

North Kincardine Viewpoints

North Kincardine is a unique area to live, visit and discover. Its people have wrestled the sea and battled the landscape, creating a population of strength and character. Use the guide to start exploring this area of diverse landscapes and stories that have their origins in the old county of Kincardineshire.

To some, this area is a place to pass through, by road or rail, rarely stopping to study it in detail, but if you head off the main roads, into its villages, natural reserves and coastal paths, there is so much more on offer. We call it home and welcome you to visit, explore and discover why we love it so much. Welcome to historic North Kincardine.

Level of Walk

Strenuous

Terrain

Vehicle tracks, gravel paths and thick moss. Suitable for walking, riding, cycling and prams that can easily go off road. Steep incline, gravel track, occasional vehicles, uneven surfaces, drainage channels.

Distance

From carpark to top roughly 5km or 3 miles

Map

Refer to the large map for points, features and viewpoints, marked with a star.



Walk Description

Starting at the parking places on the B979 the walk to the highest point in North Kincardine on the Curlethney Hill will give you a good idea of the scale, variety and differing landscapes both north to south and east to west, with views over to Bennachie, Lochnagar and Aberdeen and landscape features such as ancient routes, Roman and Templar camps, trig points, field systems, stone circles, recumbent stone circles, symbol stones, hut circles, ring cairns and cairn fields, it is easy to see why this area has is known as historic Kincardine.

The map shows features that have been found in the landscape of North Kincardine, see them when you are out on your travels or visit the website for further information.

Geology

The rocks of North Kincardine are predominately deep marine deposits metamorphosed during the Caledonian mountain building era. These metamorphic rocks are separated from the south by the Highland Boundary Fault. The fault was formed 460–420 Million years ago and stretches from Helensburgh in the West of Scotland to Craigieven Bay, south of Muchalls, in the East. The fault created a deep basin to the south-east which, over time, filled with debris from the northwest, producing the fertile rolling hills of the Midland Valley between Stonehaven and Perth.

These fundamental differences in geology and natural habitats can be seen in the various SSSI (Site of Specific Scientific Interest) and Special Protected Areas in North Kincardine:

- Geological features and fauna at Garron Point (SSSI)
- Heath lands at Findon Moor (SSSI)
- Raised bog at the Red Moss of Netherley (SSSI)
- Special Protected Areas at Crynoch Burn, River Dee, Cove Shore
- Local Nature Reserve at Kincorth Hill, Nigg
- Conservation groups meet at Portlethen Moss, Portlethen Community Woodland Park and Maryculter Woods.

The mosses supposedly prevented the Romans from heading to Aberdeen but through the creation of the manmade Causey Mounth to raise a route over the mosses, passage developed between Aberdeen and Edinburgh and lead to the development of the predecessor to today's postal system.

Whether you are into bird watching, flora, fauna, geology or canyoning, cycling, running, walking or rock pooling, there is something for everyone in North Kincardine.

Map References

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

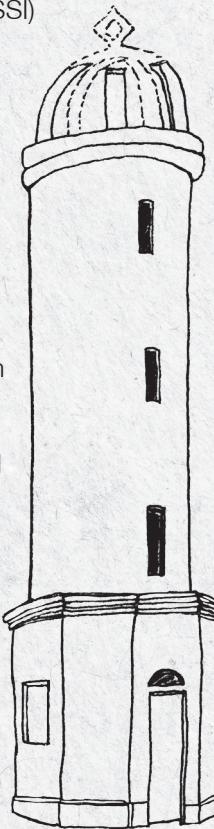
- 38 Landranger: Aberdeen; Inverurie & Pitmedden
 45 Landranger: Stonehaven & Banchory
 406 Explorer: Aberdeen & Banchory
 396 Explorer: Stonehaven, Inverbervie & Laurencekirk - Howe of the Mearns

Getting There

Various buses run 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 a2bdialabus@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.



*Jon Irvine Boswells Monument 1785
Land improver & pioneer of Shorthorn Cattle*

Parking and Starting Point

For Curlethney Hill, parking is at South of Alochie Croft

Postcode (nearest) – AB39 3QH

Latitude 57.008702, Longitude -2.228919

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

Meikle Carewe Wind Farm

www.meikle-carewe.co.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage

www.snh.gov.uk

The James Hutton Institute

www.hutton.ac.uk

Aberdeenshire Council - Paths & Outdoor Access

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

Archaeology Service Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Portlethen Moss Conservation Group

www.portlethen-moss.org.uk

Portlethen Community Woodland Park

www.portlethen-woodland.org.uk

Maryculter Woodlands Trust

www.maryculterwoods.com

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www.discovernorthkincardine.org.uk

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