

Culter Hillwalking Club

Sunday December 4th 2022

**Walk and Saunter
plus Christmas Lunch at the Boat Inn Aboyne 2.00pm**

Walk – River Dee to St Machar's Cross

A circular walk from the Boat Inn, Aboyne, immediately heading west along the banks of the Dee under the bridge and upstream before private land forces us onto tarmac past Balnacoil and briefly onto the Deeside way westward. At NO499988 we turn north up an unmapped but tarmac driveway through the woodland towards Wreaton Farm but to avoid the newbuild house some fence crossing required to St Machar's Cross. We work our way through the maze of woodland paths to eventually follow the path parallel to the A9094 southward and if weather/time permits cut east off that to enjoy the home straight through the grounds of Aboyne Castle back to the Boat.

Total distance 12km, ascent 200m. Time 4 hours.

Meet at for car-sharing at St Peter's Heritage Centre, Peterculter at 8:30am or direct Boat Inn 9.15am

Book through Walk Coordinator **James Brownhill** by **Thurs Dec 1st**. Please indicate if you are driving direct to the Boat for the walk or meeting at St Peters for car sharing and whether you are willing to drive or need a lift.

Saunter - Aboyne – Bell Wood NO545985

This walk will start at the Boat Inn where there are steps down to the river bank and goes left downstream and this path will be followed until the fishing bothy (not shown on OS maps) is reached, NO544981. Here a short walk along the road takes the walk to a bridge over the Tarland Burn and into Bell Wood. Here the blue walk will be followed although other shorter routes are also waymarked. [See here](#) If the going is good the path by the north side of the Tarland burn will be taken back to the village if not the Low Road will be followed through Station Square, onto Charleston Road and back to the Boat Inn.

If the weather is very inclement or the Dee has overflowed the route will be shortened to take in the Bell Wood section only. Car parking and the meeting place at 11:30 would then be at the entrance to Bell Wood in Bellwood Drive. (Follow the road signposted to the Hospital and keep left into Bellwood Drive.)

Total distance 6km. Time approx. 3hrs Meet 10:30am at the Boat Inn.

Book through the Saunter Coordinator, **Malcolm Smith**, by **Fri Dec 2nd**

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Walkers must wear walking boots (gaiters essential), carry WARM and waterproof clothing, hat and gloves and take plenty of food and liquids.

Culter hillwalking club has no members who are qualified leaders or instructors. Therefore anyone volunteering to assist the club on a walk cannot be held responsible for other members' welfare. Members must be aware they are solely responsible for themselves at all times. Hillwalking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury and death. Those participating in these activities should be aware of the risks and accept the responsibility for their own actions and involvement. No responsibility can be accepted by Culter Hillwalking club committee, members, guests or co-ordinators of walks for any mishap, which may occur, during a walk. Dog owners must ensure that their dogs are on a short lead at all times.

www.culterhillwalking.org.uk