

From Lumphanan to Kincardine O'Neil

Lumphanan, Newton, Gordonstone, Kincardine O'Neil. - Leisurely stroll 1¾ hours.

This walk has a few short climbs and descents. It has no stiles. There is a cafe and toilets in the village if you need a comfort break before starting your hike.

Start your walk proper at the bus stop in Lumphanan (see Photo 1) with the church on the hill behind you. Head a hundred yards or so to reach the T-junction and then turn right. Follow the pavement and pass through the gate (Photo 2) to enter a footpath. Leave the footpath at the first exit on the left. Across from the exit gate you will see a path that climbs quite steeply up the hill (Photo 3). This is perhaps the most difficult section of the walk. If you would prefer an easier route continue along the road and take the next lane on the left past Cairnbeathie Farm. Rejoin the path at Photo 6. If you chose to walk up the track shown in Photo 3, look out for good views to the right. Photo 4 shows the old church of St Finan's, which gave the village its name. You can also see a small two storey building which used to be a 'mort house' in which the dead would be stored to decompose before burial (so they would be of no further use to grave robbers supplying the lucrative trade in bodies for dissection). You can also see a castle mound (Photo 5) which used to be the administrative centre for the area, including Kincardine O'Neil. Follow the tarmac lane at the end of this track (Photo 6).

Walk for 15 minutes until the lane turns right. Ignore the footpath signs and veer left down a farm track (Photo 7). The track goes down and back up quite a steep hollow and eventually reaches the farmstead (called Gordonstone on the Ordnance survey map). Follow the track around the farm buildings (Photo 8).

Walk for about 10 minutes before another track joins from the right (Photo 9). Follow the track you are on for a hundred yards or so to reach a lane (Photo 10) and continue straight ahead until you reach the main Deeside road at an old toll house (Photo 11). Turn left for the village of Kincardine O'Neil (Photo 12) where you can get take away refreshments at the post office, mementos etc and a bus into Aberdeen or Braemar.

