

**Cystic
Fibrosis Trust**



Scotland

Formartine and Buchan Way

40 miles of former railway line, you can take on smaller sections of the route and know you won't get lost! Entirely off-road, you won't come up against any traffic.

The Formartine and Buchan Way is a safe, long distance shared cycle path suitable for cyclists of all ability.

The F&B Way starts at Dyce Railway station, on the outskirts of Aberdeen, and continues some 25 miles through the heart of rural Aberdeenshire to Maud where it splits. Continuing North for 15 miles takes you to Fraserburgh, whereas veering East will take you to Peterhead some 13 miles distant. Sections of the Formartine Way form part of Route 1 of the National Cycle Network.

The cycle route is entirely off road, and is built on the bed of the former Formartine and Buchan railway therefore any gradients encountered are shallow. Since closure of the rail line in the 1960s, some of the bridges have been removed, however ramps have been constructed to allow safe and easy access to and from the cycle trail at road crossings.

The Buchan Way, as it is often called, passes through (or close to) many place of interest including Aden Country Park, Drinnies Wood Observatory, Strichen Stone Circle and Deer Abbey. These all make interesting detours, or destinations for a picnic.

Because the cycle way is based on an old railway line, navigation is simple - in fact you can't go wrong!

The route surface varies along the way with sections of tarmac, compacted gravel and a few lengths of rough, occasionally wet and slightly muddy terrain.

All villages and towns mentioned below have car parks where you can drive to and leave your car if you want to tackle the route in stages.

Dyce to Newmachar - 4 miles The cycle route starts in Dyce, at the far end of the railway station car park. Dyce has a small selection of shops, bars and hotels, and takeaways. The route leaves the station, skirting the Pitmedden Road industrial estate before crossing the River Don, and entering the local countryside. Look out for the wire sculpture on the trail. Continue through the old Newmachar station to the car park, and picnic benches. The village of Newmachar, offers shops, a hotel and a chippie.

Newmachar to Udney Station - 5 miles

Access to the Way at Newmachar is from the small car park on Station Rd, adjacent the equipment hire building, just outside the village centre. The surface changes from compacted

gravel to a more rough terrain as you head north from Newmachar. The landscape also changes with the fields becoming noticeably larger. Access to the village of Udney Station is via the playing fields just before the old station platform. This leads on to Chestnut Walk which has a small car park.

Udney Station to Ellon - 5 miles

Access to the Way at Udney Station is via Chestnut Walk. Unfortunately Udney Station doesn't have any shops. Heading to Ellon, you pass Logierieve and Esselmont stations, both now private houses before crossing the river Ythan on the impressive Ellon Viaduct. Stay in the centre if you don't have a head for heights! After crossing the viaduct you are more or less in Ellon. Ellon has everything you would expect in a town: shops, cafes, restaurants, bars, hotels and takeaways - see our page listing Cafes in Ellon.

Ellon to Auchnagatt - 7 miles

There are a handful of access points to the Way in Ellon. If driving to Ellon, then perhaps the easiest option is to park in the centre of town and follow the river side path which joins the Way just after the viaduct. The Way runs through the western edge of the town and passes the McDonald Golf Club before entering open countryside. Note that the path narrows for some of the way, and can get muddy. You soon approach Ebrie Woods with its Scots pines and small lochans, and then Mill of Elrick before reaching Auchnagatt. The Way passes the shop in Auchnagatt.

Auchnagatt to Maud - 4.5 miles

Parking is available at the village hall in Auchnagatt. The foot path at the front of the hall leads onto the Way. This section of the route passes a couple of small forests before reaching Maud. As you approach Maud you have two decisions to make

- 1st, to visit the village or not. The path forks with the left fork taking you into the village centre and the right bypassing the village. It's worth visiting the village which offers shops, cafes, a hotel and the Formartine and Buchan Railway Museum - see our page listing Cafes in Maud.
- 2nd, to continue to Peterhead or branch off to Fraserburgh.

To Peterhead: Maud to Mintlaw - 5.5 miles

Parking is available in Maud at the car park opposite the Station Hotel. From here head down the path to the right of the shop. Cross the road and the start of the Peterhead section is a few yards on your left. After 2.5 miles you cross a minor road, and shortly after glimpses of the ruined Deer abbey can be seen on the left. After another mile or so you reach the A950. Here you can detour to Aden Country Park for a picnic, or visit its popular cafe. Alternatively, cross the road to skirt the northern edge of Mintlaw and access the town's shops, cafes, bars and takeaways - see our page listing Cafes in Mintlaw.

To Peterhead: Mintlaw to Peterhead - 8.5 miles

Access at Mintlaw from either Aden Country Park, or from the garden centre at the north east of the town. Parking available at both locations. The Way continues east for a couple of miles onto the flat lands around Longside - once home to the Lenabo Airship Station, which was operational during World War 1. The Way continues to the A90 and then the outskirts of Peterhead where it winds its way to the centre, crossing York St and eventually finishing at the Community Centre on Queen St. If you want to park in Peterhead and cycle inland, then consider the car park behind the community centre, accessed from York St.

Fraserburgh Branch: Maud to Strichen - 5.5 miles

Parking is available in Maud at the car park opposite the Station Hotel. From here head down the path to the right of the shop. Cross the road, turn right and the start of the Fraserburgh branch is a few yards along on your right. On the edge of Maud, at the B9106 you do a slight dog leg to the left of the trees and then head up the embankment and into the country. This section is used

as a farm track so can be a bit muddy. Worth a detour as you approach Strichen, is a visit to the Strichen Stone circle and views to the ruined Strichen House. Strichen has shops, cafes, bar and a hotel/

Fraserburgh Branch: Strichen to Fraserburgh - 10.5 miles

Access to the Way in Strichen is at the junction of Brewery Road and Bridge Street, next to the entrance to Strichen Community Park which has car parking. As you pass Strichen there are good views of Mormond Hill, its white horse and satellite dishes. The way continues to Fraserburgh and enters the town with the golf course on the right. Cross the B9033 and continue onto the Esplanade. Parking is available here if you want to start your cycle in Fraserburgh.



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