

## Welcome to Tomintoul

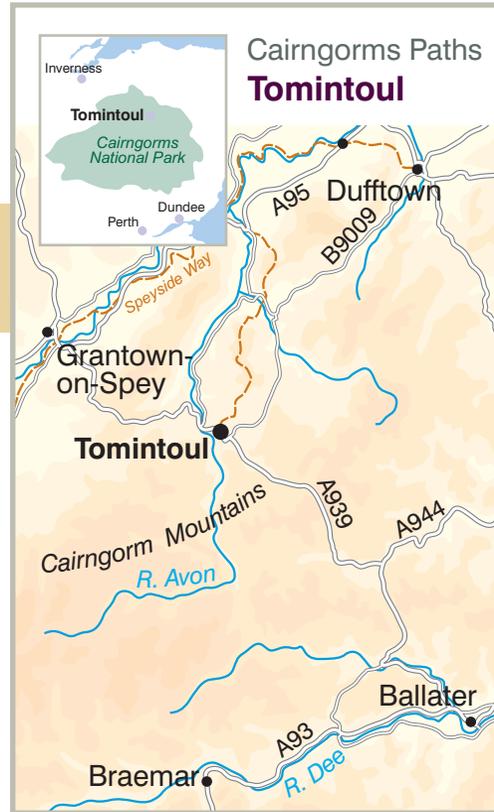
At 1,165 feet (350m) above sea level Tomintoul is the highest village in the Highlands. Coming from the Gaelic words meaning "the mound of the barn" or "the barn knoll" Tomintoul was originally founded in the late 1700's by the Duke of Gordon. The Duke's plan was to encourage scattered tenants to move to a "planned" village. Today the village still retains this "planned" character with its wide main street, square and grid layout.



## Tomintoul Trails

A network of paths and tracks leads out of the village. With something for everyone, these provide inspiring views, rich local history and abundant wildlife. Follow the colour coded waymarkers so that you don't get lost.

Tomintoul sits within Glenlivet Estate, part of The Crown Estate, where visitors are welcome to explore the paths and tracks on foot, by bike and on horseback. To find out more about the estate and other walks in the area drop in to the Estate Visitor Centre at the top of the main street.



For information on paths, local events, facilities and accommodation:

### Visitor Information Centres:

Tomintoul: 01807 580 285

Glenlivet Estate: 01479 870 070

Granttown-on-Spey: 01479 872 242

Useful web sites:

[www.glenlivetestate.co.uk](http://www.glenlivetestate.co.uk)  
[www.glenlivet-cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.glenlivet-cairngorms.co.uk)  
[www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)  
[www.visitcairngorms.com](http://www.visitcairngorms.com)  
[www.walkhighlands.co.uk](http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk)

If you enjoyed 'Tomintoul Trails' then look out for other Community Path Leaflets to help you explore more of the Cairngorms National Park.

# Tomintoul Trails

Explore the highest village in the Highlands



# Tomintoul Trails



half mile

one kilometre

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| road                |  |
| track               |  |
| path                |  |
| toilets             |  |
| car park            |  |
| viewpoint           |  |
| all-abilities trail |  |
| information centre  |  |

## Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

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



Please keep dogs on leads around livestock

## Bridge of Avon Link

**Description:** Essentially a spur from Tomintoul Circular Walk through woodland and farmland to the old Bridge of Avon. The bridge was built during construction of the military road in 1754 and was renovated after the new road bridge was built in the late 1970s. The bridge and picnic site give an excellent vantage point for viewing this lovely river and its wildlife.

**Distance:** 1¾ miles (3km) ONE WAY

**Approx Time:** 1 hour

**Start:** Main Square

**Terrain:** Mostly paths and tracks but with road crossing. Short, steep sections with steps.

## Tomintoul Circular Walk

**Description:** Circular walk through countryside around the village giving fine views to surrounding hills and opportunities to see wader birds in spring. Path also links to Speyside Way Spur and Bridge of Avon. See map.

**Distance:** 2½ miles (4km)

**Approx Time:** 1½ hours

**Start:** Main Square

**Terrain:** Mostly quiet lanes, paths and tracks but with main road crossing. One steep section with steps. See map for details.

## Tomintoul Country Walk

**Description:** A pleasant circuit alongside the River Avon which passes Queen Victoria's Viewpoint overlooking Glen Avon.

**Distance:** 4½ miles (7 kms)

**Approx Time:** 3 hours

**Start:** Main car park in village. For a shorter walk use Queen's View car park.

**Terrain:** Minor roads and tracks.

## Speyside Way Tomintoul Spur

**Description:** Pass through woodland into fields which often contain livestock. Please take care not to disturb farm animals and keep dogs on a lead. On reaching minor road the Speyside Way continues north to Glenlivet. However, you can retrace your route back to the Square or return to Tomintoul via minor road and B 9008 to give a circular route with fine views as shown on the map.

**Distance:** 2½ miles (4km) circular route

**Approx Time:** 1 hour

**Start:** Main Square

**Terrain:** Farm track and rough path, crosses open farmland, minor road with mostly no footway.

## Woodland Nature Trail

**Description:** Short trail with variety of labelled native trees and shrubs to allow you to brush up on your identification skills!

**Distance:** one third of a mile (0.5 km)

**Approx Time:** ¼ - ½ hour

**Start and finish:** Glenlivet Estate Information Centre, south end of village.

**Terrain:** Surfaced paths with slight gradients in places. Suitable for wheelchairs and buggies.

## Old Military Road

**Description:** March, walk, cycle or just dawdle in the footsteps of 18<sup>th</sup> century redcoats along a section of old military road. Lovely views over the Conglass valley and farmland to Ben Rinnes.

**Distance:** 1¼ miles (2kms) ONE WAY

**Approx Time:** ½ hour each way.

**Start and finish:** Glenlivet Estate Information Centre, south end of village.

**Terrain:** Rough forest track.

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## Wildlife

In the spring and summer the wet meadows around the village are noisy with the calls of wading birds, such as lapwing. The National Park contains the most important inland breeding sites of these waders and the fields around Tomintoul are a crucial part of this success.



The woodlands around the village are rich in flowers, birds and animals. Home to roe deer and red squirrels, the woods are alive with birds such as redstarts and spotted flycatchers in summer and ablaze with ragged robin and devils bit scabious. If you look hard enough you'll find delicate heath spotted orchids.

The rivers are a great place to see birds like dippers and grey wagtails hunt insects above and below the water.

## Redcoats and Reivers

Positioned near the crossing of the River Avon, Tomintoul has always provided an important stopover for weary travellers, cattle drovers and soldiers. Following the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 the military road arrived in Tomintoul carving a line in the landscape linking the forts at Corgarff, Braemar and north to Fort George on the coast, bringing occupation to these wild lands and quelling the insurgents. Even in peaceful times cattle drovers had to be wary of reivers (rustlers) stealing cattle away through the passes back to the western Highlands.



## Travellers and Tourists

With its warm highland hospitality, Tomintoul has always been a welcome resting place for tourists. Queen Victoria paused on her travels in 1860 and was so taken with the view over the River Avon that she wrote about it in her Highland diaries.

Today visitors can find out about the village at the museum and visitor centre in the square, and enjoy local shops and tearooms.



## Let the Games begin!

Tomintoul Games are one of the oldest traditional highland games in Scotland. People come from miles around to test their strength at the games on the third Saturday in July. A great family day out and a chance to have a go!