

Newtonhill Walks

Route Two (Green) 1.1 miles
Craig Stirling clifftop seabird stroll

IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS ROUTE INCLUDES SECTIONS OF ROUGH PATH AROUND FIELD EDGES AND ALONG CLIFFS. PLEASE WEAR SUITABLE FOOTWEAR AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF CROPS, OF YOURSELF AND OF YOUR DOGS.

What Three Words start point:

///whites.runs.producing

<https://w3w.co/whites.runs.producing>

Google Maps start point:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/PPDcs4s83ZjNoMyq9>

Ordnance Survey map:

<https://explore.osmaps.com/route/17865373/newtonhill-route-1--craig-stirling-clifftop-seabird-stroll?lat=57.034916&lon=-2.141250&zoom=15.8218&style=Aerial&type=2d>

Starting beside the higher of the two cottages at the beach, climb the wooden steps with a handrail which lead up from the lane to the corner of a sloping field.

This was once the site of a sister village to Skateraw – known as the Fishertoun of Elsie – and evidence of terracing remains.

Turn right at the top of the steps and follow the field edge along the cliff tops, with great views down to the shore and along to Muchalls.

(For an alternative route avoiding the cliff edges, continue straight up the field from the top of the steps and join the last part of Route Three, returning to the start point by turning left when you reach the viaduct.)



As you head north and uphill, pause on the grassy plateau above Craig Stirling, magnificent but treacherous rocks on which many ships have foundered.

In season there are often many seabirds here – sometimes even puffins – and you may spot dolphins.



Continue all along the field edge, ignoring paths to the left, until you have to turn inland and climb slowly to a stile in the corner, leading to a short but steep incline to a path (which also forms part of Route Three).

Turn left along a sometimes-muddy path between gorse bushes and a fence, and swing right at a gate. As the path rises towards an outbuilding and you see large rocks in the hillside to your right, look out on the left for a waymarked track that nearly doubles back.

(What Three Words ref: [///suits.economies.humble](https://www.what3words.com/suits.economies.humble))
(*Straight on here is part of Route Three*).



This will bring you back to the field edge which you descend quite steeply to return to the steps down to the beach track.