

Walk Cults: Nature, Heritage, the River Dee and Climate Change

This walk was originally planned by the Cults, Bieldside Community Council for the 29th March as part of Climate Change Week 2020. Following cancellation, it was thought residents might wish to do the walk as individuals. The walk was to include short talks (5 minutes) on local nature and how climate change is, and will, impact on these and the River Dee. Also, brief talks of some local heritage passed along the route. The nature and environmental impact talks were to be given by local naturalists Alistair Watson and Lina-Elvira Bäck (Kaimhill Ecology), and the heritage talks by members of the CBMCC Heritage Group. A synopsis of the heritage talks may be downloaded as a separate sheet as may the nature and climate change aspects.

The basic walk is 1.5 miles (Cults Hotel, Cults Station, Allan Park, River Dee, Shakkin Briggie, Den of Cults) with option to extend (Inchgarth Reservoir, River Dee, back along Deeside Way) – options of 3.5 or 4.2 miles (RGU).



Some parts of the paths are wet and rough in places, with tree roots etc. Sections of the river bank have been eroded so extra care is essential. Not suitable for young children or buggies. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear – walking boots advised

Start and Finish: Outside Cults Hotel, North Deeside Road, Cults.

From Cults Hotel, cross the North Deeside Road and head down to Cults Station via Station Road.

Turn west along the Deeside Way and then go down Park Brae to Allan Park.

From the lower part, climb to the higher part of the park on the south side and take the path to the river. At the river turn left and head east till you come to Dr. Morrison's bridge, commonly referred to as the Shakkin' Briggie.

Opposite the bridge is Fairview.

Those who wish to return to Cults Hotel at this stage should walk up the Den of Cults, opposite the bridge, which goes under the Deeside Way and direct to the hotel. Those continuing carry along Inchgarth road and turn in at the entrance to Inchgarth reservoir and follow the road round the

reservoir till just before the gates. A rough path to the left takes you down to the river. Head downstream with great care as the river has eroded away the path in several places. On the other side of the river is a mainly shingle island. Approximately the end of the island the path divides. For those who want to take option 2 turn left in-land. There is a waymarker on a birch tree. Once you reach the base of the steep wooded bank turn left along a pleasant wood lined track and another signpost will indicate when to re-join the tarmac road around the reservoir. From here return to Shakin Briggie and up Den of Cults to Cults hotel.

For those carrying on along the river path you will soon reach the abutment of a demolished bridge.

At the end of the 'old island' the path turns towards the wooded steep bank (you might be lucky and catch a glimpse of a kingfisher here) and it becomes easier as you approach the campus with sections of boardwalk and wooden steps. Ignore the first step of steps up the bank where the path turns right along the river bank. A flight of steps leads up from the river to access the university grounds where surfaced paths and roads lead to Garthdee Road. Turn west and when you reach a sharp bend turn right into the new estate 'Den of Pitfodels'. Head along Garthdee Farm Gardens road and at the back, diagonally opposite the entrance, there is a path through to Deeside Way. Turn left (west) and return to Cults Station and back up to Cults Hotel.

Any queries or comments to footpathgroup@cbmcommunity.org.uk