

Newtonhill Walks



**Route Six (Yellow)
Muchalls Meander 1.38 miles**

What Three Words start point:

///obstruction.imagined.detergent

<https://w3w.co/obstruction.imagined.detergent>

Google Maps start point:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/28855ttPSJiSaM4WA>

Ordnance Survey Route Map:

<https://explore.osmaps.com/route/17867043/newtonhill-route-6--muchalls-meander?lat=57.020801&lon=-2.165557&zoom=15.0015&style=Aerial&type=2d>

From the gate where route five joins the path to Muchalls, head down towards the sea.



As you reach the farm, head right to find a path which descends to cross the Pheppie Burn via a small wooden bridge before heading gently back uphill.



On reaching Muchalls, take the first left for a short diversion along Stranathro Terrace, passing between cottages and their pretty gardens.



The road name is important to local history: the original fishing village (known as Seatoun of Muchalls) was further south than the present day settlement, which only began life in 1818 as Stranathro.

This row of homes was part of work to create a “model village” from 1856, from when it became known as Muchalls.

When you reach a crossroads with a silver phone box (now a tiny community library) turn left / south to follow Marine Terrace downhill through the village.



On your left as you start to descend is a row of old coastguard cottages. There were originally seven homes, built when the main role of the service was to combat smuggling rather than rescue ships in peril, and you can still see what used to be an internal shared corridor, to make it easier to rouse everyone for a call out.

Look out for the “PEACE 1919” memorial on the left – installed to mark the ‘National Celebrations of Peace’ held across the UK on July 19 that year after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally brought an end to the First World War.

It is near to where the railway station once stood until it was closed in 1950, six years before the same fate befell Newtonhill’s.

On the right, where there are now modern houses, once stood the Muchalls Hotel (later renamed the Marine Hotel), a very popular establishment at a time when the village was a coveted holiday destination with the rich and famous, including Charles Dickens.

When you reach the bottom of the track, turn left under the railway and immediately on your right enter a field and follow its edge all the way around in a loop, enjoying some great views of the shoreline as you go.



NB there is a path which continues straight on after you have passed under the bridge and which leads to the clifftops and a bench affording some very fine views of the Muchalls shore and its famous rock formations – but some of the route was eroded during storms so please take careful note of any remaining warning signs.



As you do the circuit of the field, look out in the far corner for a place to cross a small stone wall. This is a good view point to the beach and rocks below. (A path also continues towards Mill of Muchalls and a pond used for Ophelia's death scenes in a Hollywood production of Hamlet starring Mel Gibson.)



Once you have completed the loop of the field, retrace your steps back through the village, perhaps stopping for refreshment at The Stack bar and restaurant.