

There are over 100 stone circles in Aberdeenshire. Here are 2 of the best plus 3 Pictish stones all within 15 minutes of Inverurie. Can you find the shortest route to visit them?

Location and Range



Use OS Landranger 38 or OS Explorer 421 but Landranger 37 for the Picardy stone. The map reference of each location is given. The range is approximate and is “as the crow flies” from Inverurie Market Place.

Loanhead Stone Circle



Ref: NJ 747 288 Range 4.5 miles.
Off B9001 Rothienorman road at Daviot.
The Loanhead circle was used for funerary activity and other rituals from Neolithic times to the Bronze age.

Maiden Stone



Ref: NJ 703 247 Range 5.5 miles.
On a minor road off A96 from Oyne Fork to Chapel of Garioch. A Pictish pink granite upright stone from about 200 AD, showing a centaur, sea monsters and many other symbols.

East Aquhorthies Stone Circle



Ref: NJ 732 207 Range 2 miles.
At the end of a minor road leading west from the A96 roundabout near Morrisons. Some 4000 years old with 11 uprights, mostly pink with a red granite recumbent and grey granite flankers.

Brandsbutt Symbol Stone



Ref: NJ 759 224 Range 1 mile
On a grassy area off Brankie Road and Gordon Terrace in Inverurie. Carvings include a serpent and straight-line inscriptions in Ogham, an old Irish language.

Picardy Symbol Stone



Ref: NJ 609 302 Range 11 miles.
On a single track road 1.8 miles NW of Insch. Not too good for parking.
Thought to be a memorial or burial marker with carvings of discs, a coiled serpent and a mirror.