

# COULL MILL

## *The Local Area*

### *Eating Out*

There are two pubs in Tarland, The Commercial Hotel and The Aberdeen Arms. The Commercial is a little more refined than The Aberdeen Arms which has a very good Scottish music session every Tuesday night. There is also a café in Tarland. In Aboyne there are several cafés and two pubs. The Huntly Arms doesn't have much of a reputation for food but The Boat Inn down by the river is very popular. There is also an Indian restaurant. Ballater has quite a number of places to eat.

### *Shopping*

For groceries there is the Co-op in Aboyne, turn right at the end of the green and first left. Strachans on the main road has a good delicatessen and is good for more unusual items and has a great selection of Whiskys. In fact, you can get practically anything in there.

Hiltrek past the chemist has a good selection of outdoor gear and makes clothing on the premises.

The Aboyne Post Office is inside the travel agent's in the square and there is also a Post Office in Tarland.

The Finzean Farm Shop has a good selection of local produce but is quite pricey. It also has a tea room with a great view.

### *Places To Visit*

World Horse Welfare – Lots of horses including Digger the Clydesdale, the UK's largest horse. It has a great café with a fabulous view.

Grampian Transport Museum at Alford well worth a visit if you like old vehicles.

Deeside Activity Park for karting, quad biking, shooting, fishing etc.

Deeside Gliding Club at Dinnet do trial lessons for £90 which give you an amazing view of Deeside and the Cairngorms. You will often see gliders overhead the Mill as it is the warmest place around where the best thermals are formed. It's also the coldest place in winter.

## *Walking*

### *The Tarland Way and Deeside Way*

The Tarland Way is a footpath and cycle track that passes through Coull Home Farm. You will see a sign for Tarland and Aboyne if you walk up the side of the Mill past the farm house. It takes about an hour to walk to the centre of Aboyne going at a decent pace. Maybe a little longer to get to Tarland. If you want to walk one way, let us know and we will give you a lift there or back if possible. From Aboyne you can follow the Deeside Way to Ballater in the west or Aberdeen in the east.

### *The Blue Cairn*

An interesting short walk takes you to a 6000 year old cairn. Walk down to the road, turn right and cross over to another road about fifty yards away. Follow this road for about a mile until it turns into a dirt track. Follow the track for a few hundred yards then make for the corner of the plantation on your left. The Blue Cairn is just round the corner of the plantation. There's not much to see except a pile of stones but look out for lots of orchids in the summer.

### *Local Forest Tracks*

There are miles of tracks around the hill behind the mill. The shortest circular walk takes maybe an hour and a half to walk. Head off in the direction of Tarland, keep on the wide track and don't follow the sign for Tarland that takes you over the bridge but go straight on. Pass a derelict farm on the right and start going back down hill, turn right into the woods then right again at the new farm building. Walk slightly uphill to the next junction and turn right. Follow the track past a fishing lochan and by the side of Coull House. Pass through the gate near the house and turn right. Follow the track past a wood yard and back to Coull Home Farm.

### *The Fungle*

Another good walk is The Fungle. Park your car near the junction on the other side of the bridge in Aboyne. Turn left then first right and follow the private road between the houses then follow a track up the steep hill to The Guard, a very isolated house where a friend of ours lives. You can return by the same route but if you are very keen you can turn right at The Guard and walk down in to Glen Tanar and back along the road. Best to take an Ordnance Survey map for the longer walk.

### *Burn O'Vat*

The Burn O'Vat is a good short walk which children particularly enjoy. Follow the A93 through Dinnet towards Ballater and turn right at the Lecht Ski Centre sign. There is a car park a mile or so along the road.

## *Other Walks*

There are marked walking tracks in the woods at Cambus O'May, in Glen Tanar and around Aboyne and Ballater but of course, in Scotland, you can walk anywhere you like except through peoples' gardens.

## *Cycling*

### *Glen Tanar*

Go over the bridge in Aboyne and turn right on to the South Deeside road. After 1.3 miles turn left into Glen Tanar. Follow the road 1.6 miles to the car park. From here you can walk or cycle along miles of good tracks among the Ancient Caledonian Pine Forest right up to the base of Mount Keen. Look out for ospreys, eagles and deer.

*Tarland Trails* - [www.tarland.org.uk](http://www.tarland.org.uk)

Tarland Trails can be found in Drummy Woods to the SW of the village. They are a set of mountain bike trails that opened to the public in 2015. They consist of a family Trail (blue), a technical run (red), big jump run (orange) and a large pump track. The trails are short but altogether total around 3km.

### *Ballater*

You can cycle off-road all the way to Ballater. Go up the track by the side of the mill and turn right on to the Tarland Way. Just before you get to the main road in Aboyne, look out for the entrance to the old railway line on your right. Follow the track to Ballater about ten miles away. There are lots of cafes and places to eat in Ballater and a very good cycle shop.

## *Wild Swimming*

You can swim in the pond but in the summer the water level is likely to be well down and there is a lot of vegetation in the water. On a hot summer day the river Dee can get to a reasonable temperature by late afternoon and there is good swimming by the bridge in Aboyne. We wouldn't recommend following the local youngsters by jumping off the bridge as you have to know exactly where to jump. At Cambus O'May there is parking and great swimming and it is plenty deep enough to jump off the white bridge. There's always the Community Centre swimming pool in Aboyne for the less hardy.

## *Skiing*

The Lecht is excellent for beginners and is about a forty minute drive away. Glenshee is much bigger with more varied terrain and is about fifty minutes away. On a good day the skiing can be wonderful but on most days it is character building! Take plenty of warm clothes.