

Lower Deeside Trail

The royal railway, river & villages



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1 Alexander Milne, surveyed 1789, published by Act of Parliament 1790, courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

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16 is used courtesy of Aberdeen Women's Alliance

20 courtesy of Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums Collections

Accessibility

 Mostly accessible but covers uneven ground and some steep slopes

Public Transport

The following buses link between the locations and central Aberdeen.

A day ticket allows unlimited travel by the same bus operator:

First Bus 19: North Deeside Road to Peterculter

Stagecoach 201-203 (Banchory, Ballater, Braemar):

North Deeside Road via Great Western Road to Peterculter and beyond

First Bus 1&2: Garthdee & Pitfodels and via a walk to Culter

First Bus 17&18: Duthie Park and start of Deeside Way

Cycling

Cycle routes: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/cyclemaps www.sustrans.org.uk

The Deeside Way: This is **National Cycling Network Route 195**.

Road traffic free but please be aware of other users including horses and dogs, also that people may not hear you coming

North Deeside Road: Suburban in nature with pavements and restricted traffic speeds. There are on-road cycle lanes most of the way

South Deeside Road: There are few pavements and the national speed limit applies. There are no crossings between Aberdeen and Peterculter.

It is suitable for experienced cyclists but extra care should be taken

Original North Deeside Roads: Great Western Road is busy and urban up to and including Anderson Drive but after is similar to **North Deeside Road**, as are Broomhill Road*, Auchinyell Road and beyond

Bridge of Dee: This junction can be very busy*

*Pedestrian/bike crossings available

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Upper Deeside with its castles, royal connections, excellent hill walking and scenery, is rightly a famous tourist destination. Likewise at Aberdeen where the river meets the sea via some of its best loved attractions – Duthie Park, Footdee and the beach plus Torry Battery, and the lighthouse at Girdleness. This guide highlights the many features that lie between those well known areas.

This includes the ancient routes that led there – the Deeside Roads, plus the former railway which took visiting royals to their home at Balmoral and locals to their homes in the villages, together with holidaymakers and workers. It is now a long distance recreational pathway and forms National Cycling Network Route 195. A short section between Crathes and Banchory is now a heritage railway. There are Prehistoric and Roman remains along with more recent history and present day attractions including the wildlife and scenery of the lower River Dee valley. Enjoy discovering this beautiful area, and remember to tag us into photos!

Right: G.Taylor and A.Skinner's Survey, 1776, courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

Opposite: Culter Railway Station, now part of the Deeside Way.



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1 Deeside Road/North Deeside Road

This successor to the Old Deeside Road (2) was originally the 'road from Countess Wells' which connected via Justice Mill Lane to the Hardgate. Later, as the Deeside Road, it started at Holburn Street following today's Great Western Road (originally named Deeside Road) and thereafter the current route to Braemar. Along the way, remaining mile stones mark the distances (see 28). At Nellfield Place there is a stone marked 3 ABD and just across the road, 4 ABD. This is the site of the Short Mile pub which took its name from this local joke. They are in fact March Stones whose legacy dates back to King Robert the Bruce (see [Boundary Stones Trail](#)).



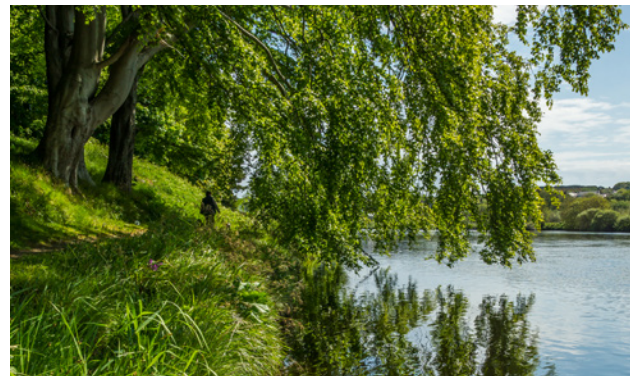
2 Old Deeside Road

The above picture from 1917 shows the earlier Deeside Road's most easterly point where it joined the Hardgate at today's junction of Fonthill Road and Great Southern Road. The building behind, on Holburn Street, is still there. These were ancient tracks, amongst the earliest formed to link the area's settlements. Hardgate was the main route south via a river ford and the Kincorth Ferry crossing, later the medieval Bridge of Dee (5). The Old Deeside Road follows present day Broomhill Road and Auchinyell Road which were once one road before the railway. There are further traces beyond this as detailed in GM Fraser's *The Old Deeside Road*, which is still in print.



3 The Deeside Way

Duthie Park and the Winter Gardens are very popular (see the [Duthie Park Trail & Guide](#)). The Deeside Way starts from their northern edge by Polmuir Road. The railway (1853-1966) ran from Aberdeen to Banchory, extending to Ballater in 1856, a total distance of 43¼ miles (70km). It is now a popular walking, cycling and horse riding route from the heart of Aberdeen through the countryside of Aberdeenshire to Ballater. Ferryhill Junction next door was temporarily the location of Aberdeen's very first station and the Deeside line originally began from there. The Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust has restored the engine turntable which means steam trains can once again visit Aberdeen. The Trust is also restoring the remaining railway shed, with the aim to be a working railway heritage centre for the North-east of Scotland. See FerryhillRHT on Facebook for details.



4 The River Dee

The river gives its name to the valley it formed and this trail follows its course to where west Aberdeenshire begins. It is tidal as far as the western edge of Sainsbury's at Garthdee. Beyond that it passes the modern Robert Gordon University campus including Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Gray's School of Art. The clean, fast flowing river is a wildlife corridor supporting a diverse range of plants, animals and breeding and overwintering birds. It is important for the presence of Atlantic salmon, European otter and Fresh water pearl mussel. Some of the riverside along the way is accessible by footpath but please note parts can be rough and muddy or become affected by the river itself.



5 Brig o' Dee and Ruthrieston Pack Bridge

Originally the site of the Kincorth Ferry, the Bridge of Dee (background) was built early 1500s and widened in 1841-42. It has decorative coats of arms and sundial, with plaques indicating 1929 & 1937 flood marks. The original Stonehaven road was the Causey Mounth, a drove road dating from the 1100s which still exists (see [map](#)). The South Deeside Road begins here too from Legart Terrace. Another historic crossing, Ruthrieston Pack Bridge (foreground), is nearby, built 1693. It is the only example in this part of Scotland of a 'pack-horse bridge', built with low sides (parapets), or none, to allow space for the horses' panniers (side bags). It was re-erected 1923 with side walls added. It bridged Ruthrieston Burn on the way to Aberdeen and an old ford crossed the Dee around here.

6 Holburn Street Station

Open from 1894 to 1937, this was the first stop on the Deeside branch suburban service known as the 'subbies'. These stopped in 1937 but the line itself was used until 1966. In 1906, the Royal Train called here and King Edward VII disembarked to join the procession leading to Marischal College for the opening ceremony. King George V also used the station to open Cowdray Hall in 1925 having travelled by a special train from Ballater. The old platforms remain with a modern shared cyclist/pedestian bridge over Holburn Street.



7 Ruthrieston Station

When first opened in 1856, Ruthrieston was in a rural area. The station was closed in 1937 but the old north-side platform survives.



8 Pitfodels Station

Also known as Pitfodels Halt, it was used from 1894-1937. It served the Pitfodels suburb and estates such as Wellwood, Inchgarth and Norwood. The main station building and stationmaster's cottage survive along with both platforms.

9 Major James Reid War Memorial

This simple shrine-like memorial with drinking fountain is dedicated to Aberdeen born Major James Meston Reid (1891-1918), of the Royal Engineers, who lived at Woodbank house behind it. He caught malaria during the Salonika (Thessaloniki) Campaign in Greece and the Balkans and was invalided home. He volunteered for Archangel on the Russian front and died of pneumonia whilst in service with the North Russian Expeditionary Force. He is buried at Archangel Allied Cemetery.



10 Cults Station

One of two in Cults, opened in 1853 and closed in 1966. Together with Culter Station (29), it outlasted the suburban service stations on the line. The picture below is from 1920 and the main station building survives with plans to turn it into a café. Platforms and other artifacts including supports for the Cults sign below remain.





11 Den of Cults

The scale of this narrow but deep valley can be seen in the impressive railway bridge above. The Cults Burn runs next to the former station and enters the Dee by the Shakkinn' Briggie (below). It can be followed in both directions and continues uphill past the Cults Hotel to the northern edge of the village. There are woodland walks at the site of Cults Quarry (see 22). There was once a dam at Friarsfield Road and Aberdeen Corporation Water Works were next to the Cults Hotel. The former Water Works Engine House is on Inchgarth Road at the end of the Den. The large modern Inchgarth Reservoir, which is partially accessible for walks, is nearby.



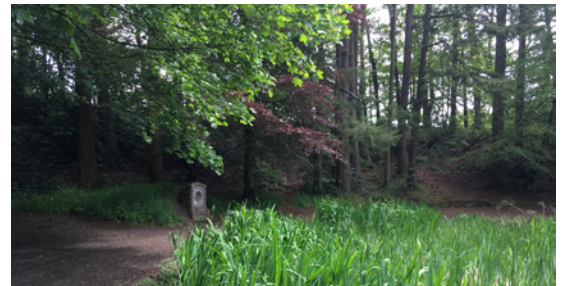
12 Shakkinn' Briggie

Morrison's Bridge was built 1836-1837 for the Rev. George Morrison whose church was south of the river (21). It got its nickname as the suspended wooden footway was shaky (shake is pronounced shak in Scots). It was designed by John Smith who became the first official Aberdeen city architect in 1807, and he also widened the Brig o' Dee (5) and designed Balmoral Castle for Queen Victoria. The River Dee previously changed course sweeping away land on the bridge's south side (above). Sadly, the bridge has since fallen into disrepair. There is a riverside walk from here to Allan Park (13).



13 Allan Park

This was opened in 1897, gifted by David Allan, a local businessman, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. He lived in West Cults Lodge overlooking the park and his memorial fountain stands by what was originally a pond (below). This is a glacial pothole and was previously used for winter skating and curling (above). Silting and vegetation has transformed it over time into a natural wetland supporting fauna and flora. The park originally provided space for tennis, hockey and also cricket which is still played here. There is a playing field for ball games and an adventure playpark. A path leads from the south side of the park to the riverside.



14 West Cults Station

This station served the western side of Cults and was the closest to Allan Park. It was open from 1894 to 1937, but the neighbouring Cults Station (10) continued until the line closed in 1966. One platform remains and there is a modern replacement railway bridge.





15 Cults East Church / Cults Kirk Centre

The original, smaller church was on Kirk Brae by the Den of Cults, where the last houses are on the east side before Friarsfield Road. The new church on Deeside Road opened in 1903 but burned down in 1941 during WWII, due to an accident rather than enemy action. Post-war shortages delayed building the simplified replacement church until 1959. The only surviving parts of the original, the church tower and gallery stairway, remained in place. In 2005, Cults West and Cults East Kirks unified and Cults Parish Church was formed. The final service here was in 2005. In 2012, the Cults Kirk Centre was built on the site with a cafe and function rooms. The new building retains fine original stained glass windows from 1967. The full story is at: www.cultsparishchurch.co.uk/cults-east-story



16 Nan Shepherd Plaque

The current RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland) £5 note honours Anna 'Nan' Shepherd (1893-1981), quoting her best loved book *The Living Mountain*, "It's a grand thing to get leave to live". The distinctive portrait used on the banknote was taken locally and she improvised her headband with photographic film and a brooch. Nan was born at Westerton Cottage, East Peterculter, but lived in Cults most her life. She attended Aberdeen High School for Girls, now Harlaw Academy, Aberdeen University and lectured in English at Aberdeen College of Education. She was a major contributor to early Scottish Modernist literature with three novels, and a keen hill walker with a collection of poetry, *In The Cairngorms*, plus the non-fiction *The Living Mountain*. Described by *The Guardian* as "the finest book ever written on nature and landscape in Britain". The talking book version is narrated by film star Tilda Swinton amongst others.



17 Cults Parish Church

This was originally Cults West Parish Church but very close to Cults East (15). The first church was a simple mission hall built 1903 which was quickly outgrown but is retained as the church hall behind. Noted Aberdeen architect, A. Marshall Mackenzie, a member of the congregation, designed the current building which opened in 1916.

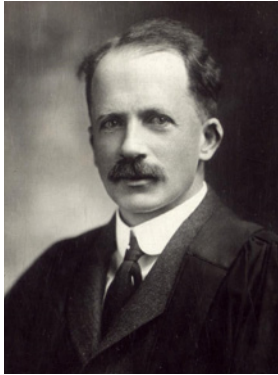


18 Bieldside Cairn

This substantial round burial cairn is prehistoric, thought to be Bronze Age, 4,000 years old, dating to the early 2nd millennium BC. It consists of a large mass of loose stones and boulders and measures 24 metres in diameter and 4 metres high. Burial mounds are usually situated in conspicuous positions, often on the skyline indicating the status or wealth of the interred. Before the modern houses were built, it overlooked the river below. It was originally one of three cairns but the other two were carted away in December 1829 so that the stones could be used to repair damage to the banks of the River Dee after the massive flooding caused by the 'Muckle Spate' of 1829, muckle is Scots for 'much', here meaning 'great'. The Muckle Spate is depicted in *Flood in the Highlands* by Edwin Henry Landseer which is on display in Aberdeen Art Gallery.

19 John Macleod Plaque

John James Rickard Macleod (1886-1935) was a Scottish biochemist and physiologist. He and his colleague Frederick Banting received the joint 1923 Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery and isolation of insulin. He was born in Perthshire but shortly after his clergyman father transferred here. He attended Aberdeen Grammar School and University of Aberdeen. In 1903 he emigrated to the USA and, after WWI, worked at the University of Toronto where he and his colleague isolated insulin. A secretion of the pancreas but eventually the first hormone to be chemically synthesised, insulin is essential in treatment of diabetes, then a terminal illness. However the two later fell out with Macleod wrongly portrayed as playing a negligible part. This was only fully corrected after his death, with Nicolae Paulescu of Bucharest also since acknowledged for his separate contribution. Macleod returned to Scotland in 1928, to become Regius Professor of Physiology at Aberdeen University then Dean of the Medical Faculty. He is buried in Aberdeen's Allenvale Cemetery beside Duthie Park, the distinctive grave featuring a stylised Rod of Asclepius, the symbol of healing and medicine.



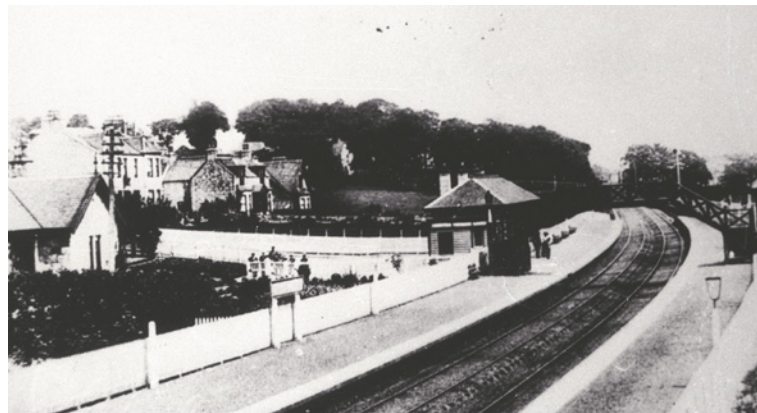
21 St Devenick's Church

In 1880-81, occasional services were held in a loft at Bieldside Farm. From 1883-1886, a wooden building at Kenfield, near Mannofield, was used. This was later handed over as a gift and rebuilt on the site of the present church hall, opening in 1894. The current church was opened in 1903, initially known as St Devenick's Mission Church with the new church hall built in 1969. St Devenick was an early Christian missionary said to be buried at Banchory-Devenick Parish Church, 1822-present, but the site of much earlier places of worship. That church and graveyard are south of the river on the South Deeside Road and the Shakkin' Briggie (12) was built to allow access to it from the north side of the Dee.

20 Majel Davidson and Gushetneuk Pottery (private property)

Margaret Elizabeth Davidson (1885-1969), known as Majel was born in Cults, attending Aberdeen High School, now Harlaw Academy, and studied painting and pottery at Gray's School of Art. Awarded a scholarship, from 1908 to 1910 to Paris with the French post-impressionist Charles

Guérin and later exhibiting at the Salon d'Automne in 1912, and also to Rome. She served as a volunteer ambulance driver during WWI, earning the Military Medal. Moving to Toronto in 1923, she was associated with the Group of Seven artists, and became bolder in use of colour. Her work is also influenced by the Scottish Colourists. Returning to Scotland, she concentrated on ceramics at Gushetneuk Pottery, in Cairn Road. Gushetneuk is the Scots name for an odd corner of land. She also took a role with the International Council of Women (ICW). In the 1950s, she lived in the female commune at Powis House near Stirling and resumed painting. Aberdeen Art Gallery has examples of her work, and the above is a glazed earthenware free-standing plaque from the Gushetneuk period, 1927-1935.



22 Bieldside Station

This station was open from 1897 to 1937 and both platforms remain. At the northern edge of Bieldside is the site of the disused Cults Quarry and of present day walks (see [map](#)). The area includes woodland, grassland and heathland, supporting plants and wildlife native to those habitats. The Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber communities have many more waymarked walks through the countryside and along the river. Downloadable map guides to each and a leaflet are available from www.cbmcommunity.org.uk/walks/



23 Newton Dee

This is part of around 100 worldwide Camphill Communities, which takes its name from the original one on Deeside. Founded at Kirkton House, near Insch in Aberdeenshire in 1939, by a group of refugees including Austrian Dr Karl König, aka Koenig (1902-1966), who fled Vienna due to the Nazi invasion. He was influenced by the principles of fellow Austrian Rudolph Steiner (1861-1925). Steiner founded a philosophy based on an objective spiritual world mirroring that of the scientific physical one. He also formed the Waldorf education system where König had worked. Camphill Estate at Peterculter (see 31) was the first pioneering Camphill Community in 1940 at a time when people with special needs were excluded from education and other aspects of society. Newton Dee Village, for learning disabled adults, has a craft studio, bakery, café with grocery shop, all open to the public. There are walks on the grounds and to the river. Based in the original Newton Dee House estate, the village is on Old Ferry Road, an original river crossing point.



24 Milton of Murtle

This is a small community built around the former Mill of Murtle of the mid 1800s. For many years it was the home of the Waterwheel Inn but was converted to housing, retaining the characteristic pyramid-roofed kiln and large waterwheel. This is 6m in diameter (approx 20ft) in cast-iron with 60 wooden bucket segments. The Den of Murtle, north of North Deeside Road has two large dams associated with the former mill. Camphill Communities (23) has a bookshop in the former lodge to Murtle House.



25 Murtle Station

Also known as Murtle Halt, this railway station served Murtle and Beconhill Houses and estates, the Mill of Murtle, Milton of Murtle, the local farms and the inhabitants of this rural area within the parish of Peterculter from 1853 to 1937. The platforms are still here and the extended original station building which is now a house.

26 Binghill Stone Circle (not accessible)

Recumbent stones are unique to the Aberdeenshire area. Massive monoliths lying distinctively sideways and aligned with the southern arc of the moon, for astrological ritual purposes. Tall stones either side are known as 'flankers'. Ireland's Cork & Kerry have the only equivalent but with small alter-like recumbent and two stones opposite known as 'portals' (a doorway or gate). Binghill probably dates from 3rd-2nd millennium BC but only three stones, including recumbent, remain in place. Please note this circle is concealed in woodland on a private estate. However there are at least 99 other recumbent circles in North-east Scotland. Aberdeenshire Council has a guide to ten of the best at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk



27 Milltimber Station

This station served the mansion houses of this area such as Culter House, Fairgirth House, Camphill House, Avondow House, Glasterberry House, and their workers would have used the station. The station was named for the nearby Milltimber Farm and was open from 1854 to 1937. The original station building is now a private house.



28 Seven Mile Stone

Many of these still exist and are marked on the locations map. They were an essential guide to distance in days well before modern maps and the other means we now take for granted. This one indicates it is seven miles from the centre of Aberdeen. The eight mile stone is just outside Peterculter, beyond the Borsalino Restaurant, by the 30mph/national speed limit traffic signs and indicated on the map. Please note it is on a grass verge with no pavement on that side and limited opportunity to stop. The others are generally more accessible but some can be hard to find. The maps show further known examples.



29 Culter Station

Culter is the name of this area, including Peterculter and Maryculter on either side of the River Dee. The station remained open until 1966 and for freight to Culter Paper Mills until 1967. One platform survives. The Deeside Way continues to Ballater, mostly on the old line itself (www.deesideway.org). A short stretch of heritage railway has been rebuilt from Crathes to Banchory. The Royal Train previously took Queen Victoria and later royals to Ballater for Balmoral Castle. It was planned to end the line at Braemar but Queen Victoria was afraid her privacy would be disturbed by 'hordes of tourists'. So she bought land along the route to prevent it. This photograph shows the final passenger train in 1966.



30 St Peter's Heritage Centre

The heritage centre and tearoom is based in the former St Peter's Parish Church (above). This was designed by A. Marshall Mackenzie as was Culter Parish Church (17). It opened in 1907, although there has been a chapel to St Peter here since the 1100s. The museum houses photographs, artifacts and documents for the Parish of Peterculter. Entry is free but donations are welcome. The neighbouring 'Iron Kirkie' (inset) came from Ballater and was brought here by rail and re-erected as the church hall in 1907.



31 Lover's Walk

This is a short but attractive riverside walk which can form a return loop with the Deeside Way railway line. Linking just outside Camphill estate, based around the original Camphill House, which gives its name to the worldwide Camphill Communities (see 23). The path from Pittengullies Brae originally led to a ford (a natural or man-made river crossing), and the former Insh Ferry crossed nearby. The river continues to its source at the Lairig Ghru, Scotland's best known hill-pass, at the heart of Nan Shepherd's (16) beloved Cairngorms in the Cairngorms National Park.



32 Peterculter Parish Church

Following the church Disruption of 1843, the new Free Church congregation met at Contlaw, outside the village to the north. Under Rev John Kelman, this church was opened in 1895 and was built in the Norman style of architecture with granite from Aberdeen's Rubislaw Quarry. After the 1929 reunion of the Free Church and Church of Scotland, it was renamed the Kelman Memorial Church. In 1999, it was amalgamated with St Peters (30) becoming Peterculter Parish Church.



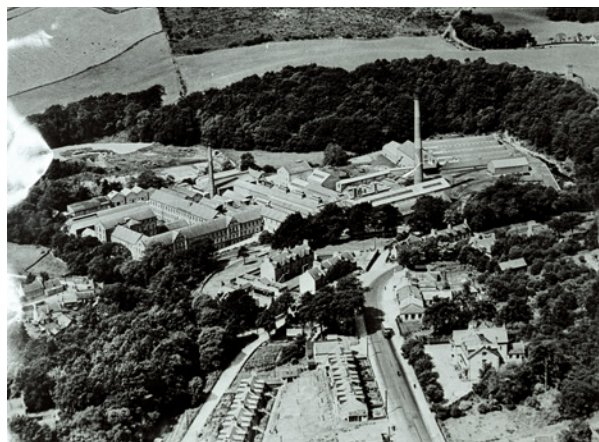
33 Peterculter Memorial Garden

This peaceful and contemplative corner of Peterculter is also very practical. In 2014, Barratt Homes gifted the land to Aberdeen City Council and Culter in Bloom transformed it into a community space. The War Memorial consists of a carved stone with inscription 'Lest We Forget', stone rubble bench and paved courtyard with flower planting. In an echo of 'dig for victory', the orchard and vegetable plots provide fruit and vegetables for the community. This is the first of two war memorials with Peterculter War Memorial (37) on a small hill above the Borsalino Restaurant.



34 Welcome to Peterculter

This feature recalls the history and heritage of the village and was inspired by the creation of the parish of Peterculter in the 1200s following construction of a church dedicated to St Peter (30). It visually echoes the local history including Roman camp (39), Culter Burn and papermaking (35). Designed by Ian Anderson Bsc (Hons) and constructed in 2013 using traditional materials along with skills from the offshore oil industry. The area is planted with Scottish native and ornamental flowers and shrubs.



35 Culter Paper Mills (site of)

This was the oldest paper mill in the Aberdeen area and pre-dates Peterculter itself. It was founded by Bartholomew Smith in 1750, and Alexander Pirie and Sons of Aberdeen, owners of Donside's Stoneywood paper mill, acquired it in 1864. For many years, the 200 foot high mill lum, (chimney stack), and its smoke plume was a local landmark and the mill hooter marked the times of day by the shifts of the workers. The mill was demolished in 1981 and is now housing, ringed by the curving Culter Burn. There are two smaller former mills downstream, Kennerty Upper Mill of 1838, on Kennerty Mills Road, until relatively recently a barley and meal mill, and Kennerty Lower Mill on Burnside Road, now a private house.



36 Rob Roy Statue

The original is believed to have been a figurehead from Peterhead whaling ship *Rob Roy*, this fifth 2017 version is by David Mitchel, graduate of Gray's School of Art (see 4). Rob Roy MacGregor, baptised 1671 and died 1734, was a Robin Hood-style legend who fought in the Jacobite risings of 1689 and 1715. This Scottish outlaw and folk hero is said to have leapt this gorge to evade the Hanovarian soldiers of King George I, possibly during a visit to relatives at Dalmaik, near

Drumoak in 1714. Dalmaik's ruined church is on the Dee, just outwith the Aberdeen city boundary. Rob Roy (Roy from the Gaelic 'ruadh'—red-haired) was popularised in his own lifetime by *Highland Rogue* in 1723, attributed to *Robinson Crusoe* author Daniel Defoe. This was possible reason for his pardon by the king, just before penal exile to Britain's then colonies. He was later immortalised by Sir Walter Scott's *Rob Roy* and features in William Wordsworth's poem 'Rob Roy's Grave'. In 1894, New York City's Waldorf Astoria named a cocktail in his honour (a Scotch whisky version of their famous Manhattan). He features in several films including 1995's *Rob Roy* played by Liam Neeson and filmed entirely in the Highlands. The Burn O'Vat near Dinnet, Upper Deeside has Rob Roy's Cave, concealed by a waterfall. However this was the earlier Patrick MacGregor aka Gilderoy or Gilder Roy, whose gang of kidnappers haunted Deeside's woodlands. Much less deserving of immortality than his namesake and for which crimes he was executed in Edinburgh in 1636.



37 Peterculter War Memorial

This is a battlemented tower, built of granite rubble with memorial lists on each side recording the names of the fallen, including Canadian formations and those who died in both World Wars. Sited on a small hillock reached by a path from North Deeside Road, it is an ideal vantage point with views of the surrounding countryside.

38 Belskavie Tower

This is the remains of a square tower, just into Aberdeenshire, dating from early 1800s in its present form. It was shown on the 1st edition 1866 Ordnance Survey map as a 'mock ruin'—a folly, but some sources suggest it could have been an earlier look out tower for nearby Drum Castle. One of Deeside's famous castles, dating from the 1200s, Drum is believed to be amongst the three oldest tower houses in Scotland and is open to the public.



39 Normandykes Roman Camp (site of)

The Romans never succeeded in conquering what they called Caledonia (Scotland) and today only the north-east corner of this huge marching camp, defined by a line of trees, can be made out. It was one of a series a day's march apart for up to 16,000 troops and built circa 1-3rd century AD. The Deeside Way joins a remnant of the Old Deeside Road here, see www.deesideway.org for its route to Ballater. Bridges are more common all the way to Linn O' Dee, beyond Braemar, making excellent return loops for exploring Aberdeenshire's Deeside by bike.

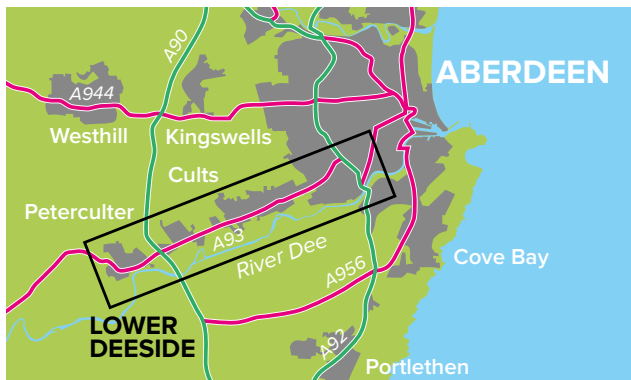


40 South Deeside Road

An alternative route via the Aberdeenshire countryside. Maryculter is a very small community reached via Maryculter Bridge. Earlier crossings along the Dee were by ford or ferry (see 23 & 31). The area is largely rural but a highlight is the Museum of Scotland's Catholic Heritage. It features the former Blairs College, 1829-1986, and Saint Mary's Catholic Chapel. The road also passes Banchory-Devenick Parish Church for which the Shakkinn' Briggie (12) was built. Please note there are few pavements and the national speed limit applies, so it is not a suitable walking route. The only other crossing points are in Aberdeen at the medieval Bridge of Dee (6) and King George VI Bridge at Duthie Park.

Lower Deeside Trail

The royal railway, river & villages



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This is one in a series of themed Aberdeen City trails. All are available via the free **GoABZ** mobile app and at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/trails



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