

The Ramblers - St Andrews & N.E. Fife Group



Last Sunday St Andrews and North East Fife Ramblers were pleased to be joined on our walk by two visitors from other groups as well as a guest trying us out for the first time. We met at Strathmiglo on a dreich, cloud-laden morning for a circular walk to Auchtermuchty via Glentarkie and Pitmedden Forest. On the recce a few days earlier, the leaders (aka your correspondent and our walks coordinator) had planned to shorten the proposed route to bring it nearer to the 'approximate' 9 miles advertised in the programme. However, a large

herd of cows and calves showing far too much interest in our presence in their field caused a dignified retreat and a lengthy diversion to get us back on track. And so the recce ended up covering 11 miles – but we were confident that the alternative route we had devised would reduce Sunday's walk to 9 miles. On the day 10 of us set out from Strathmiglo, taking the Frears' Mill Road path towards Glentarkie.

As we followed our alternative route up the winding minor road, two of us were convinced that we could see our erstwhile bovine friends in a different field, well away from our original route – foiled again! After a brief coffee stop we headed to Drumbarrow farm to take our shortcut, successfully completed on the recce, into Pitmeddden Forest. Fortunately the farmer spotted us on our way through the yard and very helpfully informed us that the field at Nochnarie, which had

been livestock-free three days earlier, now contained a bull. He helped us plan yet another route, along a pleasant woodland path to join the track at Pitmedden, but adding to the mileage once again. By the time we reached Reddie Hill farm we were ready for lunch! By now the cloud had lifted somewhat, though we could see a heavy shower of rain travelling



through the Howe below us as we carried on down the minor road into Auchtermuchty. There we paused to admire both the floral display at Jimmy Shand's statue and the childhood home of one of our members. After crossing the A91, we continued towards Dunshalt and then turned right to follow a succession of tracks and paths back to Strathmiglo, with sheep the only livestock in sight. The final stretch along Cash Feus seemed unending, but we eventually reached our starting point after a walk of – once



again – 11 miles! We headed gratefully for well-earned refreshments at a friendly café in Auchtermuchty where everyone agreed that, despite the bovine interventions and the extra miles, this had been a very enjoyable walk.

Our next walk is on Saturday 30th September, a 6-mile walk at Devilla Forest near Kincardine, on forestry and woodland paths with lochs and plenty of wildlife. All of our walks are open to guests who would like to try out The Ramblers, and full details can be found on our website www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com