

Ellon

Out of Ellon Walks

Full descriptions plus maps of the following two routes can be obtained by logging on to www.formartinepartnership.org.uk and scrolling down to 'Featured Downloads'. There you can download the 'Walking in Formartine PDF' for these two walks from/to Ellon, (and many more in Formartine).

- Route 8 Ellon to Newmachar, Formartine and Buchan Way
- Route 9 Ellon - Plodhill Woods

Ellon Castles

Ellon's first castle was a Norman Motte and Bailey, by the river opposite the New Inn - Moot Hill. In the 16th Century, Ellon Castle was built (originally the Fortalice of Ardgith), the shell of which can still be seen, and is especially striking viewed from the south west over the River Ythan. The tower of the castle and the laid out walled gardens below, are held by the Castle Gardens Trust for the people of Ellon. A second, much smaller remains: The Castle of Waterton, is situated on the banks of the Ythan downstream of the town close to the main eastern by-pass road bridge.

Did you know...

The formation of the Ellon Castle Gardens is believed to date from 1715 (a date stone above a small side gate in the garden wall), and they are attributed to Baillie James Gordon of Edinburgh. However, the central feature of the garden is a group of ancient English Yew trees that easily predate 1715. It is unclear who planted the trees or why but these magnificent specimens are well in excess of 500 years old, possibly close to 800 years. They form a unique feature as nowhere else in Scotland and probably the whole of the UK, is there such a large number (19) of ancient English Yews in one place.

Did you know...

Ellon grew at a place where the Ythan could be easily forded, making it a 'gateway' into Buchan. The name 'Ythan' is believed to come from a Gaelic word meaning 'easily forded'. There was also a small passenger ferry at Waterton, near the present day Meadows Estate. This was operated by Boatie Mary during the first half of the 20th Century, and continued when her son Boatie Tam took over. The first road bridge was built in 1793 and it is believed that the timber for that arches scaffolding was floated down the Don, along the coast and up the Ythan.

Ellon and the River Ythan

Until modern times the lowest crossing point of the River Ythan lay five miles inland from the coast at Ellon. This gave Ellon one of the most strategically significant locations in Aberdeenshire and there is evidence that as early as 400BC there was a small settlement associated with the ford across the Ythan here. Most sources agreed that the name Ellon derived from the Gaelic Eilean, and it is tempting to wonder whether this initial settlement was on an island in the river rather than in its north bank, like today's town.

Ellon and the Railway

The railway from Aberdeen reached Ellon in the 1860's on its way to Maud, from where extensions to Peterhead (1862), and Fraserburgh (1865), were built. The original Ellon station was later enlarged when it served as a junction, with a branch line to Boddam via Cruden Bay opening in 1897. An initial three-arched viaduct over the Ythan collapsed in 1860, shortly after completion. The present four-arched structure replaced it, and the line was opened officially on 18th July 1861. The last trains (freight) ran in 1979. Today the line is a valuable and well used walking/cycling route called the Formartine and Buchan Way which links to Aberdeen, Peterhead and Fraserburgh.



Riverside Walk



Riverside Walk - South Road Bridge



minutes 5

Walking distance is based on 3mph therefore 5 min = 440yds

minutes 5

Cycling distance is based on 12mph therefore 5 min = 1mile

minutes 5

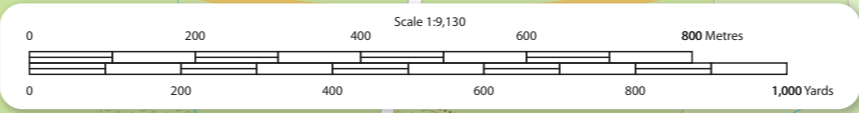
minutes 10

minutes 15

minutes 5

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Public car park
- Pedestrian crossing
- 20mph street
- Landmark building
- Footpath
- Route 1
- Route 2
- Route 3
- Route 4
- Route 5
- Route 6
- Route 7



For more information on walking, cycling and transport initiatives visit the Aberdeenshire Council transportation pages at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation

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Walk it... Bike it... Try it!



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Getabout
The Getabout partnership consists of
Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils
and Nestrans, supported in their work by
NHS Grampian.
Getabout is the partnership's campaign to
help people in the North East to make
sustainable transport choices.
For more information visit
www.getabout.org.uk

Distance	Notes	Walk
1.4 kms		7
3.7 kms		6
3.4 kms		5
2.9 kms		4
1 km		3
2.3 kms		2
3 kms		1

Find a better way to get about...
Ellon is a small market town in the ancient region of Formartine in Aberdeenshire. Lying on the banks of the River Ythan. Places of interest within the town include the ruins of Ellon Castle, surrounded by walls known as the Deer Dyke, and the Auld Brig, a category A listed bridge across the Ythan, built in 1793 and still in use as a pedestrian bridge. The Riverside Park offers walkways alongside the Ythan, from which herons, salmon, trout and otters may be observed.

Ellon
Walking & Cycling
From mountain to sea
Aberdeenshire Council

This map aims to simplify your journey around Ellon, whether by cycle or walking.
We are committed to helping residents and visitors move around Ellon easily, cheaply and with the least impact on our environment.
Our town has excellent links for walking and cycling!

Walking
Walking offers most of us the chance to stay fit and healthy and get around over short distances. It is pollution free and a sociable activity, allowing plenty of opportunities to bump into neighbours or to meet up with friends. Walking is usually the fastest and most efficient way of getting around town for those living locally and avoids all the frustration and delay of taking the car.

Cycling
The quickest way to travel short distances in towns is by bike. A maintained bike is ready when you are, with very little that can go wrong. A bike can nearly always be parked outside your destination. It's cheap and reliable plus you feel better by being a little active. And above all, it's fun!

Work out your calorie count when walking

Weight	10mins	20mins	30mins	40mins
7st 12lbs	29	58	86	115
9st 6lbs	35	69	104	138
11st 0lbs	40	81	121	161
12st 8lbs	46	92	138	184
14st 3lbs	52	104	156	208
15st 10lbs	58	115	173	231

The numbers show the calories burnt when walking, based on flat terrain which is of a good, consistent hard surface like a pavement. Numbers are based on an average person.
For more information, please visit www.nhs.uk/Change4Life

Aberdeenshire walking and cycling maps are freely available for most towns.
It's easy to get around by foot or on your bike – for a purpose or just for fun!

Walk 1 – Two Bridges Route
From the car park opposite the New Inn, follow the Ythan downstream, you can see large patches of bright green water crowfoot (white flowers) waving gently in the slow moving water. The path takes you through the Glebe Field, in the southern section of the Riverside Park. This is a good area for wildlife both on the river and the land. Walk down to Boatie Tam's Bridge over the river. Boatie Tam ran a passenger ferry downstream close to the Meadows Housing. The path then takes you up to the new Ellon Academy and from there it is easy to follow the road all of the way back into the town.

Walk 2 – Riverside Route
This fine walk takes you through the award winning Riverside Park. Leaving the riverside car park walk beneath the two town bridges and just upstream of them is one of the small islands from which Ellon gets its name (Eilean is Gaelic for island). It is not unknown for common seals to swim this far from the sea and haul out on the islands! Continue upstream until reaching the steps leading to the railway viaduct. Be careful crossing the viaduct, the first one built collapsed before a train could cross it! Follow the path back downstream to the Old Ellon Bridge. Cross that and you are back at the start of the walk.

Walk 3 – Gordon Park Route
This walk all around Gordon Park is very popular, and as well as walking, you can relax and sit on one of the many seats whilst taking in the ambience of the park: watching cricket in summer and football in winter. It is unsurprising that the park is named after the 'Gordons' a family that has for centuries had a large influence on the town, (they were once owners of Ellon Castle), and had considerable business influence in Ellon. There is a fine bandstand in the centre of the park and the circular path leads down close to the river with its swans, mallard ducks and even otters.

Walk 4 – Ancient and Modern Route
Follow the road to the Meadows Sport Centre and houses that overlook the river at what was the 'port' for Ellon! A small paddle steamer towed barges from Newburgh to the Meadows where there were facilities for unloading coal etc., and then taking grains and more back downstream. From the Meadows go up to the main road and with care cross over and walk up into Balmcassie Industrial...

...Estate. Past Brewdog and turn left, cross the Broomies Burn, in which you might be lucky enough to see the delightful dipper, a bird that actually 'walks' under water! Once across the bridge turn left back to the main road with the Sports Centre opposite.

Walk 5 – Balmcassie Route
From Castle Road take the small path (opposite the turning to the Meadows Centre) leading through open woodland that runs around and through the Castle Park Estate. Turn first left and then keep turning right until reaching the Balmcassie Community Woodland. Here a diagonal path leads over grass into and through the Housing Estate. Turn right alongside the by-pass and re-enter the woodland. There is a variety of paths to follow, routes that show off the wealth of native flora including glorious orchids and a wide selection of bird life. Leave the woodland where it joins Castle Street and follow that back down to the main road.

Walk 6 – A'Boot Ellon Route
The A'Boot name stems from when there was a boot factory in Ellon! From the Town Square walk past the Heath Centre to the old Academy car park. Close to the top right-hand corner there is an ice-house, used for storing food before deep-freezers! Climb the steps into the woodland above and follow the path through Caroline's Well Wood. Watch for the iconic red squirrel and notice the large patches of deep-green greater wood-rush on the ground. Cross Golf Road and go round the golf course. Listen for woodpeckers that breed in the woodland. By the Club House cross Hospital Road and take the path to the old railway line. Turn left and follow it over Station Road, before descending steps at the viaduct. The riverside path will eventually take you below the road bridges back to the start.

Walk 7 – Auchterellon Route
Discover 'Higher Ellon': ('Auchter' from Gaelic meaning 'upper' or 'on top of'), walking around and through this fine park. Take the path by Auchterellon School and follow it up the left-hand side of the park. In recent years locally native trees and wildflowers have been planted in this open space, to make it more aesthetically pleasing for people and also to benefit wildlife. As the plantings mature, species like hazel will produce scrumptious edible nuts for collection in autumn. Follow roads and paths along the top of the area and further roads on the right will lead you back into the park, from where you can stroll downhill and across behind the School back to the start.