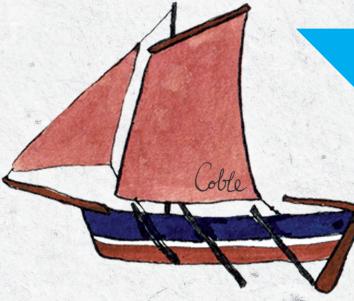


Newtonhill / Skateraw Walk

4



Since the 17th Century the fishing villages around North Kincardine were a hive of activity. The many bays along the Kincardine coast from Torry to Cowie were filled with boats and inshore fisherfolk. The fishing peaked in the mid to late 1800s with over 130 people employed in the fishing. While the men were out fishing the fishwives would gut and prepare the fish for taking to the markets in Aberdeen and Stonehaven, some 10 -12 miles away. Women worked long and hard to prepare nets, haul in the boats and give piggy backs to the men so they didn't get wet getting onto the boats. They often did this in bare foot and when the men were away they collected peat and sawdust for fuel and for smoking the herring. In the late 19th and 20th century women travelled up and down the east coast following the herring and acquiring the name of 'silver darlings' as they travelled north as far as Thurso and south to Great Yarmouth to prepare the catch during the herring season.

Skateraw used to be a village in its own right after which it became subsumed into the village of Newtonhill, named after the land the railway cut through in the 1849. The railway supplied the villagers with work, supported trade and travel up until the 1956 when the railway closed. Skateraw remains, but not as a village but as a street



Fishing cottages in Skateraw

name and this route takes you on a short walk around the architectural and historical features of this fishing village that has been touched by the passage of time.

A short walk of about one mile, quite steep and sometimes slippy and muddy after a lot of rain.

The walk starts and finishes at Newtonhill Pharmacy and local store close to the number 7 bus stop.

Explore around Whitelands, Hillhead, Betteridge, Skateraw Roads which have a variety of fisher cottages, most of them have been extended and harled, but some still have attractive fish-scale tiles. You may be able to see some of the slanted roof lines of the original architecture. On Skateraw Road next to number 16 stands the old smokehouse, a low whitewashed building with a square black chimney, this is one of the many smokehouses that would have been in the village where herring would have been smoked. House number 31, is the nearest to the original design of a fisherman's cottage.

At the bottom of Skateraw road is Braehead, which is a fine place to sit and look out at Newtonhill bay and the North Sea. Down to the left you should take the cliff path to the beach. The Salmon Bothy, signs of the Windlass and remains of the old pier can be seen at low tide. Cross the Elsick Burn by the bridge.

The walk continues up the track which follows the Elsick Burn to the railway viaduct. The route now crosses the stream beside the 18th century Mill of Elsick, which used to grind barley and oats. It has now been restored as a dwelling-house.

Go through the gate and up the path between the fences to the gate at the top of the hill. Follow the road along beside the railway track, passing the Newton Arms opposite the signal box, back to the pharmacy.

Level of Walk

Moderate walk with some climbing and descending, some uneven ground.

Terrain

The loop is suitable for off road buggies but may require assistance going up and down stairs. Walking is on tracks, sand, over rocks, a wooden walkway and bridge and on pavements and streets. There are streams, ponds and uneven surfaces and children must be supervised at all times.

Distance

From the pharmacy around the loop is around 1.5km or around 1 mile.



Map References

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

38 Landranger: Aberdeen; Inverurie & Pitmedden
406 Explorer: Aberdeen & Banchory

Getting There

Various buses run between Aberdeen and Stonehaven (7A, 7B, 7C, 7N) as well as between Aberdeen and Peterculter (19, 119, 201, 202, N19) - check www.travelinescotland

A2B bus services run on particular days in the Kincardine area Number 22 runs on a Thursday around the more rural and coastal villages of Kincardine including, Netherley, Cookney, Downies, Findon and Portlethen. For further information please contact a2bdialbus@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or call 01224 664747 during work hours.

Trains run regularly between Aberdeen and Stonehaven stopping at Portlethen. Check www.nationalrail.co.uk for up to date timings and stations.

Parking and Starting Point

Parking and starting point for Skateraw is at Skateraw Road.

Postcode (nearest) – AB39 3PU

Latitude 57.032294 Longitude -2.1491039

Planning Your Walk

Go prepared with suitable clothing, shoes, water and provisions. – due to proximity to the sea haar and mist can come in quickly causing temperatures to drop suddenly and reduced visibility.

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

Further Information

Skateraw Local History Group

www.skateraw.com

Scottish Natural Heritage

www.snh.gov.uk

The James Hutton Institute

www.hutton.ac.uk

Archaeology Service Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Aberdeenshire Council - Paths & Outdoor Access

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



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outdooraccess-scotland.com

www.discovernorthkincardine.org.uk

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