



# SILVERBANK

EASY | 4 MILES



## SILVERBANK CYCLE ROUTE

Close to the River Dee, runs the Deeside Way. This route follows the Deeside Way for a part of the route and continues on National Trust Roads before finishing on a path alongside a short length of main road.

### SURFACES

Grit-surfaced path. Can be muddy. Tarmac.

### TRAFFIC

The Deeside Way is traffic-free, but it is necessary to cross the entrance to the car park at Milton of Crathes. The driveway up to the castle also has low levels of traffic.

### SUITABILITY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Yes, but only with close supervision at locations where there is traffic. There is the option to return from the castle on the Deeside Way and thus avoid the main traffic problem. The Optional Extension is not suitable for young children.

### HILLS

Slight hills within the castle grounds and after leaving the Deeside Way on the Optional Extension.

### LOCAL BIKE HIRE

Banchory Cycles  
www.banchorycycles.com

### REFRESHMENTS/FACILITIES

Milton of Crathes has a tearoom, restaurant, shops and an art gallery. Crathes Castle has a tearoom, a shop and, in the summer, some other attractions. The castle grounds are extensive and there are a number of pleasant walks.

### OTHER ROUTES IN THE AREA

The Deeside Way presently goes from Aberdeen to Banchory and from Aboyne to Ballater.

Heading east from site, the Deeside Way offers an almost traffic-free route to Aberdeen.

To continue to Aboyne take the Deeside Way into Banchory, cross the bridge over the River Dee and follow trails through Blackhall Forest and then minor roads to reach Aboyne. There are 10 miles of traffic-free paths from Aboyne to Ballater along the old railway.

There are a number of signed routes in Blackhall Forest west of Banchory and mountain bike trails in Durris Forest.

## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Leave the Club Site and turn left on the path. At the edge of the site there is an unsurfaced path, which leads down to the Deeside Way; it is recommended that bikes are wheeled down this track.
- 2 Turn left and follow the Deeside Way to Milton of Crathes where the Royal Deeside Railway Preservation Society has its visitor centre. The Society is rebuilding the railway between Milton of Crathes and Banchory and you can take a trip in an old train – see [www.deeside-railway.co.uk](http://www.deeside-railway.co.uk) for the timetable.
- 3 Cross the car park and continue on the Deeside Way, south of the main road. After about 100 metres, the Deeside Way joins a major track (just before a cobbled hump-back bridge). Turn left and follow the track round under the road bridge and up to the road leading to Crathes Castle.
- 4 Turn right and follow the road up to visit the castle.
- 5 Follow the road around the back of the castle to the start of the West Trail and Castle Gardens (Caroline's Garden).
- 6 Remain on the main tarmac drive past Caroline's Garden and follow it to the end, which is at the West Lodge by the main road (A93).
- 7 Follow the path towards Banchory. Take care when crossing three minor roads.
- 8 After a short distance the Club Site is visible on the opposite side of the road.

## OPTIONAL EXTENSION

- At point 3, head past the cobbled bridge and two sets of metal gates along a private road to the A957.
- 3a Cross the road and turn left; cycle up the shared-use path to the A93; stay on the path, turn right, cycle to the end of path then turn right to rejoin the Deeside Way along the disused railway.
  - 3b Continue along the Deeside Way for one mile to where pylons cross it; a short path links to the main road (A93). Take care crossing the A93 and cycle up the minor road signed to Myrebird, which curves left at the top of the hill.
  - 3c Head straight across at junction (signed to Banchory).
  - 3d After about half a mile the road goes straight on towards Banchory. Take the left fork to Crathes Castle (not signed); then pick up the route from point 5 above. Near the Site, close to the River Dee, runs the Deeside Way (National Route 195 of the National Cycle Network), which starts at Aberdeen and runs to Ballater. The Deeside Way mainly follows the line of the former Royal Deeside Railway, but there are currently some gaps west of Banchory. The ride follows the Deeside Way for a part of the way and continues on National Trust roads before finishing on a path alongside a short length of main road.

This route has been suggested by Sustrans' Volunteer Rangers. The Caravan Club would always recommend that any children or young people under 18 years should be fully supervised by a responsible adult. Please be aware that using this route is entirely at your own risk. Extreme care should always be taken when cycling on site, remembering that traffic will be moving around the site and to observe speed limits. Particular attention should be paid when going round blind corners or emerging from paths.

# SILVERBANK CARAVAN CLUB SITE - ROUTE

