

## 4 TURRIFF, FYVIE & FORMARTINE

The Formartine Area of Aberdeenshire Council has a dramatic coastline, extensive sandy dunes to the south and rocky cliffs to the north which are home to a wide range of bird life. Inland, agriculture dominates. Dissected by the River Ythan and its tributaries, the estuary of the Ythan opens out into the Sands of Forvie National Nature Reserve. Some of the routes in the leaflet are closely linked to the Formartine and Buchan Way. Formerly a railway line it is now a popular cycle, walkway and nature corridor that stretches for 54 miles from Aberdeen to Peterhead and Fraserburgh.

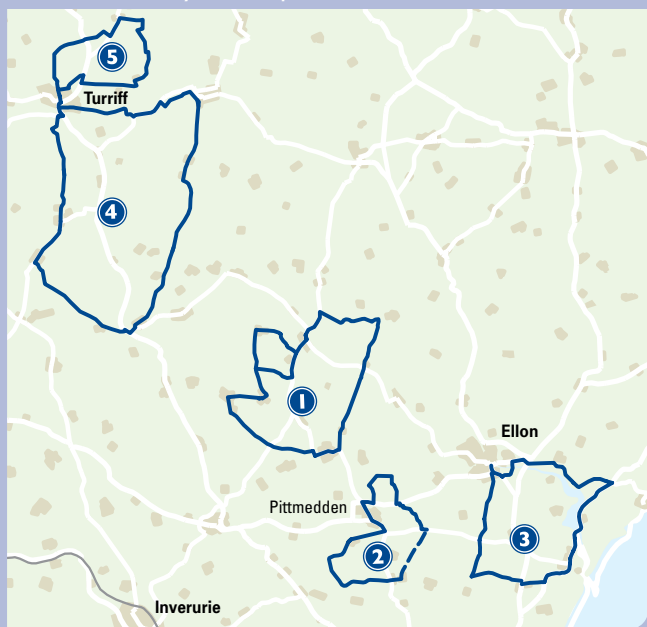
Most of the cycle routes described in this leaflet have been designed to cater for all ages and abilities and where possible, off-road, family and commuter routes have been selected. Some routes require more effort than others.

The routes in this leaflet show distance, effort required and tourist attractions. Most routes use the quieter roads but may involve short stretches of main 'A' roads to continue the route. Great care should be taken at all times whilst cycling, particularly on these busy stretches of road. Please let large vehicles pass and remember you may encounter forestry operations off-road. Please keep well clear and observe signs and diversions for your safety.

We advise that you also take an O.S map with you. While the routes featured follow quiet roads and key features have been identified, an O.S map will guide you further in the area. LandRanger 1:50,000 Nos 29, 37 & 38.

To plan any journeys using public transport visit [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com) or call 0871 200 22 33.

### Area covered by this map



For information on the health benefits of cycling and safety advice please visit: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation/cycling/](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation/cycling/)

If you require further copies of our cycling maps or would like to give any feedback please contact:

The Travel Planning Officer  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Infrastructure Services  
Woodhill House  
Westburn Road  
Aberdeenshire  
AB16 5GB  
Tel: 01224 664773  
Email: [transportation@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:transportation@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation/cycling/](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation/cycling/)

### Tourist information

For up-to-date information on Aberdeen City & Shire, contact the Visitor Information Centre in Aberdeen at:

23 Union Street  
Aberdeen  
AB11 5BP  
Tel: 01224 269180  
Email: [Aberdeen@visitscotland.com](mailto:Aberdeen@visitscotland.com)  
[www.aberdeen-grampian.com](http://www.aberdeen-grampian.com)

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## CYCLING

## ABERDEENSHIRE 1 2 3 4 5 6

## 4 TURRIFF, FYVIE & FORMARTINE



# I

## METHLICK TO TARVES via HADDO

(18 miles) Moderate

**Start point:** The car park opposite the Ythan View Hotel in Methlick.

### Points of interest

- 1 **Haddo Estate:** There's a popular Country Park run by Aberdeenshire Council and Haddo House is open to the public through the National Trust for Scotland.
- 2 **Tolquhon Tomb:** Found in the Kirk yard in the village of Tarves the superb monumental tomb is the resting place of William Forbes, 7th Laird of Tolquhon and his wife, Elizabeth Gordon.



# 2 PITMEDDEN TO UDNY STATION via FORMARTINE & BUCHAN WAY (11 miles) Easy

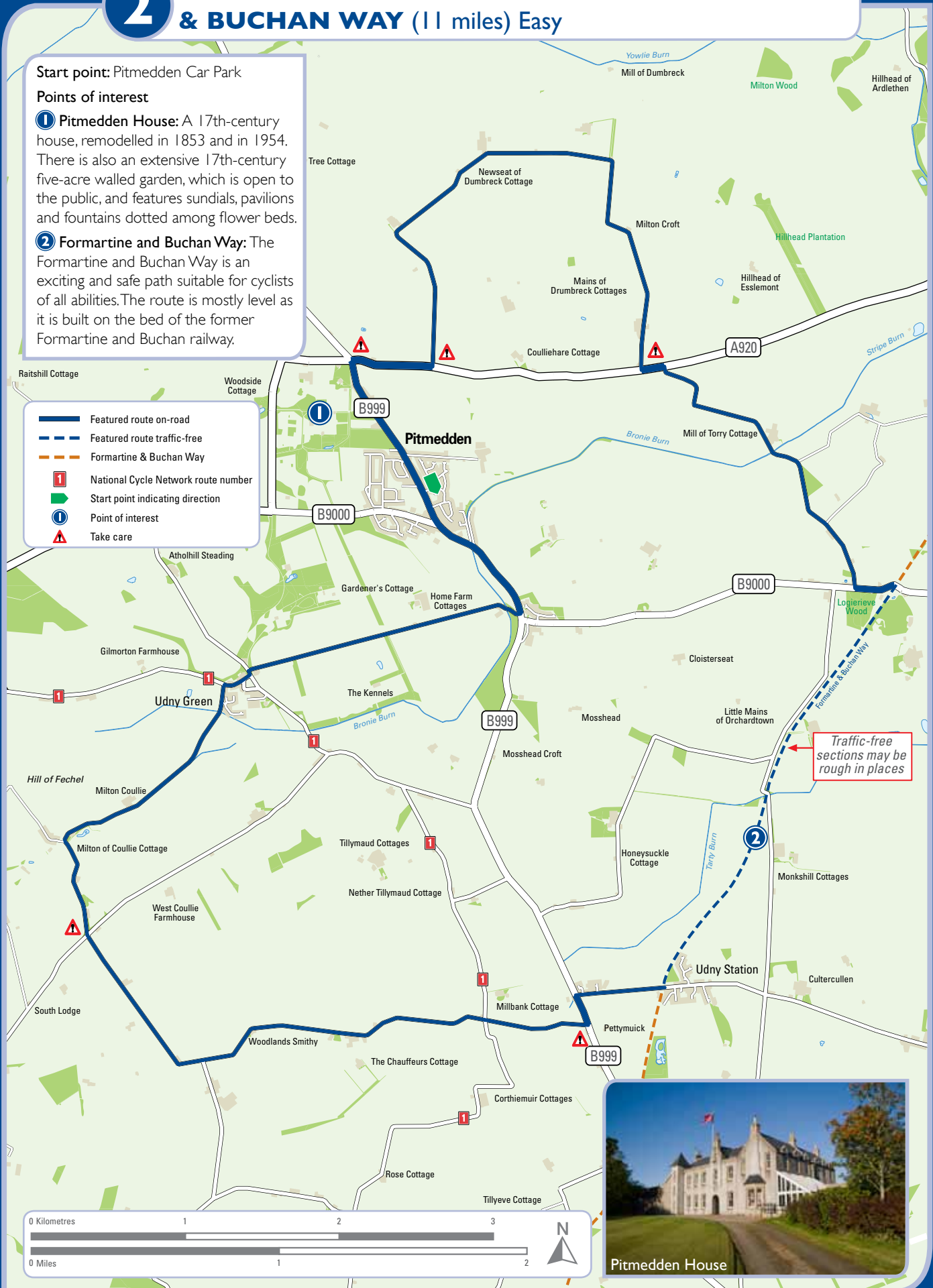
**Start point:** Pitmedden Car Park

**Points of interest**

1 **Pitmedden House:** A 17th-century house, remodelled in 1853 and in 1954. There is also an extensive 17th-century five-acre walled garden, which is open to the public, and features sundials, pavilions and fountains dotted among flower beds.

2 **Formartine and Buchan Way:** The Formartine and Buchan Way is an exciting and safe path suitable for cyclists of all abilities. The route is mostly level as it is built on the bed of the former Formartine and Buchan railway.

- Featured route on-road
- Featured route traffic-free
- Formartine & Buchan Way
- National Cycle Network route number
- Start point indicating direction
- Point of interest
- Take care





# 3

## NEWBURGH ELLON CIRCULAR

(16 miles) Moderate



**Start point:** Market Street Car Park, beside the River Ythan in Ellon.

**Points of interest**

- ① **Ellon:** The Riverside Park in Ellon offers walkways alongside the River Ythan, from which herons, salmon, trout and otters may be observed.
- ② **The Sands of Forvie:** Forvie National Nature Reserve has the fifth largest sand dune system in Britain, and the least disturbed by human activity. The reserve contains the largest breeding colony of eider duck in Britain.



Sands of Forvie (Newburgh and River Ythan)

# 4

## FYVIE TO TURRIFF via CUMINESTOWN

(26 miles) Difficult



Fyvie Castle



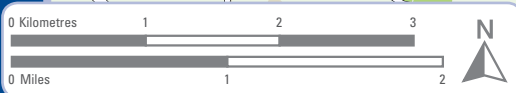
This is a challenging route through undulating countryside. There are some long climbs linking picturesque villages along the way.

**Start point:** The car park in Turriff just north of the Mercat Cross.

### Points of interest

**1 Fyvie Castle:** The earliest parts of Fyvie Castle date from the 13th century. Fyvie was the site of an open-air court held by Robert the Bruce and Charles I lived there as a child. The castle occupies a commanding position on the left bank of the River Ythan. Great enshrouding woods recede from it to leafy hills where the sunlight only penetrates dimly.

- Featured route on-road
- National Cycle Network route number
- Start point indicating direction
- Point of interest



# 5

## TURRIFF CIRCULAR via HILL OF BRACKANS AND DELGATIE

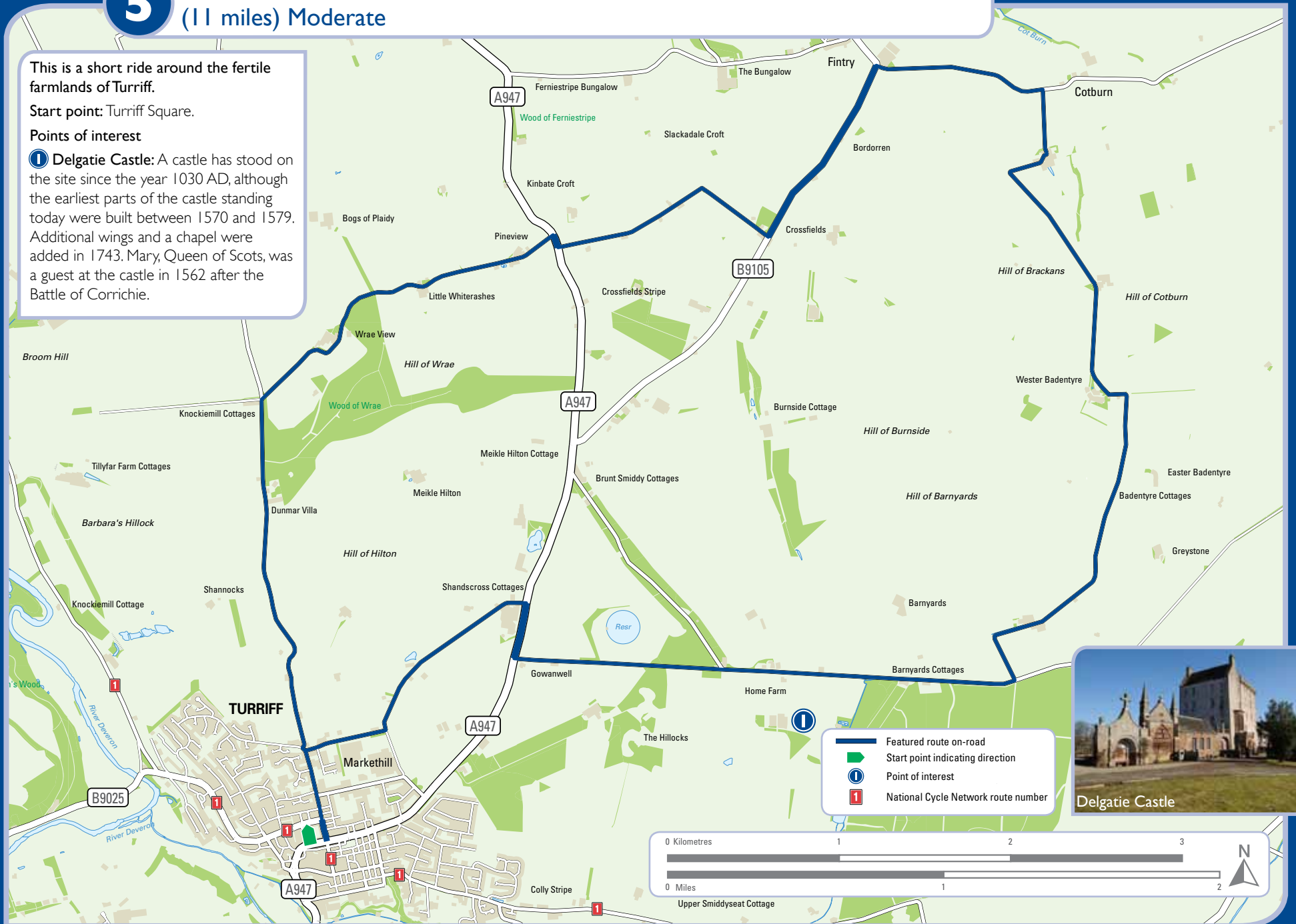
(11 miles) Moderate

This is a short ride around the fertile farmlands of Turriff.

Start point: Turriff Square.

Points of interest

**1** **Delgatie Castle:** A castle has stood on the site since the year 1030 AD, although the earliest parts of the castle standing today were built between 1570 and 1579. Additional wings and a chapel were added in 1743. Mary, Queen of Scots, was a guest at the castle in 1562 after the Battle of Corrichie.



Delgatie Castle