

The Deeside Way

The Deeside Way was once the railway line that travelled between Aberdeen and Ballater and it was called the Deeside Railway. The railway was started in 1853 and finished in 1856. The railway was closed in 1966 after Doctor Beeching had many railways closed because he thought that they were not necessary. Today a lot of people think it would be brilliant to have the Deeside Railway back again and travel to Aberdeen on the train.



Ballater Station as it is now.



**A train arriving at Ballater Station
in 1956**

The railway did not go further than Ballater because Queen Victoria, who liked to come to Deeside to stay at her 'Highland Home' Balmoral, did not want the noisy railway close to her estate. When she came to stay she travelled by train from Aberdeen in her private railway carriage but was met by a horse and carriage at Ballater station which took her on to Balmoral. If you are in Ballater you can visit the station buildings there and see the exhibition on the platform that shows models of Queen Victoria's arrival.

There is plenty of evidence left in Aboyne to show that the railway came through the village. If you look in the bottom square you will see that the station buildings are still there. They are shops now but it is easy to imagine how they might have been waiting rooms, offices and a ticket office. Near the fish and chip shop there is the tunnel, but it is all blocked up now. It went underneath the road and emerged near to the Victory Hall. You will pass it, on your left, when you leave the Victory Hall, soon after you join the Deeside Way.

At present work is still in progress to make the whole 72 kilometres of the old railway track into a continuous walking / cycling route between Aberdeen and Ballater.

As you walk along the Deeside Way to join the Tarland Way you will be walking on the old line with its steep sides and you will pass underneath one of its bridges.