

# Newtonhill Walks

**ROUTE ONE (PURPLE)**  
**1.01 MILES**  
**BEACH AND MILL CIRCUIT**

What Three Words start point: [///variety.lanes.shifts](https://w3w.co/variety.lanes.shifts)

<https://w3w.co/variety.lanes.shifts>

Google Maps Start Point

<https://goo.gl/maps/7B2M81yPXszNyGD7A>

Ordnance Survey route map:

<https://explore.osmaps.com/route/17841316/newton-hill-route-1--beach-loop?lat=57.034798&lon=-2.149980&zoom=15.2425&style=Leisure&type=2d>



The walk starts at the foot of Skateraw Road, by our magnificent metal ship sculpture. The Isabella was a coal schooner, wrecked in the harbour below you in a huge storm in 1888. It was thanks only to the heroic efforts of villagers that the crew was rescued unscathed from the “mountains-high sea”.

The artwork by Jim Malcolm – once nicknamed The Stonehaven Banksy for his undercover installation of similar works along the coast – commemorates that event and all the local lives which have been tied to – and sadly sometimes lost to – the sea.

At the beach side of the parking area, in a gap between a flower planter and a Scottish Water cabinet, take the well-maintained steps to the shore. (There are 64 - for a more accessible route that avoids the steps, please see below).



At low tide, you may glimpse the remains of the harbour's concrete pier, which was demolished for safety reasons in the 1980s. At its peak, the fishing fleet here was 26 boats strong, sustaining as many as 130 jobs, before it was scuppered by the arrival of steamships.

Explore the shoreline before taking the wooden bridge where the Elswick Burn tumbles down rocks to the sea.



Steps lead up to a track between the two old fishermen's houses. Head left (*on your right you will see the wooden steps which are the start of Route Two*) and continue upstream, enjoying occasional glimpses of the burn. Pass the driveway to the old mill, which operated until around 1948 and is now a private residence. When you arrive at the railway viaduct, constructed in 1849, turn left, back towards the mill, over the burn and up a path shaded by trees.



*(To connect with Route Three (Orange) turn right here, up the road)*



At the playpark, skirt the grass anti-clockwise to join Old Mill Road, home to the Newton Arms pub and the Kathmandu Curry House. At the junction with Skateraw Road look to your right – that is where the railway station stood until it was closed in 1956.



*(To connect with Route Five, continue straight on)*

Turn left between Newtonhill Pharmacy and Quoiters pub and head downhill, with Skateraw Store café and shop on your right.



Pause to admire the lovely fisher cottages and one of the last surviving smokehouse buildings in the area.

# Old Smokehouse



The original homes here most probably gave Skateraw its name – from the Gaelic for “Row on the Rock”. It is only relatively recently that the whole village became known as Newtonhill. Continue downhill until you find yourself back at the Isabella.

## Accessible route



From the top of the beach steps, head a few yards uphill along Skateraw Road then turn right along Murray Road.

As you pass between the houses and their lovely clifftop gardens, you will find a board with very interesting historical information about the village.



This stretch affords lovely views down to the beach.



Where the road turns left, carry straight on along the path.



After a short distance, turn right between a white wall and a hedge to find the start of the path that leads to the playpark and rejoins the main route.





