

Coastal, Coffin and Creel Walk

Haddock
or haddies



Melanogrammus aeglefinus

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North Kincardine has an enduring relationship with the coast going back thousands of years.

There are various paths and trails between Cowie and Torry, which are suitable for walking, cycling, horse riding and exploring the history, nature and scenery of this beautifully hidden treasure in Aberdeenshire. A lot of the trails were formed from the old farm and fishing carter tracks used for the transportation of fish and goods in and out of the villages. Coffins were sometimes carried along these trails to St. Mary of the Storms near Cowie.

Muchalls (Stranathro), Newtonhill (Skateraw), Downies, Old Portlethen and Findon were all busy fishing ports with creel fishing, salmon fishing and more leisurely sea angling. Competitions to win the Douglas Cup (which resides at the bar in the Neuk in Old Portlethen) took place between 1896 and 1921, where local villages competed to see who could catch the most fish.

North Kincardine's coast attracts a host of wildlife. Basking sharks, Common seals and White Beaked dolphins have been observed from Old Portlethen. Common Pipistrelles, geese and wading birds feed off the shores and mosses. Plants and flowers only found in the area's mosses and heaths show the diversity of the ecology of the area.

Around the area of Muchalls there are signs of smugglers' caves which lead to the bay known as the 'Gin Shore', and there are records of people living in the caves during the summer months. Historically, Muchalls wasn't the first village in the southern end of North Kincardine. The ruins of Seatoun of Muchalls mark the location of the village which was badly hit by the loss of their fishing fleet in the late 18th century. Subsequently, the village relocated to Stranathro, now named Muchalls. Later, when the railway reached Muchalls in 1849 and the fishing diminished, the village became a health resort with its hotel, leisure golf, fishing, brisk air and sea views.



Old Portlethen Bay

The area deserves further exploration to understand the ancient heritage of its sea-facing people.

Level of Walk

Depending on the stage of the walk and the terrain, the route varies from easy to strenuous.

Terrain

Natural and gravel paths, rocks, roads and moss. Suitable for walking, riding or cycling.

Care should be taken whilst walking along coastal paths: please refer to www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk for up to date status and information on way-marked paths.

Warning: parts of these paths are not being maintained.

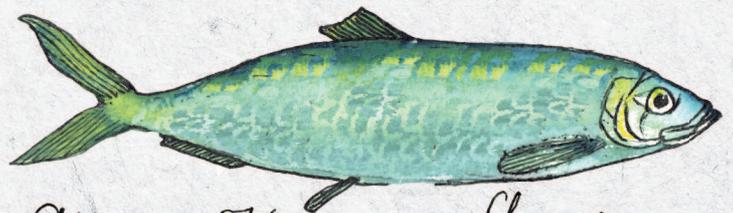
Give consideration to the weather and conditions under foot, before attempting to navigate cliff edges.

Distance

The complete Coastal, Coffin & Creel walk extends for about 12 miles (20km), but it is possible to tackle shorter sections between villages.

Map

Refer to the Discover North Kincardine illustrated map (available from www.discovernorthkincardine.org.uk) for points, features and viewpoints.



Atlantic Herring *Clupea harengus*

One of the most abundant fish in the world. Loved by cod, dolphins, seals, salmon and the fishing fleet.

Fished off the shores of Kincardine reached peak fishing in 1850s, decline due to introduction of modern fishing practices.

Map References

For more detailed routes and information refer to the following Ordnance Survey maps:

- 38 Landranger: Aberdeen; Inverurie & Pitmedden
- 45 Landranger: Stonehaven & Banchory
- 406 Explorer: Aberdeen & Banchory
- 396 Explorer: Stonehaven, Inverbervie & Laurencekirk - Howe of the Mearns



Getting There

Various buses run to Portlethen (7, 7A, 7B, 7C) – check www.stagecoachbus.com and www.travelinescotland.com

Trains run regularly between Aberdeen and Stonehaven, however, they stop infrequently at Portlethen. Check www.nationalrail.co.uk for up to date timings and stations.

Parking and Starting Point

There are various parking and starting points all along the Coastal Trail from Muchalls to Aberdeen. The route can be tackled in one go or over a longer period of time and journeys should be planned for and prepared for to suit ability.

Parking can be found in the coastal villages along the trail at Muchalls, Newtonhill, Downies, Portlethen and Findon.

The route is mainly along coastal paths, old farm routes and village tracks. OS maps should be referred to in planning a route.

Planning Your Walk

Go prepared with suitable clothing, shoes, water and provisions. Due to the proximity to the sea, haar and mist can come in quickly, causing reduced visibility and sudden drops in temperatures. Equally, within any one day, it is possible to have sun, rain, sleet and snow.

Mobile phones do not always pick up a service in the area.

Further Information

Aberdeenshire Council - Coastal Trail

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/paths-and-outdoor-access/guide-and-maps/

Scottish Natural Heritage

www.snh.gov.uk

Archaeology Service Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-culture/archaeology/

Aberdeenshire Council - Paths & Outdoor Access

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/paths-and-outdoor-access



Leviathan



www.discovernorthkincardine.org.uk

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