

Banchory Circular Path per the Positive Steps Banchory Map

The Positive Steps map can be found in the library tourist information section, Bellfield medical practice and hotels in Banchory. The Circular Path is marked on the map but there are also way markers around the path outwith the town centre. The path is marked by dark green roundels on these way marker posts with "Banchory Circular Path" parked on them. So if you haven't a map you will be able to navigate the path with ease using the notes below and these marker posts. There have been two small re routings away from the map up at Hill of Banchory and Raemoir Road but if you follow the way markers there will be no problem. The total walk is approximately 11km distance and takes about 2.5 hours but the beauty of it is that you can do it in sections or just do some sections. The path is on land owned by Aberdeenshire Council, Forestry Commission Scotland and Leys Estate. It uses town pavements, forestry paths and woodland paths behind and between well hidden housing estates. So good footwear is advised especially as the forest paths can be muddy.

Start at Bellfield Car Park on Dee Street and walk up to the High Street. Cross over on to the north side of the High Street and turn left passing the shops, churches, houses and the Tor-na-coille Hotel. Turn right up the Glassel Road then turn first right and walk up the road to the right hand side of the Burnett Park. There is a way marker for the circular path on the left about half way up this road. Keep going straight up into the woods until you see the next sign post for the circular path.

1.5km 20 mins

Turn left through the woods and follow the old railway line to where it dips down. Take the forestry road up through the woods. There is a way marker for the circular path at the start of the forestry road then further up the hill there is another marker situated on the left hand side which is land behind some houses. This marker may be hidden by overgrown vegetation so keep watch for it. Turn right to follow the path through the woods.

2.0km 25 mins

Continue the path through the woods and into the grounds of Glen o' Dee hospital, passing through the gate and a further sign post for the circular path. Once into the car park at the back of Glen o' Dee look across left to the sign post for the next path through the woods.

0.4km 05 mins

Continue through the woods until there is a cross road of paths. Turn left to follow the signposted circular path.

0.4km 05 mins

This path meanders through the woods until the gate entrance to the road to the Recycling Tip is reached

0.4km 05 mins

At the road turn right and walk along Upper Lochton Road to the end where it joins Raemoir Road. It is at this point that the path has been re routed from the original path on the map.

0.8km 10 mins

Walk along the Raemoir Road to the right, past the Garden Centre, to the junction on the left to Hill of Banchory West. Cross the road and continue along the south side of Hill of Banchory. Cherry Tree Road is on the left hand north side and just after on the right hand side the way marked path takes you into the woodland area behind houses. This is the second re routing of the path from that on the map.

0.8km 10 mins

Walk this path through the woods where you join an east/west path. Turn left and follow this path down past the Hill of Banchory Primary School, crossing 2 roads. The path is also way marked the red route at these crossing points. At the end of the path there is a small road.

1.2km 15 mins

Turn left and follow the path to the end where the road is the Hill of Banchory East. Turn right and walk down the pavement to Tesco. At Tesco cross the road and head down to the main road

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(A93). There is a way marker for the circular path at the main road showing turn left and go east along the main road towards Crathes West Lodge. Cross the Harestone road. The way marker at the Lodge shows that you have to cross the main road.

0.5km 05 mins

Once across the road head east following the next way marker that indicates the path going down towards the river on the right. Follow this path down to join the Deeside Way, a nice broad well surfaced path alongside the River Dee and eventually the reinstated railway line. Turn right and head west along the Deeside Way until you reach the point where there is a path that leads you up to the car park behind Morrisons.

1.5km 30 mins

Continue to follow the Deeside Way west and along the Recreation Ground road to join Dee Street and you are back to the Bellfield Car Park.

1.5km 20 mins

Total 11km 2.5hours