

Society of Advocates in Aberdeen Country Walk on Sunday 3 September 2017



The date and venue for this year's Society "hillwalk" have now been set. The walk this year will be less of a **hill**walk than usual and shorter than usual. It is hoped that members who find the term hillwalk off-putting will come along.

The hope was to have something around Ballater, perhaps following sections of the River Dee. However two bridges which would be important are still closed because of damage caused in December 2015 by Storm Frank.

The chosen route is a circuit round Loch Kinord, with a slight extension up the Burn o'Vat to visit the "Vat". The date will be Sunday 3rd September 2017. The starting point will be the car park at the Dinnet crossroads (parking fee £3). The starting time will be 11 am. The walk will be led by Richard Shirreffs.

Loch Kinord is situated within the Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve and is surrounded by woodland and heather moor. We will walk in from Dinnet, then work clockwise round the Loch, mostly following in reverse what is billed by the Nature Reserve as the Loch Kinord Trail. We skirt the south shore of the Loch, then head off through open woodland to the Burn o'Vat Visitor Centre (where there are toilets). The "Vat", about 500 metres up the eponymous Burn, is well worth seeing, even for those who have seen it before. Another track leads back to the Visitor Centre, after which we pick up again one of the nature trails. After some minor ups and downs in open woodland and passing an old Celtic Cross, we reach the north shore of the Loch, from which we see some islands, one of which is the remnant of a crannog. We then generally follow round the Loch close to the shore until we turn east, back out to Dinnet. The overall distance is only about 8 km (5 miles). All of the walking is on a track, some grassy, some stony, some finished in quarry dust. Robust footwear is advisable, but this need not amount to full walking boots. The scenery in general is excellent and there may be wildlife to be seen. A camera is recommended.

For refreshments after the walk, we could retreat to one of the hostelries in Aboyne.

Arrangements for meeting up and car-sharing will be finalised nearer the time, but in general terms we would possibly be aiming to leave Aberdeen about 9.45 am and to be walking by 11.

If you are interested, please let Maria Robertson know, preferably by e-mail. If you are interested but do not want to commit yourself, please nevertheless let her know of that.

