

Portlethen Moss

2
March

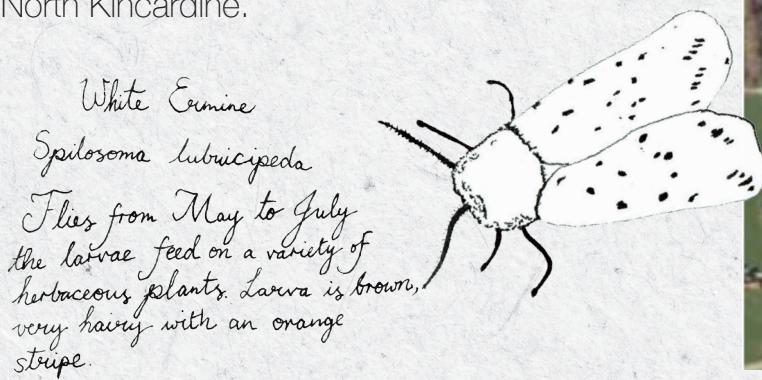


Sundew

Portlethen Moss is a rare area of natural raised acidic bog which supports a wide variety of plant and animal species.

The moss formed after the last ice age. The glacial retreat left an undulating landscape with a hollow that filled with water creating a lake, which over time filled in with decomposing vegetation. It takes about 100 years to form a mere 5cm of peat, formed from decomposing plant residues that are compacted, which then build up slowly over time. In recent coring studies, certain areas of the living bog have been measured to more than 3 metres in depth!

In recent years the moss has been subject to development and much of what was the Moss has been lost. Now in the care of the community and supported by volunteers, it will hopefully remain a vibrant natural area of North Kincardine.



Level of Walk

Short Loop - Easy Long Loop - Hard

Terrain

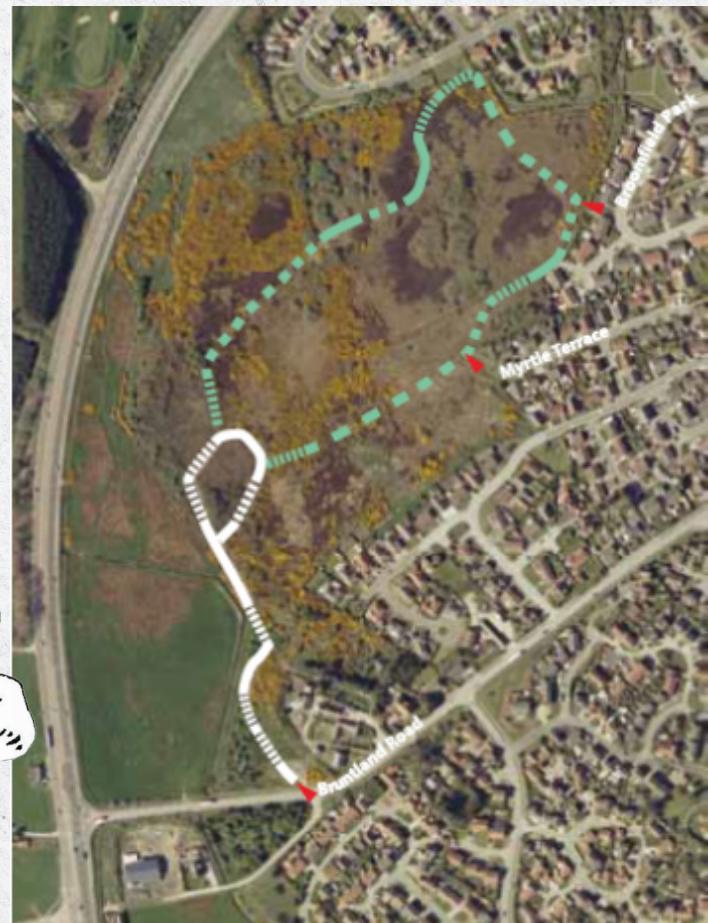
Natural and tightly packed gravel paths and thick moss. Walking, wheelchairs and prams only advisable on short loop.

Shorter loop is suitable for wheelchairs and buggies. There are streams, ponds and uneven surfaces away from the short loop and on the Moss, children must be supervised at all time. Please keep to paths to protect the natural moss on the longer loop.

Distance

From carpark, around shorter loop less than 1km or around $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Longer loop can be over 2km or $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Map



Walk Description

From the main entrance off Bruntland Road, there is a large noticeboard which provides information for visitors and it shows the paths that lead through the moss. Some are very boggy in wet weather so wellingtons are recommended. A second noticeboard is situated further along the all-ability path, just before the dry moss comes to an end and the wet moss (living bog) starts.

At the centre of the moss you'll sense the ecological change from dried out peatland, with areas of heather and scrub, to a living bog, where the grasses and plants are those that survive in acid rich nutrient poor soils.

As you walk further, you'll see evidence of old peat cutting rights. A 19th century shoe was found, probably lost by a peat cutter getting a foot stuck and losing this shoe in the deep damp bog, then to be excavated many years later. The shoe is now on display at the Natural History Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

What to look for:

- Roe deer can be seen at any time of year.
- Frogs, toads and newts can be seen in the early Spring. Migrant birds also come all the way from Africa to breed on the moss in the Spring.
- In early Summer, fluffy white heads of Common Cotton Grass dot the brown boggy moss. Beautiful Marsh Orchids, in whites and pale lilac, start to flower, along with swathes of bright yellow, star like, Bog Asphodel. Devil's Bit Scabious will also start to appear, with its purple pin-cushion head nodding in the breeze.
- On a warm sunny summer day look out for Dragonflies and Damselflies, Butterflies and Moths and a wide variety of Bees.
- If you are lucky, and sharp eyed, you may discover some Sundew, a tiny carnivorous bog plant. These plants have evolved to live in the acid, nutrient poor soil of bogs by attracting and catching passing insects and absorbing them.

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](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

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.

Parking and Starting Point

Parking and starting point for Portlethen Moss is at Bruntland Road

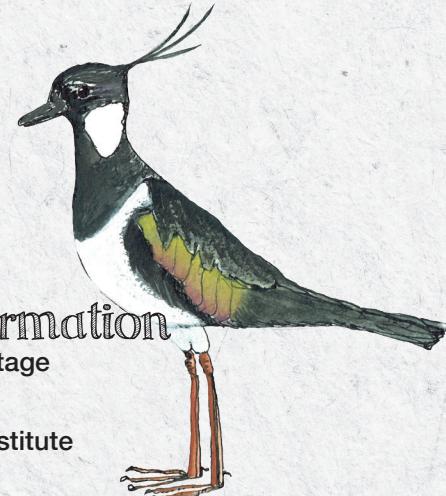
Postcode (nearest) – AB12 4WA

Latitude 57.054182 Longitude -2.1473604

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

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

Commissioned by:



www.discovernorthkincardine.org.uk

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