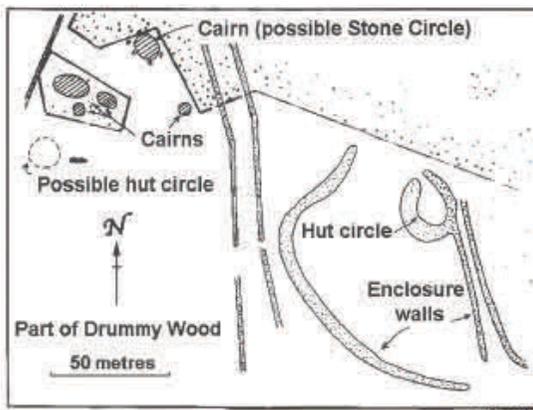


Drummy Wood

After you cross the main road the path enters the wood, swings right and then goes along a short section of farm access track. Once you turn right off the track you are walking through a landscape that shows signs of human activities dating back to at least 2,000 years ago. Most of the remains are concentrated in the area around the north-east corner of the adjacent field on the left. The signs are subtle but the careful observer will see old trackways and small grass covered hummocks. The hummocks are heaps of stones that were cleared off the surrounding ground to make cultivation easier. The Iron Age people simply grew their crops round about the heaps.

There are also larger cairns which might have marked a burial, enclosure walls and several "hut circles". These (usually incomplete) rings of large stones are the foundation courses of circular houses which probably had turf or mud walls. They are difficult to spot because of the growth of broom and woody scrub that has invaded this part of the wood. The path crosses the remnants of two parallel stone walls near the point where the path marked by a blue arrow branches off your route. Parallel walls were commonly used to line tracks where animals would be driven out to the fields each day. This is a strong clue that the people here were dairy farmers. There was a crofting community in Drummy into the 20th century but few clues now remain.



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This walk is across land owned by The MacRobert Trust, on paths created by the Trust in co-operation with the Tarland Development Group and the Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust.

This leaflet is published by Cromar History Group
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Tarland History Walks 1

This leaflet is designed as a supplement to the Tarland Development Group's **Walks Around Tarland** leaflet and gives a little more information on the sites of historical interest that you will pass along the way on the **Brown** walk.

There is another leaflet describing the **Green** walk and, if you feel energetic, you can combine the two into one 10km round walk by following the linking path marked black on the map on the back page.

Both walks start and finish in the Square in the centre of Tarland. However if time is short or you don't want to walk so far there are various parking places shown on the Walks Around Tarland map where you can pull in to make short visits to various locations.



Tomnaverie

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www.cromarhistorygroup.org.uk

Waymarking

On this route you will be following route markers consisting of a black arrow in a white disk labelled "Circular Route". Ignore any other coloured arrows.



Tarland Square

The square, with its traditional granite buildings, has hardly changed for over a century. The newest building is the MacRobert Hall, built in 1951 to replace the earlier hall.

At the western end of the square stands the war memorial. It depicts the figure of a private in the Gordon Highlanders in World War 1 uniform. It was carved in 1920 by Robert Warrack Morrison 1890-1945, who has been described as, "the consummate granite craftsman of the 20th century."

At the eastern end of Tarland Square is a memorial to Peter Milne 1824-1908, a native of Tarland. He was a famous fiddler and composer in his day and several of his compositions are established favorites in the Scots fiddle repertoire.

Behind the memorial is the remains of St. Mathuloch's church and churchyard. The church has the inscribed date 1762 but this may mark the date of renovation of an already existing building. The church went out of use after St Moluag's Church was built in 1870. The churchyard contains many interesting old graves.

In The Beginning

Just after you cross the footbridge over the Tarland Burn there is a sculpture by Janet McEwan, commissioned by Tarland Development Group in 2000. The granite boulders etched with Pictish inspired symbols might be thought of as symbolizing eggs but are also suggestive of the enigmatic carved stone balls which have been found throughout north-east Scotland and date back to some 5,000 years ago.

Tomnaverie

This ancient monument is a recumbent stone circle, one of only 69 remaining in existence. These are unique to north-east Scotland and they are the only type of stone circle in which the largest stone lies flat (hence recumbent) framed by the two tallest upright stones. The other upright stones are graded in height, decreasing with distance from the recumbent stone.

Inside the ring of standing stones you can still trace the remnants of the circular kerb which held in place the boulders of a low cairn with a hollow centre. The stones of the cairn were carefully arranged according to their colour. The recumbent stone was not a sacrificial altar, as might be imagined, but current thinking is that it symbolizes a closed door, sealing in the sanctity of the monument and keeping out any evil influences.

The monument was built some 4,500 years ago by the Bronze Age farmers who occupied the land on the lower slopes of the surrounding countryside. This was a place 'designed to communicate with the past on behalf of the future.' In other words it is thought to have been a place to honour their ancestors and to pray for a good harvest.

The Tarland Nuclear Bunker

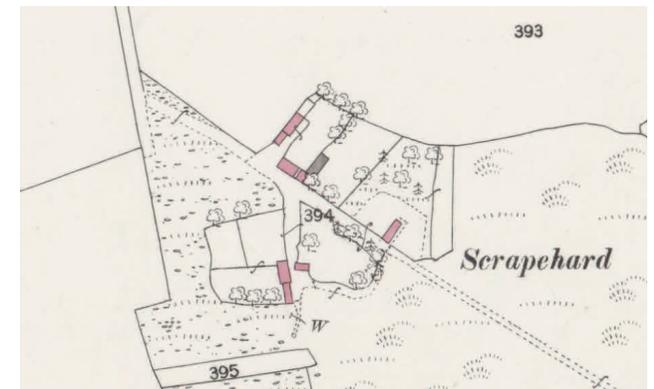
Just to the south-west of Tomnaverie lies a relic of the Cold War era. What you see above the ground is the entrance to an underground nuclear bunker. This was staffed by local volunteers of the Royal Observer Corps and is one of a large

network that existed all across Britain. The intention was, if a nuclear attack was imminent, a small group of ROC members would enter the bunker and, with luck, survive the blast, monitor the radiation levels and report back to central command.

In addition to the instruments and a radio set, the bunker was fitted with beds, a toilet and a supply of food and water to enable the observers to survive underground for some time. The one flaw in the plan was that one of the observers would have to come to the surface to read the monitoring instruments and be exposed to whatever radiation was in the locality. How well they survived after that would be a bit of a lottery.

Scrapehard

The path descends through the fields from the bunker and, as you reach the gravel road and turn right, you are walking through what remains of the settlement of Scrapehard. Like many similar settlements in the area, it was home to several families until the First World War. The 1870 Ordnance Survey map shows four occupied houses here. If you look carefully you can still see the outlines of the house foundations and the enclosure walls on the right hand side of the road. The name alone tells us how hard it would have been to eke a living from this patch of stony land.



Scrapehard in 1870