

White Wood walk is a peaceful trek



This week Claudia Zeiske features the White Wood, a symbol of peace. With events in Ukraine the walk to it may provide people with time for contemplation.

FROM the War Memorial the walk to the White Wood is about eight kilometres and people should allow about two hours to complete it.

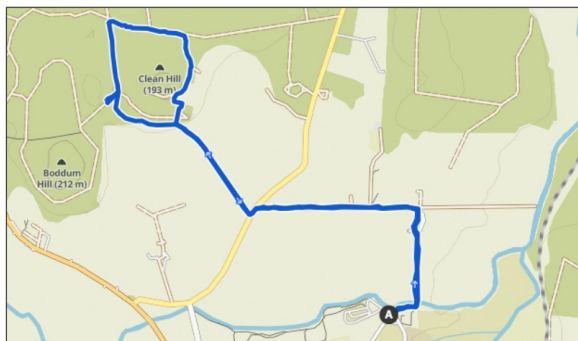
It only rises to about 100m and with sturdy footwear it's an easy enough walk.

The White Wood was planted by the community as a living monument to peace following the WW1 centenary. In collaboration with French artist Caroline Wendling it was planted from acorns grown from 7000 oaks, a famous artwork in the war torn German city of Kassel.

Next to the oaks deep into the ground are white boulders from the battlefield areas in Northern France.

We start at Huntly's war memorial, a reminder of what it must have been to live through war here and abroad. Walk past The Gordon Schools, Huntly Castle and over the Elgin bridge up towards and past the Castle Hotel, turning left down the road for 1km.

Once we reach the Portsoy road,



The map shows the route from Huntly to the White Wood within the Bin.

we turn left and at the jubilee cairn turn right over the road towards Cleanbrae. At Cleanbrae cottage take the path left and walk along for about 500m then turn left at a junction.

There's a granite bench for a rest and some contemplation about all things peace and ecology and how we live together. A little path past the oak trees leads us to a marked

granite boulder.

We return the same way back to the Huntly-Portsoy road, where we turn right for about 500m and turn left over the Deveron into Huntly and towards The Square. Anyone can join the Friends of White Wood if they are interested in its keep for future generations.

www.deveron-projects.com/white-wood



The long procession which marked the opening of the White Wood.



Markers are embedded along the route of the walk to the White Wood.