



LUMPHANAN CIRCULAR

● ● ● **Distance** 2.5 miles / 3.8 kms **Allow** 1 ½ hours

A refreshing, mostly shaded loop on clear paths and tracks. Follow Glen Road to the Stothert Memorial Church, turning left to rise gently up the Old Military Road. Absence of grazing in this woodland allows wild flowers to flourish - relics of the Ancient Woodland which once covered these slopes. In Spring the woodland is full of birdsong and in Autumn flocks of crossbills and wild geese can be heard overhead. Turn south after 700 metres at the kissing gate onto a wide grassy track through conifers, birches and rowans, to reach the high ground. Take in spectacular views to the Cairngorms and south Deeside, perhaps spotting a buzzard or red kite, before descending on a wide track to Glen Road. For a shorter option return via Glen Road and enjoy views over Lumphanan. To continue the loop, cross Glen Road, descend the steep, rough track. After passing the steadings, bear left onto the main farm track. Before reaching the main road, turn right across the timber bridge. Follow Lovers' Lane alongside the remains of the Deeside railway line, accompanied by the sound of the burn, where wetland plants flourish and maybe spot that bobbing brown bird, the Dipper. Over a second timber bridge continue straight on via the narrow path which dog-legs between houses to return to Station Square.



LUMPHANAN TO TULLOCHVENUS

● ● ● **Distance (one way)** 3.5 miles / 5.4 kms **Allow** 2 hours

Start with the first section of the Lumphanan Circular. At the kissing gate continue straight on to follow the Old Military Road. Cross the small burn on stepping stones and continue up the track as the woodland opens out to fields, giving long distance views to the north and south. At the high point the route crosses the watershed between the Dee and Don rivers, before descending to the Tarland Road at Tullochvenus.



LUMPHANAN TO KINCARDINE O' NEIL CENTRAL ROUTE

● ● ● **Distance (one way)** 3.5 miles / 5.4 kms **Allow** 2 hours

A fascinating walk over high ground tracing the route of the Old Military Road, through a varied terrain of fields, woods and forests, with stunning views in all directions.

Follow the footpath west from Lumphanan alongside the A980. At the second timber gate turn left to cross the road - with care. Follow the gently climbing Cairnbeathie track, with views of the impressive 13th Century Peel Ring Ancient Monument, and St Finan's Church in the original settlement of Lumphanan, prior to arrival of the railway. Turn left when you meet the road. At Newton of Auchlossan, fork left on to a track. After crossing the burn, turn right at the field gate, continuing along the green lane, before descending via Pitmurchie Road to Kincardine O'Neil.



LUMPHANAN TO KINCARDINE O' NEIL EAST ROUTE

● ● ● **Distance (one way)** 3.5 miles / 5.4 kms **Allow** 2 hours

An alternative which follows part of the Old Military Road, along rural roads and tracks which avoid livestock.

Follow the Central Route from Lumphanan to Kincardine O' Neil, forking left at the Newton of Auchlossan sign, descend the track and continue straight on at the junction. Follow the track uphill enjoying panoramic views over a landscape of pastures, woods and forest. Keep Hillhead Farm buildings to the right, descend the tarmac road to rejoin the Central Route (Old Military Road) at Pitmurchie Road.



LUMPHANAN TO KINCARDINE O' NEIL WEST ROUTE

● ● ● **Distance (one way)** 3.5 miles / 5.7 kms **Allow** 2 hours

An alternative route via winding rural roads and green lanes, with some slightly more demanding terrain compared to the Central and East Routes.

Bear right at the Newton of Auchlossan sign to follow the winding tarmac road to Oldtown. There are fine views over the Auchlossan lowlands to the west which would have been impassable prior to the drainage of the former loch in the 17th - 18th Centuries. The old droving and military routes followed high ground to avoid this area. Turn left at Oldtown, descending the winding track to cross the burn and through the field gate. This area can be very muddy after rain. The Right of Way becomes unclear, bearing left towards a ruin, then up the overgrown green lane between parallel dykes. However, for an easier route keep right, heading up hill to cross the field to the gate ahead at the top of the field. Through this gate, follow the well-defined track through the woodland and straight on to re-join the Central Route.



LUMPHANAN TO KINCARDINE O' NEIL TOWNHEAD ROUTE

● ● ● **Distance (one way)** 4.0 miles / 6.3 kms **Allow** 2 ¼ hours

The longest and most varied alternative, with slightly more demanding terrain.

Follow the West Route via Oldtown, down to the burn, crossing the field and through the gate onto the well-defined route through the woodland. After 150 metres, bear right at the first field gate on the right. Head south west, diagonally across the field to a small, ruined building. Follow the old green lane meandering between the stone dyke relics of an historic field system. At Townhead follow the waymarked grassy path to meet the road at a timber garage. Turn left to descend via leafy tracks and paths, turning left where it meets the Deeside Way.



DESS SPUR

● ● ● **Distance (one way)** 0.45 miles / 1.1 kms **Allow** 45 mins

Follow the Townhead Route to Townhead, turning right at the timber garage, then first left along the green lane, perhaps spotting the resident red squirrels or roe deer. At the gate, enter the forest and descend quite steeply on the forest track to Deeside Activity Park where you can enjoy well-earned refreshments. You can continue your journey to Kincardine O' Neil by retracing your steps to pick up the Townhead Route, or alternatively follow the forest tracks south to join the Deeside Way.

ABOUT LUMPHANAN

Lumphanan - a small village set in a stunning and productive landscape - is home to an active community and a fantastic network of paths. Our surroundings reveal a fascinating story of human endeavour over the centuries. We hope this insight into the local history adds to your interest and enjoyment. For more information visit www.lumphananpaths.org

The earliest inhabitants may have arrived around 10,000 years ago, as the last ice age receded. Small groups hunted and fished in the wide bowl of Lumphanan. Later, around 3,000 - 4,500 years ago, people settled here, living in round houses and tilling the first simple fields. Their burial mound cairns are still visible on high ground, such as Cairn Mude on Stot Hill, east of the walk to Kincardine O' Neil.

Later still, in the Dark Ages and Medieval times, simple dwellings were built on crannogs (artificial islands) in the huge loch of Auchlossan. Once covering the low area west of the present Deeside Activity Park, the loch was drained between the 17th and 19th Centuries. View it from the Lumphanan to Kincardine O Neil walk (Townhead and West Routes).

Lumphanan (Llan-finan) was established in 560 AD. As Christianity spread, St. Finan arrived from Ireland and established a church. The later St Finan's Parish Church, built in 1742, and the old Manse, can be seen from the Cairnbeathie track.

An ancient track - a main route from the south to Moray - passed through the Lumphanan area. Up this track in 1057 rode Malcolm and his loyal lieutenant, Macduff, pursuing Macbeth, King of Scotland. Macbeth was fleeing towards Moray, but he was murdered at Lumphanan by Macduff. The stone that traditionally marks the spot where Macbeth was mortally wounded sits near the railway embankment to the south of the Peel Ring.

In the 13th Century, the powerful Durward family built the Peel Ring of Lumphanan. The huge circular raised mound we see today was topped by a wooden palisade and surrounded by a moat, a safe place in times of skirmish and strife. You will have a bird's eye view from the Cairnbeathie track. Access it from the public road.

The historic trackways through Lumphanan can still be followed from Tullochvenus to Kincardine O' Neil. In the late 1700s herds of cattle were driven south to the markets in England. The drove road is still visible in the landscape today, mainly as the old military road and modern roads.

Military roads - constructed in the 18th Century - were part of a Scotland-wide network to improve the accessibility of the area after the rebellions of 1715 and 1745. The route from Fettercairn to Huntly and Fochabers, completed around 1764, passes through

Lumphanan, and may be an upgrade of the earlier drove road. The Old Military Road today forms the walking route from Tullochvenus through Lumphanan to Kincardine O Neil.

On the high ground south of Lumphanan historic field systems and deserted buildings can still be seen, having bypassed the 20th Century agricultural improvements. To the south of Oldtown, meandering stone dykes define old fields and a green lane, on the Lumphanan to Kincardine O' Neil walk (West and Townhead routes).

The Deeside railway was built around 1860, putting an end to cattle droving and shifting Lumphanan's centre to the east, around the new station. Although the railway is disused, its route and associated structures are still prominent in the landscape. A deep cutting, remains of an aqueduct and stone-lined channels, can be seen alongside the route of the Lovers' Lane path in Lumphanan.

Change is still evident today. Modern mixed farming and field patterns are the result of agricultural improvements since the 18th Century. 17th - early 20th Century farm buildings are increasingly falling into decline. 20th and 21st Century forest plantations have made it more difficult to see traces of ancient habitation such as crofts, field systems and cairns. Although little remains of our once wide-spread ancient woodlands, remnants can be enjoyed on less intensively managed land, like the upper parts of the Church Circular. With the onset of a changing climate, the loch of Auchlossan is beginning to flood regularly and increasingly supports wintering and resident birds.

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.



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BEFORE YOU GO

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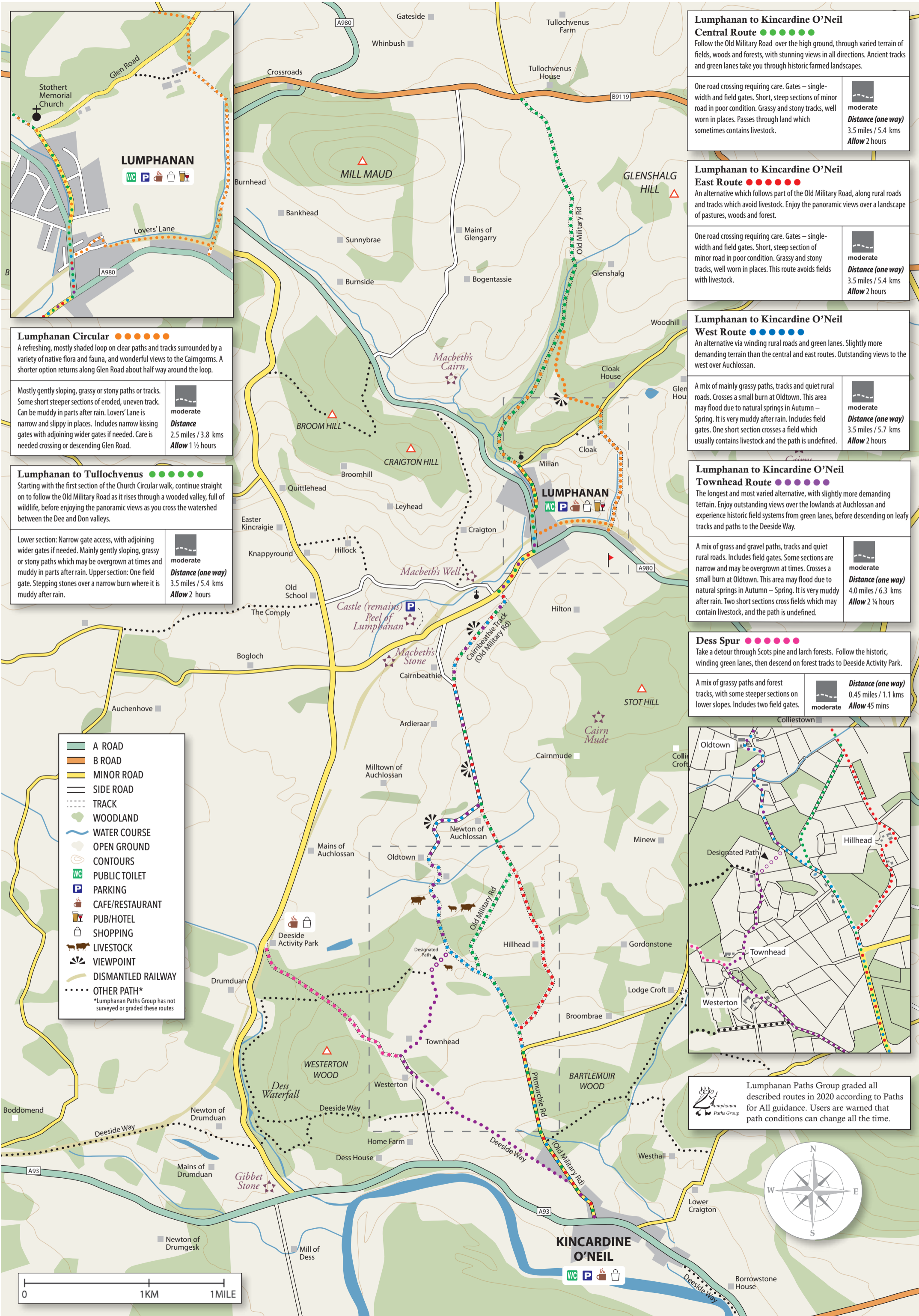
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Lumphanan Paths Group



www.lumphananpaths.org



Lumphanan to Kincardine O'Neil
Central Route ●●●●●●●●

Follow the Old Military Road over the high ground, through varied terrain of fields, woods and forests, with stunning views in all directions. Ancient tracks and green lanes take you through historic farmed landscapes.

One road crossing requiring care. Gates – single-width and field gates. Short, steep sections of minor road in poor condition. Grassy and stony tracks, well worn in places. Passes through land which sometimes contains livestock.

Distance (one way)
3.5 miles / 5.4 kms
Allow 2 hours

Lumphanan to Kincardine O'Neil
East Route ●●●●●●●●

An alternative which follows part of the Old Military Road, along rural roads and tracks which avoid livestock. Enjoy the panoramic views over a landscape of pastures, woods and forest.

One road crossing requiring care. Gates – single-width and field gates. Short, steep section of minor road in poor condition. Grassy and stony tracks, well worn in places. This route avoids fields with livestock.

Distance (one way)
3.5 miles / 5.4 kms
Allow 2 hours

Lumphanan to Kincardine O'Neil
West Route ●●●●●●●●

An alternative via winding rural roads and green lanes. Slightly more demanding terrain than the central and east routes. Outstanding views to the west over Auchlossan.

A mix of mainly grassy paths, tracks and quiet rural roads. Crosses a small burn at Oldtown. This area may flood due to natural springs in Autumn – Spring. It is very muddy after rain. Includes field gates. One short section crosses a field which usually contains livestock and the path is undefined.

Distance (one way)
3.5 miles / 5.7 kms
Allow 2 hours

Lumphanan to Kincardine O'Neil
Townhead Route ●●●●●●●●

The longest and most varied alternative, with slightly more demanding terrain. Enjoy outstanding views over the lowlands at Auchlossan and experience historic field systems from green lanes, before descending on leafy tracks and paths to the Deeside Way.

A mix of grass and gravel paths, tracks and quiet rural roads. Includes field gates. Some sections are narrow and may be overgrown at times. Crosses a small burn at Oldtown. This area may flood due to natural springs in Autumn – Spring. It is very muddy after rain. Two short sections cross fields which may contain livestock, and the path is undefined.

Distance (one way)
4.0 miles / 6.3 kms
Allow 2 ¼ hours

Dess Spur ●●●●●●●●

Take a detour through Scots pine and larch forests. Follow the historic, winding green lanes, then descend on forest tracks to Deeside Activity Park.

A mix of grassy paths and forest tracks, with some steeper sections on lower slopes. Includes two field gates.

Distance (one way)
0.45 miles / 1.1 kms
Allow 45 mins



Lumphanan Paths Group graded all described routes in 2020 according to Paths for All guidance. Users are warned that path conditions can change all the time.

