

3•6 Aviemore to Kincaig and beyond

The Kincaig extension opened in 2015 and added a further 6½ miles (10.5 km) to the Speyside Way: see map panel 4a. It runs mainly on purpose-built, multi-user footpath with many gates, also using roadside pavements, tracks and minor roads. It's generally level, but with short, sharp undulations in places. It passes through farmland and beautiful birch and oak woodlands, with fine views of the Cairngorms. Food and drink are available at Aviemore, Dalraddy Holiday Park and Kincaig. As of mid-2016, there was no SSW waymarking between the Aviemore information boards and the B970 junction, but from there to Kincaig it was fully waymarked.



For a day out from Aviemore, the extension could be combined with part of the Badenoch Way (see page 53) to make a 14-mile circuit, or you can use the local Stagecoach bus service (Newtonmore-Carrbridge route, see www.stagecoachbus.com) once you reach Kincaig.

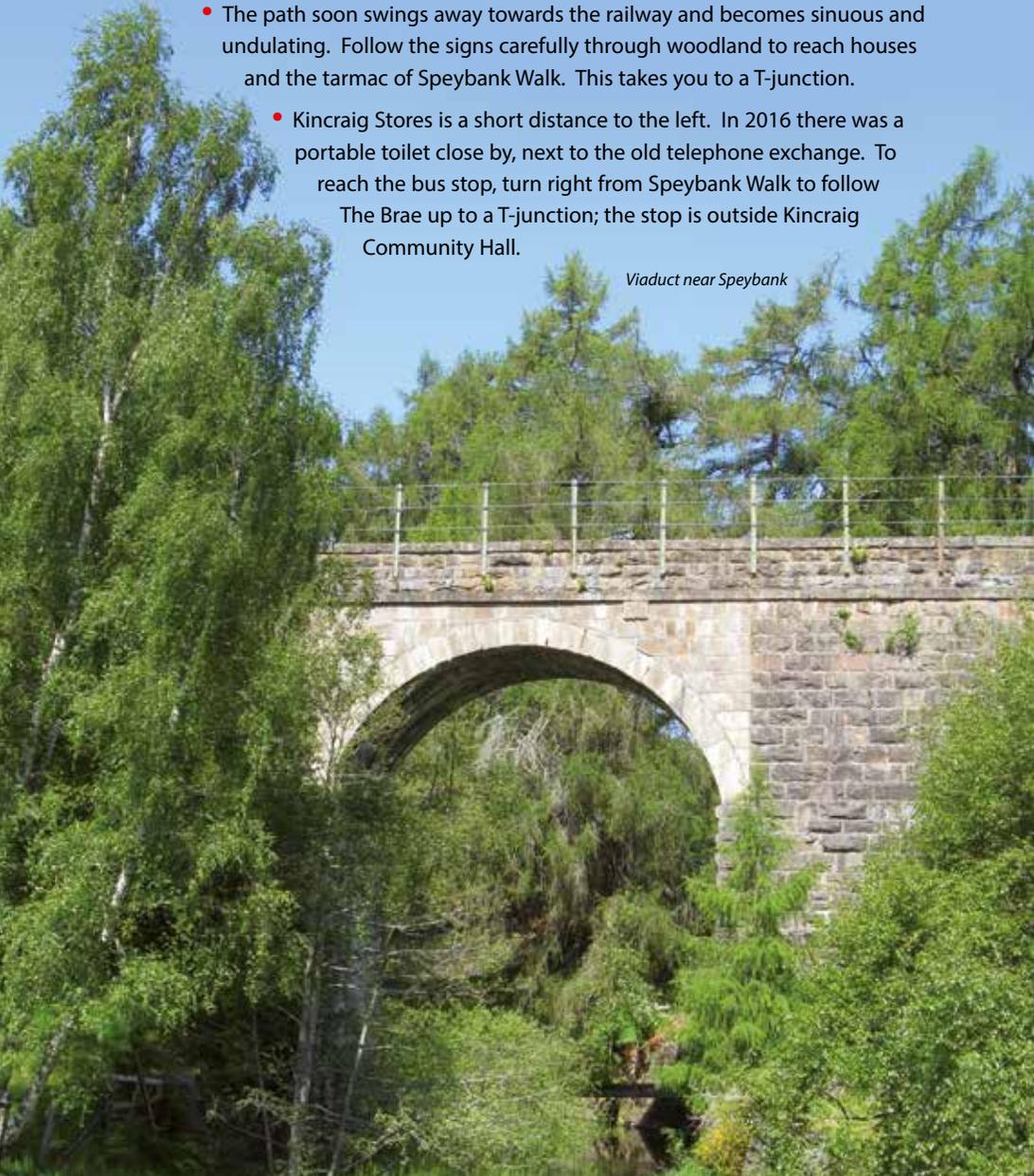
- From Aviemore station cross the busy Grampian Road (B9152) at the pedestrian crossing lights. Walk south to an SSW sign just past the B970 junction. The path, shared with cyclists, starts a little further on. Follow it beside the minor road for 0.8 m (1.2 km), then cross over with care.
- Continue down a vehicle track, through an underpass beneath the railway and around to the right. The railway is your companion most of the way to Kincaig. Ahead to the south-west, the column on the wooded summit of Torr Alvie is the Duke of Gordon monument.
- Continue through open fields. Cross the footbridge over Allt-na-Criche and go on through attractive open woodland with the slopes of Torr Alvie rising to the left. Soon you are rewarded with glimpses of Loch Alvie through the trees on the right.

Footbridge near Dalraddy



- Beyond the woodland, after an open field and more woodland, you soon reach a vehicle track leading through an underpass. This leads to Dalraddy Holiday Park and the start of the Badenoch Way.
- Beyond a straight, open stretch, pass through a small conifer plantation. Then reach the hamlet of Speybank, where you follow a short section of tarmac road. Where the road bends right, veer left along the path through woodland, soon with the River Spey below, at the foot of a steep bank.
 - The path soon swings away towards the railway and becomes sinuous and undulating. Follow the signs carefully through woodland to reach houses and the tarmac of Speybank Walk. This takes you to a T-junction.
 - Kinraig Stores is a short distance to the left. In 2016 there was a portable toilet close by, next to the old telephone exchange. To reach the bus stop, turn right from Speybank Walk to follow The Brae up to a T-junction; the stop is outside Kinraig Community Hall.

Viaduct near Speybank





4.1 The Badenoch Way

This 11-mile (18 km) waymarked route links Dalraddy on the B9152 with Ruthven on the B970 near Kingussie. When completed, the Speyside Way extension to Newtonmore will include more of the Badenoch Way: see www.speysideway.org for updates. The Way follows rough and well-surfaced paths and tracks, quite boggy in places. It passes through deciduous woodland, fields, riversides and loch shores and has fine views of the Cairngorms.

The route is shown on map panel 4a and it can be walked in either direction, or combined with the Speyside Way Kincaig extension to form a circuit between Aviemore and Kincaig. A Stagecoach bus service (Newtonmore-Carrbridge via Aviemore) passes through Kincaig: see www.stagecoachbus.com. Food and drink are available at Dalraddy, Kincaig, Loch Insh Watersports Centre and Kingussie.

From Dalraddy Holiday Park, go under the railway, cross the Speyside Way, then cross a broad field to pick up a path through conifers. This leads to the hamlet of Speybank, from which paths through oakwoods, high above the River Spey, take you to Kincaig. Cross the River Spey here, then skirt Loch Insh, go past the Watersports Centre and through the RSPB woodlands. After crossing the B970, the Way zigzags up Farleiter hill: it's worth diverting briefly to the signposted viewpoint.

After descending Creag Farleiter, the Way follows the old road behind Insh village and passes through the hamlet of Inveruglas to Drumguish. Here it crosses the Tromie River. Afterwards it passes through Insh Marshes Nature Reserve, one of Europe's most important wetlands: www.rspb.org.uk. The Way ends at the RSPB car park, half a mile short of Ruthven Barracks – worth a detour. These walls stand as they were on the day after the Battle of Culloden in 1746, when departing Jacobite troops set fire to them.

Ruthven Barracks

