

12km/8miles

5hrs

## River Findhorn Walk

A circular walk through and around the town of Forres, following the banks of the River Findhorn for much of the route. With some fine views of the surrounding countryside it explores some attractive, yet less frequented, environs of this pretty Moray town.



There are geocaches on/near this route (see below)

### The walk

This walk is waymarked with purple arrows → on lampposts, waymarkers and, occasionally, fencing. From the start point by the Victoria Road Car Park, next to the Police Station, stand by the plinth enclosing the Forres Footpaths Trust (FFT) map, and facing Grant Park, follow the green FFT arrow into the park past the children's play area on your left. Continue on the path flanked by mature trees, past the cricket pavilion on your left and the bowling green on your right. Follow the path half left through the trees, curving right and then before it meets the road turn left behind the houses until you come to an opening in the wall on your right. Pass through the opening to St. Leonards Road.

Turn left and proceed up the road until you come to the FFT arrow on a lamp post ahead of you. Cross the road and follow the tarmac road opposite, indicated by the yellow arrow on the marker post. Follow the yellow markers, descend down to the Mosset Burn and turn right, keeping the burn on your left, until you come to Sanquhar Loch now badly silted up. After you have studied the FFT information point on your left, continue up the road and turn left onto a narrow track leading up through woods, with properties on your right. Follow this path until you come to a public road.

Cross the road and into Sanquhar woodland now managed by the Forres Community Woodlands Trust. Follow the path and after leaving the properties on your right, you will see an open space in the middle of which is a stand of Scots pine. Here was once situated the Sanquhar Estate Offices. Follow this track until, at the edge of the wood there is a track leading to your right, waymarked by an arrow.

Take this wide path through the trees, following the purple markers until you come to a Macadam surface. Shortly you will see some low walls which are part of the bridge taking the road over what used to be the main railway line from Inverness to London from 1863 to around 1898, when the current main line over Slocht Summit was opened. This line was used by troop trains during Second World

War and continued in service until 18<sup>th</sup> October 1965, when the passenger service stopped.

At the bridge take the steps on the right down onto the old track bed, which is now part of the Dava Way. At the bottom turn left under the bridge and continue along the way until the marker to the car park and picnic area at Dallas Dhu Distillery.

From, the picnic area, pass through the main gate onto the public road and turn right. Follow the FFT waymarkers until you come to the Grantown-on-Spey road. Cross over the road into an avenue of mature trees. In the trees, on your left, you will see some old wartime buildings. Follow the arrows past Whiterow Farm on the left until you reach Balnageith Cottages. In the garden on your left you will see an old wartime building where unwanted secret papers from the

airfield were taken to be burnt. Before turning left, just past Cherrybank Cottage look half right and you will see some more wartime buildings, part of the old Forres airfield, the farmland between you and the A96 was RAF Forres, used by the Whitleys of No. 19 OTU from 1941 to 1945.

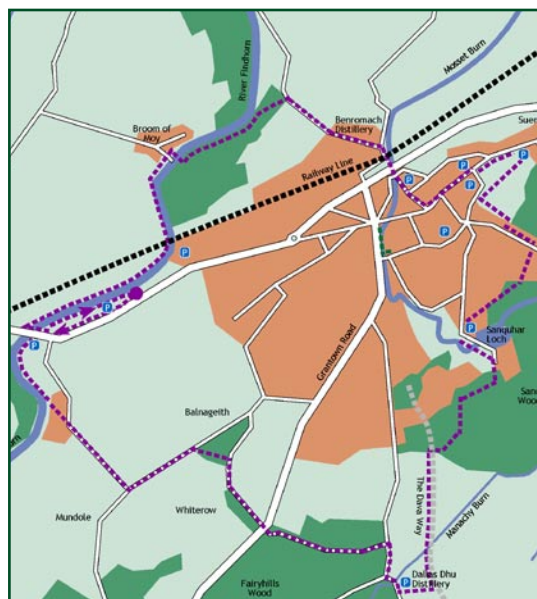
Follow the FFT markers, over the remains of some old aircraft hardstandings, and turn right when you reach the River Findhorn and follow the river downstream to pass under the A96 road bridge.

Pass under the bridge and follow the FFT arrows which will bring you to the car park The Bervie Chipper.

On the Forres side of the building is a cairn erected in 1977 to commemorate the personnel of 19 OTU and those members of the Polish armed forces who were billeted at the airfield between 1945 and 1947.

Resume the walk by crossing the Findhorn Bridge, turn immediate right down the steps to the river bank, continue on the path and cross the Bailey bridge at the Broom of Moy. Over the bridge turn left and follow the markers and as you come to a tarmac surface look left to see the Waterford waste collection station. Follow the FFT markers towards the tall chimney of Benromach Distillery. Follow the signs back towards Forres, crossing the A96 to a gap in the fence on the opposite side and keeping the Mosset Burn on your left, cross over Lea bridge, part of the

forementioned old road to Inverness. Proceed up the street with St. Laurence Church on your right and at the top turn left down Forres High Street, past the Community Centre and Library (toilets here) and cross over the road towards the sunken gardens where Forres House used to stand. Just after the gardens, take the path into Grant Park following it round to the left, back past the children's play area to the car park where you started. There are public toilets in the building next to the car park.



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### IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

#### Terrain

Stiles None  
Suitable for  
Most abilities

### PLANNING

#### Start/Parking

Victoria Road  
Grid Ref: NJ043593

#### Refreshments

Mackenzie  
& Cruickshank

**Public Toilets** at  
Grant Park and off  
High Street

#### Public Transport

Buses from Inverness/  
Aberdeen  
Trains from Inverness/  
Aberdeen

### MAPS

Ordnance Survey  
Landranger 27 or  
Explorer 423

### GEOCACHES

Grant Park  
Helges Hole  
Dava Way 1  
Dava Way 2  
Water of Life  
(Dallas Dhu)  
(Benromach)