

TEZ WATSON



The Muckle Burn near Dyke

10km/6.25miles

3hrs

Dyke/Kintessack Walk

A circular walk linking the rural communities of Dyke and Kintessack, with a spur to Broom of Moy, and on to the wider network of paths around Forres. A shortcut is available that links Dyke and Kintessack directly allowing walkers the option of two shorter loops.

The walk

When starting from Dyke Village Hall your first decision is whether to travel clockwise or anticlockwise - the latter choice gets the road section out of the way at the outset and this guide takes this direction. The route is marked with finger posts and blue arrows →

From the car park head downhill towards the churchyard, pass to the rear of Dyke Church turning left at the path junction and follow the beech hedge out into the open countryside.

This path follows a small burn for most of it's length until the burn enters the Muckle Burn, we then follow the bankside path of the larger burn. The path leaves the side of the burn shortly before entering a small area of woodland. On exiting the woodland the

route turns sharp right along the road and over Abbotshill Bridge following the road for about one mile before turning left towards the cottages at Dalvey Smithy.

From this road it is possible to catch glimpses of Dalvey House through the trees to the north. At the next road junction take a left turn, heading downhill to East Lodge, where the road bends right and heads for Moy. Passing Grangegreen and Wester Moy farms on your left (and the Broom of Moy link route to the right) your next turn is to the left along a green road just before the entrance to the sadly ruinous Moy House and heading in the direction of Kintessack.

After about half a mile the route bears left and crosses the Muckle Burn by a steel footbridge,

on the other bank the path passes Wellhead Farm to the left where the surface changes to tarmac road and you head into Culbin Forest. At the crossroads (just shy of Kintessack village) your route is straight ahead on a forest track which will be underfoot for the next two miles or so.

Should you wish to shorten your route at this point you could choose to turn left and follow the unclassified road shown light blue → on the map below via Muirtown Wood and Mudhall back to Dyke cutting about a mile off the overall distance.

Otherwise the forest track bears left after a short distance and then heads in a roughly westerly direction, skirting round a fenced area of broadleaf woodland (High Wood). The path crosses the Cloddy Moss access road before taking another left turn towards Loanhead.

Emerging from the trees you now turn right and walk along the road for a short distance before turning left along a green track that take you over a small rise and back into Dyke Village. To your left you can see an old triangulation point in the field (surely one of the lowest in this part of Scotland). Once at the crest of this rise you get a nice view of Dyke and the surrounding countryside to the south. The path

emerges onto the road just north of the village and from here turn right to return to the car park. The attractive gate to the churchyard is worth a mention as it also serves at the Dyke war memorial, with the names of the fallen carved into stone panels inside the arch.

Should you choose to, this route can be extended by a further two miles by taking the link route to Broom of Moy. This is a tarmac road for it's entire length and leads down to the old salmon fishing station on the River Findhorn.

From Broom of Moy you could venture along other routes established by Forres Footpaths Trust or retrace your steps to pick up the Dyke and Kintessack circular route.



IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain
Stiles None
Suitable for
Most abilities

PLANNING

Start/Parking
Dyke Village Hall
Grid Ref:
NJ991585

Refreshments
Brodie Countryfare
& Brodie Castle

Public Toilets at
Brodie Castle

Public Transport
Buses from Forres

MAPS

Ordnance Survey
Landranger 27 or
Explorer 423



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