

## 3·3 Craigellachie to Ballindalloch

**Map** panel 2 (inside back cover)

**Distance** 12 miles 19 km

**Terrain** disused railway trackbed

**Grade** flat

**Food and drink** Craigellachie, Aberlour and Ballindalloch (shop)

**Side-trips** Aberlour Distillery, Speyside Visitor Centre (Aberlour)

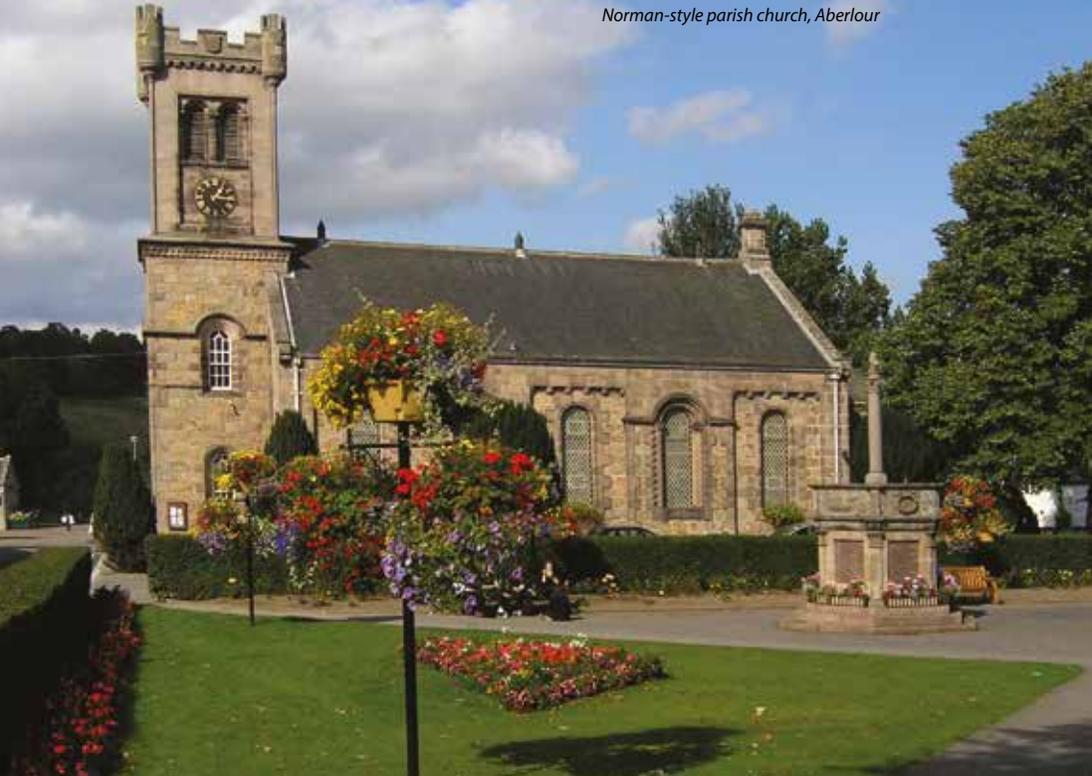
**Summary** easy walking through mixed scenery of wooded valley, riverside and farmland



From your accommodation, resume the Way either via Fiddich Park or by descending the steps at the Highlander Inn and turning left.

Follow the railway trackbed for two miles (3 km) to Aberlour, sandwiched between the road (embanked high on your left) and the River Spey (below to your right). Listen for the echo as you walk through the only tunnel on this railway.

*Norman-style parish church, Aberlour*



- Aberlour offers a wide range of services and accommodation, and has a fine Norman-style parish church. Cross beside the putting green to visit the Speyside Visitor Centre in the former station (when open). There are benches with riverside views, or cross the river on the rickety Victoria Bridge or 'Penny Brig'.
- To visit Aberlour Distillery, turn left immediately after the cemetery, following the path between the cemetery wall and the Lour Burn. Cross the A95 and burn to reach the distillery: see panel. For an atmospheric wooded walk to a pretty waterfall, follow the path upstream for a further half-mile to reach the Linn Falls, also called the Linn of Ruthrie.



Victoria Bridge, Aberlour



**Aberlour Distillery, Aberlour**  
 Offers in-depth tour with local history as well as whisky-making and tasting, twice daily at 10.00 and 14.00 on weekdays year-round and also at weekends in season (Easter to October). The cost in 2016 was £14: see page 23. Allow two hours and book in advance: tel 01340 881 249.

- Beyond Aberlour, the railway trackbed climbs gently, passing the old Dailuaine Halt. This old platform was built entirely from railway sleepers, and has a picnic table. The Way then crosses the Spey by Carron Bridge, a 'listed' structure and the only bridge of its kind to carry road and rail side-by-side.

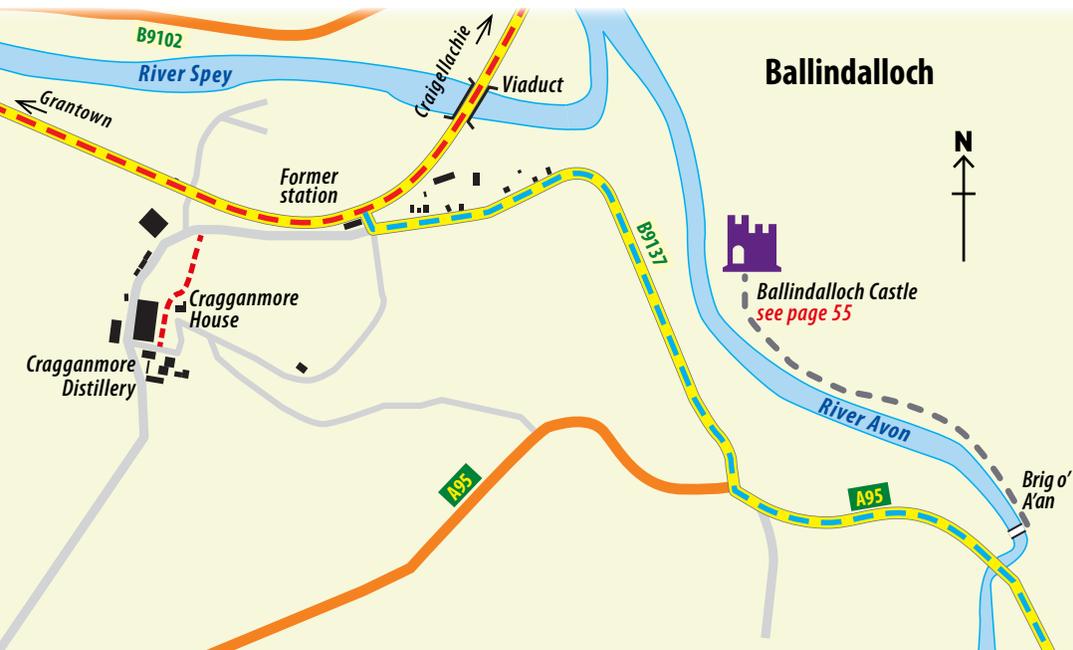
Aberlour Station





*Whisky casks housing floral display, Carron*

- Beyond Carron, the river makes intermittent appearances on your left as the track winds past places with lovely Gaelic names such as Dalmunach, Millhaugh, Dalbeallie and Tamdhu. You pass Cardhu Distillery at Knockando, which offers tours on weekdays year-round, also weekends in season: tel 01479 874 635.
- After leaving Tamdhu, the Way crosses the spectacular Cally Bridge, and makes its way past Blacksboat Station, now a private house. There may be a water tap near the old goods shed (south of the station).
- Walk past Pitchroy Lodge, across a wobbly timber suspension bridge, then toward and across the old viaduct to the former station at Ballindalloch.
- For the Tomintoul spur, leave the Way here and turn left (east) along the B9137: see below and page 55. To reach Cragganmore Distillery or House, instead turn right (west) past the station along the access road: see below.



## 3•4 Ballindalloch to Grantown-on-Spey

Map panels 2 and 3 (inside back cover)

Distance **13 miles** 21 km

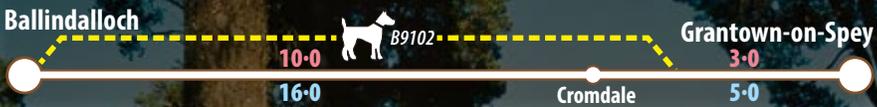
Terrain disused railway trackbed, forest roads, unsurfaced tracks, often wet underfoot, with stepping stones

Grade moderate: undulating, with some short steep sections

Food and drink Ballindalloch (shop), Cromdale, Grantown

Side-trips none, but if accompanied by a dog, bypass the Ballindalloch-Cromdale section using the B9102

Summary rougher, more challenging walking, with good views; lovely pinewoods between Cromdale and Grantown



*Anagach Wood, near Grantown-on-Spey*



**Throughout this section, beware of cattle on short sections between the channel fencing, which is there for your protection.**

*Bird Cherry*

- Walk west from Ballindalloch Station along the old railway trackbed. After about one mile, turn left uphill towards the A95. This path has some boggy sections with stepping stones which can be slippery. The black chimney and white buildings on the left are Tormore distillery.
- Cross the A95 with care, then walk beside the road and turn left uphill into Garvault wood. After a section of forest road, there's a steep grassy descent.
- Outside the wood, descend again to cross the Burn of Coire Seilleach by steps and a timber footbridge.
- Ascend the other side of the gully and follow the forest roads curving through Knockfrink woods. You emerge above Mains of Dalvey farm, with good views.
- Entering Cairngorms National Park (marked by a boundary stone), the path undulates through grazing land and birch wood, fenced in places (beware cattle). There's a mix of grassy sections, stepping stones, surfaced track and a few short steep slopes. In wet weather it's boggy in places and the path sometimes obscure.
- Cross a minor road, turn right then bear left uphill to enter Tom an Uird wood, climbing on forest roads again.
- After two miles, you leave the wood at Pollowick, and cross the A95 again before resuming the southwesterly trend.

*South from the Way in Knockfrink woods*





Cromdale Station, now a private house

- Follow the old railway track to Cromdale Station, now lovingly restored and used as a private house. Turn right beside Kirk Road to cross the Spey by road bridge.
- For the next two miles, the Way follows quiet paths through the beautiful Anagach pinewoods, managed to encourage the rare capercaillie which you may hear or even sight: see page 29.
- Your approach to Granttown-on-Spey is via Golf Course Road and past the museum. Alternatively, continue along the Way to Forest Road, which leads to the main square.

Granttown was founded in 1766 by Sir James Grant of Grant ('the good Sir James'). He planned its schools, roads and linen and wool factories. It still has fine stone buildings, but nowadays its population (about 2500) depends mainly on visitors for a living (walking, fishing and other outdoor sports). Granttown hosts a major agricultural show on the second Thursday in August. To tune in to local usage, note that Granttown marks the end of *Speyside*; from here southward, you are in *Strathspey* – *strath* means valley.

