



# 26 ABERDEENSHIRE BENNACHIE

▶ Distance: 6¾ miles/10.75km ▶ Time: 4½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



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FEATURE  
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Aberdeenshire views  
from Oxen Craig.



PHOTO: KEITH FERGUS



CHOSEN BY...

**KEITH FERGUS**

The shapely mountain of

Bennachie is a prominent focal point as you travel through Deeside, its unique profile visible for many miles around. Rising to 529m from the flat agricultural lands of Aberdeenshire, just west of Inverurie, Bennachie's twin tops of Oxen Craig and Mither Tap grant an unparalleled view, from the North Sea in the east to the mighty Cairngorms to the west.

## 1 Start

Begin from excellent Bennachie Visitor Centre, which sits a little south of Chapel of Garioch. From

car park, facing information board, turn L, follow green waymarks of Mither Tap Timeline Trail, heading east along firm woodland path. Keep following path, going straight on at two junctions. At the next junction go R, continue to follow the waymarked trail, passing house. Later path climbs to T-junction. Turn R then L at next waymark, where the walk soon rises above the treeline. A well-constructed path climbs steeply, passing through stone walls of old Pictish fort. Just before Mither Tap's summit, turn L at junction of paths and take final climb to 518m top. Distinctive hills such as Lochnagar, Ben Rinnes and Tap o' Noth are all visible.

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Bennachie Visitor Centre, Chapel of Garioch, AB51 5HX, grid ref NJ698216

**Is it for me?** Clear, firm woodland and hill paths. Some short, some steep ascents

**Stiles** None

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Inverurie  
**Refreshments**

Edwards Bar, Inverurie  
(Tel: 01467 647 213)

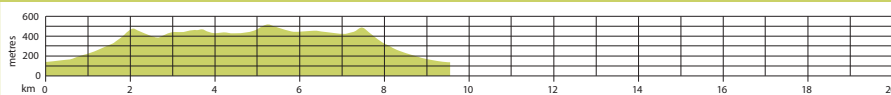
**Public toilets** At start  
**Public transport** none to start. Bus from Inverurie to Chapel of Garioch leaving 2 mile walk to start

**Maps** OS Explorer 421; Landranger 38

## 2 1½ miles/2.5km

Retrace steps short distance through fort to junction of paths, keep straight on, follow path easily, north north-west, across open

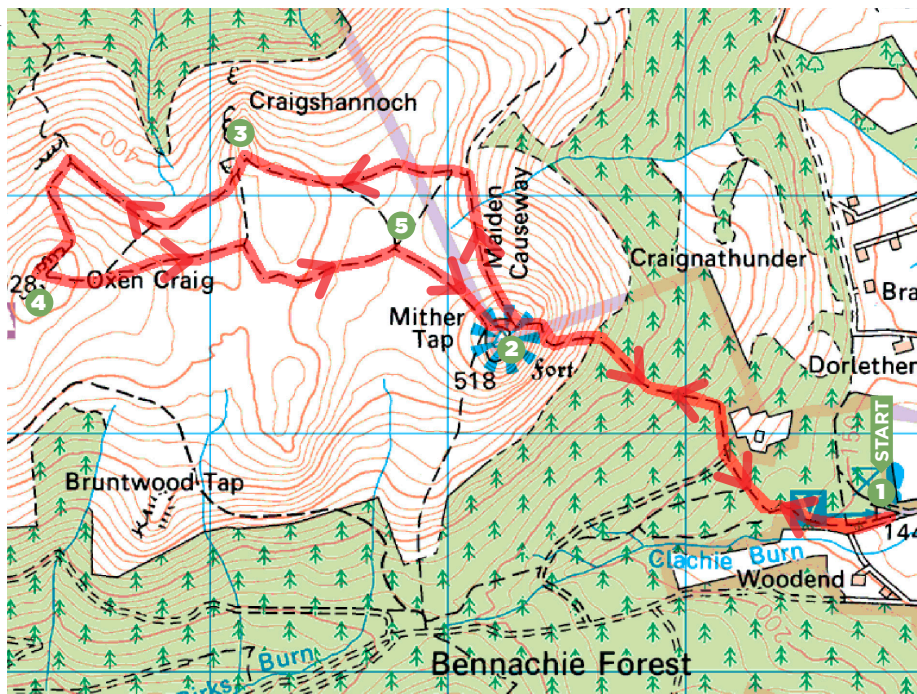
## GRADIENT PROFILE



# 26 ABERDEENSHIRE BENNACHIE

► OS Explorer map 421 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

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hillside. At junction keep L then continue on gentle ascent towards Craighannoch to next junction. Keep R then just beneath summit bear R, make final climb onto 482m top and further expansive views.

**3 2½ miles/4km**  
Descend back to main path, go R, drop down past path on L, continue northwest underneath Oxen Craig's lower slopes. Again path provides simple walking all the way to t-junction. Keep L and take steady climb in southerly direction onto Oxen Craig,

at 529m the highest point of route. It's another magnificent vantage point with the distant Cairngorms visible on clear day.

**4 3¾ miles/6km**  
Retrace steps a few feet from summit then bear R onto path, which drops down onto Bennachie's broad, flat plateau. Keep straight on, heading east, eventually climbing gently to fork. Go R with path continuing to another junction.

**5 5¼ miles/8.5km**  
Again go R, follow this southeast to base of Mither

Tap. Path ascends steadily to fork, beneath Mither Tap's striking northern rocky face. Go L, follow path around southern side of Mither Tap back to outward-bound route. From here retrace steps all the way back to start. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**

[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING