

Welcome to Nethy Bridge

Nethy Bridge is nestled on the edge of Abernethy Forest, in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. The River Nethy runs through the centre of the village, with the mountains providing an impressive backdrop.



Walks



Nethy Bridge has a network of way-marked paths, including an all-abilities trail. The paths are generally low level and range from 1.5 to 5 miles in length.

The Speyside Way passes through Nethy, linking the village to both Boat of Garten and Grantown-on-Spey.

Before starting out on a walk, why not drop into the Explore Abernethy Visitor Centre to browse the displays and learn more about the history and wildlife on your chosen route?

Explore Abernethy

We are a small, voluntary organisation established in 1997 which aims to celebrate and promote the natural and cultural heritage of the village for visitors and local people alike. We rely on the generosity of funders, sponsors and donations to cover the on-going costs of maintaining the path network and Visitor Centre for all to enjoy.



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

Explore Abernethy:

Nethy Bridge Visitor Centre

Ranger: **07771 704440**

communityranger@rspb.org.uk

Visitor Information Centres:

Aviemore: **01479 810930**

Grantown Museum: **01479 872478**

Useful websites:

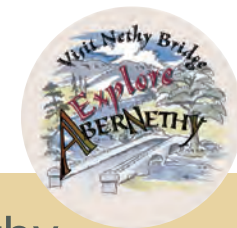
nethybridge.com

visitcairngorms.com

cairngorms.co.uk

If you enjoyed Nethy Bridge Paths then look out for other Community Path Leaflets to help you explore more of the Cairngorms National Park.

Nethy Bridge



Explore Abernethy



Abernethy Forest



Abernethy Forest has been widely exploited for timber over hundreds of years. Historically, pine had many uses including: shipbuilding, railway sleepers, construction and pitprops in mines.



Timber!



Forestry grew to be the area's second most important industry, after agriculture. Coulnakyle (near the Broomhill walk) was built in 1765 to a design by the architect John Adam and formed the centre of the forestry operations.

Regeneration



In 1855 a tree nursery was established on the edge of Dell Wood. Giant Wellingtonia trees and beech hedges still mark the entrance. Pine seed was gathered locally and grown to replant the forest.



The nursery closed in 1984 as natural regeneration exceeded replanting. It is now a National Nature Reserve and is managed for its conservation value by NatureScot and the RSPB.

The forest supports a wide variety of rare species such as capercaillie, Scottish crossbills and red squirrels. It is an important part of the mosaic of pine forest that stretches across the National Park. You can help our wildlife by keeping dogs on a lead when walking in the forest from March to August, during the breeding season.



The River



Abernethy means the mouth of the River Nethy and, as the name suggests the River Nethy meets the River Spey close to the village.

Water for power



Duack Sawmill was powered by water from a lade which ran along the King's Road. Built in 1860, the lade ran for half a mile from the Duack Burn to the Sawmill.

Water for transport



Before the mid-nineteenth century, the fast-flowing waters of the Rivers Nethy and Spey were used to float cut timbers from the forest to the sawmills or the coast. This was a hazardous and highly skilled operation for the men guiding rafts and loose logs downstream.

The Railway



In 1863 the railway arrived at Broomhill, and later at Nethy Bridge, bringing a faster, more efficient and more reliable means of transport for timber, livestock and visitors.

You can still see the station yard where great stacks of wood stood awaiting transport, just downstream of Nethy Bridge. Light railways were built to move timber to the railway mainline.

You can also still experience a trip behind a steam engine, as the Strathspey Railway reopened Broomhill Station in 2002. Combining a train trip and one of our way-marked walks is a great and 'green' way to get to and from Nethy Bridge. There is also a regular bus service.



If you enjoyed 'Exploring Abernethy' then look out for other community paths leaflets covering other parts of the National Park.

Picture Credits:

Front cover: 'Exploring Abernethy' © Sandy McCook. Welcome to Abernethy: 'Nethy Bridge and Cairngorms' © Sandy McCook. Timber!: 'Victorian sawmill' © The Highland Council. 'Forest Regeneration' © Explore Abernethy. 'Red Squirrel' © SNH. The Railway: 'Broomhill Station' © H.Pollock/Strathspey Railway Company.

Broomhill Trail

A beautiful walk along the River Nethy to Broomhill Bridge and back. Fantastic for spotting dippers.

Mostly narrow, grassy and earthy paths on a gentle gradient with stiles.

moderate

3 miles / 4.8 km

Allow 1½-2 hrs

Castle Roy Loop

A pleasant walk taking in the ruins of Castle Roy, a thirteenth century fortress and Abernethy Old Kirk.

Mostly narrow, grassy and earthy paths with gentle gradients and kissing gates.

moderate

1 ½ miles / 2.5 km

Allow 1 hr

Nethy Bridge Paths



Wilderness Trail

A short walk around the Birch Wood. Have a look for dragonflies around the pond in summer.

Accessible, gentle gravelled paths.

easy

¼ mile / 0.4 km

Allow ½ hr

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE [outdooraccess-scotland.scot](https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

King's Road

With stunning views of the Cairngorms, this walk winds its way through majestic pine forest. Keep your eyes open for red squirrels scampering between the trees.

Mostly gravel paths, some earthy paths on gentle gradients, path often wet and muddy with roots.

moderate

3 miles / 4.8 km

Allow 1-1½ hrs

Lettoch Trail

A scenic walk following the River Nethy upstream and through Lettoch Wood. A great route for spectacular views of the Cairngorms.

Mostly gentle paths on gravel or tarmac. Some sections narrow, earthy and muddy. Kissing gates and cattle grid.

moderate

5 miles / 8 km return

Allow 1½-2½ hrs

Craigmore Trail

A challenging walk through picturesque woodland starting at Castle Roy. Join the Speyside Way at Boat of Balliefurth after 2¼ miles to return to Nethy.

A varied terrain, mostly earthy paths. Some fairly steep sections. Some sections may be muddy with stiles and kissing gates.

strenuous

2¼ miles / 3.5 km

Allow 3-4 hrs

Puggy Line Trail

Follow the old logging railway line on this circular route between the village and Tulloch Road.

Mostly narrow, earthy paths on gentle gradients, path often wet and muddy with roots.

moderate

2½ miles / 4 km

Allow 1 hr

Riverside Trail

Right in the heart of the village this beautiful walk up the River Nethy is a great place to spot dippers.

Mostly gravel paths, some earthy paths on gentle gradients, path often wet and muddy with roots.

easy

1½ miles / 1.6 km

Allow 1 hr

Wilderness Trail

Take in the splendour of the pine forest and perhaps chance upon the old logging camp.

Mostly narrow, earthy paths on gentle gradients, path often wet and muddy with roots.

moderate

1½ miles / 1.6 km

Allow 1 hr

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