

Paths Around The Aird

1 Newtonhill circuits

This varied circular walk on quiet country roads provides a flavour of what the Aird has to offer; agricultural landscape, natural woodland, plantations of Scots Pine and mature beech and magnificent panoramas. The route provides links to the other paths in the network. It offers views to the Fannich and Affric ranges to the north and west, views to the east down the Moray Firth and some of the best views to Ben Wyvis. The climb from Reelig Glen is worth the effort with the descent via Newtonhill and Drumchardine, a former weaving community providing an easy finish. There are no footways on the back roads – please take care.

Approx. 6 kms (4 miles)

Parking at Bogroy Inn or at Reelig Glen

Bus service to Inchmore from Inverness and Dingwall

Moderate - some steep sections - sensible footwear



2 Lentran and Inchberry

Starting on the edge of the Beaully Firth the minor roads take you through countryside rich in bird and wildlife. Spot osprey and red kite overhead, or the local badgers, red squirrel, roe deer and brown hare. As you climb, the views emerge across the Firth towards Ben Wyvis and the Black Isle with Beinn a Bha'ach Ard prominent to the west. Return on the same route or extend the walk into the network on Route 1 or 3.

Approx 6km return trip (4 miles)

Parking at the lay-by on A862 at Inchberry

Bus service from Inverness and Dingwall

Easy - a gradual climb/descent - sensible footwear

3 Mam Mor Woodland walks

Waymarked trails are being developed to lead you through this managed woodland of larch, spruce, pine with natural holly and birch and an understorey of gorse, broom and heather. Clearings provide views across the Firth with Kirkhill in the foreground. The high viewpoint provides a wonderful panorama of the area and a good picnic spot.

Approx 4 kms (2.5 miles) with link to the Great Glen Way 5km (3.1 miles)

Parking limited in the area, so use the Bogroy Inn or Reelig Glen car parks and follow Route 1

Moderate - forest trails - waterproof footwear

4 Reelig Glen Forest Walks

The nationally known Tall Trees walk has recently been upgraded, with an additional Upper level network added to offer an insight into some of the best examples of tree species in Britain. Featuring Dughall Mor, the tallest tree in Britain as well as other giants, this is a special experience. Reelig Glen is managed by Forestry Commission with the assistance of the Woodland Group of Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust who look after the upper wood. The upper trails are noted for the beech glade planted in 1870 known as the Cathedral. The woodland floor is lush with ferns and notably the creeping lady's tresses and birds nest orchid.

Approx 3 kms (1.5 miles)

Parking at the Forestry Commission car park

Bus service to Bogroy Inn on A862 from Inverness and Dingwall

Moderate - lower paths good, upper paths woodland trails - waterproof footwear

5 Cabrich

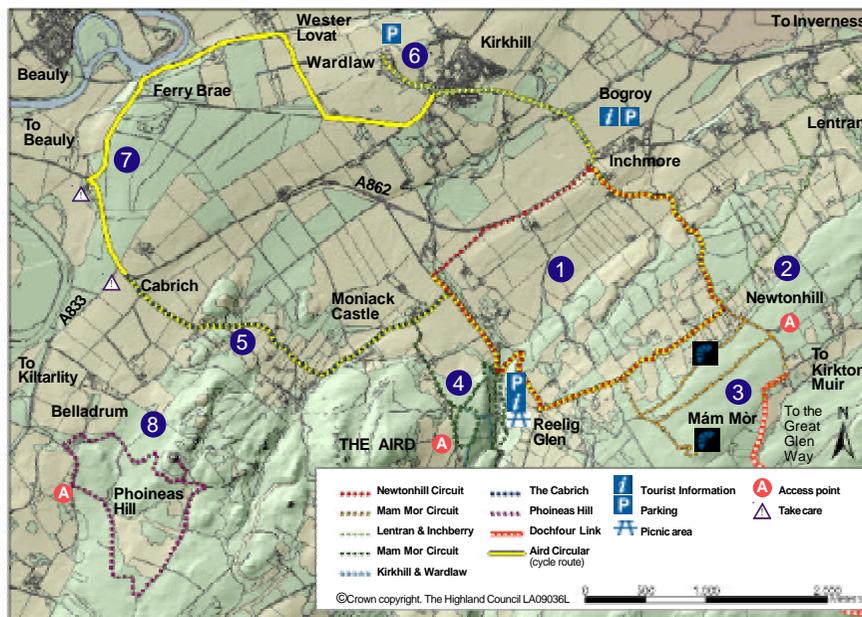
Following the quiet back roads through this old crofting community, the forested braes rise steeply on one side and the flat wetland mosses offer views on the other. Why not stop at the Moniack Wineries on your return.

Approx 8 kms round trip (5 miles)

Parking at Reelig Glen

Bus service to Bogroy Inn on A862 from Inverness and Dingwall

Easy - sensible footwear



6 Kirkhill and Wardlaw Mausoleum

A roadside path to the village of Kirkhill and to the burial ground used by the Clan Fraser of Lovat. Robert the Bruce's chamberlain was Sir Alexander Fraser. His brother, Sir Simon acquired the Bisset Lands around Beaully when he won the hand of its heiress, and these lands became the family home. The walk can be extended by following the cycle route as far as Ferry Brae.

Approx 5 kms round trip to the Mausoleum (3.1 miles)

Parking at Bogroy Inn or at the Mausoleum

Bus service from Inverness and Dingwall to the Bogroy Inn

Easy - sensible footwear



7 The Aird Cycle circuit

Explore the variety of the area on your bike. Start at the Bogroy Inn and follow the signs to Kirkhill. A short detour to the Mausoleum may be worthwhile. The route continues in the direction of Beaully via Lovat Bridge and Ferry Brae which overlooks the old ford to Beaully and the priory. Briefly joining the busy A862 (take care) via Cabrich to the Moniack Winery. You can opt to return to Bogroy Inn via the new link path or continue to Reelig Glen up the hill and along the Aird to Newtonhill. A brisk downhill section through the woods returns you to the start. The circuit follows easily cycled minor roads, but caution is needed on the A862.

Approx. 15 kms (10 miles) Long route

10 kms (7 miles) Short route omitting climbs and descents

8 Phoinneas Hill and Pictish Fort

A forest trail leading to a Pictish fort with dominating views overlooking the Aird to the east, Beaully and Ben Wyvis to the north with Strathfarrar and the mountain peaks to the west. On reaching the mast, the fort is situated on the promontory 100m to the NE. This private estate welcomes walkers to enjoy these quiet woods which can be accessed from the point marked on the map.

Approx 5 kms circuit (3.1 miles). Follow signs to Belladrum.

Parking at the forestry gate is limited. Please don't use verges.

Bus service from Inverness and Dingwall to the Kiltarlity turn

Easy - sensible footwear