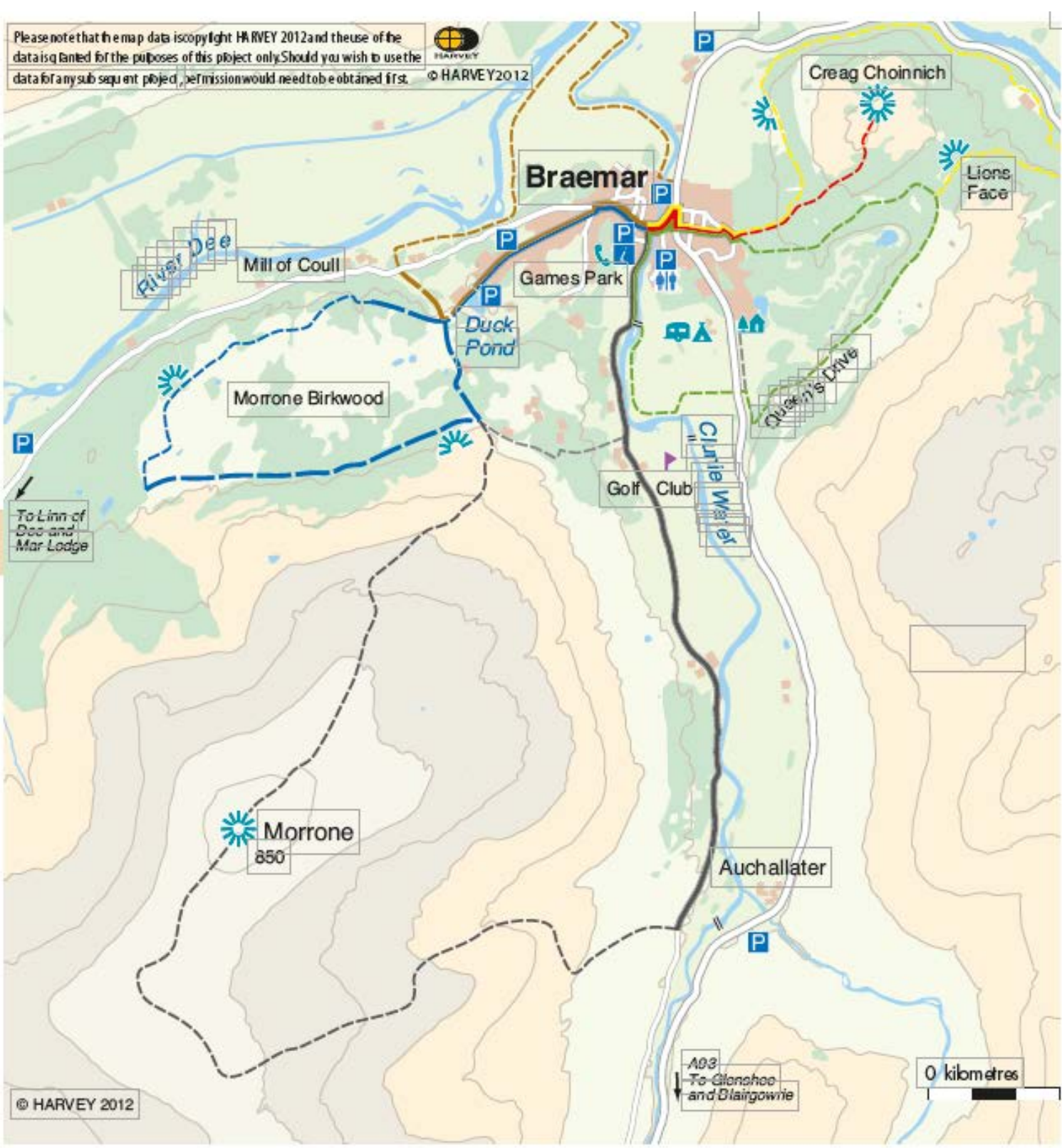


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Morrone - grey route

Distance: 6 miles (9.6km)

Start: Visitor Information Centre

Terrain: steep slopes, with sometimes slippery, uneven surface

A superb hill walk, with magnificent views. Make sure you have the right equipment: walking boots, waterproofs, warm clothing, food, and a map and compass.

Follow the blue route to the viewpoint, then continue along the fence until you see the start of the cairns leading up the hill. From the summit, follow the vehicle track south and then east down to the minor road in Glen Clunie. Turn left to return to the village.



Braemar gathering

Explore around Braemar

This leaflet describes six easy to follow routes around the village, with information about their length and what sort of path conditions to expect. There's something for all tastes, from a gentle stroll by the River Dee to a strenuous hike for one of the best views on Deeside.

Each route is colour coded, and is marked on the ground with coloured way markers, signs or stone cairns to help find your way.

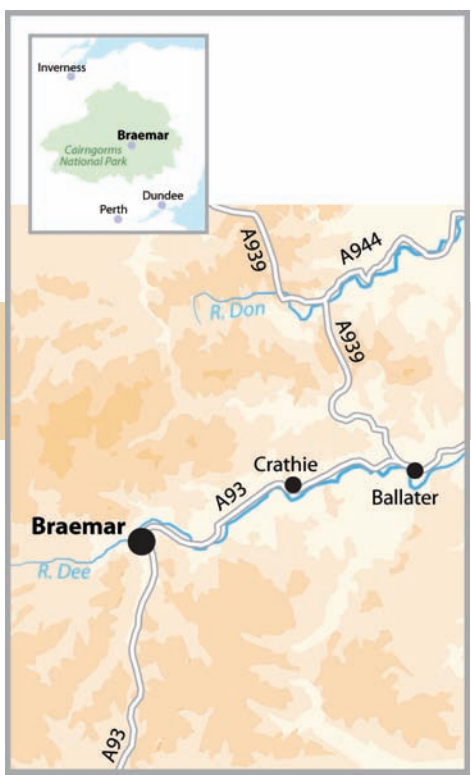
Gatherings and castles

The routes up Morrone or the lower Creag Choinnich follow in the steps of competitors at Braemar's famous Gathering. This spectacular event includes races up the two hills, as well as Highland dancing, piping competitions and tossing the caber.

From other routes you'll see Braemar Castle. Once home to the laird of Clan Farquharson, it was originally built by his arch rival! You can visit the castle in season to find out more about its fascinating history. The Farquharson family home is now Invercauld House, a little further down the valley.

About COAT

Sales of this leaflet help support the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust, which works to build and improve paths and to encourage access throughout the Cairngorms. Find out more at www.cairngormsoutdooraccess.org.uk



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

Visitor Information Centres:

Braemar: **01339 741 600** (open all year)

Ballater: **01339 755 306** (open all year)

Crathie: **01339 742 414**

If you enjoy the paths around Braemar, look out for other Community Path Leaflets that will help you explore more of the Cairngorms National Park.

Useful web sites

www.discoverroyaldeeside.com

www.aberdeen-grampian.com

www.visitcairngorms.com

www.cairngorms.co.uk

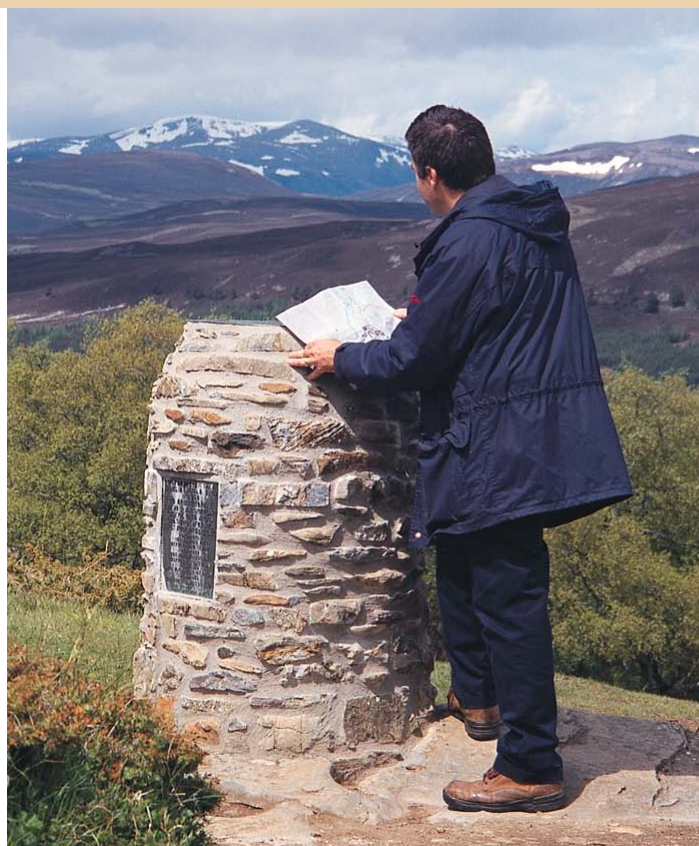
www.braemarscotland.co.uk

Cairngorms Paths

Braemar Paths



Explore Deeside



River Dee - brown route

Distance: 3 miles (4.8km)

Start: Visitor Information Centre

Terrain: Level earth path, with the surface broken and muddy in places

A meander along Clunie Water and the River Dee, with fine views up and down the strath.

Cross the Clunie Water opposite the Invercauld Arms Hotel. At the *Pulladh* (a pool on the Dee) there's a short cut back into the village, or you can continue to the mill of Coull. Turn left here to join the blue route and return to the village down Chapel Brae.



Braemar from Creag Choinnich

Lion's face and the Cromlins - yellow route

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Start: Visitor Information Centre

Terrain: Earth path with some steep sections

Terrain: Great views of the village, Braemar Castle, Invercauld House and the upper Dee valley.

From Lion's Face rock the Dee valley spreads out below you, with the Cairngorm Mountains in the background.

After the rock, drop down the hill to join a path running just above the A93, then turn left at the sign to 'the Cromlins' opposite Braemar Castle. Join the red route back into the village.



Creag Choinnich - red route

Distance: 2 miles (2.5km)

Start: Visitor Information Centre

Terrain: Steep, uneven surface; sometimes slippery

A short but steep climb up a charming wee hill, with magnificent panoramic views. The Gaelic means 'mossy hill'.

This out-and-back path gives you a real taste of hillwalking, although its highest point is only 538 metres. In clear weather you can spot the granite tors that rise as sharp points on the top of Ben Avon in the heart of the Cairngorms.

Queen's Drive - green route

Distance: 2.5 miles (3.8km)

Start: Visitor Information Centre

Terrain: low level, with some sections on road

This gentle route follows part of a carriage drive that was one of Queen Victoria's favourites.

Take the minor road south towards the golf course, then cross the Clunie water on the Royal Highland Society bridge.

Cross the A93 and follow the sign to 'Queen's Drive and Lion's Face'. Turn left at a sign marked 'Braemar' to return to the village.

Morrone Birkwood - blue route

Distance: 2.5 miles (3.8km)

Start: Visitor Information Centre

Terrain: some sections are uneven and muddy

The birkwood (birch wood) changes from deciduous trees in the valley to open scrub, dotted with juniper bushes, a real relic of the old mountain woods that once covered the Cairngorms. It's one of the best examples of this transition in Britain, and protected under European Law.

After *Pol na Ceire* (the duck pond) at the top of Chapel Brae, take the left fork up Woodhill to a fine viewpoint. You'll pass some high fences: they protect the trees from grazing by deer.